

Government Operations Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes – Approved 12-6-17
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 3:30 PM
Legislature Chambers

Attendance

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Daniel Klein	Chair	Present
Carol Chock	Vice Chair	Present
Dooley Kiefer	Member	Present
Rich John	Member	Present
Will Burbank	Member	Present
Katrina McCloy	Deputy Clerk, Legislature	Present
Jonathan Wood	Tompkins County Attorney	Present
Joe Mareane	County Administrator	Present
Rick Snyder	Finance Director	Present
Paula Younger	Deputy County Administrator	Present
Lisa Hall	Finance Department	Present
Julie Fergus	Finance Department	Present
Carol Kammen	County Historian	Present

Guests: Paul Rossi, Ithaca Board of Realtors; Henry Granison and Jennifer Karius, Town of Ithaca residents and Candidates for Tompkins County Legislature; Jason Molino, member of the public; and News Media

Call to Order

Mr. Klein, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

Mr. Klein stated a copy of the New York State Assembly Bill 4072 was distributed to Committee as it relates to the resolution entitled Resolution in Support of New York State Legislature Bills S26 and A4072 of 2017, known as the “Tax Returns Uniformly Made Public Act”.

Comments from the Public

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

Minutes Approval

October 4, 2017

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Rich John, Member
AYES:	Klein, Chock, John, Burbank
NAYS:	Kiefer

Finance Department

Resolution No. - Authorization to Enter into an Arrangement with JP Morgan Chase to Provide Tompkins County with Credit by way of a Commercial Card Account (ID #7391)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Will Burbank, Member
SECONDER:	Rich John, Member
AYES:	Klein, Kiefer, John, Burbank
NAYS:	Chock

WHEREAS the Finance Department has researched the benefits and costs of implementing a Procurement Card (P-Card) program, and

WHEREAS the Finance Department, under the direction of the Government Operations Committee, issued a Request for Proposals, and

WHEREAS five (5) responses were received and were reviewed by a committee comprised of members from the Finance Department, Accounting and Purchasing Divisions, the Information Technology Services Department, and County Administration, and

WHEREAS upon conclusion of the demonstrations requested from three (3) of the responding vendors, the Committee determined that the program offered by JP Morgan Chase would be the most beneficial to the County, and

WHEREAS Tompkins County has the power and authority to borrow money and otherwise obtain credit and to grant security on its assets, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That:

1. Tompkins County is hereby authorized to enter into an arrangement with JP Morgan Chase to provide Tompkins County with credit by way of a Commercial Card account. Under that arrangement select employees, determined eligible by their department head and the Finance Office of Tompkins County, may be issued with Commercial Cards on the MasterCard commercial account of Tompkins County with the Bank, and Tompkins County shall be responsible for the payment of all amounts in full, including fees and interest charged to such account, substantially on the terms and conditions set forth in the draft Commercial Card Agreement; and

2. The County Administrator, or his designee, is hereby authorized to sign for and on behalf of Tompkins County a Commercial Card Agreement with the Bank substantially on the terms and conditions of the draft Commercial Card Agreement, with such changes or modifications as the person(s) so signing may in their/his sole discretion deem appropriate, and to sign such other documents and do such other things as they/he in their/his sole discretion deem appropriate or advisable in connection with or to give effect to such Corporate MasterCard Account Agreement and the program contemplated thereunder.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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County Attorney

Resolution No. - Authorizing Litigation Against Drug Manufacturers for Damages Resulting from Abuse of Opioid Pharmaceuticals (ID #7388)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Rich John, Member
SECONDER:	Carol Chock, Vice Chair
AYES:	Klein, Chock, Kiefer, John, Burbank

WHEREAS, opioid manufacturers had prior knowledge of the risks of opioids abuse have misled doctors and patients about the addictive nature of opioids, have misrepresented the dangers of opioids, and have marketed opioids in a manner that promoted addiction, and

WHEREAS, opioid manufacturers, distributors, and promoters have been responsible for an opioid epidemic that has harmed the citizens of Tompkins County and financially damaged the County and its taxpayers, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the County should recover damages from those parties that have contributed and continue to contribute to County costs in the form of increased social services, policing, treatment, incarceration, and other expenditures, and

WHEREAS, numerous New York Counties are pursuing legal action against opioid manufacturers and others that have promoted the abuse of opioids, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the County Attorney is hereby authorized to commence civil litigation against opioid manufacturers and others who have harmed the County by promoting the abuse of opioids and to retain counsel to represent the County in such litigation.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Renaming of the Human Services Building

Renaming of the Human Services Building (ID #7389)

Ms. Kammen was present to represent the Tompkins County Bicentennial Commission and explained that they have worked hard to bring history alive in the community to celebrate Tompkins County's Bicentennial.

Ms. Kammen stated the Commission would like the Legislature to consider renaming the Human Services Building to honor Elizabeth Beebe.

The Committee members agreed to have Ms. Kammen work with Mr. John and Ms. Chock to draft a resolution to dedicate the building to Elizabeth Beebe for consideration at next month's meeting.

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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Resolution

Resolution No. - Resolution in Support of New York State Legislature Bills S26 and A4072 of 2017, known as the “Tax Returns Uniformly Made Public Act” (ID #7372)

RESULT:	RECOMMENDED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Dooley Kiefer, Member
SECONDER:	Rich John, Member
AYES:	Klein, Chock, Kiefer, John, Burbank

WHEREAS, tax returns give the American people an important insight into a candidate’s financial standing and shine a light on potential conflicts of interest, and

WHEREAS, American presidents, congresswomen and men, state governors, state comptrollers, and state attorney generals should be held to a high standard of transparency, and

WHEREAS, until the 2016 election, every president at least since the 1970s has released one year of tax returns before taking office, and

WHEREAS, New York State Legislature Bills S26 and A4072 requires that at least 50 days before the general election a candidate for President or Vice President publicly release his/her five most recent Federal income tax returns, and

WHEREAS, S26 and A7042 include the remedy for failure to comply of not allowing the candidates name to appear on the official ballot for the general election, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature expresses its support for New York State Legislature Bills S26 and A4072 of 2017, known as the “tax returns uniformly made public act”,

RESOLVED, further, That it should go further and include candidates for New York State Governor, New York State Comptroller and Attorney General, and New York State Congresswomen and men,

RESOLVED, further, That copies of this resolution be sent to New York State Assemblywoman Lifton, New York State Senators O’Mara, Seward, and Helming, Governor Cuomo, New York State Assembly Speaker Heastie, New York State Assembly Minority Leader Kolb, New York State Senate Majority Leader Flanagan, New York State Senate Democratic Conference Leader Stewart-Cousins, and New York State Senate Independent Democratic Conference Leader Klein.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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County Clerk

Information Item - Budget Adjustments - County Clerk (ID #7362)

Ms. Kiefer requested the Budget Adjustment form include a signature and date.

RESULT: COMPLETED

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Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.