

**Herkimer County Legislature  
Ways & Means Committee Meeting  
Friday, July 31, 2020  
Via Teleconference**

**Follows Public Safety & Emergency Management and Ways & Means**

**Persons Attending:**

Patrick E. Russell (Committee Chairman)  
Kurt J. Ackerman (committee member)  
Raymond Smith (committee member)  
Raymond Johnson (committee member)  
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (committee member)  
John P. Stephens (committee member)  
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature  
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator  
Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator  
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney  
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer/Purchasing Agent  
Jill Schrader, Personnel Assistant

**(Non-Committee Members Signed In)**

Legislator Gregory Malta, Sr.  
Legislator Mark Gaworecki  
Legislator Robert J. Schrader  
Legislator Bob D. Hollum  
Legislator William E. Keeler, Sr.  
Legislator John L. Brezinski  
Legislator Peter F. Manno  
Legislator Ray Donley  
Legislator Peter Campione

**Absent:**

N/A

Mr. Russell called the meeting to order at 10:57 a.m.

**Items discussed:**

**WAYS AND MEANS:**

1. Approve Retirement Reporting Resolution
2. Approving 2021 annual estimate and apportionment for the Herkimer County Workers' Compensation Self-Insured Plan
3. Approve amendment to the Administrative Services Contract with Excellus Health Plan
4. Approve transfer in 2020 budget in Public Health
5. Approve transfer of funds in Maintenance Department
6. Other

**Committee Vote Record:**

**WAYS & MEANS:**

Mr. Russell: "First thing on the agenda for Ways and Means is to approve the retirement reporting resolution. Are there any questions on these?"

Item #1 - On motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Smith, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Russell: "Number two, approving 2021 annual estimate and apportionment for the Herkimer County Workers' Compensation Self-Insured Plan. Did Jill want to speak on this?"

Jill Schrader: "I can speak on it. Steve submitted a letter to the Legislature on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The 2021 budget it states is 8.1% lower than the 2020 budget. He does explain some reasoning's on these. I can say that numbers are down slightly from last year at this time, no medical claims are open, and no large surgeries have been had in the first two quarters. The admin fee is staying the same."

Item #2 - On motion of Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Smith, Item #2 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Russell: "Number three, approve amendment to the Administrative Services Contract with Excellus Health Plan."

Jill Schrader: "I can brief you a little bit on the clinical concierge program. Did you want me to give you an outline of what it is?"

Jim Wallace: "I think that would be helpful."

Jill Schrader: "The clinical concierge program targets anybody that can have a change on the current pharmacy prescription that they have. The change can be as small as taking a caplet to taking a tablet and that will produce savings on our actual pharmacy plan. The plan is looked at, individuals are targeted, and the pharmacy contacts the doctor writing the script and offers a lower cost option for that. The plan itself is \$1.75 per member per month. If the clinical savings are higher than the per cost per member savings for us, Excellus will refund that money back."

Item #3 - On motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Shaw, Item #3 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Russell: "Number four, approve transfer in 2020 budget in Public Health. Do we need any discussion on this or what it is about?"

Jim Wallace: "Christina or Sheri?"

Christina Cain: "Yeah this is just the transfer from the supply line to the salary line."

Jim Wallace: "For emergency preparedness."

Item #4 - On motion of Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Stephens, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Russell: "Approve transfer of funds in Maintenance Department."

Sheri Ferdula: "If you remember we moved John, the Maintenance Mechanic for the jail from the Sheriff's salaries into Don's, this is just moving the money over so he can cover that for the rest of the year."

Item #5 - On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Smith, Item #5 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Russell: "Approve appropriation for South Washington Street parking lot."

Jim Wallace: "That got withdrawn."

Sheri Ferdula: "I had that on there because of the anticipated cost that we thought we were going to have with the parking lot but we did get verification yesterday that it actually came in below budget by about \$20,000. It is actually good news and we don't need the appropriation so we can pull that."

Mr. Russell: "Sounds good. Jim, how long can we do this over the phone?"

Jim Wallace: "Right now it is through August 5<sup>th</sup>."

Mr. Russell: "Is there any way of doing Zoom?"

Jim Wallace: "Yeah we can look at that. We could probably do it in DSS if you guys wanted to be here."

Mr. Schrader: "We would be able to do it right on our tablets."

Jim Wallace: "Right, but I mean if we had more guys in here, more people in here, we would have to go to DSS."

Mr. Bono: "I have one more thing, did you want to talk about the public service announcement and the advertising?"

Jim Wallace: "Pat we had talked a while ago about doing some public service announcements on the COVID situation, putting Mr. Bono and Christina on tv. We got a quote yesterday for \$35,000 which was really out of my bailiwick but we said we would bring it to you guys."

Mr. Bono: "There were three options there. Let me ask you this. We received \$250,000 to combat the flu and pandemic for Public Health, wasn't that awarded? It was on the news this morning that Herkimer County received \$250,000 for COVID and flu season to help fight that. I'm wondering if we could use some of that money."

Jim Wallace: "Maybe what we can do or try to do is get more information on that and then have a Ways & Means committee meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, if you don't mind, it would probably be a good way to handle it. That way we will know yes or no, I don't trust the announcements on tv."

Mr. Shaw: "I saw it on channel two last night."

Jim Wallace: "We will do some digging, it won't do any harm, we will do it before the next meeting."

Item #6 – N/A.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Shaw, the Ways & Means committee adjourned at 11:06 a.m.