

**Herkimer County Legislature
Administration/Veterans' Affairs and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Friday, July 31, 2020
Via Teleconference
Follows County Properties and Ways & Means**

Persons Attending:

Bob Hollum (Chairman, Administration/Veterans' Affairs)
Gregory Malta, Sr. (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
William Weakley (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
Patrick E. Russell (Chairman, Ways & Means, Admin. committee member)
Raymond Johnson (committee member, both)
John L. Brezinski (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
Kurt Ackerman (Ways & Means committee member)
Raymond Smith (Ways & Means committee member)
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (Ways & Means committee member)
John P. Stephens (Ways & Means 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
Jill Schrader, Personnel Assistant
Kim Tranter, Commissioner of Elections
Anthony Fumarola, Commissioner of Elections
(Non Committee Members signed in)
Legislator Mark Gaworecki
Legislator Robert J. Schrader
Legislator William Keeler, Sr.
Legislator Peter F. Manno
Legislator Ray Donley
Legislator Peter Campione

Absent:

N/A

Mr. Hollum called the meeting to order at 10:26 a.m.

Items Discussed:

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

1. Request to support review and change of APA Policy on agency review of proposals for new telecommunications towers and other tall structures in the Adirondack Park
2. Request to support actions to strengthen the Clean Drained and Dry Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Spread Prevention Law
3. Other

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/WAYS & MEANS:

4. Approve contract with the Village of Ilion for use of voting machines in Board of Elections
5. Other – DMV reopening and BOE cost – Discussion only.

Committee Vote Record

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

Mr. Hollum: “First on the agenda, request to support review and change of APA Policy on agency review of proposals for new telecommunications towers and other tall structures in the Adirondack Park. I believe everyone received a copy of the resolution, is there any discussion on it?”

Item#1 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Weakley, Item #1 was voted on, approved, and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Hollum: “Second on the agenda, request to support actions to strengthen the Clean Drained and Dry Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Spread Prevention Law, I believe everyone got a copy of that. Any discussion?”

Item#2 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Malta, Item #2 was voted on, approved, and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Item #3 – N/A.

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/ WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Hollum: “Number four, approve contract with the Village of Ilion for use of voting machines in Board of Elections. In the past, the Village of Ilion has asked if they could use a voting machine for their Village election. Usually because of when their elections are we were not capable of providing it to them. Because the state has changed it, we are allowed to; I would like to see all of the municipalities take an interest in this if they can. Everything is covered by the Village of Ilion, they have insurance on the machine, they pay for the workers, if there is any damage done they cover it. Any questions on that?”

Mr. Russell: “How much is the contract for?”

Mr. Hollum: “Kim or Anthony, can you answer that for me?”

Anthony Fumarola: “It depends on hours. They pay for everything. They cover the cost of the ballots, they pay for delivery, the cost of the machine techs to program the machines and test them. It does not cost the County anything, we are just basically loaning out a machine, same as with the schools.”

Mr. Russell: “How can we approve a contract if we don't know what the contract says?”

Jim Wallace: “Basically Pat, I would think it's time and materials. That they will hold us harmless and pay all of those expenses.”

Anthony Fumarola: "Right, it is the exact same contract we use for the schools for elections."

Mr. Hollum: "They will be paying to transport the machine, pay the technicians, pay for the use, pay for the ballots, poll inspectors."

Anthony Fumarola: "It has to be on their insurance, I believe we have already received some of that paperwork."

Mr. Johnson: "I believe we are not allowed to make anything on it. The machines were bought with a grant."

Jim Wallace: "We've asked that question several times."

Mr. Johnson: "Yeah, we're not allowed to if I remember correctly."

Jim Wallace: "Right because it was Federal money."

Mr. Gaworecki: "Do we get any money for wear and tear for future repairs?"

Jim Wallace: "No."

Item #4 - On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Brezinski for Administration/Veterans' Affairs, and on motion of Mr. Bono, seconded by Mr. Shaw for Ways & Means, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Russell: "I would like to see that contract."

Anthony Fumarola: "We will email you a copy."

Mr. Hollum: "Anything else?"

Mr. Shaw: "I have a question. I have been getting several calls from upset constituents why the DMV isn't open to do registrations on vehicles. These people buying new cars don't want to endanger losing their title. They can't be replaced by dropping it in the drop box. Are they going to reopen when we reopen to do full service? What I want to know is what they are telling people when they call upset?"

Jim Wallace: "We can get you an answer on that Fred. We will run it by the control group again. We still can't get an answer if we are going to extend past August 5th for virtual meetings."

Mr. Shaw: "The main thing I'm looking at being on Ways & Means is we're losing income. I had one constituent, she said that she could get an appointment in Fulton County to get it done but she pays property tax in Herkimer County and can't get it done here."

Mr. Russell: "Yeah I know, people are going to Lowville up here."

Jim Wallace: “Everyone from Utica is coming here, just so you know guys.”

Mr. Smith: “I want to make it noted that I also have been getting calls about why it isn’t open. I was going to bring it up but Fred beat me to it. This is a problem.”

Mr. Hollum: “It is definitely something that I have addressed for obvious reasons. I will make sure it is addressed again and try to get answers for you.”

Mr. Shaw: “Would it do any good if as a Legislature we complained to Albany through our representatives by writing a letter or something? I understand she is trying to follow the Governor’s guidelines but when these people can go to other Counties and get their service done and we can’t provide it that makes everybody look bad.”

Mr. Bono: “Fred this is the argument we have every day in the control room, not just on this business but 100 other businesses that are in the same boat where here it makes sense and over there it doesn’t make sense. Yeah we can write a letter, we can pass a resolution but it’s on deaf ears. That’s my opinion.”

Mr. Hollum: “A lot of hands are tied by the executive order that the Governor has put out. It has changed close to 100 times since this initially started. I believe the County Clerk is trying to follow those guidelines. I think everyone in this room has probably gotten calls with concerns about it. I’ve been trying my best when someone does call to forward that information over and get it taken care of. I have been successful in a lot of the situations, a couple not so much. Everyday seems to be a little different.”

Mr. Russell: “I was just going to say this is nothing more than the State wanting to take all of the business. I mean I did mine online so people are going to do them online and they will get used to it and that’s what will happen, that’s what the State wants.”

Jim Wallace: “They’ve been trying to take it for ten years. Just so you know I did authorize overtime this week and they have put in probably about 20 hours of overtime this week trying to get more things done.”

Mr. Hollum: “Anything else?”

Mr. Johnson: “Mr. Chairman, did we have an additional cost in the Board of Elections for the mix up I guess?”

Mr. Hollum: “Anthony or Kim was there any additional cost with the situation that we dealt with in the primary? I think it was all done during business hours.”

Jim Wallace: “The extra was done at 4:00.”

Mr. Hollum: “Ok so no additional cost?”

Anthony Fumarola: “Not that I am aware of, no.”

Mr. Johnson: “Ok thank you.”

Mr. Russell: “Are they just talking about the counting of the ballots, is that what he means?”

Mr. Hollum: “I believe that is what he is asking, if there was any additional work needed and if it would cost the County any extra money and the answer was no.”

Item #5 – Other – Discussion only. No vote taken.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Malta for Administration/Veterans’ Affairs, the committee adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.