

**Herkimer County Legislature
Administration/Veterans' Affairs and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 9, 2020
Via Teleconference**

Follows County Planning & Development 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
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Sylvia Rowan, County Clerk

(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. Bono asked Mr. Hollum to call Administration/Veterans' Affairs to order.

Mr. Hollum called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/WAYS & MEANS:

1. Amend Salary Schedule in the Department of Motor Vehicles
2. Other – Request to send letter to Governor to not take ventilators from Upstate New York.

Committee Vote Record

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/ WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Hollum stated "The first item on the agenda is amend salary schedule in the Department of Motor Vehicles. Mrs. Rowan, are you on to explain?"

Sylvia Rowan, County Clerk, stated "the Senior Supervisor is retiring at the end of this month and with that it will create an opening and I would like to change the title to a Deputy Motor Vehicle Supervisor. I think this will give the office and County better service. It's a little different in terms of union and salary scheduled. And there will be more responsibilities, take more charge of duties in the office. A complete make over.

Mr. Bono made a motion and Mr. Malta second the motion.

Mr. Russell asked "Has Mr. Billings been made aware of this and how has he proceeded?"

Mr. Billings stated "This position has always fallen under the CSEA union contract and anytime we want to take a position out of the union there is a couple avenues we can go through. We don't just get to make that decision. The first thing we would have to do is go to CSEA and ask them if they are willing to let that position come out of the union. If they say yes then we can do it. If they say no our one option is we petition the NYS Public Relations Board to have the position come out. We've tried that on other positions in the past. It's very difficult. NYS is a very pro-union state and there has to be some pretty legitimate reasons why you want to do that. We need to prove that it's a management confidential type position and the threshold that PERB has set for that is very high so I think that if the union does not agree, the odds of getting it are not good. We can go that route if that's what this Legislature wants to do."

John Stephens asked "What is the difference in pay? Is it more for the new position, less for the new position? What are we looking at money wise?"

Steve Billings stated "I don't think Sylvia's letter addressed that so I am assuming the pay would stay the same but I am making an assumption."

Sylvia Rowan stated "The Deputy County's Clerk position at this current time, I believe she is up to \$36,000 or \$37,000. The Supervisor that is leaving the county you will have to figure after 38 years I think he is up to \$39,000. It won't be. There is going to be more responsibility, more administrative but to answer Mr. Russell's question yes Steve Billing's was aware. I have been discussing this with him by phone."

Mr. Russell asked Steve Billings "Can we create another Deputy Motor Vehicle Clerk? Is there already Deputy Clerks that are not in the union?"

Steve Billings stated "No. All of the positions in DMV are union positions. Her Deputy that oversees I think, well that's Sylvia's position. All other positions are union."

Mr. Russell asked "Is there any way to creating an Assistant Deputy to try to accomplish what she wants to accomplish?"

Steve Billings stated “So the issue isn’t really changing the title. The issue is the work that’s being done and it’s always been considered what we call bargaining unit work meaning it’s always been done by a union person. The issue is if you want to take that work away from the union you have to either get their permission or get PERB to say it’s ok to do so. To be honest the title is the least issue here.”

Mr. Russell stated “She obviously needs somebody else in her department that she can turn to that has some sort of I will call it a secrecy role that she can talk to without having being under the union such as her Deputy now. She needs more than one person. So anyways, look into that.”

Steve Billings stated “absolutely.”

Sylvia Rowan requested to answer Mr. Russell. She stated “I would definitely go along with an assistant and you are absolutely right to have someone because right now when I administer information it goes back to the other clerks.”

Mr. Johnson asked “Should we wait for Steve to talk with the union before we proceed with anything?”

“Yes” Mr. Billings suggested

Mr. Ackerman asked if he could make a motion to do nothing until we hear back from Mr. Billings?”

Mr. Bono rescinded the motion until Mr. Billings explores it further and asked Mr. Malta to rescind his second in which he did.

Mr. Russell stated “Ways and Means under amending the salary schedule under the Motor Vehicles, as far as I’m concerned I support that under Ways and Means and I just wanted to say that and want Mr. Billings to do the work he needs to do to try and create that. Thank you.”

Item #1 – Discussion only. No vote taken.

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS’ AFFAIRS:

Mr. Hollum stated “Mr. Johnson requested a letter be sent to the Governor to not take ventilators from Upstate New York. Mr. Johnson, do you want to elaborate on that?”

Mr. Johnson stated “I would just like to send a letter in regards to our ventilators, all of our personal protective equipment just to state that we need it just as bad as he needs it down state.”

Mr. Hollum asked for a motion.

Item #2 – On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Brezinski, Item #2 was voted on and approved. Unanimous.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Brezinski for Administration/Veterans' Affairs, the committee adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.