

**Herkimer County Legislature  
Administration/Veterans' Affairs and Ways & Means  
Committee Meeting  
Thursday, May 7, 2020  
Via Teleconference  
7:00 p.m.**

**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  
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer  
Kim Tranter, Commissioner of Elections  
Anthony Fumarola, Commissioner of Election  
(Non Committee Members signed in)  
Legislator William Keeler, Sr.  
Legislator Peter F. Manno  
Legislator Ray Donley  
Legislator Peter Campione

**Absent:**

N/A

Administration/Veterans' Affairs and Ways & Means was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/WAYS & MEANS:**

1. Approve purchase of absentee ballots in Board of Elections
2. Other

**Committee Vote Record**

**ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/ WAYS & MEANS:**

Mr. Hollum stated "Prior discussion with the Board of Elections was to use an outside company to send out the absentee ballot applications. The original fee was \$1.17 per voter. Then the Board of Elections came up with a great idea to have the company include a letter telling to the voter of their new voting site. That increased the cost by \$0.08 per voter. The Board of Elections has to

send out 7,000 plus ballots because of the Democratic Presidential Primary so that will be added on. Anthony or Kim, do you want to add anything to it?"

Kim Tranter stated "I think we need to correct him on the number of democratic applications that we have to send out is 10,591. That's the current amount."

Mr. Malta asked "What's the dollar amount right now for this Resolution?"

Mr. Hollum answered "It's going to be \$1.25."

Mr. Malta stated "No our total."

Mr. Hollum responded "Our total now I believe is a little under \$33,000. Am I right Kim or Anthony?"

Kim Tranter stated "We have \$21,600 and now we are adding \$10,600. I'm sorry. I don't have an adding machine either."

Mr. Hollum stated "On a positive note on the COVID matching stipend we were looking at a match of 50%. The state is only matching 20%. We thought it was going to be more. If you eliminated the state at \$32,000 now you are looking at a little over \$60,000. From what it was described to me, this grant will easily cover this. Am I correct with that Kim and Anthony?"

Anthony responded "The COVID Cares Grant will cover any cost for Federal Elections that were incurred because of the virus. These mailings, the ones that have Federal Elections, which will be the vast majority of these, are fully covered, I believe, by the grant. Plus whatever costs which I don't anticipate any other major costs at this moment but absentee ballots could probably part of it to."

Mr. Hollum stated "So pretty much everything is in the budget and everything like that. We just need a motion, any discussion on it, any more questions?"

Mr. Malta asked "Mr. Wallace, can you concur with those figures?"

Mr. Wallace replied "Yes and just to remind everybody too that with combining of the primaries we save quite a bit of money as well."

Item #1 – On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Weakley, for Administration/Veterans' Affairs and on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Hollum asked if there was anything under other.

Mr. Smith asked "Mr. Chairman, do we have our polling sites yet?"

Mr. Hollum responded "We actually have been working on it and I think we have something."

Mr. Johnson asked “Is Ilion back in the picture or are we still out of it?”

Mr. Hollum responded “Ilion is 100% in the picture. As far as this area down here we had a little bit of a discrepancy with. I’ve actually spoke with the only two people it would effect and they both seem to be comfortable with the site they are going to be.”

Mr. Brezinski announced his presence.

Mr. Wallace asked “Bob, do you mind recalling your vote for just the one person?”

Mr. Hollum stated “Yes. Recall the vote.”

Mr. Wallace stated “And just call John’s name. Since John’s on the committee and we are still in session, we have the authority to ask John how he would like to vote on approving the absentee ballots for the Board of Elections.”

Mr. Hollum stated “John, we just before voted to approve the purchase of absentee ballots for the Board of Elections. Can I get a vote for you to approve it?”

Mr. Brezinski responded “Absolutely.”

Mr. Hollum stated “Approved by John.”

Mr. Wallace thanked Mr. Hollum.

Mr. Hollum stated “So Ray to go back to your question, right now Ilion does have a site. It is hopefully going to be finalized tomorrow.”

Mr. Johnson asked “Is it going to be at the high school then or the municipal building?”

Mr. Hollum responded “The high school, it appeared to be the high school. I spoke with the Superintendent and he was on page for it. I guess something that had to do with the government.”

Mr. Johnson stated “His only concern was, he wanted confirmation from the state. He supposedly closed down. He needs some kind of authorization.”

Mr. Hollum stated “No, and I think he is right by doing that. Actually, I spoke with Mr. Wallace to and he was going to have Lorraine look into a little bit of it. He is going to look in to his attorney and I will hopefully have response from him by tomorrow because I know the Board of Elections would like to go forward with getting everything on board and printed so they can get these absentee things sent out and taken care of. Hopefully by tomorrow. I think time is of the essence that’s why we are kind of moving forward and getting this done right now. I did seek a couple different back up plans. The Knights of Columbus has emailed me and given me 100% as far as they would be on board with offering a backup plan. The parking is there. I talked with Anthony a little bit earlier, they do have handicapped accessibility through the back and then

worst case scenario, we can go right back down to the municipal area but as far as Ilion having a voting site, they will have a voting place. Mohawk will vote in Ilion, Schuyler will vote in Frankfort, Frankfort will vote in Frankfort, Herkimer will hopefully have the college, Little Falls, the City and the Town will have their site, I believe at the church and then is a whole bunch of little heres and theres. If you have questions, I am sure Anthony and Kim can answer those for you. Speaking with the two people that are affected by this primary, they both seem as comfortable as can be with it. They both saw both sides of the picture. As far as the committee, I was trying to make it as fair as possible so they both felt they were being treated fairly and I think we accomplished that. I know that Board of Elections has been under a lot of stress with having to deal with a lot of different things dealing with this. Everyday something is being thrown at them at a different angle but I think we have got it covered and we will have a better idea tomorrow exactly if the school will be available and I will keep everyone posted on it.”

Mr. Manno asked “Bob, the Frankfort site with be the high school?”

Mr. Hollum responded “Yes, but we could be running into the same situation. I’m not too sure. I looked at the little bit of legalities and it’s technically doesn’t appear, they are shut down for learning situations, not technically shut down as far as the building situation and there is a couple things in there that appears to me, but obviously I’m not Lorraine, that’s why I want to get it clarified. I don’t see there being a problem but we have to know for sure.”

Anthony Fumarola stated “I did put a call into Bob Reina, Superintendent. I have not heard back from him yet but Frankfort-Schuyler was already supposed to be a pole site so I didn’t know of any issues. The last time I talked to somebody over there, the Business Administrator said they were still good but that was a week or two ago. I will call them again tomorrow.”

Mr. Hollum asked if there were any more questions.

Kim Tranter stated “There is a provision in the Election Law that if a location who receives Federal and or State funding cannot refuse being a pole site. Just so you know.”

Mr. Hollum stated “I did read that too. So technically if we wanted to say we are going to use you, it doesn’t appear to be a problem but I was trying to do it the most cordial way possible.”

Kim Tranter said “Absolutely.”

Mr. Smith asked “Is the Dolgeville site still at the fire station?”

Mr. Hollum responded “I believe there isn’t going to be a Manheim site. I believe they are going to Little Falls.”

Kim Tranter stated “No. There is a Manheim site. They don’t know it yet but it is going to be at the fire station and they are going to have both Salisbury and Manheim there.”

Mr. Smith stated “Ok. Thank you.”

Mr. Bono asked “Bob, did you say Schuyler was going to be in Schuyler or Frankfort?”

Mr. Hollum responded “Schuyler is going to be going to Frankfort. Previously, Schuyler was going to be going to college but now that we are going to put a site in Frankfort, it makes sense for them to go through their normal thing.”

Mr. Bono said Ok.

Mr. Hollum asked if there were any other questions or discussion.

Mr. Russell told Mr. Hollum good job.

Mr. Wallace asked “Kurt, can you reopen your vote?”

Mr. Ackerman stated “Yes. Pat, we voted in Ways & Means on the extra \$0.08 for absentee ballots, with the voting location on the back and I believe will be totally refundable by the government because it is a Federal election.”

Mr. Russell was fine with that.

Mr. Bono stated “I have another question. We are going to obviously advertise this sooner than later and get the word out, how do you want to do that, whether a press release or press conference or mass mailing.”

Anthony Fumarola stated “That’s the benefit, if we can get this nailed down as soon as possible and adding that back page to the absentee ballot, this will serve as notification to every voter because everybody that is eligible to vote has to get this absentee application so this will go to everybody it will effect and of course we will do press releases and that sort of thing also.”

Mr. Bono stated “Ok. Good.”

Mr. Hollum stated “I think once we figure this all out hopefully by tomorrow the Board of Elections moving on getting that sent out that’s going to cover every single registered voter, active or inactive in Herkimer County so at least they will have that direction and then we will go from there. Is there anymore under discussion? I’m going to ask for a motion to adjourn.”

On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Brezinski for Administration/Veterans’ Affairs, and on motion of Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Russell for Ways & Means, the committees adjourned at 7:15 p.m.