

**Herkimer County Legislature
Administration/Veterans' Affairs and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Friday, May 29, 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)
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:

William Weakley (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)

Mr. Hollum called the meeting to order at 10:39 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/WAYS & MEANS:

1. Amend Salary schedule in the Department of Motor Vehicles
2. Other

Committee Vote Record

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/ WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Hollum stated "First and hopefully the only thing on the agenda is to amend the salary schedule in the Department of Motor Vehicles. It's something we discussed previously after Mr. Lasher's retirement as Supervisor, creating a vacancy in the DMV. Sylvia Rowan, County Clerk

is requesting the creation of a new position in the Department of Motor Vehicles at an annual base salary of \$37,230. Mr. Lasher was at \$39,028 when he retired plus this would be an appointed position. Mrs. Rowan, are you on? Is there anything you would like to add to that?"

Sylvia Rowan stated "I am. I think the creation of this position is well merited because it would allow better operations for not only for the County Clerk's Office but for the County."

Mr. Hollum asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Russell asked "How, is the question? It would be nice to know. I believe I know how but it might be good for everybody else to know."

Sylvia Rowan stated "As it is now the supervisor position is in the same union as the person that supervises their staff people. This position would not be in the union. It would be totally separate. They would be similar to the Deputy County Clerk position and the responsibilities, the duties I have been working through the state DMV to create more descriptive responsibilities for the position that don't exist now."

Mr. Johnson asked "Mr. Billings, is this a go or are we going to be in court?"

Steve Billings stated "It's a go unless the union files a petition with PERB to say the position should be in the union. We are going to go with it as a go and we'll see."

Mr. Johnson stated "In your opinion if it went to court would we lose?"

Steve Billings stated "Not necessarily, but this is New York State and there is that potential."

Mr. Gaworecki asked "Mr. Billings has anyone checked with the union to see if they are against it?"

Steve Billings responded "They are aware of it but they haven't told me whether or not they are going to file a complaint or not. We are going to go with it."

Sylvia Rowan stated "I believe each of the Legislators and yourself received other counties so it's not unique to just Herkimer County that has created this position."

Mr. Hollum stated "Yes I believe they all have received that."

Sylvia Rowan stated "Columbia, Schoharie, Jefferson, Schuyler, Warren, Oswego, Madison, Saratoga, Montgomery, Otsego, Putnam. They've all had this same issue that I've had."

Mr. Johnson stated "I'll make a motion on both committees that the starting salary goes to what we started Krystal Carbone at \$32,500, not the \$37,230. The same salary we started Krystal on and revisit it in the following year."

Mr. Hollum asked "So revisit the same thing as what?"

Mr. Johnson responded “Same thing we did with her. She was a new hire, started I think at \$32,500. Start the new position the same place where she started and then move with it next year, review, whatever in about six months.”

Sylvia Rowan stated “You have to be careful with that some of the clerks will be making more money than the Deputy at that rate.”

Mr. Hollum stated “The motion is to amend the salary. Start them at the same rate Krystal started at, and then review it after a year to bring it back up possibly to where Krystal’s rate currently is.”

Mr. Russell stated “I know we looked at Krystal’s salary but wasn’t it less than a year that we looked at it?”

Mr. Hollum stated “I think it was about 6 months.”

Mr. Russell stated “Why don’t you start the person out at that amount of money then Ways & Means and everybody can look at it during the budget time? By the end of the year we might know better.”

Everyone agreed to move forward.

Item #1 - On motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Administration/Veterans’ Affairs, and on motion of Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Bono for Ways & Means, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Hollum asked “Anything under other? I need a motion to adjourn.”

On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Administration/Veterans’ Affairs, the committee adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.