

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Hogan, O'Brien, Shaw, Middleton, Ferguson

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Rozell, Haff

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Moore, Fedler, Hicks, Idleman Campbell, Skellie, LaPointe

Debra Prehoda, Clerk of the Board

Chris DeBolt, County Administrator

Stephanie Lemery, County Clerk

Matt Jones, Supt. Building & Grounds

Laura Chadwick, Real Property Director

Melissa Fitch, Personnel Officer

Teri McNall, CIO

Public

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – April 23, 2019
- 3) Department Requests/Reports
 - A. County Clerk
 1. Monthly Update
 - B. Real Property
 1. STAR and Enhanced STAR Changes
 - C. Buildings & Grounds
 1. Updates
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairman Hogan called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Middleton and adopted.

COUNTY CLERK – Stephanie Lemery, County Clerk, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Resolution Request Opposing the Driver's License Access and Privacy Act Concerning Undocumented Individuals – The State is trying to pass a law that will allow undocumented individuals to get licenses in NYS. Several counties have passed resolutions in opposition, County Clerks have also expressed their opposition and NYS Troopers have concerns, handouts on file. This legislation will be an issue for DMV employees to have to verify acceptable documents. She is recommending that the Board consider a resolution in opposition to this legislation. Chris DeBolt, County Administrator, supports the County Clerk's opposition to this legislation and expressed that DMV has no way to verify documentation presented when applying for a driver's license; lack of guidance on this aspect. A concern he expressed is that driver's licenses are used for so many more purposes such as applying for credit cards and voting. The County Clerk also mentioned consequences for the County Clerk and DMV staff, State discipline – possibly removed from office, if the applicant is refused. The County Clerk will have no choice but to comply if the State adopts this legislation. A motion to present a resolution to the Board at their June 21st meeting and have Chairman Henke send a letter opposing the Driver's License, Access and Privacy Act Concerning Undocumented Individuals was moved by Mr. Middleton, seconded by Mr. Shaw and adopted.
 - Department Updates – everything going well. Pushing through with grant and State is reviewing application submitted for next grant round.

REAL PROPERTY – Laura Chadwick, Director, addressed the following items with the committee:

- STAR and Enhanced STAR Changes – Recent changes to the STAR and Enhanced STAR

has created a lot of questions and concerns from residents to her office and the local assessors' offices. The Real Property Director provided a historical overview of the STAR and Enhanced STAR exemptions from their inception in 1998/1999 to the present changes. In 2018 the State decided in order to receive the Enhanced Star they made the income verification program mandatory – State verifies not local assessor, and all had to sign up. The current income for the Enhanced Star is \$86,300. She toured all senior citizen groups providing outreach on the changes to the program. Another change is if you are receiving a Star credit check you will receive a 2% increase in your STAR savings but if you receive a STAR or Enhanced STAR exemption off your tax bill it will not include the increase; it will be capped. This change is very confusing to the public and if people want to switch to the new system to receive the 2% increase in savings they have to contact their local assessor and RPTS by July 1st to receive check by September. If you switch to a check rather than the exemption on your tax bill, you cannot go back to getting the exemption off their tax bill. The NYS Assessor's Association issued a statement stating that the State is working toward a smooth transition. Residents with any questions can call her office or their local assessor.

- 2020 Census – New Construction Program – Real Property will be working on the 2020 Census new construction program and will complete applications for the county and towns here at the county based on giving out new 911 addresses and working with the Code Enforcement Department on certificate of occupancies issued.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Matt Jones, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, addressed the following items with the committee:

- Updates:
 - Huletts and Lauderdale Parks – Flyers distributed with hours of operation, attached. The Parks are fully staffed this year. Lifeguards and any other park staff will be required to take sexual harassment training. Greenwich is not coming to Lauderdale for their swim program this year due to a lack of lifeguards. Cambridge Village conducts a swim program at Lauderdale prior to the opening of the park supplying their own lifeguards and pay the county \$2,500 for use of the park noting the County does not provide any services. The Superintendent stated funds to run this program are getting tighter and more restrictions from the Department of Health. He has been asked what can be done to keep these programs going. The park is fully staffed from 11 AM – 7PM and that is where the cost is. Increasing the \$2 parking fee to \$5 would offset the cost if the swim program contribution was eliminated. The County Administrator stated if the Board decided to waive the swim program fee, he would not replace it with an increased parking fee. A motion to waive fees for swim programs was moved by Mr. O'Brien but did not receive a second. Mrs. Fedler is against raising the parking fee, should get more information before waiving fee and need to meet first with swim program representatives. Chairman Hogan suggested Supervisors Idleman, Fedler and Clary touch base with their local community recreation programs and report back to the Superintendent of Buildings to see if there is something we want to work out for them. The Superintendent will follow up with them. A motion to move this discussion on the local swim programs at the park to the Finance Committee for further consideration was moved by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Middleton. Discussion. It was questioned why Finance and stated a change would have a financial impact and it would allow for more discussion prior to the next meeting of this committee. Mrs. Fedler stated this needs to go back to the local level first. This group will report back at the Finance meeting. The Superintendent stated he will wait for the town solutions. The motion to move to this discussion on the local swim programs at the park to the Finance

Committee for further consideration was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Middleton and adopted.

- Buildings and Grounds – The Superintendent discussed making a parking lot in front of the DPW shop with the assistance of Public Works. Recently had some trees removed from that area and thinking of making parking in that area for highway and other employees. He does not recommend spending a lot of money possibly some crushed stone not paved. The County Administrator stated it would be just over \$700 for materials and the Superintendent recommended a budget of up to \$3,000 from Buildings and Grounds budget for this project. The County Administrator stated this will provide some relief for our ongoing parking issues. If we put parking spots there we will need to close the one-way through traffic and it would be parking only. The Superintendent will discuss with DPW getting this project started.
- Engineering for Roof Top Units at the Law Center – At the last meeting, he mentioned engineering for the roof top units at the Law Center would be about \$12,000 and the quote for the engineering came in at \$8,100. It was also mentioned at the last meeting possibly having the remaining units also engineered at this same time possibly getting a discount. The engineering firm stated they are all custom units so every unit is different and if not doing the replacement right away the codes and model numbers change and the engineering would not last that long. He wants to move forward with the two units at the \$8,100 quote. No resolution needed to award but it does require a budget amendment. A motion to amend capital project budget moving funds from contingency to a new budget line for LEC Roof Top replacements 2020 in the amount of \$8100 and forward to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. Shaw, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Supplemental Mortgage Tax Budget Amendment - Resolution No. 127 was adopted at the May 17th Board meeting to distribute the supplemental mortgage tax to the various taxing jurisdictions but a budget amendment is needed. A motion to forward supplemental mortgage tax budget amendment to the Finance Committee for consideration was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted.

Executive Session – The County Administrator requested an executive session to discuss a collective bargaining item. A motion to enter an executive session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted. A motion to return to regular session was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted. No action taken.

Time Off to Vote (State Legislation) – The County Administrator stated this is not the legislation to not comply with and if there is other legislation the Board would like to select not to enforce tell him that and he will bring forward options but not this one; i.e. Fashion Institute of Technology tuition. Chairman Hogan would like to do this but send a bill to the Governor and then send to collections when they don't pay just a symbolic jester. He would bill for all the costs. A motion to forward time off to vote legislation to the Finance Committee for discussion was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted.

Electronic Sign for the Municipal Center – The County Administrator asked if the committee would like to consider an electronic sign in the front of the Municipal Center to communicate with residents and give notification of meeting, DMV hours, building closed, etc. The committee

consensus was to allow the County Administrator to move forward with looking into an electronic sign for the Municipal Center.

A motion to adjourn was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and adopted. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 A.M.

Debra Prehoda, Clerk
Washington County Board of Supervisors



**LAUDERDALE PARK
WILL BE OPEN WEEKENDS
ONLY UNTIL
SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd**

**AT THAT TIME, THE PARK WILL BE OPEN 7 DAYS
PER WEEK UNTIL LABOR DAY (SEPT. 2nd)**

PARK/BEACH: 11AM – 7PM



**HULETTS PARK
WILL BE OPEN WEEKENDS
ONLY UNTIL
SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd**

**AT THAT TIME, THE PARK WILL BE OPEN 7 DAYS
PER WEEK UNTIL LABOR DAY (SEPT. 2nd)**

PARK: 8AM – 8PM

BEACH: 11AM – 7PM