



Tioga County Worksession Minutes **October 6, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.**

Legislators Present:

Legislator Brown
Legislator Mullen
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Hollenbeck
Legislator Monell
Legislator Weston

Guests:

None

Staff Present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney (*Departed at 1:23 p.m. & Returned at 2:11 p.m.*)
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk
Jackson Bailey, Budget Officer
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer
Stephanie Jerzak, Chief Accountant
Ellen Pratt, Sustainability Manager (*Departed at 1:50 p.m.*)
Christine Freyvogel, Secretary to County Attorney (*Departed at 1:15 p.m.*)
Lin Layman, Republican Commissioner of Elections (*Departed at 1:15 p.m.*)
James Wahls, Democratic Commissioner of Elections (*Departed at 1:15 p.m.*)

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

FOIL Appeal Hearing – County Attorney DeWind: County Attorney DeWind presented an appeal of a FOIL request for review and consideration by the Legislature. Attorney DeWind presented the original request and reasons for denial. A straw poll was conducted, with Legislators Ciotoli, Hollenbeck, Monell and Weston absent. The Legislators in attendance agreed to send a letter and documents from the Board of Elections database to the requestor. A letter will be drafted for Chair Sauerbrey's signature advising the appellant of the Legislature's decision. A letter will also be sent to the Committee on Open Government.

Departmental Space: Chair Sauerbrey reported the Village of Waverly Mayor reached out to her regarding potential building space in Waverly. The Village of Waverly received bids for renovations on the proposed space and expressed great interest in renting to Tioga County. There have been previous discussions on moving Mental Hygiene's current offices in Waverly to the Village of Waverly space. However, Tioga County would be responsible for electrical, plumbing, and outfitting the space. Tioga County's Commissioner of Public Works, Gary Hammond, reviewed the blueprint and doesn't believe the renovations are feasible for his staff to complete. He estimated Tioga County's renovation responsibility to be roughly \$400,000 - \$600,000. The Village of Waverly indicated their renovation may be completed in the spring. Commissioner Hammond estimated total renovations may take up to two years to complete. Tioga County's current Mental Hygiene lease in Waverly expires in August 2023. Mental Hygiene currently pays around \$25,000 per year in rent for their space elsewhere in Waverly.

Legislator Mullen suggested deducting renovation costs from the rental amount. He stated he would be in favor of the move if it was in Tioga County's economical best interest. Legislator Mullen reported he has heard from constituents that the western areas of Tioga County are lacking access to some services. Legislator Standinger agreed that the move needs to be economically viable. Chair Sauerbrey still has unanswered questions regarding the term of the lease and the yearly rent. There are still too many unknown variables to agree on moving forward with the project at this time.

2023 Budget Discussion – Budget Officer Bailey: Budget Officer, Jackson Bailey, reported the following:

- Budget is currently at Level 3, the Legislative Level
- Budget will roll to Level 4, Tentative Level, at the conclusion of the October 20th Worksession
- Salary and fringe estimates have been added to the budget and will be reviewed by the Personnel Officer
- Mr. Bailey assured the Legislature that the forecasted 2023 General Fund balance is within Tioga County's Fund Balance Policy
- Mr. Bailey reiterated that he budgets figures conservatively for worse-case scenarios

Mr. Bailey will present his budget updates to the Legislature at the October 20th Worksession.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Brown, the September 22, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently we have none.

Legislative Support: Legislative Clerk Haskell asked for approval of the September 8, 2022 Legislative Support committee minutes. On motion of Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Roberts and unanimously carried, the minutes were approved.

Legislative Clerk Haskell reported the following:

- The Legislative Office has expended 67.9% of their budget to date, which is slightly less than this time last year

Resolutions: Ms. Haskell reviewed the agenda and resolutions for the October 11, 2022 Legislature meeting with discussion occurring on the following:

- **Set Public Hearing for 2023 Budget:** Ms. Haskell reported the Public Hearing on the budget is typically held at 9:30 a.m. However, due to scheduling purposes, she suggested moving the time to 10:00 a.m. Ms. Haskell asked the Legislators in attendance if they had any objections to moving the meeting time to 10:00 a.m. There were no objections to changing the time to 10:00 a.m.
- **Site Host Agreement with New York Power Authority (NYPA) for the EVolve NY Program:** Sustainability Manager, Ellen Pratt, stated the proposed charging stations are considered top-of-the-line. They are universal and compatible with most electric vehicles, with the exception of Tesla. The charging stations will be maintained by New York State but utilize Tioga County's parking lot. Tioga County will have to provide snow removal and lawn care, which they already do. NYPA is requiring that the County cover losses due to flooding as the charging stations will be located within a flood plain. Flood insurance will cost roughly \$330 per year. The Village of Owego is willing to pay the County \$500 annually which will cover the cost of this additional insurance premium for the duration of the NYPA ten-year Site Host Agreement. In addition, Tioga County will enter into a MOU with the Village of Owego for the offset cost of providing insurance and siting the units for the duration of the NYPA ten-year Site Host Agreement.
- **Authorize Agreement with Onondaga County for Master Site Server Radio Network Services and Appropriation of Funds Reserve for E911 – Office of Emergency Services:** Legislator Mullen commended Director of Emergency Services, Mike Simmons, on his hard work and cost savings for Tioga County. Funds will come out of the E911 Reserve.
- **Authorize the Sale and Transfer of Properties from Tioga County to the Tioga County Property Development Corporation:** Ms. Haskell reported the resolution was revised with the removal of one property. Another resolution about that property is expected to be forthcoming.
- **Establishment of Capital Reserve for SAC Buildings:** Ms. Haskell explained the purpose of the resolution is to establish an account in order to safeguard State Aid Casino (SAC) funds from being used inadvertently. Chair Sauerbrey stated the funds must be kept in a Capital account.
- **Fund Capital Reserve for SAC Buildings:** Ms. Haskell reported this resolution will fund the newly established SAC Building Reserve account. The resolution will transfer roughly \$2.6 million into the account. Ms. Haskell emphasized this resolution does not negate resolution 234-22, which allows the Legislature to annually designate State Aid Casino Revenue.

Other:

- **Blighted Property in Village of Owego:** Legislator Mullen expressed concern for a property in the Village of Owego. The property has falling bricks, a leaking roof, drain clogging, and numerous other hazards. The owner has been fined for the violations by Code Enforcement. Legislator Mullen explained a similar situation occurred a few years ago in Waverly. Tioga County ended up paying roughly \$600,000 for a derelict building demolition. Legislator Mullen fears Tioga County will be forced to pay an even higher price tag for the demolition of the building in Owego. The fear is that the property will become delinquent on taxes and become Tioga County's responsibility to maintain. County Attorney DeWind will bring up the matter at the Finance, Legal & Safety Committee next week and present the Legislature with options on moving forward.

Executive Session: Five Legislators were in attendance. Legislative Clerk Haskell and County Attorney DeWind remained in attendance. Motion by Legislator Mullen, seconded by Legislator Brown, to move into Executive Session to discuss an employment matter at 2:12 p.m. Motion carried. Motion by Legislator Brown to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Mullen. Executive Session adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Eiklor

Deputy Legislative Clerk