

Present: Legislators Clattenburg, Bausch, Stein, Young, Also Present: Legislators Maha, Deleo, Torrey, Dibble, Legislature Clerk Pamela LaGrou, County Manager Jay Gsell, Asst. Co. Manager Matt Landers, County Attorney Kevin Earl, Richard Seibert, Steve Grice, Lisa Grice

The Ways & Means Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Clattenburg at 4:30 pm in the Student Success Center at Genesee Community College.

The agenda was amended to include an update from Richard Seibert upon motion of Legislator Young seconded by Legislator Bausch, carried unanimously.

Minutes of the April 17, 2019 Ways & Means Committee meeting were approved upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Bausch, carried unanimously.

An agenda item from Information Technology was withdrawn upon comment from County Attorney Kevin Earl who indicated the accompanying contract was not received in his office until two days ago. Chair Clattenburg asked that the matter come back to Ways & Means when ready.

Mr. Richard Seibert shared an update on a news report regarding unnamed sources indicating WROTB was under investigation by the FBI. Allegations were made that there are contracts in place for political patronage. Specifically there are three contracts in question and all three were approved unanimously by the board. At the time, the CEO was Michael Kane who served before current CEO Henry Wotascyzk. Mr. Seibert stated that none of the directors have been contacted by the FBI. Mr. Seibert shared a WROTB revenue summary from 1974-2018 which shows Genesee County earnings revenue of \$12,460,745.

The following referral was from the Human Services Committee upon motion of Chair Young:

1. Acceptance of Grant/Budget Amendment-Office for the Aging/Unmet Needs Grant seconded by Legislator Stein, carried unanimously.

County Attorney Kevin Earl gave his department review and indicated most of his time is spent answering questions from department heads. He has worked on water and sales tax allocation and agreements with the City. A long-time assistant attorney retired and a replacement has been hired. He does not anticipate other retirements but noted that the Deputy county attorney is running for City Court Judge and if elected will need to be replaced. Legislator Young asked who is ultimately responsible for pistol permitting. Mr. Earl stated that Deputy County Attorney Durin Rogers handles any issues and checks with the Sheriff before taking a position. He further stated the County received a notice of claim from the Log Cabin shooting.

County Manager Jay Gsell explained that the legislature passed a resolution last year requesting special legislation for Steve Grice to establish retroactive tier III status for retirement. The state legislation was passed but vetoed by the governor in December. A new State Legislative Session commenced in January therefore new bills must be introduced if the county wishes to support Mr. Grice as he seeks Tier III retroactive status. Mr. Grice commented that he attempted to obtain tier III status through administrative means but ultimately he was lead to the process of local and state legislation. He has spoken to Senator Ranzenhofer and Assemblyman Hawley

who agree to introduce a bill again this year. Motion by Legislator Bausch to update resolution 33-2018 titled "Revising New York State Retirement Tier Status for Genesee County Employee Steven Grice" seconded by Legislator Stein, carried unanimously.

Mr. Gsell explained the request to establish capital projects for the Interpretive Center at the County Park. The request is for two projects; an all-season restroom and septic system at the Interpretive Center Shelter and a moisture protection and siding project. Legislator Bausch stated his concern with the timing which he thinks will drive up the cost. Legislator Stein commented that some bids have come back lower than expected. Mr. Gsell stated this resolution only establishes the capital projects. 1% sales tax is the identified funding source for the \$202,800 project. The Committee would be presented with future decisions regarding necessary bids. Further clarification on the project parameters was requested. This was tabled upon motion of Legislator Young seconded by Legislator Bausch, carried unanimously.

Mr. Gsell stated how the district attorney's salary and increases are set pursuant to Judiciary law 183-a which links judicial salaries with county district attorneys' salaries. Federal judges received a COLA increase April 1, 2019. The increase in salary and benefits is \$3,402 and was included in the 2019 budget. This law applies to full time district attorney's. Counties that have full time DA's receive state reimbursement however it does not cover the entire salary and benefits. If the position was reduced to part-time, the state contribution would be lost. Legislator Young stated this is an unfunded mandate and he will vote no. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature Agenda upon motion of Legislator Young seconded by Legislator Bausch, Legislator Young - no, carried.

Mr. Gsell presented an out-of-state travel request for Treasurer Scott German to travel to Las Vegas, Nevada for the annual NACCTFO conference July 9-12 at a cost to the county of \$447.63. Mr. German is on the board of directors of the Association therefore a portion of travel expenses are covered. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Stein seconded by Legislator Bausch, carried unanimously.

Legislature Clerk Pamela LaGrou presented a resolution for the distribution of mortgage tax. The County Clerk and Treasurer provide the amounts and distribution formula. Total distribution for the first payment of 2019 is \$262,518.89. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Bausch seconded by Legislator Stein, carried unanimously.

The next scheduled meeting of the Ways & Means Committee is May 15, 2019.

Chair Clattenburg stated the Genesee County Economic Development Center has a term expiring for a board member. The seat is held by Paul Battaglia who is interested in serving another term. Legislator Young, Liaison on the GCEDC Board stated that Mr. Battaglia serves as Board Chairman and is involved and engaged. The term is effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2025. This was approved for placement on the next Legislature agenda upon motion of Legislator Bausch seconded by Legislator Young, carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 pm upon motion of Legislator Bausch seconded by Legislator Stein, carried unanimously.

Marianne Clattenburg

Marianne Clattenburg, Chair
Ways & Means Committee
Submitted 5/6/19 phl