

RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
(REMOTELY)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022
3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Paul Ruskiewicz, Chairman
Michael Amo, Barry J. Cheney, Thomas J. Faggione, Kevin W. Hines,
Michael D. Paduch, Joel Sierra, Kathy Stegenga

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman
Janet Sutherland, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Harold J. Porr, III, Deputy County Executive
Courtney Canfield-Greene, Commissioner, Board of Elections
Chandler Campbell, Deputy Commissioner, Board of Elections
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director
Erin Sztendor, Budget Analyst

Mr. Ruskiewicz opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present with the exception of Legislator Stegenga who arrived at 3:32 p.m.

Mr. Faggione moved request date extension on the \$158,290.65 of the Elections Cybersecurity Remediation Grant Program from New York State. This funding was made available to counties to prevent, prepare, and respond to cybersecurity threats. Requesting the Legislature to accept the extension, with no new appropriation of funds required (12/21/19 – 12/31/21 date extension to 12/31/23), seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Ms. Canfield-Greene explained that due to COVID-19 the grant has been extended to 2023.

Mr. Paduch asked what the plans were for the grant. Ms. Canfield-Greene replied that they are working with the New York State Board of Elections on the plans.

Mr. Ruskiewicz asked if they have had any cyber threats. Ms. Canfield-Greene replied no and clarified that the voting machines used in Orange County are not connected to the internet.

Mr. Ruskiewicz asked if there were plans in the future for them to be connected to the internet. Ms. Canfield-Greene replied not that she is aware.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved New York State Board of Elections has offered a grant in the amount of \$1,206,278.21 for additional items not initially included by County HAVA funds contracts, but necessary for compliance to implement, install, store, and maintain voting machines and associated equipment. Funds reimbursable from the County's remaining HAVA funds through the State Board of Elections (SHOEBOX) program. Original contract dates: 4/1/04 – 3/31/14. Extension Date: 4/1/21 – 3/31/22. Request to accept the extension, with no new appropriation of funds required, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Ms. Canfield-Greene explained that this is an ongoing grant with a remaining balance of \$118,000.00 that would be rolled into the extension.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Canfield-Greene added that January 25, 2022, is "National Poll Worker Recruitment Day."

Mr. Paduch moved resolution recognizing February as "Black History Awareness Month," seconded by Mr. Cheney.

All committee members requested that their names be added to the resolution.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Hines asked if the date for the next Rules Special Investigative Committee was set. At the meeting held on November 17, 2021, the committee voted to invite Mr. Vona and former IDA board member John McCarey to come before the committee to answer questions in an informal setting in January.

Mr. Ruskiewicz replied that he would be discussing an upcoming schedule with Legislative Counsel Abraham this week with a meeting potentially scheduled for February.

Mr. Paduch emphasized the need to move quickly. If criminal activity is determined they only have a year to go after these individuals.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.