

RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022
3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Paul Ruszkiewicz, Chairman
Michael Amo, Barry J. Cheney, Thomas J. Faggione, Michael D. Paduch, Kathy Stegenga

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Langdon Chapman, County Attorney
Damian Brady, Chief Assistant County Attorney
Louise Vandemark, Commissioner, Board of Elections
Courtney Canfield Greene, Commissioner, Board of Elections
Steven M. Gross, Commissioner, Human Resources
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources
Erin Sztendor, Budget Analyst

Mr. Ruszkiewicz opened the meeting at 3:31 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Sierra who was excused and Mr. Hines who was absent.

Mr. Faggione moved to request confirmation of appointments and reappointments to the Orange County Planning Board (P. Ernenwein, L. Marquet, E. Hart, D. Niemotko), seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved to request creation of two positions in the Office of Assigned Counsel pursuant to Local Law Introductory No. 1 of 2022: Administrator (Management - Grade 29), Confidential Secretary to Administrator (Grade 11), pursuant to proposed Local Law, the positions would be abolished upon the loss of grant funding associated with the positions, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Paduch asked about the Administrator at a Grade 29 and the salary. Mr. Chapman replied that New York State will decide the salary with a Grade 29 range between \$110,000.00 to \$180,000.00. New York State approves the budget for the Indigent Legal Services (ILS) program in its entirety and the state will therefore approve the salaries.

Mr. Paduch asked when the individual would start. Mr. Chapman replied that upon creation of the position and approval of said nominee Damian Brady. The position would be transferred from the Law Department into the Office of Assigned Counsel. He currently has a salary that will carryover and is within the Grade 29 range.

Ms. Stegenga asked about the Confidential Secretary, Grade 11 and was that comparable to other confidential secretary positions within the county. Mr. Chapman replied yes.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved request to adopt salary schedule for Election Inspector, Early Voting Election Inspector, Machine Inspector, Early Voting Machine Inspector, Poll Site Chairman/Coordinator, Early Voting Poll Site Chairman/Coordinator, Machine Inspector Blue/Red bag transporter, Poll Clerk for Nursing Homes, Poll Clerk for Court Orders, Poll site Information Clerk, Interpreter/Affidavit Clerk, Voting Systems Technician, Early Voting – Voting Systems Technician, Training, Trainer, Training Class Assistant, Pre/Post Election Audit Clerk, Green Bag Delivery, Blue Bag pick up, RTR Reader, Early Voting Nightly Bag Transporter, Poll Site setup/take down, Cure Team, Absentee Clerk, Pre Lat/Configure Voting Machines & e poll books, Class Assistant, Delivery of e poll books, Pre and Post warehouse/packing, and Office Assistant, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Ms. Vandemark explained that this resolution sets the salary schedule for their per diem workers and is done annually. They are asking for the following proposed changes: Election Inspector from \$250.00 to \$275.00 per day, Early Voting Election Inspector from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per hour, Machine Inspector from \$250.00 to \$275.00 per day, Early Voting Machine Inspector from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per hour, Poll Site Chairman/Coordinator from \$250.00 to \$275.00 per day, Early Voting Poll Site Chairman/Coordinator from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per hour plus \$20.00, Machine Inspector Blue/Red bag transporter from \$255.00 to \$300.00 per hour, Poll Clerk for Nursing Homes from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per hour, Poll Clerk for Court Orders from \$125.00 to \$150.00 per half day, Poll site Information Clerk from \$100.00 to \$125.00 per half day, Voting Systems Technician from \$340.00 to \$360.00 per day, Training Class Assistant from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per class, Absentee Clerk from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per hour, Pre and Post warehouse/packing from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per hour, and Office Assistant from \$15.00 to \$17.50 per hour with all other positions and salaries remaining the same.

Mr. Amo asked about training and recruitment. Ms. Vandemark replied that due to the pandemic they were unable to recruit new inspectors in person; however, they have a new plan going forward and a new brochure has been designed. They have reached out to their respective democratic and republican town chairs, distribution of the new brochure at various events throughout the county and will be posted on all town, village, and library websites and they will be visiting local senior centers. They also spoke to other counties on what they were paying their inspectors which led to the increases they are requesting.

Ms. Canfield-Greene added that they will be at the Monroe-Woodbury High School on April 20th and 21st to try and recruit any student that is seventeen years of age or older and with permission from a parent can preregister to vote and work as an election inspector.

Mr. Amo commented that during the last election there were issues with inspectors and having the appropriate number and asked what their means of communications was in his district. Ms. Canfield-Greene replied that it is primarily done via mail.

Mr. Cheney asked if they recruit at SUNY Orange. Ms. Canfield- Greene replied yes.

Mr. Cheney commented that over the last few years due to COVID-19 they were only having one poll site chair and coordinator due staffing issues, would the goal for this year be to have two, one from each political party. Ms. Canfield-Greene replied that the goal is always to have two when possible.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved Local Law Introductory No. 5 of 2022 amending Local Law No. 2 of 2016 to include the known abuse of drugs and cannabis on property as a violation of the social host law, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Cheney explained that this was brought forward to update their Social Host Law that was passed in 2016 by adding drug use and cannabis. He thanked Mary Alice Kovatch, Prevention Coordinator and Lauren Savino, STOP DWI Educator from the Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Orange County (ADAC), Annie Colonna from the Warwick Prevention Coalition, and all the coalitions that address these issues in Orange County as they were instrumental in assisting them and Legislative Counsel Abraham by providing examples to address these necessary changes.

Discussion ensued between Legislators Stegenga, Faggione, Paduch, Amo, Chairwoman Bonelli and Legislative Counsel Abraham on original intent of Local Law No. 2 of 2016, inclusion of drug abuse and cannabis use, property owner's responsibility, civil liability and litigation, General Obligations Law, damages, concept of knowingly, opioid concerns, used against parents of addicted children, possible misinterpretation of local law and Section Three (h) prescribed by a "practitioner"

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved resolution rescinding Resolution Nos. 6 and 308 of 2008, pursuant to Section 2.02 (a) of the Orange County Charter and Section 153 of the N.Y.S. County Law, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that she would be proposing this resolution and the rescinding of three local laws this afternoon; however, the local laws deal with compensation. This resolution is to rescind Resolution Nos. 6 and 308 of 2008 which became part of the Legislative Manual; however, it is no longer implacable and define "Party Leader" as a "Majority Leader" and "Minority Leader," as originally adopted by Resolution No. 2 of 1970.

Mr. Amo commented that this is the right thing to do, and he encouraged broader communication outside of the two prospective caucuses.

Ms. Stegenga asked how information would be dispensed to legislators not affiliated with the two caucuses, and would it prevent them from presenting a position from their party. Legislative Counsel Abraham replied that any information provided to party leaders is also provided to legislators. Clerk Ramppen is diligent in providing equal access to information that is provided to her and the legislature, as a whole, and to each legislator individually. When the Legislative Manual was originally written it only contemplated the "Majority Leader" and "Minority Leader," and Resolution 308 of 2008 only addressed one word to say "any" side. It was added to be rescinded because if this is the desire of this legislature to remove "Party Leader" status there should not be a question in the future by virtue of Resolution No. 308 of 2008 which still listed "Party Leader."

Mr. Amo added that as a member of the Independence Party he does not have all the access that Majority Leader Faggione and Minority Leader Paduch have such as a meeting called by the Sheriff or County Executive and how do they improve that.

Chairwoman Bonelli agreed that it behooves all of them to have an open line of communication. As chairwoman she is meeting with those legislators that do not have a caucus behind them.

Mr. Paduch pointed out that while those legislators may not have a caucus behind them they would receive that information from Chairwoman Bonelli.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved Local Law Introductory No. 2 of 2022 repealing Local Law No. 3 of 2020, fixing the compensation for the Chair of the Green Committee, a Special Committee of the Orange County Legislature, to be effective for the term commencing on January 1, 2022, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that in 2020 when they affixed the salary for the Party Leader, they also did it for this committee. However, they have several other special committees that are timelier and reflect what is currently happening in the county and those chairs do not receive compensation. To be as equitable as possible across the board and because this is not a statutory committee, she is requesting they repeal Local Law No. 3 of 2020, fixing the compensation for the Chair of the Green Committee. Lastly, the Green Committee will not be going away but it will be coming back in another form.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved Local Law Introductory No. 3 of 2022 repealing Local Law No. 6 of 2020, fixing the compensation of Party Leader, other than Majority or Minority Leader, of

the Orange County Legislature, to be effective for the term commencing on January 1, 2022, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that they affixed the salaries over a four-year term and since they are removing the Party Leader status it would only be fitting that they repeal Local Law No. 6 of 2020, fixing the compensation for Party Leader.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved Local Law Introductory No. 4 of 2022 repealing Local Law No. 4 of 2018 providing for the compensation of Members of the Legislature serving as officers or in a special capacity, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Legislative Counsel Abraham explained that this local law repeals Local Law No. 4 of 2018, which allowed for compensation of the Party Leader with Local Law No. 6 of 2020, affixing the compensation for Party Leader.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved resolution amending Resolution No. 143 of 2019, which created the "Orange County Legislative Valley View Advisory Committee", a special committee of the Orange County Legislature, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Amo explained that the amendment is to restructure the committee's membership and amend its mission. The committee shall be comprised of seven (7) members: three (3) members of the Legislature, appointed by the Chairperson of the Orange County Legislature; a representative from the County Executive's Office; the Commissioner of the Valley View; the Real Property Tax Director or designee; and a CSEA representative who works at Valley View. The committee's mission is to specifically address the feasibility of establishing long-term care services. The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, March 25, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. via TEAMS.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch thanked Mr. Amo for moving this forward quickly with an RFP soon on what they could possibly do.

Mr. Amo moved resolution recognizing April 27, 2022 as Holocaust Memorial Day "Yom Hashoah," seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.