

PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023
3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Robert C. Sassi, Chairman
Leigh J. Benton, L. Stephen Brescia, Thomas J. Faggione,
Kevindaryán Luján, Joseph Minuta, James O'Donnell, Michael D. Paduch

ALSO

PRESENT: Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman
Barry Cheney, Legislator
Kathy A. Stegenga, Legislator
Paul Ruskiewicz, Legislator
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
Steven M. Neuhaus, County Executive
Harry Porr, Deputy County Executive
Kellie Lagitch, Chief Assistant County Attorney
Langdon Chapman, Commissioner, Human Resources
Kerry Gallagher, Commissioner of Finance
Dr. Alicia Pointer, Commissioner of Health
Steve Valdez, Deputy Commissioner of Health
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center
Nicole Andersen, Director, Community Development
Gretchen Riordan, Deputy Budget Director
Liz Matis, Budget Analyst

Mr. Sassi called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All committee members were present.

County Executive Neuhaus informed the committee that he received a call a week ago last Friday from the Mayor of New York who said he was going to send 60 immigrants up from New York City. They would be here for a total of 30 days. He was sending 150 immigrants to Rockland County. By the end of the week, Rockland County was already declaring a State of Emergency, Orange County declared a State of Emergency on Monday. The hotel in Rockland County did not have a Certificate of Occupancy, it expired and did not renew it. The two hotels in Orange County are in Newburgh, the Ramada Inn and the Crossroads Hotel. The judge requested a conference tomorrow, so she has not ruled on it yet. On Wednesday, they asked Mayor Adams not to send the immigrants until they had a conference with the Mayor and all the County Executives in New York State. The Mayor said he would not send them, before his conference started, the first bus was on its way. They had a very vocal conference call with the Mayor, there were about 250 people on the call. Most of the discussion was why weren't the counties being forewarned as to who these individuals are, how long are they staying, why are you picking these counties but not the other ones. As he mentioned earlier, they never received a decision from the judge before the weekend, throughout the weekend New York City was trying to run out the clock and sending buses up to Newburgh. All they know is that they are single males, today there are males and females. The Westchester County Executive called him Friday, noted that there were slim details coming to him. The Yonkers Mayor said today that he was very upset with the lack of details of who these people are, how long they are staying and what their backgrounds are. The next wave is supposed to hit the western tier. New York City said they can expect 10,000 to 15,000 new refugees coming to New York City in the next eight days. Prior to him becoming County Executive, he was mobilized in Floyd

Bennet Field, he was a Lieutenant in charge of about 20 marines and sailors, their job was to clear the channels. The Governor has offered that service to the Mayor of New York City as a refugee site, but he did not know if that was going to happen. He is becoming President of the Association of County Executives and he is on board for New York State Association of Counties, the Mayor has a representative at every meeting, and this never came up in the last year. The Mayor says he has been asking for help for a long time, maybe he was asking for help from the President or the Governor, but he has to ask us. If they had more information and were informed, they would probably have a lot of places identified for them. In Poland they are assigning people to families who want to adopt them. The Veterans that we heard were displaced and the people's wedding plans that were canceled have all been placed elsewhere. He spoke to the Town of Newburgh Supervisor and was informed that the hotels in Newburgh are booked until January 1st. Most local ordinances are 30 days or less, or you become a resident. That is a concern to many people.

Mr. Sassi thanked Mr. Neuhaus for the update and noted it was a difficult situation.

Mr. Neuhaus added that his biggest priority was the emergency management situation because there are people upset about this, on both sides, in this country and in the state and community. The Zone Commander for the State Police and him are very close, he and newly elected Sheriff Arteta work very closely and the same goes for the Town of Newburgh Police Department. None of these entities were given notice as to when the buses are coming. The fact that they are left out and in the dark and the fact that all these agencies are not working together on this is very alarming and shameful.

Mr. Sassi stated that the people of Newburgh deserve better. You do not know where the immigrants are coming from, we do not know their background and it is a safety issue.

Mr. O'Donnell made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 3:42 p.m., seconded by Mr. Benton.

Mr. Faggione made a motion to exit Executive Session at 3:48 p.m., seconded by Mr. Brescia.

Mr. Benton pointed out that no action was taken during executive session.

Mr. Brescia moved the request to create a Stationary Engineer (RHCS) Per Diem title with a salary rate of \$35.00 per hour, seconded by Mr. Benton.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved the request a rate increase for consultants providing services for the Valley View Certified Home Health Agency (CHHA), seconded by Mr. Luján.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Luján moved the request to create one (1) Senior Public Health Technician position, Grade 13, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Dr. Pointer introduced Deputy Commissioner of Health, Steve Valdez. The committee welcomed Mr. Valdez.

Dr. Pointer explained that this is a new position and would replace one of the Public Health Technician positions on their water engineering side. There is no promotional opportunity, so they end up losing staff to the sanitary side or they go elsewhere.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Luján moved the request to extend the provisions of Resolution No. 28 of 2018 for a period of five years; to 11/01/2028, which extends additional benefits to all employees of Orange County called to Active Military Duty, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Chapman stated that it was a five-year extension of the existing benefits which expires in November.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Brescia moved the request to create one (1) Deputy Director position, Management Grade 24, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Ms. Andersen explained that this would create a new position which would be a management position. She is currently the only management position. Over the last five years they have gone through five assistant directors. In working with Human Resources and they feel based on the scope of work for this position, it was determined that this is more of a management position.

Mr. Faggione complimented Ms. Andersen on all her hard work and was hopeful she will be able to fill the position with someone who works as hard as she does.

Motion carried. All in favor.

On the motion of Mr. Benton, seconded by Mr. Brescia, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.