

**RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022**  
**3:30 P.M.**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman  
Glenn R. Ehlers, Legislator  
Richard B. Golden, County Attorney  
Alan Sorensen, ACIP, Commissioner of Planning  
Donna McCarey, Deputy Commissioner, Human Resources  
Alison Tyack, Director of Personnel Management, Human Resources  
Erin Sztendor, Budget Analyst

Mr. Ruszkiewicz opened the meeting at 3:35 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 absent.

Mr. Faggione moved request to create one (1) Principal Planner, Grade 18. The position will be responsible for specialized professional and technical work related to municipal, community, county, and regional transportation planning, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Mr. Sorensen explained that due to the significant amount of federal funds and the complexity of the work and projects involved, this position is a necessity to the department.

Mr. Paduch asked if someone was currently doing this work. Mr. Sorensen replied he does; however, some of the work is not being completed.

Mr. Paduch asked if they could lose funding. Mr. Sorensen replied that without this position they run the risk of losing some funding in future years.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved request to create one (1) Fiscal Technician, Grade 14. The position is needed to ensure accurate financial records are maintained and ensure compliance with Federal, State and Local Grant and Finance Rules, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Sorensen explained that with the Orange County Transportation Council and Transit Orange they administer millions each year. When he came on as commissioner, he looked at the organizational structure and recognized early on that they were missing a Fiscal Technician to help oversee all the federal funds. His executive secretary, a planner, an account clerk and himself are currently doing this work, but they need a point person to oversee and ensure that they remain in compliance with federal, state and local financial regulations.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved request to abolish one (1) vacant Planner, Grade 14 to allow for funding of the newly created Fiscal Technician, Grade 14, seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Mr. Paduch asked for the number of vacant planner positions. Mr. Sorensen replied three.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Hines moved to review applications for Inclusion of Lands in Agricultural District No. 1 and review SEQRA, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Sorensen explained that this was the annual opportunity for property owners to petition to join Agricultural District No. 1. They received three applications for properties in the Towns of Hamptonburgh, Wallkill and Warwick. The Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board has met and have tentatively recommend that all three parcels be included as they will be meeting tonight for the formal vote. The Town of Warwick has recommended that the parcel not be included; however, after a site visit and seeing that the property owner has begun clearing the property for haying the board disagreed.

Mr. Ruskiewicz added that as a board member a site visit was conducted and everyone present agreed that the parcel should be included in Agricultural District No.1. The current owner purchased the property while they were conducting the 8-year review and prior to that the property was in the agricultural district and removed as part of that process.

Mr. Faggione asked for clarification on their actions if they approve and/or disapprove the additions to the agricultural district. Mr. Sorensen replied that an approval into the agricultural district does not guarantee any agricultural exemptions as the criteria must meet the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Law regulations. The benefit of being in the agricultural district is the assurance of right-to-farm.

Ms. Stegenga referred to the Warwick parcel and asked if the two neighboring parcels were in the agricultural district. Mr. Sorensen replied yes.

Mr. Paduch asked if the application for inclusion of lands in the agricultural district asks the type of agriculture, and if they would be using pesticides. Mr. Sorensen replied that the application asks that they describe their proposed farming activities; however, they do not ask specifically if they will be using pesticides.

Mr. Ruskiewicz clarified that any farm operation must file the terms and regulations regarding pesticides to the DEC.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Ruskiewicz stated that the public hearing for Inclusion of Lands in Agricultural District No. 1 will be held on June 2, 2022, at 6:45 p.m. prior to the legislative session.

Mr. Amo moved resolution of the Orange County Legislature supporting maintaining the sixty-hour work week for farm workers, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Ruskiewicz explained that a few years ago the New York State Legislature passed Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act and did several things including eligibility for overtime pay at sixty-hours a week. Originally, they had proposed forty-hours but set it at sixty-hours a week as a compromise but at the same time they created a wage board to look at the overtime threshold going forward. After several meetings and hearings, they have recommended that it be reduced from sixty-hours to forty-hours despite that over 70% of the testimony at the hearings supported keeping the sixty-hours threshold. Lastly, NYSAC passed a similar resolution to what they are presenting today.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:59 p.m.