

**RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Thomas J. Faggione, Chairman
Michael Amo, Katie Bonelli, Barry J. Cheney, Kevin W. Hines, James M. Kulisek,
Michael D. Paduch, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Rob Sassi, Legislator
Kathy Stegenga, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Wayne Booth, Deputy County Executive
Harry Porr, Director, Operations and Cost Control
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health
David Church, ACIP, Commissioner of Planning
Julie Richmond, Deputy Commissioner of Planning
Timothy Tucker, Budget Analyst

Mr. Faggione 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 Cheney who arrived at 3:45 p.m.

Mr. Vero moved the confirmation of reappointments and appointments to the Orange County Planning Board (J. Joy, D. Niemotko, T. Gottlieb, C. Best, E. McClung, M. Sweeton, J. Booth, J. Wolfe, M. Guinchard) seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Porr explained that they would be withdrawing the name of James Booth as he will be unable to serve on the board.

Mr. Faggione asked for a brief overview of the role of the Orange County Planning Board. Mr. Church replied that unlike municipal Planning Boards, County Planning Boards do not have zoning authority in New York State, but planning and zoning permits are deferred to them through General Municipal Law as required by state statute. The Orange County Planning Board is essentially advisors to the Planning Department and County Executive; however, the Administrative Code states that upon request they can review, research and advise on information from the Legislature in relation to the future of the county.

Mr. Paduch asked for a breakdown of member terms. Mr. Church replied that terms run concurrently with the County Executive with three appointments at one year, three at two years and three at four years.

Mr. Kulisek asked about the criteria and/or experience needed to serve on the Orange County Planning Board. Mr. Church replied that legally they must be at least 18 years of age and a resident of Orange County.

Mr. Porr clarified that they must have an interest in the work and be of good character.

Mr. Kulisek asked about the vetting process. Mr. Porr replied that he conducts the vetting process.

Mr. Church replied that customarily there has been a Mayor or Supervisor on the Orange County Planning Board with Mr. Porr working closely with the Association of Mayors and Supervisors on that choice. In addition, there is normally a member from the County Planning Federation Board of which David Niemotko is a member.

Ms. Bonelli asked about the status of the chairperson. Mr. Church replied that Susan Metzger resigned from the position and once the new board has been established the County Executive will chose the chair.

Motion carried. All in favor
with the exception of Legislator
Cheney who has not yet arrived.

On the agenda was an update on Shared Services.

Mr. Church presented the committee with a handout (see original minutes) describing the 2018 schedule and Plan Project highlights. On July 26, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. the Shared Services Panel will meet in the classroom at the Emergency Services building. On August 1, 2018 a draft of the Shared Services plan will be submitted to the Orange County Legislature, on August 27, 2018 the panel will vote to approve the final plan at the Association of Mayors and Supervisors meeting. On September 15, 2018 the final plan will be submitted to the Director of the New York State Division of Budget and by October 15, 2018 the county must make one public presentation of the plan. In addition, a minimum of three public hearings sponsored by the Executive side and Legislature will need to be held in August but those dates are yet to be determined.

Mr. Church commented that the projects put forth for potential reimbursement must be new in 2019 and realize property tax savings in 2019. The plan as proposed would highlight things they are currently doing and projects for sharing in 2019. The plan would also include new projects and/or new partners with or without New York State financial incentives. Projects for reimbursement require a robust financial analysis including the savings realized per average residential and non-residential property owner. The plan's lead project is the county wide radio system which is being led by the Department of Emergency Management and the second lead project is the Fleet Wash. They are also evaluating approximately two dozen other potential projects with two sets of bundled projects for shared procurement and equipment sharing (Orange Shares). The county is obligated to submit the plan, facilitate its implementation and submit the request for reimbursement for eligible projects. However, they are not required to be a partner in any of the projects.

Mr. Kulisek asked if the county would monitor the projects even if they are not partners. Mr. Church replied yes.

Mr. Hines asked how the funds would be dispersed. Mr. Church replied that while they know the funds are in the state budget how those funds get from the state budget to the county and/or a municipality remains unknown.

Mr. Hines pointed out that the county is putting forth 100% of the funds for the county wide radio system yet it seems that some of the municipalities could reap the rewards. Mr. Church replied that because the county was fronting the money the incentive would go to the county.

Mr. Hines asked if it would be the same scenario for the Fleet Wash. Mr. Church replied that they were still discussing whether there would be a charge.

Mr. Church explained that they were provided with zero guidance from the state, but all decisions would be determined by September 15, 2018.

Mr. Hines asked if a Legislator wanted to suggest a project would they do it with their Town Supervisor. Mr. Church replied no, it could be submitted to him and/or at a panel meeting.

Mr. Amo asked if attendance and minutes were taken at the meetings. Mr. Church replied that attendance records are kept and at the discretion of the panel meeting summaries have been done. He clarified that the meetings are subject to Open Meetings Law and any documents that are not deemed confidential are public documents.

Mr. Amo asked about the energy and dynamics of the meetings. Mr. Church replied that a third are very engaged with active projects, another third shows up and responds to certain projects and another third are not present.

Mr. Amo asked what role the County Legislature plays on August 1, 2018 and would they approve or disapprove the plan. Mr. Church replied that they only have an advisory opportunity.

Legislative Counsel Reed explained that they can only comment.

Mr. Amo asked if Mr. Church has calculated the cost for all the manpower that has been put into this program. Mr. Church replied that its significant as the due dates for the plan coincide with other deadlines.

Mr. Church added that this was an obligation with some counties choosing to get together a few times, brainstorm on a few projects, give a lead project and be done.

Mr. Amo asked if any of the reimbursement could be applied to their administrative component. Mr. Church replied that they are viewing this as a grant and therefore embedded into the regular work of the grants unit.

Ms. Bonelli asked about the public hearings and who sets them. Mr. Church replied that the guidance for the program identifies that the Legislature can play a role in the public hearings.

Mr. Kulisek emphasized that as the Legislature they have no responsibility in the process with the draft plan only being submitted as a courtesy.

Mr. Church explained that the Legislature can only comment and provide guidance on what they like and/or do not like on the plan, but they do anticipate coming before this committee in August.

Mr. Kulisek asked about a vote by the full legislature on the plan. Mr. Church replied that they could chose to vote on it; however, it is not called for in the process.

Ms. Bonelli asked if they would be responsible for setting the date of the public hearing. Legislative Counsel Reed replied that it would be the responsibility of Mary Pat Smith, Assistant to the County Executive.

Mr. Amo moved Local Law fixing the compensation for the Chair of the Green Committee (amendment to change the effective date to January 1, 2019), seconded by Ms. Bonelli.

Chairman Brescia explained that this local law was approved at the June 20, 2018 Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations committee meeting. At that meeting Mr. Hines suggested the effective date be changed to January 1, 2019 as opposed to the November 1, 2018 effective date and after further consideration he agrees with Mr. Hines suggestion and is bringing it forward to the committee. In addition, this would also apply to the Local Law fixing the compensation of Party Leader, other than Majority or Minority Leader.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Amo moved Local Law fixing the compensation of Party Leader, other than Majority or Minority Leader (amendment to change the effective date to January 1, 2019), seconded by Ms. Bonelli.

Motion carried 7-1 with Legislators Amo, Bonelli, Cheney, Hines, Kulisek, Vero and Faggione voting in favor and Legislator Paduch voting against.

Mr. Hines moved resolution creating the "Orange County Special Committee on Opioid Addiction," a special committee of the Orange County Legislature, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Chairman Brescia explained that this passed unanimously at the Health and Mental Health committee meeting on July 17, 2018. After discussing this with Legislator Sassi it was

determined that the committee be kept simple with four Legislators and the Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health. In August, Party Leaders, Legislator Sassi and himself will discuss the appointments to committee.

Mr. Sassi addressed the committee stating that the opioid epidemic is not only nationwide but here in Orange County. Since being elected he has been on a journey and has met with a multitude of people including police chiefs, hospital administrators and Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health. As an educator for thirty-two years he has seen eight of his former students die due to the opioid epidemic and he was baffled as to what was occurring. This issue impacts all 21 of our legislative districts and after speaking with District Attorney David Hoovler they are two to three years away from the height of the epidemic with the worst yet to come. He began to question what they could do as a Legislature and while there are many great programs in place throughout Orange County but people are not utilizing them. If someone needs help where do they go, and who do they turn to; Catholic Charities, Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) and/or the Department of Mental Health the list goes on; however, there is not a common thread.

Mr. Sassi read a text that he recently received from his niece ...caring for people is a passion of mine and being in a hospital and doing my clinical rounds over the last couple of months has been an eyeopener for me in one area in particular. Everyone has heard about the opioid crisis but only some can truly understand it. On a daily basis the amount of people affected by this is incredible, having to see day after day people dying from this is one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. Please if you know someone who is struggling, try to help. Beg your loved one or friend to get help so that they are not taken by this crisis as well something needs to change, let's be the change... He was impressed that someone at 21 years of age recognizes this as a problem. As Legislators they have the power of the purse and pen and is there something they can do to be the common thread through all the organizations and somehow raise a greater awareness to the epidemic with the availability of help, education and prevention. Although these pieces are in place they need to push harder and, in his opinion, they as the County Legislature can be the vehicle to move the ball forward because if they are able to save just one person it would be worth it. Commissioner Miller and her staff have been extraordinary, and there is a toll-free helpline in Orange County that is staffed by employees and volunteers 24/7. While these are great programs and ideas, they are not getting the message out as a county. On August 31, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the village of Goshen square the "Friends of Recovery" will be holding an "Awareness Raising" for those that have died by overdose due to substance abuse. This will be a prevention effort and support mechanism for those that have lost a loved one.

Mr. Sassi added that he would be presenting something to the organization that day.

Mr. Sassi continued stating that they can send out all the pamphlets they like but if it is too verbose they will just throw it out. They need something simple that gets the message out and to raise awareness to the epidemic, availability of help and educational component.

Mr. Faggione commented that they are all aware of the epidemic and how it has hit their communities. He was pleased to hear that the role of the committee would not be to throw a blanket over another blanket but for it to be used as a vehicle to bring the information together and disseminate the information in a clear vision.

Mr. Hines asked how the number of Legislators on the committee was decided because he could come up with at least six Legislators who would serve well on the committee. He expressed concern that they could be eliminating themselves by only having four members. Chairman Brescia replied that it started that way, but they wanted to keep it simple; however, it could be tweaked and changed later.

Mr. Sassi emphasized that the county currently has a Opioid Task Force and by no means would this committee try to usurp any authority or good things that are being done by Commissioner Miller's office and/or the other stakeholders.

Mr. Amo noted that he supports this but would recommend they construct a clear mission statement.

Mr. Sassi agreed.

Chairman Brescia commented that a possible memorialization needs to be sent to the New York State Legislature on strengthening the laws against doctors who continue to prescribe opioids.

Mr. Cheney pointed out that nothing precludes them from participating at the meetings even if they are not on the committee. Many communities throughout the county have coalitions and organization that are trying to address this issue and he would suggest they recognize who in their municipalities are addressing this issue, engage them and be their advocates as they desperately need our help both financially and with shared communication.

Mr. Kulisek commented that handing a brochure to someone who is addicted works occasionally, but they need people on the ground and in the streets, even if it is a cost to the county.

Mr. Vero suggested they design a brochure that provides a full list of the various organizations and where people can go for help.

Mr. Amo recommended that the Department of Information Technology be included in the discussions as they could possibly develop an app for cell phones.

Ms. Bonelli commented that the dialog today is similar to that of the Health and Mental Health committee meeting. At that meeting, Legislator Tuohy suggested a directory in order to assist people in the right direction. She commended Mr. Sassi for taking on this endeavor; however, Commissioner Miller will be the glue that holds it together along with the resources. There are items in place on the county website and on the Department of Mental Health website with this being a vehicle to enhance the educational and awareness component and to get the message out. She agrees that it would not be productive to overload the body of the committee with too many people and she would suggest that the first order of business be to create their mission statement.

Ms. Miller commented that she has seen them all as stakeholders in their efforts and they have been working diligently to address the opioid epidemic. She is honored that they have decided to increase their involvement as advocates to this epidemic. Mental Hygiene law requires that she as the Director of Community Services and a leader addressing issues around mental health, substance abuse and developmental disabilities. The work that has come out of her departments, staff and two hundred stakeholders has been incredible and how they raise awareness is by bringing

on more stakeholders and agreeing on the message they send and that it remains consistent. They need to reduce the stigma around this issue as nine to ten people who need assistance will never reach out for help. We need to relay that it is okay to ask for help and to provide it. The brochure/directory they referred to currently exists and they are going to be the vehicle to help them get that information to everyone. She appreciates the invitation to join this committee because if they can save just one life, it will be worth it.

Mr. Sassi reiterated that this committee was not being formed to tread on any of the great work that is being done in their communities but to assist them.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch stated that he has requested on several occasions that the Pay-to-Play Local Law be brought back to the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations committee and the roundtable but it has not been put on the agenda; however, that request has been denied by Mr. Faggione at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.