

**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019
3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Leigh J. Benton, Chairman
Mike Anagnostakis, Katie Bonelli, Janet Sutherland,
James M. Kulisek, Michael D. Paduch, Joseph J. Minuta

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman
Rob Sassi, Legislator
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Harry Porr, III, Deputy County Executive
Matthew Nothnagle, Chief Asst. County Attorney
Damian Brady, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner of Finance
Louise Vandemark, Commissioner, Board of Elections
David C. Green, Commissioner, Board of Elections
Eric W. Ruscher, Asst. Director, Real Property Tax Service Agency
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director
Deanna Crawford, Budget Analyst
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Chairman Benton opened the committee meeting at 3:34 p.m. by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Legislator Hines who was absent.

Mrs. Bonelli moved the request for supplemental appropriation to pay for Retiree Health Insurance (Post-Retirement Health Benefits) which are ineligible costs for reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investment Partnerships Grants, and Emergency Solutions Grants \$305,776.35, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Porr stated there is a HUD analyst in their operation who is reviewing a number of items and during the course of the review, it was discovered that the county is paying for retiree health benefits for county employees using federal funds. This has been deemed to be an ineligible cost; therefore, the county must cover the costs for 2018 and 2019. He added there are nine employees who are retired from office.

Mr. Anagnostakis clarified that this determination was recently made.

Mr. Porr stated that is correct.

Mr. Paduch asked whether more funds will be needed in the future for previous years besides 2018 and 2019.

Mr. Porr replied that he does not know because the rules are constantly changing.

Mrs. Bonelli commented that the HUD Advisory Committee chair has kept everyone up to date on the federal funding and she has been taking the advice given from the auditors.

Mr. Kulisek clarified that this is for the post-retirement health benefits.

Mr. Porr stated that is correct.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Minuta moved the request to approve and appropriate \$661,745.00 to purchase hardware/software and related components from Tenex Software Solutions, Inc. for early voting and the General Election in 2019 and thereafter all County administered elections (bonding), seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

(AMENDED TO \$668,266.75 AT 8/21/19 RULES-PER REQUEST OF BOE)

Mr. Green explained that this request was brought before the Rules Committee meeting where the amount was amended to \$668,266.75 and distributed a handout (see original minutes), regarding a breakdown of prices through the vendor, Tenex. Tenex is the most user-friendly system and easiest for the inspectors to use. In working with the Department of General Services, they have decided to secure the poll books through Verizon for reasons such as; it is a cheaper price and they would be able to use cellular services as opposed to MiFi which would be much easier for the inspectors. He added that he has dealt with MiFi which can be difficult to use and is unreliable.

Mr. Minuta asked if a 12-month program through Verizon is necessary.

Ms. Vandemark replied they were just informed that the service can be turned off for 6 months, so they can pick and choose the months needed because it does not have to be consecutive.

Mr. Minuta then asked how many months it would be needed.

Ms. Vandemark replied they are unsure at this point because it has to do with elections and the calendar year.

Mr. Minuta commented that he appreciates the explanations, but this seems like a lot of money that won't be utilized, so he feels like there is a better way of doing this.

Mr. Anagnostakis clarified that the total Verizon cost is \$68,246.75.

Mr. Green stated that is correct and they are working on cutting the costs where they can.

Mr. Anagnostakis pointed out that it does not make sense to have a 12-month contract when they are only using the services for 6 months.

Ms. Vandemark responded that the contract can only be signed for a 12-month period.

Ms. Crawford stated that they are purchasing the equipment portion from their capital project, the service fees will come out of their operating budget.

Mrs. Reed asked that the commissioners address Agenda Item II.ii. before taking a vote because there is an issue regarding the second grant and the money they will be receiving.

Mr. Benton stated that he was going to discuss that separately because it does not go with the equipment portion.

Mrs. Reed pointed out that it may impact the bond resolution due to the grant funding.

Mr. Benton clarified that would be two bond resolutions.

Mrs. Reed stated that is incorrect, it is one bond resolution for the full capital project for the \$668,266. The bond resolution will state how much money will be reimbursed and/or received from other sources. She then reviewed the board letters and asked how much they will be reimbursed for regarding the \$227,013.00.

Mr. Benton replied that the letter stated the monies will be cut.

Ms. Vandemark clarified that the letter states it will be cut but she is being reassured that they will receive the money even though she cannot guarantee it.

Mrs. Reed commented that they need to explain to bond counsel how the money will be divided up and how much will be authorized to bond.

Ms. Crawford stated that she spoke with bond counsel regarding this and she revised the Schedule "A" to reflect the change and if the State Award is received, an amendment to the bond resolution would need to be made.

Mrs. Reed clarified that Ms. Crawford assumes they will not receive the money.

Ms. Crawford stated that is correct because they do not have the award letter.

Mr. Benton reiterated that Schedule "A" reflects the amendment from the Rules Committee meeting.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved to amend the original motion from \$661,745.00 to \$668,266.75, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

The committee further discussed how many people would come out to vote and the Verizon contract.

Ms. Vandemark stated they have reviewed information from other States and the first couple of years are slow, but then it builds.

Mr. Green added that the State did testing on several counties to make sure the equipment works properly, and they all use cellular service.

Motion carried. All in favor of the amendment.

Mr. Anagnostakis moved the request to receive an allocation of \$514,604.00 from the State of New York in the form of allowable expenditure reimbursement from two grants; Capital Project Grant of \$293,891.00 and Localities Grant Program for \$220,713. Request to accept and appropriate both New York State grants, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.
(AMENDED AT 8/21/19 RULES TO ACCEPT & APPROPRIATE \$293,891.00 ONLY AT THIS TIME; AWARD LETTER NOT YET RECEIVED FOR \$220,713.00)

Mr. Anagnostakis moved to amend the original request and to only accept the Capital Project Grant of \$293,891.00, seconded by Mrs. Bonelli.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved to discuss deed sale parcels, seconded by Mr. Minuta.

Mr. Ruscher stated that the first two deed sale parcels are in the Town of Blooming Grove (28-11-4, 28-13-1). He recommends that they be denied because the county can get more money for them. Parcels Nos. 3, 4, and 5 are in the Town of Deerpark (7-1-13.2, 7-1-16, 55-1-44). He recommended that parcel Nos. 3 and 4 be denied because they do not meet the minimum bid and parcel No. 5 be approved because it does meet the minimum bid and there are deed restrictions. Deed sale parcel No. 6 is in the Town of New Windsor (62-2-2) with a minimum bid of \$1,350.00 and an amount bid of \$2,500.00. He recommends that it be approved.

Motion carried. All in favor of accepting Mr. Ruscher's recommendation to approve deed sale parcels Nos. 5 and 6 and deny parcels Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.