

**RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**  
**3:30 P.M.**

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

ALSO

PRESENT: Katherine E. Bonelli, Chairwoman  
Betsy N. Abraham, Esq., Legislative Counsel  
Alan Sorensen, AICP, Commissioner of Planning  
Louise Vandemark, Commissioner, Board of Elections  
Courtney Canfield Greene, Commissioner, Board of Elections  
Erin Sztendor, Budget Analyst  
Dina Sena, Budget Analyst

Mr. Ruskiewicz opened the meeting at 3:31 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of allegiance. All members were present with the exception of Legislator Sierra, who was excused.

Ms. Stegenga moved to request supplemental appropriation of the Absentee Ballot Pre-Paid Postage Grant Program made available to counties to assist in the new election laws regarding postage paid envelopes, \$77,569.44, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Ms. Vandemark explained that the funds will help with the extra personnel needed to open absentee ballots and to help cover the cost of the postage needed for the postage paid envelopes.

Mr. Cheney asked if the funds would be sufficient to cover the cost of the postage. Ms. Vandemark replied yes, for this year.

Mr. Cheney asked if they were buying the postage whether it is used or not. Ms. Vandemark replied no, they have a BRM account and only pay for returned mail.

Mr. Cheney asked for the price per piece of returned mail. Ms. Vandemark replied fifty cents.

Ms. Canfield Greene pointed out that a postage paid envelope must be included with anything mailed out to a voter.

Mr. Cheney asked about the lease agreements of \$6,570.00. Ms. Vandemark replied that it will help cover the lease of their mail sorter/insertion machine.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Paduch moved to request supplemental appropriation of additional funding of the Technology Innovation and Election Resource (TIER) Grant made available to counties for actual expenses related to upgrades of software, technology updates and equipment, \$291,730.59, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Ms. Canfield Greene explained that the funds would be used for sixty-one new voting machines that will be added to their current fleet. Over the last two years they have added one hundred and fifty-five machines.

Mr. Paduch asked if they would be the same machines. Ms. Vandemark replied that they are the ICE machines which are used for early voting.

Ms. Canfield Greene added that this year they will have an ICE machine in every polling place along with an ICP scanner. They are looking at purchasing additional ICE machines for 2024 which will provide two ballot marking devices in every voting location for the presidential election.

Ms. Stegenga asked for their current number of voting machines. Ms. Canfield Greene replied that they have one hundred and fifty-five ICE machines, forty-nine ICP scanners, and one hundred and forty-four ballot marking devices that they are trying to phase out.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney asked about Governor Hochul expanding and making it easier to vote by absentee. Ms. Canfield Greene replied that while they have not officially received anything they have heard that Governor Hochul will be signing several election law bills one being early voting by mail; however, that is not absentee voting, and it would not happen until next year.

Mr. Cheney stated that it basically expands on absentee voting because the person could still be in town on Election Day and receive an absentee ballot.

Ms. Canfield Greene responded that it is defined by the New York State Board of Elections as early voting by mail.

Ms. Stegenga move to request supplemental appropriation due to Statewide Mass Transportation Operating Assistance being calculated and paid out at a higher amount than budget projections, \$1,200,000.00, seconded by Mr. Hines.

Mr. Sorensen explained that annually they project the amount of State Operating Assistance (STOA) they will receive. Once those funds are received from the state, they are then disbursed to their local operators who handle Dial-A-Ride services throughout the County. Two items affected their budget projects in 2023: 1) a cleanup payment of \$2.4 million and 2) the increase in ridership. They are not seeking an additional \$1.2 million because the funds will not be paid out until they receive the state operating assistance.

Ms. Stegenga asked for clarification that the operators are not paid until the County receives these funds. Mr. Sorensen replied yes, they have sixteen different service contracts throughout the County, and many are with local municipalities for Dial-A-Ride services. STOA payments are based on actual ridership and calculated by the fares collected. The state takes those revenues and determines what those STOA payments to Orange County will be based on a specific formula.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved request to accept and appropriate funds from NYS Department of Health for Healthy Orange Schools and Communities Program for the period of June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. Grant funds will be used to fund thirty percent (30%) of one Planner to fill the position of a Community Health Coordinator, \$58,784.60, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Mr. Sorensen explained that the funds would be used to offset the salary of a Planner that has been with the department for eight years.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved request to review and approve amendments and two additional chapters (Supplemental Chapter 7: Orange County Bikeway Vision and Supplemental Chapter 8: Orange County Climate Resilience Plan) of the Orange County Comprehensive Plan, seconded by Mr. Cheney.

Mr. Sorensen clarified that while there are three items listed, they are requesting that action only be taken on the designation of Orange County Legislature as Lead Agency under State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and request a Public Hearing on November 2, 2023. Between now and the public hearing they will be reviewing the drafts and the public will have the opportunity to comment and then the public hearing will be held. At the conclusion of the public hearing the SEQRA documentation will be provided for their review and following the public hearing a SEQRA determination. At that point they would consider the adoption of the supplemental chapters.

- i. Request designation of Orange County Legislature as Lead Agency under State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)
- ii. Request a Public Hearing (November 2, 2023 at 3:15 p.m.)
- iii. Review and adopt final versions

Mr. Faggione made a motion to remove c. iii. Review and adopt final versions, seconded by Mr. Paduch.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione complimented Mr. Sorensen on the Orange County Bikeway Vision and he is looking forward to what has been proposed and any future proposals.

As amended, motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved resolution of the Orange County Legislature rescinding Resolution Nos. 209 of 2015 and 99 of 2018 (Orange County Airport Advisory Committee), seconded by Mr. Amo.

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that when this advisory committee was formed, they were exploring business opportunities and regional strategies such as the new airport runway and water and sewer infrastructure. The committee took a hiatus and the last time they met was in November 2019. The committee has met their responsibilities and therefore there is no reason for the committee to continue at this time. Anything related to the Orange County Airport would go before the Physical Services Committee.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Faggione moved resolution of the Orange County Legislature rescinding Resolution Nos. 41 of 2007 and 54 of 2019 (Green Building Study Committee), seconded by Ms. Stegenga.

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that when this advisory committee was formed in 2007, they were discussing the policy for environmental protection and after a hiatus it returned in 2019 with the Climate Smart Communities Program. The committee last met in November 2020 and anything pertaining to these issues would go before the Physical Services Committee.

Mr. Amo asked for clarification that the functions of the Green Building Study Committee are under the Physical Services Committee and any issues they deal with would continue to be under the jurisdiction of the Physical Services Committee. Chairwoman Bonelli replied yes.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Stegenga moved resolution of the Orange County Legislature rescinding Resolution No. 167 of 2018 (Opioid Addiction Committee), seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Chairwoman Bonelli explained that this was created in tandem with the County's Opioid Addiction Task force with Legislator Sutherland a member of that task force. The various particulars that must be dealt with to address Opioid Addiction can be addressed in multiple committees (Health and Mental Health, Human Services or Public Safety and Emergency Services)

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.