

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021
2:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Peter V. Tuohy, Chairman
Mike Anagnostakis, James D. O'Donnell, Janet Sutherland, Laurie R. Tautel,
John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: Katie Bonelli, Chairwoman
Rob Sassi, Legislator
Betsy Abraham, Legislative Counsel
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health
Irene Kurlander, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services
Todd Craner, Fiscal Director, Department of Social Services
Caroline Marscheider, Fiscal Manager, Department of Social Services
Ann Marie Maglione, Director, Office for the Aging
Kevin Monaghan, Nutrition Program Director, Office for the Aging
Stephen Knob, Director, Employment and Training Administration
Christian Farrell, Director, Veterans Service Agency
Deborah Slesinski, Budget Director
Gretchen Riordan, Deputy Budget Director
Liz Delaney, Budget Analyst

Mr. Tuohy opened the committee meeting at 2:08 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present with the exception of Mr. Amo who was absent.

Ms. Tautel move request to abolish (1) vacant Senior Clerk, Grade 6 position and (1) vacant Data Entry Operator II, Grade 5 position and to create (1) Senior Data Entry & Control Clerk, Grade 9 position, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Miller presented the 2022 recommended budget for the Department of Social Services.

Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the 2022 recommended budget for the Department of Social Services, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Knob presented the 2022 recommended budget for the Employment and Training Administration.

Ms. Tautel moved to approve the 2022 recommended budget for the Employment and Training Administration, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Maglione presented the 2022 recommended budget for Office for the Aging.

Ms. Sutherland moved to approve the 2022 recommended budget for Office for the Aging, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Farrell presented the 2022 recommended budget for the Veterans Service Agency.

Mr. Tuohy asked what Mr. Farrell needs to sustain and move forward in his department. Mr. Farrell replied that they could use a full-time laborer for the Orange County Veterans Cemetery. They currently have one full-time Cemetery Supervisor and three part-time employees. It has been a challenge to maintain the cemetery with the volume of burials they are doing at approximately 250 a year. It is very difficult to schedule their part-time staff as deaths are very unpredictable.

Mr. Tuohy asked if that was in the proposed budget. Mr. Farrell replied that it was not.

Mr. Tuohy asked if Ms. Slesinski had any figures for that position. Ms. Slesinski replied that a salary for a full-time laborer would be \$37,015.00 and benefits at \$34,962.00 for a total of \$71,977.00.

Mr. Tuohy asked if the funds would be found in their current budget. Ms. Slesinski replied no, they would add County taxation to their budget. However, when everything has been figured out after all the hearings have been completed, she would probably make an adjustment with one of the other revenue sources.

Ms. Tautel motioned to add one full-time laborer position in the Veterans Service Agency at \$71,977.00, seconded by Mr. Vero.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if Mr. Farrell discussed this position with the County Executive. Mr. Farrell replied that he supported the position.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked why it was not included in the budget. Mr. Farrell replied that they had a vacant part-time position and he felt that a full-time position would not be needed.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked if there were any funded but unfilled positions in the Veterans Service Agency budget. Ms. Slesinski replied yes, two part-time laborers, with one currently in the process of being filled, and one typist.

Mr. Anagnostakis commented that the County Executive decreased their austerity by \$25,000.00, including salary and benefits. In his opinion, that amount would be much larger if it was just that one position. Ms. Slesinski replied that it would probably be one of the part-time positions.

Mr. Anagnostakis asked how this would relate to the proposed additional position. Ms. Slesinski replied that by the time they add this position there will probably still be a vacancy. If this position is put in on January 1, 2022, and by the time the position is filled it could be February 1, 2022, so there will be a vacancy there. The typist position has not currently been approved so there could be a vacancy there also.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if they would be defunding one of the three part-time laborer positions. Ms. Slesinski replied no.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if the current part-time laborer would be promoted to the full-time position and that part-time laborer position eliminated. Mr. Farrell replied that he would like one full-time laborer position so the need for that part-time laborer would not be needed.

Mr. O'Donnell advised, if need be, Mr. Farrell could come back to them for another part-time laborer position. Basically, they would be increasing their labor pool by 25% by adding the one full-time laborer position and eliminating that part-time laborer position.

Ms. Tautel asked if the funding for the position would be done through this budget process and if the position itself would be added by the Personnel and Compensation Committee.

Mr. Vero replied that Ms. Tautel's original motion was to add a new position, not replace a part-time position.

Mr. Tuohy asked if Mr. Farrell could use 1.5 laborers. Mr. Farrell replied yes.

Mr. Tuohy commented that he would prefer to give 1.5 laborers to the Veterans Service Agency and keep the original motion on the table.

Mr. O'Donnell commented that the Veterans Service Agency budget was approved by the County Executive and that is done with the hope that the legislature will take action and put positions in as opposed to him adding them. If this passes committee today Mr. Farrell will leave today with 25% more laborers, and he will be able to keep the person that is currently in the part-time position that is looking for a full-time position.

Ms. Tautel asked about the cost differential between the part-time position and new full-time position. Ms. Slesinski replied that the part-time laborer position is approximately \$25,000.00 including benefits but she would have to go back and figure out the exact number and get that to the committee.

Ms. Tautel motioned to amend her original motion to turn one part-time laborer position in the Veterans Service Agency to one full-time laborer position with the cost analysis to be provided by the Budget Department, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. O'Donnell moved to approve the 2022 recommended budget for Veterans Service Agency as amended, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Ms. Sutherland moved to approve the 2022 Capital Plan for Veterans Service Agency, seconded by Mr. O'Donnell.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Ms. Sutherland asked for the date for Wreaths Across America. Mr. Farrell replied December 18, 2021, starting at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.