



Tioga County Worksession Minutes September 22, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

Legislators Present:

Legislator Brown
Legislator Ciotoli
Legislator Monell
Legislator Mullen (*Arrived at 10:25 a.m.*)
Legislator Roberts
Chair/Legislator Sauerbrey
Legislator Standinger

Legislators Absent:

Legislator Hollenbeck
Legislator Weston

Guests:

Jason Shaw, Broome County Legislator
Karen Warfle, Owego Resident (*Departed at 10:13 a.m.*)
Geri Wiley, Owego Resident
Mic Knapp, Village of Owego Code Enforcement (*Departed at 10:17 a.m.*)
Terry Coleman, Village of Owego Code Enforcement (*Departed at 10:17 a.m.*)

Staff Present:

Peter DeWind, County Attorney
Cathy Haskell, Legislative Clerk
Amy Eiklor, Deputy Legislative Clerk
Jackson Bailey, Budget Officer
Linda Parke, Personnel Officer
Lisa Baker, CSEA Union President
Elaine Jardine, County Planning Director (*Departed at 10:03 a.m.*)
Megan Schnabl, Economic Development Specialist (*Departed at 10:17 a.m.*)
Denis McCann, Director of Administrative Services (*Departed at 11:10 a.m.*)
Andrea Klett, County Clerk (*Departed at 11:10 a.m.*)
Gary Howard, Sheriff (*Departed at 11:10 a.m.*)

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Sauerbrey opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a **Public Hearing** for Legislature consideration of the following:

- **Ag & Markets New SEQR Short Environmental Assessment Form**

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and read the legal notice as published in the Tioga County designated newspapers. Public Hearing adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

A second **Public Hearing** began at 10:05 a.m. for Legislature consideration of the following:

- **Restore NY Application River House Rehab Project, Owego, NY**

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and read the legal notice as published in the Tioga County designated newspapers. Public Hearing adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

A third **Public Hearing** began at 10:10 a.m. for Legislature consideration of the following:

- **Restore NY Application Tioga Trails Rehab Project, Owego, NY**

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call and read the legal notice as published in the Tioga County designated newspapers. Public Hearing adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Chair Sauerbrey called the **Eighth Special Legislative Meeting** to order at 10:15 a.m. for Legislature consideration of the following:

- **Authorization for Economic Development and Planning to Submit Grant Application to Restore New York Communities Initiative Round 6 ("Restore NY") Grant Funding and Authorize Legislative Chair Signature on Grant Related Documents for Rehabilitation of Building at 178-180 Front Street, Village of Owego**
- **Authorization for Economic Development and Planning to Submit Grant Application to Restore New York Communities Initiative Round 6 ("Restore NY") Grant Funding and Authorize Legislative Chair Signature on Grant Related Documents for Rehabilitation of Building at 48-50 Lake Street, Village of Owego**

Legislative Clerk Haskell took roll call. Legislator Standinger led in the prayer, pledge, and voting process. Special Meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m. with regular worksession immediately following.

M/C Salary Committee Recommendations – L. Parke: Personnel Officer, Linda Parke, reported the Management/Confidential Salary Committee met and made the following recommendations for the 2023 Budget:

- Employee health insurance contribution remain the same at 15%
- Employee health insurance contribution remain the same for part-time attorneys & part-time dentists at 20%
- Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for a single plan remain at \$2,600 and \$5,200 for a family plan
- Management/Confidential salary increase of 4.5%, which is in correlation with the change in Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- Take into consideration the findings of The Burke Group's Management/Confidential salary study

Chair Sauerbrey asked the Legislature if they had any objection to keeping employee health insurance contributions the same at 15% and 20%. Legislator Ciotoli asked if health insurance premiums were increasing in 2023. Ms. Parke responded, yes, the premiums are expected to increase by 5.1%. There were no objections to the employee health insurance contribution or HRA remaining the same.

Chair Sauerbrey asked her fellow Legislators for their thoughts on the proposed 4.5% salary increase for Management/Confidential positions. Legislator Monell asked Mr. Bailey what the financial impact of the increase would be. Mr. Bailey stated the 4.5% would increase salaries by almost \$1 million in 2023. Mr. Bailey also budgeted an additional \$500,000 (salary & fringe) for 5 new positions, bringing the estimated total salary increase to \$1,481,000. Legislator Brown asked what the average salary rate increase has been in the past few years. Legislator Mullen responded the typical increase is 2.5%-3%, but the percentage has varied. Legislator Ciotoli asked if the proposed 4.5% increase would be on top of the potential increase from the salary study. Chair Sauerbrey replied, yes, eligible positions could receive both increases. Legislator Brown inquired if the proposed 4.5% would be for all Management/Confidential positions or if an increase would be based on employee performance. Chair Sauerbrey stated the increase of 4.5% would be across the board for all Management/Confidential positions. A majority of the Legislators were in favor of the 4.5% increase; therefore, Mr. Bailey will move forward with salary updates for the 2023 budget.

The Burke Group performed a review of Management/Confidential salaries, comparable to other counties. The results indicated some Tioga County salaries were lower than other counties. Ms. Parke explained that The Burke Group proposed three different levels of salary increases: minimum, mid-range, and above midpoint. Chair Sauerbrey stated she feels comfortable increasing eligible Management/Confidential salaries to the minimum level. Raising the salaries of those eligible positions to the minimum level would add an additional \$97,000 to the 2023 budget. Chair Sauerbrey asked the Legislators if they supported the minimum level salary increase for eligible Management/Confidential positions. A majority of the Legislators were in favor of raising the salaries of eligible Management/Confidential positions to The Burke Group's minimum level. Mr. Bailey will work with Ms. Parke on eligible salary increases.

Legislator salaries also need to be set for the 2023 budget. Typically, Legislator salaries are in-line with the rate increase of Management/Confidential positions. The Legislators agreed to the same 4.5% salary as Management/Confidential positions. The Chair of the Legislature will receive the 4.5% increase on the base salary as well as a 4.5% increase for the Chair's salary.

2023 Budget Discussion – Budget Officer Bailey: Budget Officer Bailey reported the following:

- Budget will roll to Level 3, the Legislative Level, at the conclusion of today's meeting
- Capital budget has merged into the Operating budget

Chair Sauerbrey reported Public Works has not been able to order equipment for the past few years, but the funds have still been budgeted. The budgeted amount will get carried forward into 2023. Mr. Bailey stated he can keep those expenses in the budget or remove them from

the budget until 2024. Legislator Mullen expressed concern that the price of equipment keeps going up and vendors are not honoring their prior year pricing. Public Works has been doing their best to fix broken and old equipment, but that costs time, resources, and money. Legislator Roberts stated Public Works has been researching cost saving alternatives, such as under-used equipment from other municipalities and shared services. The Legislature agreed to leave the equipment expenses in the 2023 budget. Mr. Bailey will report back to the Legislature at the October 6th Worksession.

Approval of Worksession Minutes: On motion of Legislator Standinger, seconded by Legislator Ciotoli, the September 8, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Currently we have none.

Other: Currently, we have none.

Executive Session: Seven Legislators were in attendance. Legislative Clerk Haskell and County Attorney DeWind remained in attendance. Motion by Chair Sauerbrey, seconded by Legislator Mullen, to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 11:13 a.m. Motion carried. Motion by Chair Sauerbrey to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Mullen. Executive Session adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Next Worksession scheduled for Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Eiklor

Deputy Legislative Clerk