

Strategic Planning and Government Committee

Monday June 4th, 2007

10:00 A.M. - County Office Building

PRESENT: James Bryant, Chairman; Legislators Greg Osetek, Barry Leemann, Mike Kunzwiler, Art Ospelt, Doug Malone, John Proud

ALSO: Legislator Mike French, Legislator Art Gearsbeck, Legislator Paul Natoli, Phil Church, Steve Lyman, Richard Mitchell, Terri Somers, Mr. & Mrs. Pringle.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Chairman Bryant

MINUTES - The minutes were approved as amended by Legislator Kunzwiler, seconded by Legislator Leemann with all in favor. (Legislator Bryant asked that the roll call vote on the District 1 vacancy be put in the order in which it was called).

PURCHASING - INSURANCE BROKER OF RECORD RFP

Phil Church, Purchasing Agent and Richard Mitchell, County Attorney discussed the RFP for Broker of Record. They suggested that a special meeting may be necessary. They explained that an Insurance Agent locks into carriers versus a Broker of Record which contacts no carriers before proposal. Once the proposals come in this matter will be brought back to this committee.

COUNTY CHARTER

Legislator Leemann suggested tabling this matter for another month and made a motion to that effect which was seconded by Legislator Ospelt. Legislator Malone disagreed and suggested setting up a committee. Legislator Bryant stated that this should go to both caucuses prior to discussion. Legislator Osetek asked Administrator Lyman if he could give a time line. The administrator suggested 1 - 2 years for adoption. A charter commission would need to be appointed. A decision would have to be made on what areas to focus on and then there would be a period of study and public hearings. It was mentioned that Ulster County has a lot of information on their web site. Legislator Leemann stated that he has no problem with it but that he does not know that much about it. Attorney Mitchell stated that if the County pursues this the Department of State may have money available. Legislator Gearsbeck asked if this could be put on the ballot this fall with Attorney Mitchell stating that advisory referendums are not legal in this state. After a lengthy discussion legislator Kunzwiler asked the County Attorney to look into legalities and the process. Legislator Proud stated that this subject needs a lot of study and a lot of deliberation. Legislator Leemann again stated that he does not have enough information and moved the question for next month. It will be discussed in both caucuses. All in favor with the exception of Legislator Malone who voted no.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF REQUIREMENT THAT TOWN AND VILLAGE JUSTICES BE ATTORNEYS

Elizabeth Dunham a Town Justice from Albion appeared before the committee to discuss a movement by downstate individuals to abolish the court system as it is today. She explained that the individuals want to abolish the lay judges and make them all lawyers. This would change the system we now have by abolishing the town courts and making them district courts. Legislator Proud stated that he is not against local judges, however we have a resolution in front of us that is opposing something that does not exist. Legislator Osetek agreed with Legislator Proud. He asked the Administrator if there was an effort by the chief judge to gather more information. Administrator Lyman stated that the chief judge has had a long standing interest in restructure of the entire system. NYSAC is encouraging counties to provide testimony. Legislator Malone stated that this is just a friendly resolution. Oswego Town passed a resolution. He further stated that we need to let downstate know that there is an upstate. Legislator Kunzwiler stated that he would prefer to see this passed unanimously and therefore he suggested that it be tabled for one month for further study. The motion was seconded by Legislator Proud with all in favor except Legislator Malone who voted no.

COUNTY OF OSWEGO LOCAL LAW ____ OF THE YEAR 2007 A LOCAL LAW PROHIBITING THE POSSESSION OF WEAPONS IN BUILDINGS OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE COUNTY OF OSWEGO

Richard Mitchell, County Attorney brought forth a proposed local law with regard to the prohibiting weapons in the county owned buildings. He discussed an incident in the County Clerk's Office with regard to a weapon being placed on the counter. Judge Elliott sent a letter with regard to the incident. It was decided to table for one month. Motion by Legislator Malone, seconded by Legislator Bryant with all in favor.

RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS OF THE OSWEGO COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Administrator Lyman stated that the rules provide that the rules be adopted every year. This was tabled in March. He stated that the changes are essentially deleting references to program that no longer exist. Legislator Kunzwiler made a motion to accept the rules, seconded by Legislator Leemann. Legislator Leemann asked if there is a confidentiality statement in the rules. Administrator Lyman stated that he didn't know it was an issue. Legislator Proud stated that he has not had an opportunity to review these and suggested that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting and that the confidentiality issue be addressed. Motion by Legislator Proud, seconded by Legislator Ospelt to table until the next meeting. All in favor except Legislator Malone who voted no.

NEW BUSINESS

Legislator Natoli proposed a local law establishing residency and proximity restrictions in the County of Oswego for sex offenders who have committed criminal offenses. He asked that each Legislator review it and make sure that your district is not missing something this does not cover. Legislator Natoli stated that he has a friend who works in Oswego County but who lives in Onondaga County. Legislator Natoli asked his friend why he doesn't live here which would be closer for him to get to work. His friend replied that Oswego County has one of the highest rates of sex crimes in NY State. County Attorney Mitchell agreed to

review this proposed law and tweak it where necessary. Legislator Bryant stated that he is not sure if this will be on agenda for next month. Legislator Osetek suggested that DA Dodd and Sheriff Todd be invited to meeting when it is discussed.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Legislator Kunzwiler, seconded by Legislator Leemann with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 A.M.