

**REGULAR SESSION
FIRST DAY**

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

The Chairman called the Board to order, the roll was called and the following Representatives were found to be present:

Relic, Powers, Clark, Murphy, Fournier, Lindberg, Dubben, Johnson, McCarty, Schwerd, Stayton, Rothenberger, Harrington, Stuligross

Under Privilege of the Floor, Cynthia Kelleher, Occupational Therapist at Otsego Manor, expressed concerns for privatizing the therapy services at Otsego Manor. One is the loss of jobs in Otsego County for local residents. Second is the fact that a rehabilitation company from out of the state has already been chosen without the bidding process. She felt that companies within Otsego County or New York State should be given a chance to bid. The third concern is that currently the residents at Otsego Manor are being treated well and with quality by other Otsego County residents. Mrs. Kelleher feels that it is important to maintain this bond. She asked the County Board to really think about the proposed action and make sure it is the path it wants to make.

Dave Grotzky of Pittsfield stated that he is concerned as a resident for the negative effects of gas drilling on the quality of life, as a taxpayer on potential costly county expenses, and as a firefighter. He said that while the Solid Waste and Environmental Concerns Committee recommended the establishment of a task force to look into these issues, it was not done because of the potential county costs and lack of legal enforcement. Mr. Grotzky stated that he knows there would be many people who can provide data and volunteers who can collect data. Most towns have no clear idea on what they can do. He suggested that the county could issue guidelines. There are a lot of problems with heavy trucks using the roads. They must be protected. Mr. Grotzky stated that the county needs to investigate gas drilling issues and form a task force.

Dotty Hudson of Cooperstown said that we need to be concerned about the effects of natural gas drilling. Gas drillers are polluting our wells and aquifers. Our life and economy depend on clean water.

Lisa Rothwell, Director of Physical Therapy at Otsego Manor, explained that she and her staff are not in agreement with the idea to contract with a private company for therapy services at Otsego Manor. She said that her position was created because the county was contracting with a company that could not keep full-time staff. The purpose of the change to full-time employees was to create continuity and provide coverage. Ms. Rothwell stated that she was never contacted by management for her opinion and asked that a decision be made soon on the matter. It is very stressful on the therapy staff not knowing what will happen with their jobs.

Kristen Domion, Occupational Therapist Assistant at Otsego Manor, stated that she would like to remain a county employee.

Patricia Hawver, Otsego Manor employee, stated that it is difficult working at Otsego Manor right now because of not knowing what will happen with the therapy services. She

said that the employees are doing a good job and would like to remain at the facility.

Cindy Macomber, county resident, taxpayer and employee, stated that county employees need to decide soon whether to participate in the county's flex spending program or not, but have not been given the new premiums for the health insurance for 2010. She is also concerned about the potential hiring freeze that would be effective immediately if the County Board adopts it today. She has someone starting on Monday and hopes that position will not be affected. Ms. Macomber pointed out that the Local Law regarding salaries for certain managerial positions has blanks for the salaries. She stated that she is unsure of the process, but hopes the increases will not be more than the proposed CSEA employee increases.

The following communications were read and ordered filed:

Thomas Redding, Cooperstown Fire Department and Otsego County Fire Advisory Board – Letters opposing any cuts in the 2010 County Budget for the Sheriff's Department and the Communications Center.

Ronald Mead, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets – Letter informing the county that August 19, 2010 will mark the anniversary of Agricultural District No. 7 and a review of the District is to be conducted.

The reports of the Standing Committees were given and ordered filed.

Representative Relic moved to dispense with the reading of all resolutions. Seconded, Harrington. Total: 6,167; Ayes: 6,167. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 241-20091021

RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT WITH STATE OF NEW YORK TO RECEIVE LOCAL ENHANCED WIRELESS 911 REIMBURSEMENT

RELIC, CLARK, JOHNSON, ROTHENBERGER

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has enacted state law authorizing reimbursement to counties of certain costs associated with the provision of Wireless 911 services; and

WHEREAS, Otsego County is eligible to apply for reimbursement of certain costs associated with the provision of Wireless 911 services; and

WHEREAS, the County's allocation from the 2009-2010 State Budget for costs incurred from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2012 is \$33,504.00; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of this Board be and hereby is authorized to execute an agreement, and other documents that may be necessary, with the State of New York for securing reimbursement of costs incurred by the County for the implementation and operation of the Local Enhanced Wireless 911 Program, for the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2012 in the amount of \$33,504.00 as allocated in the 2009 - 2010 State Budget.

Seconded, Schwerd. Roll call vote. Total: 6,167; Ayes: 6,167. Adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 242-20091021 (original)

RESOLUTION – HIRING FREEZE: ALL VACANCIES AND OTHER UNFILLED EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS OF THE COUNTY (WHETHER FUNDED OR UNFUNDED) ARE HEREBY TO REMAIN UNFILLED UNTIL THE FURTHER ACTION OF THIS BOARD

JOHNSON, SCHWERD, MURPHY

WHEREAS, the County Board of Representatives currently faces a financial budgetary crises and has taken numerous actions to address these issues including requests to Department Heads that they reduce certain proposed budget line items; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that a hiring freeze is also required in view of this emergency; this freeze to apply to both positions subject to the collective bargaining agreements and positions designated as managerial/confidential and others; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that effective immediately there shall be no filling of current vacant employment positions, funded or unfunded, nor filling of other previously created positions as yet unfilled. In the event it is deemed necessary to fill a vacant employment position, the same shall be filled only upon formal approval of the Administration Committee.

Seconded, Relic. Representative Fournier moved to amend the RESOLVED paragraph by changing “Administration Committee” to “Parent Committee and a County Board resolution.” Seconded, Clark. Roll call vote on amendment. Total: 6,167; Ayes: 6,167. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 242-20091021 (amended)

RESOLUTION – HIRING FREEZE: ALL VACANCIES AND OTHER UNFILLED EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS OF THE COUNTY (WHETHER FUNDED OR UNFUNDED) ARE HEREBY TO REMAIN UNFILLED UNTIL THE FURTHER ACTION OF THIS BOARD

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RESOLVED, that effective immediately there shall be no filling of current vacant employment positions, funded or unfunded, nor filling of other previously created positions as yet unfilled. In the event it is deemed necessary to fill a vacant employment position, the same shall be filled only upon formal approval of the Parent Committee and a County Board resolution.

Roll call vote on amended resolution. Total: 6,167; Ayes: 3,340 – Relic, Clark, Murphy, Fournier, Johnson, Schwerd, Rothenberger; Noes: 2,827 – Powers, Lindberg, Dubben, McCarty, Stayton, Harrington, Stulgross. Adopted.

Representative Relic moved for an executive session for personnel and contract negotiations. Seconded, Johnson. Total: 6,167; Ayes: 6,167. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened.

Representative Johnson withdrew **Local Law of 2009 – A Local Law Establishing The Salaries Of Director Of Real Property Tax Services II, Personnel Officer, Election Commissioner (R), Sheriff, County Clerk And Emergency Services Coordinator For The Year 2010**. The Local Law was withdrawn.

Under Special Order of the Day, Representative Stayton explained that the city of Oneonta has passed a resolution inviting the public to a meeting to comment on the NYSDEC SGEIS on gas drilling. She said that we need to send feedback to DEC on this important issue. Representative Stayton asked if this public meeting could be held at the County Courthouse. The County Board was in agreement for use of the building for this meeting. All comments made at the meeting will need to be transcribed.

Representative Relic stated that STERPDB has applied for funding on several projects including the assessment of the economic impact of drilling in the Marcellus Shale in the region, technology assistance and development of shared services in GIS, a study of inland ports, a storm water management study, and clean up of brownfields in old railroad yards.

All the general business of the Board having been transacted, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.