

HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
STAMMEL, LAPIN, MARIETTA, BROCKWAY, BASILE
April 13, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Under the current COVID-19 emergency/Executive orders, this committee meeting was not physically open to the public at the County Office Building. The meeting was streamed via facebookLIVE.

Members: Representative Stammel - present, via Zoom
Representative Lapin - present, via Zoom
Representative Marietta - present, via Zoom
Representative Brockway - present, via Zoom
Representative Basile – absent

Also present via Zoom: Penney Gentile, Personnel Officer

OFFICE FOR THE AGING - TAMIE REED via Zoom

Tamie Reed requested approval for the following budget modification to accept a grant award (HDC5 NGA) from Consolidated Appropriations Act to support senior nutrition during the pandemic:

\$30,318.00 from A-60-6772-0000-447721 to A-60-6772-0000-547700

Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,815; Absent: 339- Basile. Motion carried.

Tamie Reed requested approval for the following budget transfer:

\$6,000.00 from A-60-6772-0000-510000 (Personal Services)
\$6,000.00 to A-60-6772-0000-549000 (Contracts)

Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,815; Absent: 339- Basile. Motion carried.

Tamie Reed requested approval to create, fund and fill an Aging Services Specialist position. Representative Marietta moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,815; Absent: 339- Basile. Motion carried.

Tamie Reed requested approval to proclaim May 2021 as Older Americans Month. Representative Marietta moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,815; Absent: 339- Basile. Motion carried.

Representative Marietta asked about the “Get There” program; a program people use for vaccination transportation; the program does offer a broader level of transportation to Otsego County residents.

SOCIAL SERVICES - EVE BOUBOULIS, LISA GRAMPP, CHERYL SPARKS, JEANIE SCHNEIDER with GORDON TERRY and EDD STANIMER via Zoom

Eve Bouboulis introduced Edd Stanimer and Gordon Terry, who are both with the Leatherstocking Funeral Directors Association. They proposed updating the resolution for indigent burials that the Department of Social Services is responsible for payment. Ms. Bouboulis sent the committee (and others) the current resolution and average burial costs. The discussion included but was not limited to the following: increases in rates to transport remains, basic arrangements, supervision and use of facilities, alternative vehicles, cloth covered oval top caskets, cremation containers, winter storage, clergy/celebrant and refrigeration; Madison County increases rates per year using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is currently 1.1%, using the County-owned cemetery and funeral homes providing their General Price List (GPL). Ms. Bouboulis explained where the funds come from to pay for services, average number of burials per year, potential budget impacts and reimbursements. Ms. Bouboulis mentioned the overall increase would be approximately \$10,500 on the revised resolution. Ms. Bouboulis received support from the Health and Education Committee for a new draft resolution, with clarified language for a solid proposal at the next Human Services Committee Meeting on April 20th.

Representative Basile joined the meeting via Zoom at 9:45 a.m.

OFFICE of EMPLOYMENT and TRAINING – PENNY SEEGER via Zoom

Penny Seeger requested to fill (1-5) Temporary Summer Counselor positions. Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 2,154. Motion carried.

Penny Seeger gave brief Work Force Center updates mentioning that the DOL staff is not fully back, still by appointment only (3 staff only) and have been inundated with calls from “unemployment fraud” victims. Ms. Seeger mentioned they are involved with a Health Care Grant and an IT Training Grant. Ms. Seeger mentioned the Media Ad Blitz through three counties, ads have been on the radio, in the newspaper and on Facebook, employers looking for employees, however, there hasn't be a lot of response.

COMMUNITY SERVICES – SUSAN MATT via Zoom

Susan Matt mentioned that revenues are up 25% for February. Ms. Matt has not heard anything more from the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG).

Susan Matt requested approval to pay for legal services provided by Associated Services in the amount of \$148.00. Representative Lapin moved for approval. Seconded, Basile. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 2,154. Motion carried.

Susan Matt requested approval to proclaim May 2021 as Mental Health Awareness Month. Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 2,154. Motion carried.

Susan Matt mentioned that the Otsego County System of Care is being recognized by NYS Office of Mental Health as a "What's Great in Our State" honoree on May 4, 2021.

Susan Matt requested an executive session to discuss personnel. Representative Stammel asked to hold off until the end of the meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - HEIDI BOND via Zoom

Heidi Bond gave program updates mentioning the daily case numbers are higher than they'd like to see (20 cases/day), transmission is occurring in work places, churches, schools, sports teams and the unvaccinated population, no cases in fully vaccinated people and is continuing to have clinics. Ms. Bond is working on a local advertising effort, a video promoting the vaccine and stats for the March press-release emphasizing on the steady high case numbers, reinforcing they haven't seen an actual case with a fully vaccinated individual, including hotspot areas and risks of small gatherings. Ms. Bond stated there is no vaccine for children under the age of 16, however, tests are being done on 12-15 year olds. Otsego DOH is suspending the use of the J&J vaccine on the homebound population as NYS DOH has put pause on the J&J vaccine.

Representative Basile left the meeting during the above discussion.

Board Chair Bliss joined the meeting in the Board Chambers.

Heidi Bond requested approval to fill a vacant Senior Account Clerk Typist position. Representative Lapin moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,815; Absent: 339- Basile. Motion carried.

Heidi Bond requested the support of the consolidation between the Town of Otego and the Village of Otego Vital Statistic Registrar Districts. Representative

Lapin moved for approval. Seconded, Marietta. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,815; Absent: 339- Basile. Motion carried.

Heidi Bond requested approval to purchase 7 laptops at a cost not to exceed \$6,900, a pickup truck with cab at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 and 2 Variable Outside Message Boards at a cost not to exceed \$13,000, all fully grant funded. Representative Lapin moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,815; Absent: 339- Basile. Motion carried.

Board Chair Bliss left the meeting.

COMMUNITY SERVICES CON'T. – SUSAN MATT via Zoom

Susan Matt requested an executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person. Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Marietta. Total: 2,154. Ayes: 1,815; Absent: 339- Basile. Motion carried.

The committee adjourned in executive session.