

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
KOUTNIK, KENNEDY, CLARK, LAPIN, MARTINI
August 7, 2018

The meeting began at 1:33 pm on Tuesday, August 7, 2018, in the 3rd floor conference room located at 197 Main St., Cooperstown. Those present were: Representative Gary Koutnik, Committee Chairman; Representatives Margaret Kennedy, Daniel Lapin, and Adrienne Martini, committee members; Eve Bouboulis, Commissioner; Lisa Grampp, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Administrative Services; Mary Jane Waters, Director of Services; and Deborah Finger, Director of Income Maintenance. Also in attendance was Cheryl Sparks, Principal Account Clerk Typist. Kathleen Clark, District 3 Representative, was unable to attend.

The meeting began with discussion about the proposed 2019 Department of Social Services Budget. The committee was given handouts and line by line explanations of what has been calculated thus far. Certain lines are subject to change at this time as some line figures come from the Treasurer's Office or the Information Technologies Department. Agreements were made on lines that need not be reviewed again in September unless specifically requested. An additional presentation of the proposed budget will be made at the September Human Services Committee meeting.

FISCAL

Raise the Age (RTA) – With RTA Legislation beginning in October 2018, more staff will be needed. Otsego County is currently under the tax cap so expenditures for Raise the Age should be 100% reimbursable. Otsego's RTA Fiscal Plan still needs to be submitted to the State. The department will determine a method of tracking this new program.

Preliminary June 2018 expenditure reports were presented as follows: Welfare Administration: 36.48%; Records Management: 62.21%; Agency Housing: 0.00% and Program: 45.23%.

Finger printing/background checks for new hires that will have access to Federal Tax information will be required by the department as per new regulations. Costs are estimated at \$99 per fingerprint/background check.

VACANCIES (Federal%/State%/Local%)

Request to fill the following vacant funded positions were presented with results as follows: Caseworkers #1 and #3 – Grade 14X \$36,532 - \$43,232 [1340] (62/24/14); Clerk #8 – Grade 5C \$24,690 - \$29,040 [870] (50/0/50); Social Welfare Examiners #10 and #16 – Grade 8K \$28,075 - \$33,080 [1001] (50/0/50); and one temporary Social Welfare Examiner for up to 6 months – Grade 8K \$15,7459 per hr. (50/0/50). Representative Kennedy motioned to approve filling all vacancies. Representative Lapin seconded the motion. Total: 2,233; Ayes: 1,679, absent Clark-554; motion carried.

Permission to abolish Data Entry Machine Operator #3 Grade 7 and create Senior Social Welfare Examiner #10 Grade 10 was requested. Representative Martini motioned to approve. Representative Lapin seconded the motion. Total: 2,233; Ayes: 1,679, absent Clark-554; motion carried.

OTHER

Housing:

- Commissioner Bouboulis will have meeting with Crossroads Inn, Addiction Recovery Services and Mental Health on August 14th at the Community Services Building.
- A trailer park property on Route 28 just outside of Cooperstown has been sold. Hartwick Town Board meeting is scheduled for this evening regarding these potential future evictions. Representative Lapin gave suggestions regarding the matter in the event a Representative will attend.

Daycare Subsidy: The State remains under a waiver from the Federal subsidy changes planned.

Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP): Otsego County DSS is approved by Personnel to be an employment site for those under age 18.

Vehicle Leases: Commissioner Bouboulis requested permission to expedite a lease sooner than 2019 as there are two department vehicles in need of replacement now due to high repair costs. Representative Kennedy motioned to approve expedition of leases sooner than 2019. Representative Lapin seconded the motion. Total: 2,233; Ayes: 1,679, absent Clark-554; motion carried.

Commissioner Bouboulis informed the committee that an amendment to our current Empowerment for Families contract will be necessary to reflect vacation time for the contractor and worker compensation insurance for staff within the contract. These changes will not effect term dates or costs.

Commissioner Bouboulis inquired about future Managerial/Confidential (M&C) salary increases as these were discussed at a recent Department Head meeting. There are currently M&C Directors that make less than union supervisors under their direction.

The next meeting of the Human Services Committee has been scheduled for September 17, 2018 at 9:30am in the 3rd floor conference room located at 197 Main St., Cooperstown.