

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
KENNEDY, OBERACKER, MARIETTA, FARWELL, SHANNON
April 25, 2018

Representative Marietta appeared via telephone.

Also Present: Adrian Kuzminski, Otsego County resident

Representative Kennedy discussed a phone call she had with an individual from Herkimer County in which he discussed the following: the importance of not missing opportunities that come with an elected County Executive noting that it may be the hardest option but the best thing to do, it allows for more executive function, and is governance by the people.

The committee discussed County government organization including but not limited to the following:

- Montgomery County: did a charter, it's easy to find, clearly written, policy and procedures for everything
- Elected County Executive could organize the County and create Administrative Code
- County Administrator or Manager would be appointed to make it easier to change things up if needed
- There are still things that will be up to the Legislative Board including salaries
- Need to take a poll to see where everyone stands and set a direction and path
- Representative Marietta stated that he supports moving forward with a County Manager for a central component as right now there is no one to connect all of the dots together, a County Executive will take too long, the current system is set up for failure as Board Members are not full time legislators
- Importance of getting the public involved
- Benefits to Elected County Executive: they can do the day to day operations, can appoint department heads, make changes to departments, checks and balances
- Discussion on credentials for the position
- Look at a 4 year term for Board of Representatives instead of 2 years, Montgomery County went to 3 year term
- State grant money available to Counties to reorganize government

Adrian Kuzminski stated that he is in favor of a County Executive noting it is an opportunity for home grown political experience and right now no one speaks for Otsego County. Mr. Kuzminski stated that a County Executive is a stronger and more solid voice with Congress and Albany.

Representative Oberacker stated that we need to look into 4 year terms for the Board of Representatives, increase the Board Chair to a 2 year term, and is in support of an Elected County Executive.

Representative Kennedy stated that a 4 year term is more than is needed, but maybe a 3 year term like Montgomery County would work. Representative Kennedy stated that she is leaning toward an Elected County Executive but understands the urgency so having an interim County Manager/Administrator is a possibility. Representative Kennedy stated there is a need to create a charter.

Representative Marietta stated that a 3 year term for the Board of Representatives is good. Representative Marietta stated he is not against having an Interim County Manager/Administrator but is not supportive of an Elected County Executive.

Representative Farwell stated that there are problems that need solutions that cannot wait, she is in favor of a charter, redistricting, and changing the terms for the Board of Representatives. Representative Farwell stated that the Board is making progress but she is in favor of a County Administrator/Manager as soon as possible.

Representative Shannon discussed her findings from counties that have legislators including Columbia, Cortland, and Cayuga County noting that she feels the County needs to have a County Administrator/Manger as soon as possible.

The committee also discussed the following including but not limited to:

- Talk to Montgomery County
- Invite LaBerge Group to come to the committee
- Survey the Board and all Department Heads to see where they stand
- Local Government Efficiency Plan- find the potential savings
- DRI(Downtown Revitalization Initiative)- another round coming to this area again this year
- Discussion on the County's purchasing process/policy

The next committee meeting to discuss County government organization is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29th at 9 a.m. at the County Office Building.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned.