

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**  
**KENNEDY, OBERACKER, MARIETTA, FARWELL, SHANNON**  
**June 26, 2018**

Also: Board Chair Bliss, Representative Koutnik

**PLANNING –KAREN SULLIVAN**

Karen Sullivan distributed a spread sheet with a list of several project proposals to expend program income revenue. Karen Sullivan stated that she and Jody Zakrevsky spoke with Jason Purvis of the OCR on June 19<sup>th</sup> and included some of his comments on the spreadsheet.

Representative Marietta moved to allocate the requested amount of \$85,000 to construct the proposed community center in the Tiny Homes Project. Seconded, Oberacker. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 2,393. Motion carried.

The committee continued to review the spreadsheet and discussed the following, including but not limited to:

- Having THOMA consultants meet with the full board to discuss the process of a micro-enterprise grant
- Feasibility study v. marketability study
- Supporting non profit v. private industry
- Is having a public hearing necessary to move forward with the proposed projects?
- Establishing low to moderate income beneficiaries before proceeding with certain programs

Representative Marietta moved to allocate \$50,000 for the Schenevus Planning Study. After further discussion, Representative Marietta withdrew his motion and instead moved to allocate to the Farm Restore project \$50,000, to the ARC Reuse Expansion \$100,000, to the Micro-Enterprise Grant with focus on Agriculture \$200,000, to the Schenevus Planning Study \$50,000 and to the Coditum Education Program \$100,000 for a total allocation of \$500,000. Seconded, Oberacker. Total: 2,393; Ayes: 2,393. Motion carried.

The Committee Chair declared a break.

The committee reconvened and discussed the results of the county manager survey and questions they would like to ask Steve Acquario of NYSAC. Representative Oberacker stated the ideal candidate for County manager would be someone promoted from within who has an understanding of both the purchasing and budget creation process.

**OTHER –STEVE ACQUARIO, NYSAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PATRICK CUMMINGS (via telephone)**

Steve Acquario along with Patrick Cummings discussed the following, including but not limited to:

- The committee needs to consider how best to operate Otsego County
- 2 choices-continue to operate under State/County Law or transition to Home Rule Law
- 8 counties including Otsego governed by a Board Chair
- Additional statistics from the County Administration table found in the NYSAC report including legislative body/number of members/population
- Need to decide if there are problems that need to be solved or a vision to be realized
- A complete overhaul of government organization involves establishing a charter commission and converting over a 3 year period v. an easier transition to County Manger/Admin
- Arranging for a meeting with a retired County Admin
- Benefit of County Manager/Admin includes someone to provide day to day oversight
- Creating a Chief Administrative Officer is a step in between

Representative Farwell stated that based on the survey results it appears the department heads are concerned with micromanagement.

Representative Marietta identified problems with the current structure including lack of continuity/institutional knowledge and lack of stability due to a governing board that keeps changing.

Representative Shannon added that the amount of time spent on administrative duties does not allow for much time to interact with State law makers.

The committee agreed that it would be beneficial to have Steve Acquario visit to discuss how to improve the current committee structure.

The next committee meeting to discuss County government organization is scheduled for Tuesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at 9 a.m. at the County Office Building.

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