

HEALTH AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
STAMMEL, CLARK, MARTINI, SHANNON, LAPIN
May 13, 2019

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION- DON SMYERS, KEVIN GANOE, ADAM AND MARGARET TAFEL, MARK AND GERRI NELSON, TIM CANTWELL

Don Smyers and Kevin Ganoë introduced some area farmers to discuss their interactions with the Dairy, Field Crop, and Livestock team.

Mark and Gerri Nelson, Springfield, NY stated that Agriculture is changing in this County, small farms are being driven out, they have gone from Dairy to Beef, the team gave them a lot of input, they would be lost without them, the team is a viable resource, they have access to information and contacts, and it would be a travesty to take it away.

Representative Shannon entered the meeting.

Adam and Margaret Tafel, Laurens, NY, stated that they milk 150 cows, they are organic and grass fed and own 675 acres in this County, they have worked closely with Dave Balbion from the team, noting that he has brought a lot of knowledge, offers valuable resources, has helped with the transition from tie-stall to free stall, precision feed management, the team is a great resource, very responsive and gets back quickly with answers. Adam Tafel stated that their market is strong, milk prices are sustainable, they are hoping to open a farm store this year and potentially move into organic grass fed beef and pork but Dairy will remain the backbone of their farm.

Tim Cantwell, Richfield Springs, NY stated that the team brings resources in an economic fashion for farmers, in 2000 he lost his barn to a fire and Kevin Ganoë and Dave Balbion helped to design a new facility, they were a big part of his success, a lot of changes to Agriculture but the land is still here, if there is no regional team farmers will lose vital communication and information source, farmers need the connection of the team for diverse resources, farmers can cut down on mistakes when working with the team, can share resources and expertise.

The committee and guests discussed the following including but not limited to:

- Otsego County will lose contact with the team if there is no funding
- Otsego County's budget was already approved when they became aware of the operating loss
- There are no Association funds to fill the budget gap this year
- Adam Tafel stated that there needs to be resources here if people are going to move here to farm
- Tim Cantwell stated that tourism is a big part of the County and having a strong Ag industry feeds into that

- Representative Clark stated that the County is facing a lot of unfunded mandates and being mid year where would this be funded? She urged everyone to contact Senator Seward and Delgado
- The Nelsons stated that without farmers you have no food

Don Smyers asked if there was any way of getting an emergency appropriation to fund the Dairy, Field Crop and Livestock Team for Otsego County for 2019. Representative Stammel stated that they will contact the Treasurer's Office to see about any funding and will discuss at the next meeting.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING- TAMIE MACDONALD

Tamie MacDonald discussed unmet need funding noting that the State added additional funding and Otsego County is getting \$46,056. Tamie MacDonald stated that this can help fund the homecare worker shortage and help those on a waiting list noting that she is looking at reaching out to teens and the Amish population to see if they would be willing to provide Level I services especially to the rural individuals. Tamie MacDonald stated this will help to build an informal network.

Tamie MacDonald stated that they are doing Community Outreach to churches and service organizations on informal networking, the Community Needs Survey, Volunteer Driver Program (have 13 drivers so far, training mid-June), and social isolation in general and how to engage older adults.

Tamie MacDonald gave an update on the Community Needs Survey noting they have received 500 responses so far out of their goal of 1600.

Tamie MacDonald gave an update on the Trinity contract noting that addendums to the contract have been sent out by the County Attorney; language was added regarding Supervisor's time and separate storage and meal prep. Tamie MacDonald stated they have a good system in place, will have a cycle menu with 30-40 meals built into that, they are keeping line of communication going and will be working on the State requirements.

Tamie MacDonald stating that she would like to have a 4 day work week in July and August for the department noting that staff would be split, some would work Monday-Thursday and others Tuesday-Friday so the office would be open 5 days a week and staff coverage would be the same. Tamie MacDonald stated that the benefits of this would be improvement in productivity and the reduction in use of sick time, call ins, and vacation time. The committee asked that Tamie MacDonald reach out to Ellen Cocomma and Penney Gentile as this may be subject to collective bargaining under CSEA.

Tamie MacDonald discussed 242 Main Street and what the plans are for it. The committee suggested that Tamie MacDonald attend a Public Works meeting to see what departments are there and want to be there and if there is parking and accessibility.

Tamie MacDonald stated that the Volunteer Recognition will be held on Wednesday, May 15th at 12:00 p.m. at the Otesaga and the Senior Picnic will be

held on Thursday, July 18th at Glimmerglass State Park noting that the Senior Picnic is by donation only now as the County can longer charge for it.

COMMUNITY SERVICES – SUE MATT

Sue Matt reviewed the revenue report.

Sue Matt stated that currently there is \$315,507 in the Transitions revenue fund that needs to be spent by 12/1/19, \$106,314 in salary sharing fund that needs to be spent by 12/31/19 and \$286,554 in deferred revenue that must be spent by 9/6/20.

Sue Matt requested approval for the following budget transfer:

\$21,430.28 from 4310.4900 Contracts to 4390.4696 Criminal Actions

Representative Martini moved for approval. Seconded, Lapin; Total: 2,120; Ayes: 2,120. Motion carried.

Sue Matt noted that Matt Johnson has resigned from the Mental Health Subcommittee effective April 30, 2019.

Sue Matt discussed abolishing the Alcoholism Counselor and creating a Staff Social Worker position at the Addiction Recovery Services as they can do both Mental Health and Addiction Services and it will generate more revenue.

Sue Matt stated that the Single Point of Access Coordinator will be retiring at the end of the year and they are working on a transition plan.

Sue Matt stated that she is looking at creating a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner position for the 2020 budget and is getting salary ranges for the position.

Sue Matt and the committee discussed the RSS housing project including but not limited to: funding of the project, a public forum will held by RSS, and they have done outreach. Representative Lapin stated that they should be given due process.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH –HEIDI BOND

Heidi Bond distributed updates on department programs noting that last week they had to rule out a case of the measles but there have been no local incidents in the schools of measles. Heidi Bond stated that there is an assembly bill ending the religious exemption in NYS for measles vaccinations noting it has already passed the Senate. Heidi Bond stated it is mostly about educating people and they are working on a protocol with Bassett on symptoms of measles as it can get misdiagnosed.

Heidi Bond stated that they are gearing up for rabies clinics, they are going good but attendance is down slightly.

Heidi Bond stated that ticks are already increasing and there will be a Lyme Disease presentation in Roseboom this evening and one tomorrow at the Richfield Public Library. Representative Clark asked if a presentation can be scheduled for the Unadilla/Otego area as well.

Heidi Bond requested approval for a Resolution in support of the consolidation of Vital Statistic Registrar Districts for Town of Unadilla & Village of Unadilla. Representative Martini moved for approval. Seconded, Clark and Lapin. Total: 2,120; Ayes: 2,120. Motion carried.

OTHER

The committee discussed a Coroner Dispatch Policy that was drafted by the Director of E-911 as requested. The committee discussed having the County Attorney review the policy and inviting all 4 Coroners to the next meeting to discuss further.

Representative Martini stated that Oneida, Delaware, Schoharie Counties all have a Medical Examiner system noting that Otsego County could do an MOA with one of those Counties if interested in a ME system.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned until Monday, June 10th, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Meadows Building.