

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
KENNEDY, OBERACKER, MARIETTA, FARWELL, SHANNON
April 23, 2019

Also Present: Representative Lapin, Bailey Gano- SUNY Intern for OCCA,
Susan Matt and Tamie MacDonald

BAILEY GANO- SUNY ONEONTA INTERN-OCCA

Bailey Gano, SUNY Oneonta Intern, presented a power point on the Otsego County Energy Plan Proposal discussing the following including but not limited to:

- Energy for All: every sector of the economy relies on energy, it must be affordable, and New York is changing how it operates and manages its energy system
- NY State Energy Initiatives: REV- Reforming the Energy Vision and the Clean Energy Standard- will require 50% of NY's energy to come from renewable sources by 2030
- Climate change is anticipated to adversely affect NY's energy infrastructure
- Energy reliability and affordability
- Projected changes in energy expenditures
- Reasons for the NY State Energy Plan: economic development, climate change, and the need for planning
- Recent local events related to energy: Railyard re-development, Constitution Pipeline, DeRuyter Pipeline Upgrade, Decompressor station, and XNG
- Climate Smart Communities: there are 5 in Otsego County- City of Oneonta, Town of Hartwick, Richfield, Otsego, and Village of Cooperstown
- Challenges facing Otsego County: Electric grid capacity, lack of infrastructure for planning, loss of jobs, limited capacity to address energy planning needs
- The need for a Countywide Energy Plan: the creation of a plan would address the problems while tackling efficiency
- Otsego County Energy Taskforce: monthly meetings will be held, the timeline is-draft by June 2020, public comment in July 2020, SEQRA review by August 2020 and adoption by December 2020
- How to provide the capital: Otsego County or NYSEG could create a revolving fund- charge customers a small fee, NYSERDA- Environmental Research Program and the NY State Clean Energy Internship Program

The committee discussed other funding sources including DEC and CFA, as well as other energy sources including solar, wind, geo-thermal, and gas.

Representative Oberacker stated that if the County is serious about energy we need to consider all sources.

Bailey Gano and Representative Lapin left the meeting.

Representative Marietta stated that getting the Energy Plan done by 2020 is feasible but the County struggles with moving forward with big projects such as the Highway Building. Representative Oberacker stated that he has reached out to Assemblymen Chris Tague and Brian Miller on the Highway Building project but there are current deficits in the Highway Budget so immediate costs are looked at instead of long range projects.

COUNTY GOVERNANCE- SUSAN MATT, TAMIE MACDONALD

Representative Kennedy stated that she had sent an email asking Department Heads to discuss their thoughts and ideas on a County Administrator.

Susan Matt stated that a County Administrator could: improve efficiencies, provide leadership, be more strategic, can give an opinion on issues, provide valuable input, help to work collaboratively and in a team, implement policy, work with department heads, provide more streamlining, this person cannot just think fiscally, they should have a proactive management style, be able to move the community in a positive way so everyone benefits, and make us a better, more efficient County.

Tamie MacDonald discussed her past experiences with a County Administrator including: the importance of getting the right person-someone that knows the community, an administrator could help by providing clear direction, leadership, help to be more efficient and could provide consensus.

The committee asked Susan Matt and Tamie MacDonald what they hope could change with a County Administrator. Susan Matt stated that not having to bring everything to a committee for approval would be good as that is not a good use of everyone's time and talents.

Tamie MacDonald stated she would like to see Department Heads being able to spend their budget without the need for approvals.

The committee continued discussions on the County Administrator including but not limited to:

- set boundaries regarding micro-managing
- have priorities ahead of time
- look for someone that has rural experience
- will be a big learning curve and adjustment for everybody
- have fewer committees with a County Administrator
- the individual will be a manager of all resources not just money
- capital planning vs. long term planning

- some problems with a County Administrator: extra layer of government, micro-management, use of taxpayers money for more government, potential for politicalization

Representative Kennedy stated that Steve Aquario from NYSAC may attend the June 25th IGA meeting and Carl Gustafson from Montgomery County may come to the May 28th meeting.

Representative Kennedy stated she will reach out to more department heads to have them come discuss their thoughts on a County Administrator.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned until Tuesday, May 7th at 9 a.m. at the County Office Building.