

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
COMMITTEE MINUTES  
December 1, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Legislator Michael Chapman, Chair, Legislator George Fearon, Legislator Christopher Palermo, Legislator Francis Mitchell, Legislator Daniel P. Sincebaugh, Legislator Daniel Schuster

**EXCUSED:** Legislator Patrick Mahunik.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chairman Peter Tortorici, Legislator Roger Mills, County Attorney Frederick Westphal, Director of Information Technologies Steve Johnson, County Clerk Sue Dwyer, Board of Elections Cheryl Heary, Board of Elections Katie Lacey, Veteran's Director Larry Wilt, Stephen Barski, Report Eric Sorenson, Citizen Reporter Sarah Gantz and Clerk of the Legislature Mary Jones.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Michael Chapman, Committee Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Palermo to approve minutes of November 2, 2009, seconded by Mitchell, as amended. All in favor.

**TRAVEL REQUEST:** None

**APPOINTMENTS:** None

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:**

Lacey provides recap of election stating major problems were in Owasco and Fleming. The machine in the Town of Fleming went down, in Owasco and other areas were rejecting ballots. Many complaints regarding privacy issues. Commission will not go back to the Pavilion and is thinking of the Sacred Heart gymnasium for next election.

Heary discusses a problem with paying the inspections again. Now there is an issue as to whether they want to opt in or out of the NYS retirement. Heary advises that Prystal is looking into the matter.

Wilt advises he is looking for a volunteer van driver. The position has been advertised for three weeks and he has received only five inquiries.

Dwyer advises that the \$11,000.00 grant money has to be returned to the State.

Dwyer advises that on December 18<sup>th</sup> the new "Returning the Favor" Program will kick off for veterans. Dwyer states there will be a press conference.

Palermo makes a motion that we issue an RFP for copper lines for our telephone system. Sincebaugh seconds the motion. All in favor.

Fearon re-introduces 12-9-GO-11. Fearon states that this helps people in the most dyer needs. Palermo is not in favor. Palermo states that this he doesn't think it older versus younger. Palermo further states you have to look at the people who have to mortgage their property, the wealthy will not contribute because they have more cash in hand to buy a house and whether this tax supports Mental Health or the Radio system he will not support it. Mills agrees with Palermo. Mills states banks are strict. Mills this would be counter productive, if house sales go down it won't work in the long run. Mills will not support this resolution. Mills states that if you have more money you put more

down and pay less tax, the younger people will get hit with this. Mitchell states it is taking young people a lot longer to pay off. Mitchell states just because someone is frugal does not mean they are rich. Mitchell states he tried to avoid mortgages and car payments. Fearon states the more money people have the more properties, rich people have it better. Palermo asked how this affects reverse mortgages. Dwyer states it is mortgage tax. Palermo states it is cheaper to spread it across all taxpayers.

## **RESOLUTIONS:**

- 12-9-GO-1** Authorizing for the Veteran's Department to Purchase Veterans Information Management System (VIMS). Motion made by Palermo, seconded by Mitchell, No discussion. All in favor.
- 12-9-GO-2** Authorizes Cayuga County Clerk to fill Part-Time Account Clerk. Motion made by Palermo, seconded by Sincebaugh. No discussion. All in favor.
- 12-9-GO-3** Pulled: Authorization to Amend the 2009 Cayuga County Information Technology Budget. Resolution will be brought to Ways & Means.
- 12-9-GO-4** Declaring a 24 Hour Dog Quarantine During the Winter Season. Motion made by Palermo, seconded by Mitchell. No discussion. All in favor.
- 12-9-GO-5** Authorizing the Continuation of the Night Quarantine on Dogs in Cayuga County. Motion made by Mitchell, seconded by Palermo. No discussion. All in favor.
- 12-9-GO-6** Designating Newspapers to Publish County Matters. Motion made by Mitchell, seconded by Fearon. Palermo abstains, all others in favor.
- 12-9-GO-7** Authorizing the Clerk of the Legislature to advertise and receive sealed bids for the printing of the Journal of Proceedings books. Motion made by Mitchell, seconded by Palermo. Discussion: Tortorici would like Corcraft to receive a bid. All in favor.
- 12-9-GO-8** To Fix Date, Time and Place of the Meeting to Organize the Cayuga County Legislature for 2010. Motion made by Sincebaugh, seconded by Mitchell. No discussion. All in favor.
- 12-9-GO-9** Authorizing the Transfer to Funds from the Contingent Account to the County Manager Department. Motion made by Palermo, seconded by Fearon. No discussion. All in favor.
- 12-9-GO-10** Establishing the Salary for the Cayuga County Attorney. Motion made by Palermo, seconded by Mitchell. Discussion: Schuster states County Manager salary not previously set and asked if we should wait to hire and then adjust attorney salary. Mills asked if we needed a local law. Westphal responds no local law before the first of the year. All in favor.
- 12-9-GO-11** Requesting State Home Rule Legislation to permit the County of Cayuga, Acting through its Legislative Body, be authorized and empowered to adopt and amend Local Laws imposing a tax of Twenty-Five cents for each one hundred dollars and each remaining major fraction thereof of principal debt of obligation which is secured by a mortgage on real property situated in the County of Cayuga. Motion made by Palermo, seconded by Mitchell. No discussion. Palermo and Sincebaugh oppose, all others in favor.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm made by Palermo, seconded by Mitchell. All in favor.

Motion made on January 5, 2010 to approve minutes made by Chapman, seconded by Mitchell,. All in favor.