

COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

January 26, 2010

PRESENT:

**Leo Pulcher, Chairman
Valerie Bertram
Lynda Scheer
Edward Nabozny
William Hallenbeck, Jr.
William Hughes, Jr.
Kevin McDonald
Robin Andrews**

ABSENT:

Bart Delaney, Jr., notified

ALSO PRESENT:

**Courtney Radley, Asst. Deputy Clerk
Holly Tanner
Gary Flaherty
Virginia Martin
Jason Nastke
Arnold Schneider**

Press: 1

Chairman Pulcher called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

County Clerk: H. Tanner

Resolution Request: Authorizing a budget amendment to the County Clerk's budget to add \$58,750 to mortgage tax revenue; to amend the Records Management line by the same amount. Motion to approve by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by V. Bertram, motion carried. Refer to Finance. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of records management.

Weights and Measures: A. Schneider

A. Schneider addressed the committee about the issue of a petty cash account. A resolution to come next month.

Monthly reports for November 2009 and December 2009 were presented to the committee. Motion to approve by L. Scheer, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., motion carried.

Veteran's Service Agency: G. Flaherty

VISA Program: Discussion ensued regarding helping veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Veterans/County Sherriff's program: Working with Veteran inmates at the County Jail to let them know their benefits.

Veteran's Court update: A separate court for veterans suffering from mental disabilities is being created. Discussion ensued regarding regulations on deciding cases and the progression of this type of court in Columbia County.

Meeting in Albany: Increase in funding for Veteran services, which is good news.

Brief discussion on the possibility of the VA taking over the Pine Haven building.

Board of Elections: V. Martin & J. Nastke

Subcommittee re staffing and operations: Weekly meetings between Nancy Shultz and staff have become an asset to the department.

Equal Voting Access program: HAVA reimbursements for the full contract amount and for the full cost of laminated posters have been received.

Resolution Request: Extension of Contract #T002651, April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011 relating to an existing Help America Vote Act grant from New York State / State Board of Elections with \$18,336.00 remaining. Refer to Finance.

Resolution Request: Extension of Contract #T002535, April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011 relating to an existing Help America Vote Act grant from New York State / State Board of Elections with \$36,672 remaining. Motion to approve both resolutions by L. Scheer, seconded by W. Hughes, Jr., motion carried. Refer to Finance.

General Election Nov. 3, 2009: Final results for Taghkanic were certified on January 14, 2010.

Discussion ensued on the issue of the NYS Election Reform and Modernization Act.

Resolution Request: To join Nassau County, NY in litigation to declare NYS Election Reform and Modernization Act Unconstitutional. Motion to approve by L. Scheer, seconded V. Bertram, motion carried pending approval from the County Attorney's Office.

Conference Request: To attend the Election Commissioners of the State of NY Winter Conference 2010. Event to be held January 25-26, 2010 in Albany. A total cost of \$196 for all four (4) attendees. Motion to approve by W. Hughes, Jr., seconded by W. Hallenbeck, Jr., motion carried.

W. Hughes, Jr. mentioned following through with the recommendation of the committee to provide copies of the resolution list to the public at full board meetings to Chairman Pulcher and committee. Chairman Pulcher referenced that he would speak with the Clerk of the Board in regards to this matter.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn at 7:06 PM by V. Bertram, seconded by E. Nabozny, motion carried.