

**Herkimer County Legislature
Administration/Veterans' Affairs
Committee Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2020
Via Teleconference**

Follows Public Safety/Emergency Management and Ways & Means

Persons Attending:

Bob Hollum (Chairman, Administration/Veterans' Affairs)
William Weakley (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
Patrick E. Russell (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
Raymond Johnson (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
John L. Brezinski (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature
James W. Wallace, Jr., County Administrator
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
(Non Committee Members signed in)
Legislator Mark Gaworecki
Legislator Robert J. Schrader
Legislator John P. Stephens
Legislator William Keeler, Sr.
Legislator Peter F. Manno
Legislator Raymond Smith
Legislator Kurt J. Ackerman
Legislator Ray Donley
Legislator Peter Campione
Legislator Frederick J. Shaw, Jr.

Absent:

Gregory Malta, Sr. (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)

Mr. Hollum called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

1. Resolution to support release of Federal Funds for Medicaid to the County
2. Other

Committee Vote Record

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

Mr. Hollum stated "First on the agenda, Resolution to support release of Federal Funds for Medicaid. This is a Resolution calling on the State of New York to release the Federal Medicaid matching funds to the counties. Any questions?"

With no response Mr. Hollum asked for a motion to accept.

Item #1 - On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Johnson for Administration/Veterans' Affairs, Item #1 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Hollum asked "Is there anything under other? I have a little bit of information I'm going to put under other. The Board of Elections contacted me today. Just in case anyone hears, I want to get you guys up to date, they sent absentee ballot requests that were supposed to go to Republicans. They sent Republican ones to the Democrats that are living in Schuyler. They are already in the process of sending out new ones. There are barcodes on them so no Democrat will be able to send it in and request a Republican absentee but just in case if anyone asks you I wanted you to know what was going on. Any questions on that?"

Mr. Campione asked "How did it happen?"

Mr. Hollum stated "Supposedly it was explained to me they got the wrong list so when they should have been sending out Democratic absentee requests for the Democrats, they sent them Republican absentee requests to the Democrats."

Mr. Russell stated "Wait a minute. They make the lists so how could they get the wrong list?"

Mr. Hollum stated "Obviously they made a mistake."

Mr. Campione asked "How much extra did this cost us Bob?"

Mr. Hollum responded "You know I was going to find that out. I figured that was going to be a question. I kind of got the information just a little before this meeting but I will find out what the cost is and I will get back to you on it."

Mr. Ackerman stated "Not to get off this topic but I do have something else for other. I know I spoke to you the other day regarding Motor Vehicle. Someone dropped off their paperwork, they called several times and all they got was a machine. They dropped their paperwork off Friday morning and were supposed to get a call back to register their vehicle and they still have not gotten call back for pick up."

Mr. Hollum stated "It's being explained to me that they are pretty close to being all caught up. I was talking to Mr. Wallace today, what was the date you said Mr. Wallace they hope to open?"

Mr. Wallace stated "Again this is something we are talking to them all of the time about. My gut is after the 28th."

Mr. Hollum stated "It's been frustrating. I get calls all of the time, people wanting to know."

Mr. Ackerman stated "I don't understand how Walmart tellers and Price Chopper, Hannafords and convenience stores and the banks now are open but our Motor Vehicle people can't work."

Mr. Hollum stated "I agree. As far as answering the phones I was under the understanding they were answering the phones as they were coming in. That's what was described to me the other day."

Mr. Ackerman stated "They keep saying that and every time I call or the people that call me have called, but they don't get a person."

Mr. Hollum stated "I will definitely address that because I was under the impression that they were getting caught up to the point where they were going to start having the staff answer the phones instead of having the messages. I will point out that it was brought up to me and I will get back to you on it."

Mr. Ackerman stated "For clarification, the state has said Motor Vehicle cannot open as of yet?"

Mr. Wallace and Mr. Hollum confirmed.

Mr. Wallace stated "That's a question we've been asking forever. You know my belief. The State is trying to take over Motor Vehicles. They say it's a money maker and are trying to run us out of the business."

Mr. Gaworecki stated "I thought that the one email said it was for state run DMVs. Can't we do something different than the State DMVs do?"

Mr. Wallace stated "Jimmy, correct me if I am wrong but they have been very adamant that absolutely not. They told us the other day we can start doing drop box. We told them we have been doing it for six weeks. They didn't know what to say to us."

Mr. Gaworecki stated "I guess I misunderstood the email then."

Mr. Hollum stated "Any other questions on that? I did pull some stuff up today that goes through some guidelines like for road tests for phase 3. There is some information but when it comes to our DMV our Clerk seems to be going by whatever the states saying. I not too sure if the County and the States are separate when it comes to that stuff. Is there any other questions? Can I get a motion to adjourn?"

On motion of Mr. Brezinski, seconded by Mr. Weakley for Administration/Veterans' Affairs, the committee adjourned at 6:26 p.m.