

**Herkimer County Legislature
Administration/Veterans' Affairs and Ways & Means
Committee Meeting
Friday, March 5, 2021
Via Zoom
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Persons Attending:

Bob Hollum (Chairman, Administration/Veterans' Affairs)
Gregory Malta, Sr. (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
William Weakley (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
Patrick E. Russell (Chairman, Ways & Means, Admin. committee member)
Raymond Johnson (committee member, both)
John L. Brezinski (Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee member)
Kurt Ackerman (Ways & Means committee member)
Raymond Smith (Ways & Means committee member)
Frederick J. Shaw, Jr. (Ways & Means committee member)
Vincent J. Bono, Chairman of the Legislature
Steve Billings, Personnel Officer
Brandy Serow, Sec. to County Administrator
Lorraine Lewandrowski, County Attorney
Sheri Ferdula, Budget Officer
Kim Tranter, Commissioner of Elections
Rob Drumm, Commissioner of Elections
Sylvia Rowan, County Clerk
(Non Committee Members signed in)
Legislator Mark Gaworecki
Legislator Robert J. Schrader
Legislator William Keeler, Sr.
Legislator Peter F. Manno
Legislator Ray Donley
Legislator Peter Campione

Absent:

John P. Stephens (Ways & Means committee member)

Mr. Hollum called the Administration/Veterans' Affairs committee to order at 9:42 a.m. Mr. Russell called the Ways & Means Committee to order at 9:43 a.m.

Items Discussed:

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

1. Approve Annual Report of the Board of Elections
2. Other

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/WAYS & MEANS:

3. Approve purchase of voting equipment and transfer in Board of Elections
4. Approve part-time General Election employee in Board of Elections

5. Discussion of undetermined additional election expenses in Board of Elections
6. Other – DMV Discussion

Committee Vote Record

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS:

Mr. Hollum: "First on the agenda is to approve the Annual Report of the Board of Elections. Can I get a motion?"

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

Mr. Hollum: "Anything under other?"

Item #2 – N/A.

ADMINISTRATION/VETERANS' AFFAIRS/WAYS & MEANS:

Mr. Stephens marked present.

Mr. Hollum: "Number three is discussion of purchasing of voting equipment in Board of Elections. I believe the Board of Elections was asking to have it under there as purchase but it's under discussion. We will go with it anyways. I believe everyone received a copy of the proposal. Clear Ballot Solution Overview. Kim or Rob, would you like to discuss it?"

Rob Drumm: "Just to cover some of the laws that are out there right now, there is a recount law that passed and is now active for this year moving forward for any race that is 5.5% or closer is an automatic triggered recount. Early voting, there is a Bill that is floating around that we would have to add a second sight. That is having some traction but will be determined by the Legislature this session. No Excuse Absentees, those are going to be a ballot proposition this year and likely to go into effect next year meaning you don't need any excuse of any kind that's currently is there. You can just walk in our office and say I want one and we give it to you. And there is a bill out there to start counting absentees before Election Day which would be a major change to our office. With this outlook, the equipment that we are talking about today it is going to be essential operation of the office to complete our duties in a timely fashion. This year, obviously, with the Presidential and the influx of absentees we were able to do 400 ballots per hour with three machines and that is if we had no paper jams. That was also utilizing four other outside people plus the four people in our office. Some days last year we received anywhere from 700 to 900 ballots per day while still answering over 5,000 phone calls in that period of time total we received about 5,600 absentees and affidavits that had to be canvassed and as I said, we had four outside inspectors and our office. It took about fifty to sixty hours doing that with an additional ten to twelve hours on our end just for the administrative portion. This equipment is going to remove those massive amounts of time that we really don't have with the regulations that are out there now and that will translate into direct cost savings over a time period. And it will allow for on time completions. The Clear Ballot Solution can scan 4,000 to 5,000 ballots per hour so in a theoretical sense we could have had our entire canvas done in about two to three hours. Again, that is theoretical, there are other things that go into it but you get the idea. It also removes a huge source of human error and map error and will allow us to

accomplish things a lot sooner.”

Kim Tranter: “Good morning. I want to talk about elections going forward. So Rob talked about what happens when they authorize absentee ballot counting seven days before an election. We will not be able to take advantage of that because there are only four people in our office. Either way we are looking at this, if we handle an election in the normal fashion we have to wait seven days before we can start counting and during that time we process absentees, we check the voting machines to make sure that they are all clear and there is nothing left behind. Then we can start processing absentees and Rob talked about how long it took for the General Election and that there were eight of us and it took like five or six days and then we have to take all of that information and file it into a spread sheet that can take two to three days, that whole process takes us to pretty close to after Thanksgiving. Last year we worked the day after Thanksgiving, that whole weekend to try and get our results done timely and we really pushed the envelope. Now if they change elections and we begin to process seven days early, like I said, we are not going to be able to do that because in our office we do not have the manpower to do that and handle possibly early voting and pole site voting all at the same time that we are processing absentees. There is just not enough of us to go around. So again I think we are looking at after Thanksgiving to produce all of these results and what this does is that some of you guys have challengers for the Primary. You are going to be waiting until after thanksgiving for your results. That is a big concern of ours. We learned a lot of thing in the CD22 court case. Some things we did really well but processing things like that is a weakness for us. So when the judge says we needs results by 4:00 p.m. today, we would not be able to comply with that and that is what happened in Oneida County. Oneida County was a mess and one of their big issues is they have a Clear Ballot machine and they did not use it. They were not able to provide results anytime the judge asked for it. They would have to wait four, five, six days which delayed everything much longer than it really needed to be in that court case. And every day there were News Agencies calling “Do you have your results?” No, not today, maybe Friday. No, maybe next week. Those are the things that put the County in an unfavorable light. That’s all I have. We can answer any questions that you might have.”

Mr. Hollum: “I actually want to add a couple things to that. I know it usually comes out in the costs, I’m under the impression that it’s \$56,000 for five years. After that it would be \$4,000 a year. Sheri, could money from the Levy account be used to purchase this piece of equipment?”

Sheri Ferdula: “The Levy account could be used. At this time I can’t say for certain they would have that much money in there to cover that at this point. However, we did budget for full rollout for the Primary and the General Election which I don’t think we are going to have the Primary and they have been doing a good job of getting different quotes and saving some money. If we decide to move forward I would say take it out of the Levy account and then probably have to look at it towards the end of the year to see if it needs to have any money added.”

Mr. Hollum: “Is there any of the Levy money left over?”

Sheri Ferdula: “There is only about \$7,000 at this time.”

Mr. Hollum: “Kim or Rob, I know this quote is good for only forty-five days so are you in a hurry to get a run on this if it is accepted?”

Kim Tranter: "We would like to get on it because they will be here with us when we run our first and second election and will walk us through all of this. All of the reports that are available for this machine will probably involve all lot of training as well."

Mr. Hollum: "Any questions?"

Mr. Russell: "Where will we be saving money? I heard the term saving money."

Mr. Hollum: "You wouldn't have to have as many employees to count these things. We would have a much better product, more accurate. I don't know how much we would save after the initial five years."

Mr. Weakley: "Is this \$56,000 for the five year period or is this per year for five years?"

Mr. Hollum: "No that covers the first five years. Anything that could possibly go wrong and the \$4,000 will cover anything that could possibly happen, their licensing, all that stuff after five years."

Mr. Russell: "What is the upfront costs of this?"

Mr. Hollum: "\$56,000."

Mr. Russell: "And then what happens in year two, three, four and five?"

Mr. Hollum: "Nothing happens in those years. In year six it goes to \$4,000 or around \$4,000."

Mr. Bono: "Mr. Chairman, who makes this machine?"

Mr. Hollum: "Clear Ballot. I am not sure. Kim or Rob?"

Kim Tranter: "Yes, Clear Ballot and they are in New Hampshire."

Mr. Bono: "And who makes our voting machines?"

Kim Tranter: "Dominion."

Mr. Bono: "They are not affiliated, are they?"

Kim Tranter: "They are not."

Mr. Bono: "Thank you."

Kim Tranter: "And Clear Ballot has some proposals before the State Board for voting machines. Now, we are not in the market for voting machines for at least a few years but their voting machines will be really compatible with this system."

Mr. Hollum: "And by way of comparison, and I know it's anything you should look into, last year we had \$60,000 left that wasn't used. Not saying there is going to be \$60,000 left this year but just an example."

Mr. Johnson: "I'm just curious and I talked to Kim a little about this and Rob, of the Counties, the Tenney Brindisi race, of all of the counties, did any of those counties have this machine?"

Kim Tranter: "Most of them."

Mr. Hollum: "Oneida County did not use it though."

Kim Tranter: "Right."

Mr. Johnson: "That's good to know. Thank you. So the other counties had this and it worked and Oneida County chose not to use it."

Kim Tranter: "Correct."

Mr. Hollum: "There is a reason behind that. Kim can you explain it?"

Kim Tranter: "I don't know why they didn't use it. I think they were so messed up in every other way that they just never relied on their machine."

Mr. Johnson: "So we were the only County not to have it in that race?"

Kim Tranter: "I think so. I know even little Chenango County has it. There are thirty-three counties in the State who currently have this."

Mr. Russell: "I have a question. You are saying our machines can only do a hundred and twenty-five per hour?"

Kim Tranter: "Yes."

Rob Drumm: "What we currently doing is we are using the voting machines that we currently have that are utilized in a different fashion so think about when you walk into your poll site up in Webb how long it takes after you put it in. It takes about eight to twelve seconds depending the ballot if it is double sided, what's on there, how well the markings are filled in, etc. So, eight to twelve seconds per ballot and we were utilizing three machines to go through. That's what we were able to accomplish with what we had currently. That's a step up for us because the last General Election, when it was Jennifer and I, we hand counted all of those absentees. The two of us it took us close to three weeks."

Mr. Manno: "I would like to make a comment. I want to commend the Board of Elections for the great job they did in this past election. Compared to Oneida County, we stood out head and shoulders."

Kim Tranter: "Thank you very much."

Rob Drumm: "Thank you Mr. Manno."

Mr. Russell: "You can still do four hundred an hour you said, right?"

Kim Tranter: "Right."

Mr. Russell: "And you're still saying that that's going to take until after Thanksgiving to get that done if you are doing it at four hundred per hour?"

Kim Tranter: "Well, some of those are unknown but that is what it took us last year and granted there were way more ballots."

Mr. Russell: "You said you had 5,600 ballots, right?"

Kim Tranter: "Yes."

Mr. Russell: "You can do four hundred in an hour but you are telling me it's going after Thanksgiving. This isn't adding up to me. That is what I am trying to figure."

Rob Drumm: "There are other processes that come into play after we leave the count room that we have to do. We have to add everything up in consolidated Excel reports. We were really pushing it with a lot of extra hours we were putting in and that was the fastest that we were able to do. It was the weekend of Thanksgiving that we sent our report in."

Mr. Russell: "How many people did you have working after the fact, after the election?"

Kim Tranter: "Eight."

Mr. Russell: "So four of you, right, and you had four others and they were all full time?"

Kim Tranter: "Yes. When we were counting absentees, yes."

Mr. Russell: "Were there four FTEs or were there four people there?"

Kim Tranter: "There were the four of us, the four people we brought in to help, there were three machines and our part time person was the floater helping out where she could."

Mr. Russell: "So you also had one part timer?"

Kim Tranter: "Yes."

Mr. Russell: "And those four that you had were all, well whatever it took during the day?"

Kim Tranter: "Yes."

Mr. Russell: "What did they average per day?"

Rob Drumm: "We would usually start around 9:00 a.m. and we would finish up around 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Depending. We would try to round up to the closest district to complete the stuff that we were currently on."

Mr. Russell: "Okay. Then why didn't you go longer? You can do that."

Kim Tranter: "Well, first of all, because we had other things back in our office to handle. So with all four of us out of the office we had to come back and handle some things. Some days we did stay late but Mr. Russell, we put in hundreds and hundreds of overtime hours during the election to try and even get all of this stuff accomplished."

Mr. Russell: "I'm not questioning that. I'm trying to figure out how many hours you have used and what kind of people you have and I'm trying to look at the cost analysis of all of that. That's why I am asking the questions. I am not trying to say anything incorrectly but that is what I do."

Kim Tranter: "I know. I get it. The only thing I can tell you is that we started early and we worked as late as we could. We had to be mindful of the hours that the security was there. We had to be mindful of the COVID hours."

Mr. Russell: "I'm sure you have this, do you have the number of absentee ballots that come in per day?"

Kim Tranter: "We could put it together in a report."

Mr. Russell: "So you couldn't touch these absentee ballots until seven days after? Is that correct?"

Kim Tranter: "The only thing we are permitted to do is each Commissioner has to verify the signatures. So for all 5,000 ballots, I had to look at them and then Tony had to look at them. That was an ongoing process during that phase."

Mr. Russell: "You couldn't count them until after the election, right?"

Kim Tranter: "Correct."

Mr. Russell: "Now you are saying that you think that there is going to be new Legislation that is going to allow for the counting of those prior to the election?"

Kim Tranter: "That is correct."

Mr. Russell: "Seven days prior?"

Kim Tranter: "So as they would come in we would have to review signatures so that essentially takes us out of the loop of being available for other things."

Mr. Russell: "How many people do you have in there prior to the election?"

Kim Tranter: "Normally just the four of us."

Mr. Russell: "And didn't you bring in some others?"

Kim Tranter: "We did but the only thing they did was send out absentees. They didn't participate in anything else."

Mr. Russell: "So my conversations to you we were looking at trying to bring somebody in prior to the...maybe that is on the agenda Bob. I don't want to take that up."

Mr. Hollum: "Yes, that is coming up next."

Mr. Russell: "Thank you."

Mr. Brezinski: "The four people that are working in that office are working, from what I can understand, they are working together as a unit and taking the same language almost that Pete Manno said here a while back, I want to thank them for doing a great job and maybe what the situation is in that room at some point in time that people have questions in regards to how they operate or what they do or anything of that nature, maybe they should be invited in there on one of those days to actually see what they have to go through. God bless them for what they do down there, and let them see what they do. Let them get a good idea of what they go through every day. That's my suggestion. Not sarcastically either. I'm just saying that if somebody has a question in regards to what they do and how they do it they should be invited in there for maybe one or two days and let them see what they do and maybe they will understand a lot better. I want to thank them very, very much. Again, you four people that do what you do in that room. God bless you and thank you very much for the time."

Mr. Russell: "Are you talking about during an election Mr. Brezinski?"

Mr. Brezinski: "I'm saying whatever day that's appropriate that people have questions in regard to what they do. See how busy they are because it's no bull crap to what they do in there. They work very hard, diligently to try and help us in Herkimer County. The people that vote in Herkimer County. That's what I am saying."

Mr. Hollum: "It does get crazy down there sometimes. I guess the machine would make things better, more efficient, easier but like I said, it does come at a cost."

Mr. Russell: "For the Ways and Means Committee can we get an idea of what your hours are going to be with other people in there? I guess we are going to look at that next. I just want to make sure I am understanding this. I wish I could be there and everybody was there so that it would make things easier but unfortunately with COVID."

Rob Drumm: "Mr. Hollum, can I jump in with one quick point to add?"

Mr. Hollum: "Absolutely."

Rob Drumm: "One of the things I think we are trying to do here is future proof our office with whatever is coming up and also at the same time, give us the ability here in the office to maximize the four people that we have. That is one benefit of this machine. It's takes it from days to hours."

Mr. Hollum: "I guess another way of looking at it is we got lucky at this last election. Even with the mistakes that were made, by way of comparison, we looked pretty good. I think they are looking into possibly having little to no...mistakes are going to happen. Kim or Rob, do you think down the road we would be forced to purchase this machine?"

Rob Drumm: "Given the fact of where the law is going I can't see how it won't be. I mean, we aren't at that position yet but within eighteen to twenty-four months it wouldn't shock me if it was. If we do buy it we have the ability to roll it out in a not so busy year. We can roll out the kinks and that way when we have the Governor's race or in three years the Presidential we will really have this up to speed."

Mr. Bono: "Is there any thought of possibly sharing a machine with a neighboring County? Fulton or Montgomery County? Can that happen or does that happen in this State?"

Kim Tranter: "No, usually not Mr. Bono. And we are all kind of doing the same things simultaneously."

Mr. Bono: "Just throwing it out there. Thank you."

Mr. Johnson: "Doing quick math, five years, that is \$11,200 per year for the next five years for this machine. What savings will this get us? If we bought the machine how many hours is this going to reduce? Do we make the \$11,200 up?"

Mr. Hollum: "I did the math. No, you won't."

Mr. Johnson: "We don't make the time up?"

Mr. Hollum: "No but you have better product that does a lot of things. I sat through a forty minute video."

Mr. Johnson: "I know it's better but there is no cost savings."

Mr. Hollum: "You are correct but you also have to look at we sent back \$60,000 levy last year that we did not use and technically this machine could be paid for with money that we won't be sending back. I'm not saying it's not going to cost the County money. I'm not saying that there is not going to be enough for the levy, I'm just saying there is a possibility by way of comparison."

Mr. Russell: "Bob, as far as the levy the towns, etc. pay for this so the question is this is not coming out of the County money correct?"

Mr. Hollum: "Correct."

Mr. Russell: "The thing is I think we are going to be going to a situation in New York, maybe other places, I think they are doing an unconstitutional thing at the Federal Government but 5,600 is probably going to be a low amount going into the next few years but if they can count beforehand, that's where I am trying to get my head on it and we don't know that yet and Rob, when do you think they will have that, when will we know..."

Rob Drumm: "There are bills that are being talked about in the committee structure currently in the Legislature right now. If I had a crystal ball what the Legislature was going to do I would make a lot more money doing something else so I don't really know. I would say that given the other priorities that they currently have that rolled over on the agenda from last year that they are still trying to exhaust my best guess would be either maybe the end of this session or start of next session. There are some other priorities that are on there that are going to take precedence over this and this early voting package that they are pulling out is among them. Just a point that you brought up Mr. Russell is you said that we can start counting early, we can see that moving forward too. I agree with you on the long term forecasting that the 5,600 may be low especially for the next Presidential Election with the changes that will most likely be in place. I think doubling that might be more accurate. The problem we have here is that if we have to start counting them there is a mechanism that currently we have in place other than counting them by hand in our office and we are currently only staffed at four people so with the fifth that we will be discussing in a moment, with absent of this machine or some kind of technical infrastructure we currently don't have, we would not be able to comply with the law because we have to count...we have to start counting, we will have to see what the final law looks like, but if that happens, as you pointed out, we have two early voting sights that we could possibly have. We have one right now, possibly a second if the law changes, absentees is its own election now, all of the election stuff that happens on the proper Election Day is its own so we are now talking about four or five separate elections with separate mechanisms in place and they are adding more stuff in. I agree with you. I think the 5,600 number would be low."

Mr. Russell: "Bob, can we go to four and five and then come back to three so we can get an idea of what else is going on?"

Mr. Hollum: "Let's move on to number four. Approve part-time General Election Employee in the Board of Elections. This is for one part-time worker for six weeks at \$15.00 per hour, 19 hours per week for a total of \$1,700. We did this last year and it looks like they are going to be needing this person every year so if we can possibly make it a permanent thing. Kim or Rob?"

Mr. Russell: "I don't think that is enough time. Maybe for this year but I don't think it's going to be enough time for...once we get into Congressional and Presidential Elections. I think they found that they could use those persons prior to the election which we didn't have within our discretion but I believe that they are going to need more than just a part-time person. Part-time and full-time for a certain amount of weeks, correct."

Mr. Hollum: "This is just for one part-time worker that they use. I believe that's a whole different thing. Right Kim? That was the five workers you used to count the ballots?"

Kim Tranter: "Right. This is just a general office worker."

Mr. Hollum: "Two separate things."

Mr. Russell: "Okay. What would that general office worker...when would they start or is that just all year round?"

Kim Tranter: "No, she would start like...we were proposing October 1st and she would work through November 15th. Last year we had her 19.5 hours per week. She was a godsend and she would come back."

Mr. Russell: "Is that going to be enough do you think? I guess that is what I am asking."

Kim Tranter: "For this year, I believe so."

Mr. Russell: "This year I do to but I'm talking about maybe in future years because I think we are going to try a do...Bob, aren't we going to do an election thing that makes this..."

Mr. Hollum: "Well, I'm not sure. I mean on a Presidential year, I think that's why they needed that many people. I'm not sure they need that many people every year but I am under the impression that they do need this person every year. Like I said, it's for 19 hours per week."

Mr. Russell: "Okay."

Rob Drumm: "Mr. Russell, to your point, generally speaking, not knowing how much the Federal years are going to be, realistically in my experience here it's the Presidential years that we get wacked over the head multiple times and the other three years we can kind of phase out. For the Presidential year, I guess we will have to see where we are and what changes the State makes before then. I think this would suffice for right now."

Mr. Hollum: "Are there any more questions on number four?"

Mr. Hollum: "Number five is a discussion of undetermined additional election expenses in the Board of Elections. I'm not sure if you covered most of them Kim. Is there anything more to it?"

Kim Tranter: "No, only one thing I know of right now is the Republican Machine Technician resigned last year so I am starting with a new technician and he had to go to school. We have to get him trained. There is a possibility somewhere down the line maybe a second early voting site. I know you guys waited on writing the Legislature about not wanting this. We don't want this so we will have to see what happens with that."

Rob Drumm: "Just to jump in on the backend. On my end I have a Deputy that is starting. There is obvious costs that go along with that but nothing too crazy. I haven't had a Deputy since December when I moved up so there is some equalization that will equal there. At this point, not only we don't want but we can't really handle a second early voting site in Herkimer County with the infrastructure that we currently have."

Mr. Hollum: "Any other questions on that one?"

Item #5 – Discussion only. No vote taken.

Mr. Hollum: "Let's bounce back up to number three. Any more questions on number three?"

Mr. Schrader: "Bob, after listening to Mr. Russell's and everyone else'sI just think that yes \$56,000 is a lot of money but we have this problem a lot in the County. We don't have training for the people in the job. I think this would be a great time to purchase something so we don't run into a situation like Oneida County did. Maybe that is why they didn't use the machine. They didn't know how to use it so I am not accusing them of that. I am just saying maybe they didn't understand how to work the machine. I think being a down year for the next couple of years, I think this would be a great time to purchase this. Get our people in there and learn how to do it and do it more efficiently. And instead of just throwing it at them let's say we get mandated to use this machine down the road, then we have to train our people. I would rather they knew how to do it over the next couple of years versus having them learn in it within a year so I would support that."

Mr. Hollum: "Any other questions? We are going to bounce down to number six. I do have something under other. At the request of the County Clerk, I am bringing this up in regards to the Salary for the Deputy DMV Clerk. It's currently at \$32,000. Sylvia can't fill the position at that amount and has requested it be increased to \$38,000. This position has been vacant for about a year. I did ask Sylvia to be on if she could add anything to this. Sylvia, are you on?"

Sylvia Rowan: "Yes, I am on Bob. The problem that I face is that the two Senior Clerks that have been there fifteen and more years are making \$36,000 and \$35,000 per year. Look at that when I interview that they are going to be supervising the Motor Vehicle Clerks and preparing all of the budget stuff and all of the different accounts that need to be maintained and they feel is just too much of a responsibility at \$32,000 and they are making less than the people they are supervising so that's been one of the problems that I have. I do have an individual though I just had another resignation and I am facing another resignation in the DMV. They are very frustrated. They feel that they are just...I don't know if it's COVID or people's attitude or what it is but some of these people have been there...one has been there nine years and is leaving. I'm facing that situation because now I only have two that are trained, two that are now new and are still training, one is out on maternity leave, the other one has shingles so that cuts down the staff in half. I'm very sorry but it seems like once the COVID hit things started to really fall apart. And of course Lee retired back in April. He is going to come back to train me and I don't know what his job was and the girls claim they don't know so when he comes back in on a part-time basis to help us get straightened around then I have a new Deputy who has had no training and we are trying to train her. It's just been very difficult to say the least and I do have two girls on the legal section that will be retiring so that's another problem. I'm going to be hiring new people that are going to have to be trained."

Mr. Hollum: "Any questions? You guys can see her side of things. Lee's position has not been filled over a year. He was at \$39,000 when he left. She can't even promote within because the salary would be lower."

Mr. Johnson: "I just had a question. The numbers are from \$32,000 to \$38,000, right?"

Sylvia Rowan: "Yes."

Mr. Johnson: "Thank you."

Sylvia Rowan: "The existing Deputy, the Deputy of the County Clerk, she started at \$32,500 with a review in six months to \$40,000 which just happened. Had it stayed at \$32,500 I would not have been able to fill that either. It is up to \$40,000 and the person that took it is making the \$40,000."

Mr. Russell: "Where are you trying to hire from Sylvia?"

Sylvia Rowan: "Well, I have asked different people from within the department against my strong will but they do not want to move up. Individuals that have contacted me, I have a resume file of people interested to work for the County so I contacted some of them. Most of them, not all, have jobs somewhere else that pay more and wouldn't leave that job to come to this job. I have asked elected officials, I've asked people that work in different townships, but they are not interested."

Mr. Russell: "Have you advertised it though?"

Sylvia Rowan: "I have not, no."

Mr. Russell: "Karin Piseck, anybody that she might have coming through her office?"

Sylvia Rowan: "I do receive calls from her office from time to time but I am not sure if they would like Motor Vehicle jobs, part-time job or full time job. I would have to interview them. The Deputy Job is a very high end job. There is a lot to it."

Mr. Russell: "Steve, when is our next Ways and Means committee meeting?"

Steve Billings: "Looks like the 26th."

Mr. Russell: "I propose we have something sooner than that. I will get with you on that Steve."

Steve Billings: "Absolutely."

Mr. Hollum: "Any other questions?"

Mr. Russell: "Is there a reason why we wouldn't want to buy this machine right now?"

Mr. Hollum: "I'm actually going to go back up to number three. I'm asking that we put it to a vote that we purchase the machine. From Administration can I can a motion to go forward to purchase this voting machine if Sheri is okay with transferring the funds and everything goes as planned?"

Sheri Ferdula: “Could you please approve a transfer? I am going to need to transfer the money from a 4400 account to a 2500 account. If you could approve that at the same time.”

Mr. Hollum: “Sure. Could you explain that on what that means?”

Sheri Ferdula: “The majority of this purchase is equipment. When that happens we need to take it out of an equipment account. I don’t have any monies in the equipment account under the Board of Elections so I would just need to transfer it from their contracted services to their equipment account. It would be a transfer for the exact amount \$56,280 from 44 to 25.”

Item #3 - On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Malta for Administration/Veterans’ Affairs, and on motion of Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Russell for Ways & Means, Item #3 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Mr. Hollum: “For number four can I get a motion for a part-time worker for this year?”

Mr. Russell: “Sheri, what do we have in the budget for them? Do we have it in their budget?”

Sheri Ferdula: “For part-time workers, yes there is money under there to be used for the Technicians and we don’t generally use all of that unless there are issues or problems so they should have enough to cover it.”

Item #4 - On motion of Mr. Malta, seconded by Mr. Brezinski for Administration/Veterans’ Affairs, and on motion of Mr. Russell, seconded by Mr. Stephens for Ways & Means, Item #4 was voted on, approved and moved for Resolution. Unanimous.

Item#6 – Discussion only. No vote taken

On motion of Mr. Weakley, seconded by Mr. Malta for Administration/Veterans’ Affairs, the committee adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The Ways & Means Committee continued.