

**Laws, Rules & Government Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: October 13, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Heppner
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Gavaris, Levine & Roberts
ABSENT: Legislator Ronk
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsel Gordon, Minority Counsel Pascale, Commissioners Dittus & Quigley – UC Board of Elections

Chair Heppner called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE Minutes of the September 19th Meeting Minutes**

Motion By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the October 18, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 500: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 9 Of 2022, A Local Law To Provide For The Collection Of Delinquent Village Real Property Taxes

Resolution Summary: This Resolution confirms adopts Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2022

Motion No. 2: **Resolution No. 500 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 530: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$607,832.00 Entered Into By The County – Info Quick Solutions Inc. – Ulster County Clerk

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Info Quick Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$607,832 to expand the scope of work to include, verify and correct deeds and mortgages from 1975 to 1950 and convert the Grantor and Grantee Indices from 1685 to 1950 and Mortgager Indices from 1755 to 1950 to Infodex.

Motion No. 3: **Resolution No. 530 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chair Heppner asked Commissioner Dittus to give the members an update on the new BOE offices while they waited for Commissioner Quigley to arrive. Commissioner Dittus invited the members to visit the new site and stated that the consolidation of the voting systems, and equipment into the same locations as the administrative operations has saved time and improved efficiencies. She added that training inspectors in the same location allowed Commissioners the ability to conduct the classes and sign off on absentee ballot applications.

Chair Heppner asked how the recent mock election went. Commissioner Dittus responded that there were ~ 40 participants who were happy with the process. She added that the experience of the voter is largely unchanged, but the new system significantly improves the back of the house reporting and features. Commissioner Quigley added that there would be at least two more open houses with additional vendors. He added that the goal was to introduce the new system in 2023, adding that they did not want to rollout the new system in a Presidential Election year. Commissioner Dittus added that the state’s certification process is causing some delays. Commissioner Quigley added there are also cost increases associated with the delay.

Legislator Roberts asked for clarification on the new rules that does not allow an absentee voter to cast a ballot on Election Day if they had received one previously. Commissioner Dittus explained that reason is because absentee ballots are now opened and counted before Election Day. Commissioners Dittus and Quigley further explained the new absentee application and voting rules.

Legislator Levine asked if the BOE included messages on the new rules on or with absentee ballot applications or ballots. The Commissioners responded that they may be able to add a note to the envelope, adding that the website has information on how to request and return an absentee ballot.

Chair Heppner asked if there were any other questions fo the Commissioners. Hearing none he moved on to the BOE related Resolutions.

Resolution No. 531: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Funding Agreement For Absentee Ballot Pre-Paid Postage With The NYS Board Of Elections – Ulster County Board Of Elections

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to sign a grant agreement in the amount of \$44,465.65 with the NYS Board of Elections to obtain Absentee Ballot Pre-Paid Postage Grant Program funds to offset absentee postage expenses during 2022 New York State elections held from July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Motion No. 4: **Resolution No. 531 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: Chair Heppner asked if there were any questions and commented that he was pleased that there was funding provided to offset the costs.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 532: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Sign An Agreement With The Highland Central School District For The Use Of Polling Equipment And Material – Ulster County Board Of Elections

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair to sign agreements with Highland Central School District for the use of polling equipment and material for the October 18, 2022 Ulster County School District Capital Project Election

Motion No. 5: **Resolution No. 532 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Roberts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Levine & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chair Heppner advised the members that the Health, Human Services & Housing Committee took no action on Resolution Nos. 200 and 509 at their October 7th meeting.

Chair Heppner advised the members that Legislator Erner withdrew Resolution No. 199 which pertained to Proposed Local Law No. 6 regarding appointments to the Human Rights Commission. He added that

Legislator Erner advised him that he would present his request directly to the Charter Revision Commission. He stated that Human Rights Commissioner Wilson and Commission Chair Brown were also making requests to the Charter Revision Commission. Chair Heppner asked if there was any new or old business and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:46 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Minutes Approved: November 10, 2022