

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 23, 2023

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Fedler, O'Brien, Haff, Hicks, Rozell, Fisher

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Shaw

SUPERVISORS: Henke, Hall, Campbell, Skellie, Clary, Griffith

Debra Prehoda, Clerk of the Board

Melissa Fitch, County Administrator

Al Nolette, County Treasurer

AGENDA AS PRESENTED IN COMMITTEE NOTICE:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Accept Minutes – April 25, 2023
- 3) Department Requests/Reports
  - A. Buildings & Grounds – Move RTU/Chiller Bid Results to Finance
  - B. Board of Elections – Discuss Purchase of Voting Machines
- 4) Other Business
- 5) Adjournment

Chairwoman Fedler called the meeting to order at 10:14 A.M. in the Supervisors classroom Room B214, Municipal Center, Fort Edward.

Motion to accept the minutes of the April 25, 2023 meeting was moved by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Messrs. Rozell and Fisher, and adopted.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/REQUESTS:

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – In the absence of Matt Jones, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, Melissa Fitch, County Administrator, addressed the following item with the committee:

- Move RTU/Chiller Bid Results to Finance – The bid results for the RTU/Chiller will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> and requesting to forward the bid award to the Finance Committee meeting. A motion to forward bid results for the RTU/Chiller to the Finance Committee for award was moved by Mr. Hicks, seconded by Messrs. O'Brien and Fisher, and adopted.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS – Tom Rogers and Jeff Curtis, Commissioners addressed the following items with the committee:

- Discuss Purchase of Voting Machines, handout attached. The County Administrator stated the voting machines were approved but when the Treasurer was preparing the resolution/budget amendment he realized Hart is not on New York State contract and to follow the Procurement Policy three quotes are needed. The Board of Elections Commissioner Curtis met yesterday with County officials to review this purchase. Commissioner Curtis recapped why Board of Elections wants to move forward with the Hart voting system. Hart representatives provided a demonstration of the system which some Supervisors attended. The Board of Elections feels moving forward is in their best interest and want to continue to move forward with the purchase of the Hart voting system. The Hart voting system has been certified by the New York State Board of Elections. The machine is very user friendly. They are 100% manufactured in the United States. The ballot building program is user friendly with a lot less steps if a correction is needed. The on-demand printers are a stand-alone system and not connected to the network so there are no technical complications that can arise so less man hours and problems out in the field. The equipment is a lot easier to transport and store. This is the system they recommend. The Information Technology CIO concurs with the recommendation to go with the Hart system from a simplicity standpoint, network disconnected, and it is just a better system from a technology standpoint. The County Administrator stated we have three bids. The County did not issue a bid. Hart is through a cooperative, Buy Board, and New York State certified, Dominion is also New York State certified and on state contract, and Clear Ballot is not

New York State certified and not on state contract. Really only looking at Hart and Dominion voting machines. Warren County purchased Dominion and have had issues with them for the last two elections. The IT CIO stated if Dominion voting machines are used on-demand printers would have to go back to old technology, routers and network connected like the old system which needs a lot more technical support. The network would be secure but anything can be compromised. The warranty on the hardware and software is for five years and an extended warranty can be purchased. Commissioner Curtis stated once the machines are ordered delivery is within three weeks and then training will start in the July/August timeframe. Unsure if there is any grant funding available. Will have to hand count ballots for audit. A motion to go with the Hart voting system was moved by Mr. Fisher and seconded by Mrs. Fedler. Discussion. The County Administrator stated she was told by Hart directly that once they go on State contract then the price will be significantly higher and the discount will not apply. Commissioner Rogers stated the machines are not used a lot so the potential to use them for more than five years is very good. The current machines were purchased in 2008 and have been used for fourteen years. The IT CIO stated if you want to do on demand printers then Hart is the best system. A motion to go with the Hart voting system and forward to the Finance Committee for a budget amendment was moved by Mr. Fisher, seconded by Mrs. Fedler, and adopted. Messrs. Haff and Hicks opposed.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Henke stated Warren County is going to issue their state of emergency today. He is not a fan of a declaration of emergency if there is no emergency however he likes to support the other counties in our area. The action would be against the motel owners. It would be making a statement to the Governor saying we do not like your immigration policy. He would like to confer with the County Attorney who will be back tomorrow from his conference where this is a topic of discussion. Mr. Hicks stated Rensselaer County issued the declaration because if immigrants were sent there they would be eligible for federal and state money. Chairman Henke stated after four months, the immigrants are no longer the responsibility of the entity that sent them. They cannot send families with children due to school issues. New York City would be looking for a location to take a number of people not the one or two rooms available at the few motels in the county. The County Administrator stated they are looking at SUNY colleges and expect counties to be contacted this week if they are planning to send anyone. Mr. Campbell stated what he is worried about is if we do not have a state of emergency do we appear welcoming if we don't want to be welcoming. It was stated we have no facilities.

Chairman Henke mentioned a drug enforcement operation involving serving a search warrant on a Saratoga County resident last night and two officers were shot. Washington County had an officer there as part of the Drug Task Force but was not hurt and he rescued one of the officers shot.

Mr. Haff stated he has previously asked the Superintendent of Buildings about getting a Space Force flag for the atrium and is wondering if that request has been pursued. Mr. Hall stated his wife when she was Supervisor purchased the flags that are currently displayed and he will gladly donate a Space Force flag. Mr. Haff stated he will gladly contribute to that as well. Secondly, he stated that he believes in free speech more than anyone present but something has to be done at the Board of Supervisors meeting where a member of the public meandered around up front and became a distraction. He stated that should not happen again. Chairman Henke plans to send a letter to the gentleman with the parameters of how you have to behave when you are at the meeting.

The Real Property Director announced it is grievance day today in most towns.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01A.M.

*Debra Prehoda, Clerk, Washington County Board of Supervisors*

Voting Machine Comparison

Hart		Dominion		Clear Ballot*	
Digital Ballot Scanner w/ accessories	\$433,155.00	ImageCast Evolution Kit	\$545,200.00	ClearCase 2.2 Bundle	\$532,000.00
On demand printers	\$235,000.00				
System Hardware	\$50,649.00	System Hardware	\$3,294.00	Clear Design Hardware	\$7,000.00
Verity Software	\$78,090.00	System Software	\$2,130.00	ClearDesign Software	\$56,187.00
Central Ballot Scanner	\$10,000.00				
Training	\$44,000.00	Training	\$8,500.00	Training/Shipping	\$18,000.00
License and Support - 5 years	\$179,981.00	License and Support - 5 years	\$25,500.00	License and Support - 5 years	
Shipping	\$10,550.00				
	<b>\$1,041,425.00</b>		<b>\$584,624.00</b>		<b>\$613,187.00</b>
Discounts	-\$262,747.00		-\$4,000.00		-\$91,978.05
	<b>\$778,678.00</b>		<b>\$580,624.00</b>		<b>\$521,208.95</b>
		Enhanced Voting - 3 years	\$29,160.00		
		Routers	\$14,040.00	Routers	\$14,040.00
		Router Service Charge Per Election	\$300.00	Router Service Charge Per Election	\$300.00
		On demand printers/licenses	\$89,375.00	On demand printers/licenses	\$89,375.00
<b>Total Purchase</b>	<b>\$778,678.00</b>	<b>Total Purchase**</b>	<b>\$713,499.00</b>	<b>Total Purchase**</b>	<b>\$624,923.95</b>

\*Clear Ballot is not yet certified by NYS

\*\*Additional costs not calculated into total purchase price would be staff time, cables/supplies for printers, and IT concerns