

**COMMITTEE MEETING
LAKE PLEASANT, NY
THURSDAY DECEMBER 19, 2013**

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
1:05 PM**

Present: John Frey and Bob Edwards

Also present: Bill Farber, Brian Wells, Clark Seaman, Neil McGovern, and Marsha Purdue

Bill stated they had a committee meeting to discuss the tabled resolution from the last Board meeting so that everyone had an understanding of what they are voting on. Sterling was not objective to this and the level of services to the Town Courts would not be negatively impacted by the resolution.

Marsha started out by saying thank you to everyone for listening to her plead her case for the full-time District Attorney position.

Marsha stated Sterling is valuable to her office, but he can't work the 30 hours. She also feels he doesn't get paid enough for what he does. She would like his hours set at 25 hours per week and pay him an additional \$7,200 more per year. The County won't be paying his insurance so they would still be saving money.

Neil asked why the rush to cut him back, why is it now an issue?

Marsha stated that they are reporting that he is working 30 hours but really is only doing 20 hours.

Neil stated that we have a number of positions that work flex times and we take samples for the Comptrollers; if we are not getting push back from the Comptrollers or the County Treasurer, why now?

Bill stated to your point no one has come out and said we can't do this. Several of us were aware that we had a circumstance where Sterling felt that he was working a significant number of hours. Then Marsha came in and tracked his time to make sure she was comfortable with how it was going to work out. Early in 2012 we looked at the hours and said we believe what Sterling was doing and what he was saying regarding his experience when he was Jim's ADA. Marsha looked at a window of time and felt it would be at this level for some time and we made the move to 30 hours per week. That confused a lot of people, because we went from 20 hours to 30 hours and we didn't adjust his salary and those who were there know what was important to Sterling was his health insurance.

Neil stated the full-time designation is what got him there.

Bill feels that Sterling is ok with 20 or 25 hours per week; he would like to see him at 25 hours.

Brian Wells asked if we could pay him the hours he works.

Bill stated they could, but it is easier do it the way we have been instead of doing a time sheet for each week.

John stated a year from now we may have to adjust him again.

Marsha stated she is trying to find a way where they keep a good quality person in play, keep him happy, he will still be doing the Justice Courts and we will still be able to work together.

Bill stated the Town Courts are concerned that they will lose him. Sterling is confident that the Justice Courts that he is doing now, he is doing in less than 20 hours a week.

Bob reported that he will go along with what Marsha and Sterling feels is ok.

Bill reported that he spoke with Sterling and he was not comfortable with coming in, Marsha is the Department Head so he didn't feel that he needed to attend this meeting.

Clark wanted to make sure that the resolution will state 25 hours per week.

Marsha left at this time.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
1:35 PM

Present: John Frey and Neil McGovern

Also present: Bill Farber, Clark Seaman, Bob Edwards, Brian Wells, Beth Hunt, Cindy Parslow and Dick Dinolfo

Bill explained that they received four competitive Audit RFP's and it was decided to ask the four firms to come in and discuss their proposals.

Bill asked Mr. Dinolfo if he would provide them some background for those who don't really know him.

Mr. Dinolfo stated his firm is a sole proprietorship with no other CPA's. His experience has been as an auditor for the Comptroller's Office for 33 years. He is familiar with the County back as far as when Nancy Rhodes worked here. He has dealt pretty much with every department here at the county that generate revenues. Mr. Dinolfo then went on to talk a little about the financial reports that are required to be submitted.

Mr. Dinolfo pointed out that he reduced his fee and states why in his proposal which is mostly due to the fact that the departments know what they are doing. The Treasurer's Office employees are

doing a great job, the software has improved. The Highway Department has come a long way now that Tracy knows what he expects.

Mr. Dinolfo explained why the Board should hire him verse the other firms that sent in proposals.

Mr. Dinolfo left at this time.

2:15 PM – Toski and Company were the next to review their proposal.

Joseph Kehm addressed the committee and gave them some background on their firm. All together his firm does about a dozen counties. They do a lot of work for New York State agencies. They have around fifty people that are dedicated for State and Local Governments.

Bill asked Mr. Kehm to talk about how Hamilton County would be well served if their firm was chosen.

Mr. Kehm stated the reason you would be well served is because we have a core group of people and this is what they do. County audits are a different audit; it is a specialized audit because it is not a GASB 34.

Hamilton County would be served by people who are knowledgeable in your industry, it wouldn't be startup individuals. The group in Buffalo, which is where they are out of, is very experienced.

Mr. Kehm continued to discuss many of the agencies that they audit. He further stated their selling point is hands on involvement with their clients.

Mr. Kehm left at this time.

2:45 PM – Bonadio Group – Allen Walter and Nick Mazza.

Mr. Walter introduced himself.

Mr. Mazza introduced himself and reported that his background is local municipal government. He has been with the group for four years. Prior he spent 20 years in county government as County Administrator of Livingston.

Mr. Walter gave the background of the firm. They have an Albany office with a staff of around seventy people; that is the office that would be handling Hamilton County's audit. Mr. Walter then reviewed the handouts.

Mr. Walter stated what sets the Bonadio Group apart from other firms is their technical support.

Mr. Mazza stated they have employees that all they do for their firm, twelve months a year, is local government work. They are solely dedicated to local government work. They do not do any tax work.

Mr. Mazza stated that whatever deadlines you set they will meet.

They have done some investigative work and met with the Treasurer's Office staff before sending in their proposal. They are very confident in their abilities and financial statements and from that they know they can make any deadline that the county sets.

Mr. Walter reviewed some of the staff. Mr. Walter stated that part of every audit they do is an IT review. The IT people check the systems and from that they will be able to complete a risk assessment for the audit.

Mr. Walter stated every financial statement, every report that they issue, goes through quality review. We serve more counties in New York State than any other firm.

3:10 PM Neil left at this time.

One of the things Bonadio stressed on is continuous communication with Hamilton County and no surprises.

Mr. Walter and Mr. Mazza left at this time.

As there was no further business the meeting ended.