

The Legislature of Rockland County



NANCY LOW-HOGAN

Legislator, District 17

Chairwoman, Government Operations Committee

Members Present

Leg. N. Low-Hogan, Chair
Leg. M. Grant, Vice Chair
Leg. P. Soskin
Leg. J. Murphy
Leg. J. Meyers
Leg. A. Wieder

Members Absent

Leg. P. Moroney

Others Present

E. Yeger, Esq. E. Pessalano
K. Stavisky R. Rivero
L. Babcock V. Zajak
Media K. Piantanza
S. Daly

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2013

6:30 PM

ROLL CALL

CHAIR LOW-HOGAN OPENED THE MEETING AT 6:50PM

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 29, 2013.

MOTION TO ADOPT: SOSKIN/WIEDER

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1. REF. #9481 – DISCUSSION: OPERATIONAL REVIEW (DEPARTMENTAL FUNCTIONS)
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

DISCUSSED

(CHAIR NANCY LOW-HOGAN, LEGISLATURE)

Kristen Stavisky and Lou Babcock, Commissioners of the Board of Elections gave a power point presentation, which highlighted the following: Presentation on file with Committee Clerk.

Staffing Status:

The department lost (4) positions due to budget cuts. Two (2) Voting System Machine Techs and two (2) Clerk II positions. Two (2) Voting System Machine Techs do all of the ballot programming and machine maintenance. The loss of the two techs means that there are no backups. These positions were originally in the budget and are needed.

The computerized scanning election machines bring new challenges. Personnel is required to program and test scanners and teach the inspectors to operate machines properly.

Budget Status

75% of department budget is spent during the last three months of the year.
On target to remain within budgetary estimates.

2012

The department began scanning petitions and using E-mail to satisfy FOIL request.
Most FOIL request are satisfied within (2) two hours.
Moved from the Suffern warehouse to an on-campus site (Yeager Health Center Bldg G)
Saved the County \$75,000 in rent and recovered \$30,000 from contracted electrical work that was not performed.
Morale has improved on the campus.
\$700,000 savings was directed toward the rehabilitation of Bldg G (asbestos abatement, electricity requirement, etc.) Still realized a \$100,000 savings.

Opportunities

The department is not experiencing the one-year extension on specific contracts in an effort to negotiate better pricing (ballot printing, equipment)
Looking into multi-year deals to drive down paper cost. A ballot company is willing to include envelopes, which will be a savings.

Challenges

Morale, due to CSEA contract issues
Workload increase, January – June monthly elections (Fire, Ambulance, Library, School, and Village elections.)

Poll site locations

The employees are bound by the CSEA contract in most situations, in terms of salaries they are left out in the cold. CSEA, members receive, including new hires and job changes receive 5% increases yearly for the first five years of employment. Board of Elections employees are not covered by the increase.
Worked with schools to limit the use of elementary school locations in response to Sandy Hook.
Have searched for alternate locations and were successful in most cases. Department will work with staff to ensure student safety.

Questions:

Chair Low-Hogan inquired about the qualifications for Election Inspectors.
Commissioner Stavisky stated that you must be a registered Democrat or Republican.
Based upon a request from Leg. Meyers the Board of Elections will keep a log of polling place complaints.
Leg. Meyers and Leg Carey stated that the last school board election was troubled with several concerns such as Election Inspectors needing additional training. Commissioner Stavisky stated that this issue is being addressed with additional training for the Election Inspectors. The training manual has been revised.
Leg. Meyers stated that he has concerns regarding the fairness of voting and procedures in New Square and Kaiser.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:30 PM
SOSKIN/MEYERS

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