

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL & HIGHER EDUCATION

DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SEEBER
FRASIER
MCDEVITT
MONTESI
LEGGETT
BRAYMER
GERAGHTY
SIMPSON
HYDE

OTHERS PRESENT:

RONALD CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BEATY
DICKINSON
MACDONALD
MERLINO
STROUGH
WILLIAM LOEB, CITY OF GLENS FALLS RESIDENT
BRAD MAGOWAN, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
JACKIE FIGUEROA, COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
TRAVIS WHITEHEAD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
MIKE WILD, TOWN OF QUEENSBURY RESIDENT
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS BROCK
VANSELOW

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the December 20, 2017 meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2017/personnel/>

Ms. Seeber called the meeting of the Personnel & Higher Education Committee to order at 1:01 p.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Frasier, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Commencing with the Agenda review, Ms. Seeber offered privilege of the floor to anyone present wishing to address the Committee on any matter.

Travis Whitehead, *Town of Queensbury Resident*, advised the position of County Administrator was one of the three most important positions within the County, noting this individual would be included on the Agenda each month for the Board Meetings to provide a report of their activities. He said the Committee really needed to consider how someone would be selected for this position. He pointed out the Chairman of the Board was selected by the Chairman of the Warren County Republican Committee; however, he said, he was unsure how the position of County Attorney was selected since an individual with only five years experience was recently appointed to the position. He remarked these positions, as well as the County Administrator were important positions which deserved to be pondered on some more. He pointed out the public would not be afforded with the opportunity to second guess who was selected for the position besides voicing his opinion at this meeting because he would only be made aware of who was selected by a resolution. He commented he was "caught with his pants down" when he found out who was selected for the County Attorney position. He apprised he did not feel it was appropriate to have employees selected from within the County for all three of those important positions, as there had previously been "insider" employees in these positions for some time. He opined that he believed it was necessary to select individuals who would stand up and look at things differently. He mentioned he thought Mike Swan, *County Treasurer*, did a good job; however, he noted, he was elected to his position. In conclusion he remarked that the three aforementioned positions should be filled with independent and well qualified candidates and he implored with the Committee members to keep this in mind.

Supervisor Seeber thanked Mr. Whitehead for his remarks, noting the pleasure of the Committee which

they had expressed at a previous meeting was to hold second interviews for this position; therefore, she said, she did not believe there would be a resolution in place the next time Mr. Whitehead was made aware of the position. She continued, while she personally will not be part of the decision, she was aware the Committee had discussed the second interview process extensively and had prepared questions which they were continuing to work on. She added it was no ones intent to rush the process, as the goal was to select an individual for the position who could succeed and have that support. She apprised she hoped it set his mind at ease knowing that going forward there was much more to be done with this process. Mr. Whitehead interjected the final determination would answer his concerns.

Ms. Seeber called for a motion to enter into executive session for the purposes of interviewing candidates.

The necessary motion was made by Mr. Simpson, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried by majority vote, with Ms. Braymer voting in opposition, to enter into an executive session pursuant to Section 105(f) of the Public Officer's Law.

Executive session was held from 1:05 p.m. until 2:58 p.m.; Ms. Hyde entered the meeting and Ms. Seeber exited the meeting during the executive session.

Upon reconvening, Mrs. Frasier, as Vice-Chair, announced that no action had been taken during the executive session. She apprised second interviews would be scheduled for the second week in January, noting Jackie Figueroa, *County Human Resources Director*, would notify them of the exact dates and times once they were scheduled.

There being no further business to come before the Personnel & Higher Education Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty, and seconded by Mr. Montesi, Mrs. Frasier adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board