

SECOND EMERGENCY SESSION
July 10, 2024
Board of Supervisors – County of Hamilton
Lake Pleasant, New York

Mrs. Laura A. Abrams, Clerk
Board of Supervisors of Hamilton County
Lake Pleasant, New York 12108

Dear Clerk:

WHEREAS, the undersigned, we the majority of the members of the Board of Supervisors of Hamilton County, do hereby request you to call an Emergency Session pursuant to Section 152 of the County Law, to be held at the Chambers of the Board, in the Town of Lake Pleasant, in said County on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. for the purpose of appointing an interim Public Health Director and for any other business that may come before said Board.

Arietta _____	Chris D. Rhodes
Benson _____	Phillip C. Snyder
Hope _____ ABSENT	Steven M. Tomlinson
Indian Lake _____	Brian E. Wells
Inlet _____ ABSENT	John Frey
Lake Pleasant _____	Betsy A. Bain
Long Lake _____ ABSENT	Clay J. Arsenault
Morehouse _____	Anthony Fernandez
Wells _____ ABSENT	Beth Hunt

Public Comment: No one present

Reports of Standing/Special Committees:

Mr. Rhodes: Stated that he failed to get a resolution submitted in time for the Sheriff. He also stated that he would like to see how they could move ahead on occupancy tax. He asked what the next step was that they needed to take. Barry Baker, Real Property Tax Director/Budget Officer, had sent him some samples of local laws from other counties. Is that something they would like to discuss during Committee Day to get an overall consensus of the Supervisors? The Chairman stated that it had come up during his Town Board meeting as well. The town has been stalled for a while with their short-term rental rules and regulations. Ms. Bain stated that she knew the Town had worked on it really hard because they had shared the information with Lake Pleasant when they started to organize and put theirs together. Lake Pleasant had based theirs on Indian Lake's and it went through nicely. She thought it had a good balance. Ms. Bain stated that they need to move fast before the Governor signs the state bill. The Chairman thought he had read that if you don't have it in place by now you are not going to have time to get it in. Ms. Bain asked if it's based on when she signs it, because she knows that it has to go 120 days or is it the 120th day after

she signs it? The Chairman stated that was some of the confusion. Ms. Bain confirmed that Mr. Rhodes didn't have one. Mr. Rhodes stated that he couldn't possibly get it together before then. They do have quite a few in Arietta but this occupancy tax isn't going to really benefit them a lot, but he feels it would benefit the County as a whole. Ms. Bain thought it would benefit Arietta because they have a lot of Airbnbs in the town. Mr. Rhodes stated that it was less than a dozen. She asked how the County finds out how many there are. Mr. Rhodes stated that there is a company that would do it, but you can search it yourself. The Chairman stated that in theory they could request the information from Airbnb and Vrbo. Ms. Bain stated that Lake Pleasant only has 17 registered. The first year they waived the late fee for registering but now they want to enforce it. She discussed it at the last Town Board meeting so the word would get out. Hopefully people will register with the Town before the state takes over. Ms. Bain stated that they are still going to be able to get their yearly fee, you won't be able to if you don't have something implemented. That is the difference. The Chairman stated that everything will go to the state supposedly through the registration of Airbnb, Vrbo, etc. They will still have to deal with the homeowners renting. He has quite a few in Indian Lake, it's basically the cabin cottage industry. There are a lot of loopholes that are going to have to be addressed. Mr. Snyder asked if the County made the law for that, the state is out? The Chairman stated that the state would be in it's just the percentage that you get. He thought the list that Mr. Baker gave them showed Albany County at 8%. They further discussed the percentages on the list. The Chairman stated that if the towns had something in place, then you are getting things similar to Lake Pleasant. He thought they had a little more control. Mr. Snyder asked if a place like Lapland Lake would be involved in that because they have cabins. The Chairman stated that they were probably already covered by Department of Health (DOH) for inspections and things like that. That is one of the biggest issues, that Airbnbs don't fall under DOH. Ms. Bain stated she would like to see the County do 5% because if they do 2% they would end up dealing with raising it in the future. Ms. Bain stated that she was very happy that Mr. Baker had brought it to the Committee. The Chairman stated that years ago they had started to talk about it when Clark Seaman was the Long Lake Supervisor and there was a tremendous amount of push back. Some of it is just the fact that they don't want to deal with the government for one more thing. Ms. Bain stated that she gets it, but if a percentage of that went back to the town and the taxpayers would benefit, she thought that would be a positive thing. The Chairman stated that he thought it was a good idea, we should discuss it further.

Mr. Fernandez: Stated that he doesn't have anything new from the Committee besides the resolution on the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS:

After the following resolution was placed on the floor; Mr. Fernandez stated that this as a temporary position. They already have the ad ready to go. He has spoken with Lynette Greene, Community Services Director, and she is aware that it is a temporary position. It may turn into something other than that at a later date. He would also like to let the Board know that the pay that is recommended in the resolution is \$0.23 different than the former director was getting. The Chairman asked what County had this position shared. Mr. Fernandez stated that Montgomery County does. Ms. Greene had mentioned the possibility of doing that, but he said that the Board wasn't there yet. We are looking at it as a temporary position, an Interim appointment because it is required. The Chairman thanked Mr. Fernandez for all the work he has put in and he appreciates

it. Ms. Bain stated that it seems between Ms. Greene, Roberta Bly, DSS Commissioner and Cariann Grexa-Allen, Director of Patient Services, they all have been working together on new ideas and how they can make this better. The Chairman asked about staffing for Public Health. Mr. Fernandez stated that they have brought on 2-PT's, a RN is coming on board and they are still advertising for a RN. They are moving forward. If this is approved, he is scheduling a meeting for Monday at 8:30AM with the entire staff in Public Health and then he will go with Ms. Greene to Community Services so she can tell them what's going on, if she hasn't already. The idea is to give the staff some stability and let them know the Board is looking at it and doing what they can to make it better. He has met with everyone individually and reassured them. He has had some good conversations. He feels there are some simple things the Board could consider. He stated that he couldn't speak highly enough about Carole Ruiz, Personnel Officer, Mr. Darrow and Ms. Grexa-Allen. They are doing everything possible to make this work. He met with Ms. Greene and she seems more than willing to help. She is very smart and capable. He feels that both Ms. Greene and Ms. Grexa-Allen are managers. They know how to keep people working. At this point, they are in a holding pattern and just want to keep things going and meet the requirements that we have with the State and our patients. They further discussed getting positions advertised and how people have been applying. Mr. Fernandez stated that he has been discussing with them a better way of doing their reporting because that seems to be time-consuming. He also discussed with them on-call. They are locked in because of the cell service. He suggested looking outside the box at possibly satellite phones or satellite pagers. These are ideas to improve the situation for the employees. The employees think we don't address things. We don't listen. We don't respond. He further discussed the use of pagers. He thinks they are headed in the right direction. Cars are extremely important to new employees, not having to drive their own car and submit reimbursement is a big deal to them. They have organized so it's not one bag that they pass around, now each nurse has a bag. It's commonsense things that should have been happening all along that are now happening. They have also discussed things that they do like Rabies Clinics during the middle of the week. They know that it can't happen like that. It should be convenient for our residents not the employees. He stated that they are addressing a lot of things all at once but trying to make it not too difficult. Ms. Bain stated that he has done a great job. It has been a tough overhaul, but it really needed to be done and it's being recognized by different Department Heads. They are saying very positive optimistic things and thanking you. Mr. Fernandez thanked her and stated that it is a good department with good employees. Mr. Fernandez further stated that he is waiting on Mr. Girvin to give him some dates when he can do training and what it will cost. He doesn't feel this is something that has to be done all the time.

RESOLUTION NO. 221-24

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR

DATED: JULY 10, 2024

BY MR. FERNANDEZ:

WHEREAS, the Public Health Director has resigned effective July 14, 2024, and

WHEREAS, New York State requires Hamilton County to have a Public Health Director and will allow a current Hamilton County employee to be named Interim Public Health Director until a qualified replacement is appointed, and

WHEREAS, the Director of Community Services is willing and able to be the Interim Public Health Director, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Health Committee recommends the appointment of Lynette Greene as Interim Public Health Director for three months effective July 15, 2024 until October 14, 2024, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the hourly rate of Lynette Greene will be increased by \$6.841/hour and that her hours be increased to 40-hours per week for the additional duties and responsibilities added as Interim Public Health Director, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer is permitted to advertise for a new Public Health Director and at which time a qualified candidate is found and appointed, the additional duties of Public Health Director will be removed from Lynette Greene and she will return to her prior hourly rate and 35-hour work week regardless of her temporary term coming to fruition, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Personnel Officer and Treasurer be so notified.

Seconded by Ms. Bain and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: RHODES, SNYDER, WELLS, BAIN, AND FERNANDEZ

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: TOMLINSON, FREY, ARSENAULT, AND HUNT

Other Reports:

Mr. Fernandez: Stated that he will meet with the staff on Monday now that this has taken place to do a meet and greet so everybody understands what's going on. He will continue to meet with them. He told Mr. Darrow and Ms. Grexa-Allen to plan on meeting with him about every 2 weeks until they get stabilized so they can voice any concerns. The Chairman thanked him and also thanked him for taking the time to do it.

As there was no further business, motion to adjourn by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Snyder. Carried.