

Human Resources & Insurance Committee Minutes  
April 30, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Tom Wood; Committee Members Alan Grattidge, Jack Lawler, Dick Lucia, Bill Peck, Sandra Winney, Mo Wright; Supervisors Ed Kinowski, Dan Pemrick, Tom Richardson, Mike Smith, Benny Zlotnick and Chairman of the Board Preston Allen; Spencer Hellwig, Chad Cooke, County Administrator; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Marcy McNamara, Adam Kinowski, Human Resources & Insurance.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Roll call was taken.

**On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mrs. Winney, the minutes of the March 4, 2020 meeting were approved. Mr. Grattidge abstained from voting as he was not present at that meeting.**

Mr. Wood said that last week at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Board of Supervisors, a resolution was passed directing and requesting a special meeting of the Human Resources and Insurance committee for a COVID-19 staffing analysis, to investigate recent events that have occurred concerning the County's response to the compensation question related to the COVID-19 pandemic events. Mr. Wood said that this is a very complex issue. Mr. Wood said that he has some ideas and requested the committee give suggestions on how this might be approached in terms of doing research and investigation. Mr. Peck said that like most issues that are going to take a lot of work and delving into details, he suggested that a sub-committee be formed to handle this, and report back to the full committee. Supervisors Wright, Lucia and Grattidge also agreed with Supervisor Peck's suggestion. Mr. Wood said that several supervisors in attendance were nodding their heads in agreement. Mr. Wood said that per the general consensus that a sub-committee approach is the way to go, he announced that he would like to appoint Supervisors Lawler, Peck and Grattidge to the sub-committee. Mr. Wood said that each of these Supervisors are experienced, well versed and very knowledgeable not only in overall county procedures, but very reputable and hard working. Mr. Wood said that he knows from personal experience and working with them that they will do a top notch job. As has been noted, this is a big task and Mr. Wood said they want them to take the time needed to complete the job. When they have finished with the investigation, then report back to the committee. This could be June, but not sure at this time as it is subject to taking the time. The idea is that they want a good, accurate, and truthful report as undoubtedly it will be.

Mr. Peck said that also at last week's Board Meeting, a motion passed for an external investigation and asked the County Attorney if this has been initiated at this point as he would like to be aware if these investigations will be taking place concurrently. Mr. Dorsey said that a contract has been signed with the law firm of E. Stewart Jones, Hacker, Murphy to conduct the investigation. They are a preeminent law firm in the capital district. It is his understanding that they have begun their investigation and begun interviewing employees, but he is not aware of what their schedule is, who is being interviewed and when. Mr. Lawler asked the attendees on the phone that they could hear Mr. Dorsey's comments as he is sitting a little further away. Supervisors confirmed that they could. Mr. Lucia said that this is an excellent choice of committee. Mr. Wood asked if there was any other input from committee members or the County Administrator. Mr. Grattidge asked if for

organizational purposes, if Mr. Wood would be naming one person to lead the subcommittee. Mr. Wood asked Supervisor Lawler and he agreed to the chairmanship/leadership role in this. Mr. Grattidge asked if a regular meeting will take place next week. Mr. Wood said at this point no decision has been made but the probability is not as there are no pressing agenda items that have been brought to his attention. A final notice will be sent out the first part of next week, but at this point no.

**On a motion made by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Grattidge, the meeting was adjourned unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Therese Connolly  
Deputy Clerk of the Board