

**ONTARIO COUNTY
INSURANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 7, 2012**

MEMBERS

JEFFERY GALLAHAN
JOHN COWLEY
ROBERT LAROCCA
FREDRICK LIGHTFOOTE
DONALD NINESTINE
RICHARD RUSSELL

PRESENT: Jeff Gallahan, Don Ninestine, Mike Reinhardt, John Parrott, Mary Krause, Julie Hoffman, Sherman Manchester, Sheriff Povero, Patricia D'Amico and Karen Valesko

DISTRIBUTION: Committee Members, Board Chairman Ted Fafinski, John Parrott, John Park, Michael Reinhardt, Julie Hoffman, John Garvey, Sheriff Povero, Karen DeMay and Sherman Manchester, Don Havens and Stephen Healy.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gallahan called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M and announced that Supervisors LaRocca, Lightfoote and Russell were necessarily absent.

Supervisor Ninestine made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2011 meeting. Supervisor Cowley, seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

SAFETY REPORT

Mr. Manchester reported in January 2012 there were 50% fewer reportable injuries than this time last year. He said the application for the hazard abatement grant from New York State was mailed out yesterday. The funds, if received, would be used for inter-municipal safety training to continue efforts to reduce recordable injuries.

Chairman Gallahan announced a memorandum was sent out to request that all Supervisors support the efforts to reduce injuries.

Supervisor Ninestine made a motion to support the memorandum. Supervisor Cowley seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Chairman Gallahan commended Mr. Manchester and all present who contributed to the 30% reduction of reportable injuries in 2011.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Ms. Hoffman reported that the 2011 budget for Workers' Compensation ended \$582,000 to the good. This excess went back into the operating funds. Expenses for January 2012 are below budget, so the year is starting off well.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Krause said that several department heads have expressed concern about the possible abuse of the generous disability benefits. She will be presenting a proposal at the next Personnel Committee meeting to contract with Coventry Health Care for disability case management of selected claims. A nurse would meet with the claimant to analyze the situation, advocate for the employee and try to expedite any needed services to help the employee return work. Coventry is currently being used for case management of some Workers' Compensation claims.

Ms. Krause discussed some proposed changes to the contract with HealthWorks. The changes will include training of Health Care Facility staff on safe patient moving and handling, development of job function descriptions and job function tests for select titles, and an initiative to inspire employees to look for and report unsafe conditions and acts.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Mr. Parrott gave an overview of the services he provides to the County and the Insurance Committee. He explained the need for periodic actuarial reviews of our self-insured property/liability and workers compensation plans. Historically, Towers Watson has done a review every two years, and a review is due this year. He asked for approval by the committee to hire Towers Watson at a cost of \$40,000 for the actuarial review to be done this spring in order to have results in time for budget planning in June.

Supervisor Cowley made a motion to approve the \$40,000 contract with Towers Watson. Supervisor Ninestine seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

Mr. Parrott discussed a meeting with MidWest Loss Control on January 19, 2012 regarding the two days of onsite training available under the contract. He will report back when the actual use is decided.

LIABILITY SELF-INSURANCE

Mr. Reinhardt gave an overview of the County self-Insured liability plan and insurance reserve fund. He discussed his role in civil defense litigation, from the notice of claim to dismissal, settlement or trial. He explained that he reports on all ongoing claims and litigation at the Insurance Committee meetings, occasionally requesting approval of the committee to offer settlements.

Mr. Reinhardt introduced Patti D'Amico, Director of the Youth Bureau. She is developing a Facebook web page for the Youth Bureau and wants to use pictures of youth in the community to highlight accomplishments. She would secure a release from the parents of any child whose picture would be used. Pictures also might be used in pamphlets or fliers. There would be a link to the Youth Bureau Facebook page from the Ontario County home page. She asked for approval from the Insurance Committee to include pictures of youth on the site.

There was lengthy discussion about the County's duty to protect children and the liability that could fall on the county. Both Mr. Reinhardt and Mr. Parrott expressed reservations. Supervisors Ninestine and Cowley said they could not support putting pictures of youth on a County sponsored Facebook page. Chairman Gallahan concurred.

Ms. D'Amico left the meeting.

Mr. Reinhardt made a request to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation.

At 11:06 A.M. a motion was made by Supervisor Ninestine, seconded by Supervisor Cowley, that the Insurance Committee adjourn and reconvene in executive session for the purpose of discussing information regarding proposed, pending or current litigation. All ayes; motion carried.

Supervisor Ninestine made a motion to leave executive session and reconvene in regular session at 11:59 A.M. Supervisor Cowley seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Gallahan made a request to approve a renewal contract for risk management services with John Parrott at an annual fee of \$26,500.

Supervisor Ninestine made a motion to approve the renewal contract with John Parrott. Supervisor Cowley seconded the motion. All ayes; motion carried.

With no further business to come before the committee,

Supervisor Ninestine made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Cowley. All ayes; motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Vallesko