

**Energy & Environment Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: October 10, 2017 at 6:00
LOCATION: Howard C. St. John Business Resource Seminar Room,
SUNY Ulster, Stone Ridge, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Richard Parete
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Tracey Bartels, Jonathan Heppner, Ron G. Lapp, Jr and Mary
Wawro
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Manna Jo Greene; Kenneth Crannell, Deputy County Executive; Tim DeGraff, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA).

Chairman Parete called the meeting to order at 6:03 and lead the pledge of allegiance.

Motion No. 1: To Approve the Minutes of July 10, 2017

Motion Made By: Legislator Lapp
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Parete, Bartels, Heppner, Lapp and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

UCRRA

Timothy DeGraff, UCRRA Controller, gave a report on the 2018 Budget. Highlights included no net service fee, added staffing to provide expanded services in areas such as composting.

The committee briefly discussed many of the improvements and expansions of services.

Energy Coordinator and Ulster County Department of the Environment

Legislator Heppner and Legislator Greene discussed the need for an advocate to focus on Energy and coordinate information and services with local municipalities and business. The distributed a proposed job description and amended budget for the position.

The committee discussed the potential cost savings of contracting out for the service.

Mr. Crannell said the County Executive's office did not support a new position. He told the committee that a new Deputy had been hired a few weeks ago at the Ulster County Department of the Environment and described his experience and expertise. He said he felt that this new Deputy would fulfill this role and met all the criteria of the job description proposed by Legislators Heppner and Greene.

A discussion ensued.

The committee requested a copy of the job description for this new Deputy Coordinator position. (Note: This job description was sent to the committee via email on 10/12/17 and is attached hereto.)

Legislator Greene made a formal request that this new Deputy Coordinator attend an upcoming Climate Smart Committee meeting.

Mr. Crannell said that would not be appropriate but that he and representatives of the Department of the Environment would continue to liaison with this committee. He suggested the Energy and Environment Committee set up a future meeting at the County Office Building and he would have the new electric vehicle available for them to test drive.

Mr. Crannell said he was very proud of all the environmental accomplishments of Ulster County over the past few years and shared details of the County's green fleet, charging stations, solar projects and purchase of energy.

Legislators Greene and Bartels appreciated what had been done but suggested that more could be done.

Legislator Greene expressed her continuing frustration as a legislator to ensure that all possible environmental considerations are included and all legislative environmental policies are followed before she is asked to vote for or work begins on capital projects. She is working on a "check list" she would like to be adopted to accomplish this goal.

Mr. Crannell stressed the importance of striking a balance. He questioned the use of valuable staff time to fill out paper work rather than work on the actual projects themselves. He assured the committee that Ulster County was meeting all legislative policies and going above and beyond those policies in many cases. He said every department, including Planning, Purchasing and Economic Development, took steps to ensure the county was using best practices and incorporating environmental considerations in to every program, project and purchase.

Polystyrene Ban

Mr. Crannell mentioned that Dutchess County recently passed a Styrofoam ban but that it was not as far reaching as Ulster County's. Mr. Crannell stated that the County is having an enforcement challenge as several of the summer camps have refused to comply. The County has started a formal action and expects that there will be fines. Overall he feels good about the compliance rates.

Proposed Plastic Bag Legislation- Legislator Bartels told the committee that we are waiting to see what New York State develops and reminded them that Governor Cuomo made a commitment to develop some statewide legislation. The committee had a brief discussion.

Chairman Parete asked if there was any other business, hearing none

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lapp

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 7: 11 pm

Respectfully submitted: Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved as amended: November 1 , 2017