

Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: August 17, 2015 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Deputy Chairman Kevin Roberts
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Sr. Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Legislators David Donaldson, Manna Jo Greene and
Kenneth Ronk, Jr
ABSENT: Legislator Richard Parete
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsel Cappy Weiner, Victor Melville, Observer
from the League of Women Voters.

Chairman R. Parete called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Motion No. 1: The minutes of July 15, 2015 were approved as distributed.
Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk
Discussion: None
Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

Motion No. 2: Resolution No. 255 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2015 (A Local Law Of The County Of Ulster, New York, Known As The “False Alarm Reduction Act”) To Be Held On Tuesday, September 15, 2015 At 7:05 PM

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor of the Amendments: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

On the Resolution for the Local Law as amended:

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 3: Resolution No. 296 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2015
(A Local Law Establishing A Sustainable Green Fleet Policy)

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislator Ronk complemented Legislator Greene and the others who worked so diligently on developing this policy.

Legislator Greene noted that one legislator who supported the concept felt that it should be a policy rather than a law but other than that she felt most legislators were pleased with the outcome.

Legislator Ronk said that some legislative policy initiatives are not being enforced where a local law would be and feels this initiative is worthy of being a local law.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4: Resolution No. 297 - Adopting Amended Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2015, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 10 Of 2008 (A Local Law Adopting An Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York), Pertaining To Change Orders And/Or Amendments To Contracts Equal To Or Exceeding \$50,000.00

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislator asked that his name be added as a sponsor.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 5: Resolution No. 298 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2015 (A Local Law Regarding Campaign Finance Reform in Ulster County) To Be Held On Wednesday, October 14, 2015 At 6:00 PM

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk for discussion.
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislator Roberts noted that Legislative Chairman John Parete, sponsor of the Resolution, suggested the public hearing be postponed to allow legislators to weigh in and make changes before going to public hearing.

Legislator Ronk felt current campaign finance laws set reasonable limits on campaign donations and this law was unconstitutional because it prevented someone from making a donation to the candidate of their choice.

Legislator Donaldson noted that the proposed local law did not limit the individual from making a donation but put the limitation on the candidate not to accept campaign donations from an individual who works for the county.

Legislator Ronk felt that was a distinction that did not change the result.

There was a discussion about the potential for pay-to-play abuse, people who skirt the

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 6 Resolution No. 323 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 10 of 2015 (A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 5 of 2015, A Local Law Establishing An Automatic Re-Canvassing Procedure In And For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Legislator Donaldson asked to be added.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

New Business

Motion No. 7 - Resolution No. 324 - Requesting The Public Service Commission To Direct Verizon To Provide Fiber-Optic Internet Access To The Hudson Valley.

Legislator Donaldson discussed a memorializing Resolution he was offering to ask the Public Service Commission to Direct Verizon to Provide Fiber-Optic Access to the Hudson Valley. He noted that it is late but felt it was important to get these comments to the Public Service Commission in a timely fashion.

There was a discussion about the lateness. Legislator Ronk was against it on the grounds that it was late and spoke on the importance of the resolution deadline. He suggested finding out when the comment period ends. If it ended before the next meeting of the Legislature, he suggested doing it thru a committee of the whole during the session.

Legislator Greene asked to be added as a sponsor.

There was a discussion about the best way to handle it and move it ahead.

Motion Made By: Legislator Roberts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: There was a brief discussion about the problems with internet service in several areas of the County.

Legislator Ronk said that while he agreed with the Resolution he had to oppose for lateness.

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Roberts, Donaldson and Greene
Voting Against:	Ronk
No. of Votes in Favor:	3
No. of Votes Against:	1
Disposition:	Approved

Old Business: None

Motion to adjourn

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Donaldson, seconded by Legislator Ronk and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of August, 2015
Fawn A. Tantillo, Senior Legislative Employee
Minutes Approved on September 14, 2015