

# Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

## Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: September 14, 2015 – 6:30 PM  
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, COB, Kingston, NY  
PRESIDING OFFICER: Legislator Richard Parete  
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Sr. Legislative Employee  
PRESENT: Legislators Kevin Roberts, David Donaldson, Manna Jo Greene, Kenneth Ronk, Jr and Chairman John Parete (left at 7:44)  
ABSENT: None  
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes  
OTHER ATTENDEES: Bea Havranek, County Attorney; Victor Melvile & Margaret Sellers, Observers from the League of Women Voters; Thomas Delaney, Beverly Delaney, Lori Curran, Fairweather

Chairman R. Parete called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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Motion No. 1: The minutes of August 17, 2015 were approved as distributed.  
Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk  
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene  
Discussion: None  
Roll Call Vote: No  
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete  
Voting Against: None  
No. of Votes in Favor: 6  
No. of Votes Against: 0  
Disposition: Minutes Approved

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Motion No. 2: 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 as amended.

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

Discussion: Counsel Havranek reported that she was reviewing the amended version and would finish it tomorrow. She urged the committee to wait until she finalized her opinion.

There was a brief discussion about her concerns.

Chairman R. Parete reminded the committee that County Executive Hein spoke about the need for campaign finance reform over a year ago. He asked why the Executive did not follow thru and actually initiate the legislation.

There was a discussion and committee members offered to work with the Executive noting that Legislative Counsel did not have concerns.

Legislative Chairman J. Parete noted recent arrests of State officials and the appearance of a conflict of interest. He said this proposed local law had been out for months. He detailed finance limitations on Judges.

Legislator Greene felt campaign finance reform is critical but wanted to take the time to hear Counsel Havranek's opinion tomorrow before voting. She expressed concern that the proposal only addressed incumbent officials and did not apply to opponents.

Legislative Chairman J. Parete suggested the public hearing would allow opinions from everyone and urged the committee to approve this resolution to schedule a public hearing.

Legislator Ronk felt that due to the nature of the proposed local law it might be beneficial to hold it after the election. He suggested the committee could set the public hearing now for a date after the election in November.

There was a discussion about including opponents as well as incumbent candidates in the law.

Legislator Ronk offered an additional amendment to change the date of the public hearing to Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at 7:00

Motion to Amend	Legislator Ronk
Motion to Second the Amendments	Legislator R. Parete

Discussion: Legislator Greene would rather hear the opinion of the attorney and explore including opponents before setting a public hearing. She noted that they have time to do this and still schedule the public hearing on November 17.

Legislator Donaldson said that they could set the public hearing date for November 17 and still make amendments to the proposed local law before the public hearing.

There was a discussion about timing and posting the proposed local law in a legal notice. Counsel Havranek said the proposed local law to be discussed at the public hearing just had to be published ten (10) days before the public hearing. (19:00) She warned to be aware of the newspaper deadlines for legal notice to insure they met the ten day requirement. (25:00)

Legislator Roberts commended Chairman J. Parete for bringing this forward and urged him to work with the County Attorney and other members of the County Executive’s staff to develop a local law that Executive Hein would support.

Legislative Chairman J. Parete told the members that when he heard the County Executive’s speech a year and a half ago he contacted Mr. Hein to let him know he supported the efforts for campaign finance reform and offered to meet and work with him to make it a reality. To date he has not heard back from him. The proposed local law was sent to several “good governance” groups and was open to any opinions or suggestions.

Legislator Ronk said that by setting the date in November it set a time table for Legislators and the County Executive to offer any changes, allow the committee time to discuss them and avoid the effort being stalled indefinitely.

Counsel Havranek said she would like to see any other suggestions or opinions by other groups.

Legislator Donaldson remarked that Chairman J. Parete has been very open and receptive to any suggestions and applauded his efforts and openness.

Legislator Roberts asked Chairman R. Parete to insure Legislative Counsel was present at the next meeting where this would be discussed.

#### On the amendment

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	6
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Approved

#### On the Original Motion as amended

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against:	Legislator Greene
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	1
Disposition:	Approved

Motion No. 3: Resolution No. 354- Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 16 of 2015 (A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 1 Of 1996 (A Local Law To Prohibit Soliciting, Peddling Or Vending On Any County Owned Property), To Allow For Use Of County Owned And Leased Building Space By Veterans And Disabled Members Of Ulster County) To Be Held On Wednesday, October 14, 2015 At 6:15 PM

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

Discussion: Legislator Ronk thanked Legislative Chairman J. Parete for sponsoring this resolution and thought it was a great local law.

Legislative Chairman J. Parete credited Legislator Lopez for all his help in developing this local law.

Roll Call Vote: No  
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete  
Voting Against: None  
No. of Votes in Favor: 6  
No. of Votes Against: 0  
Disposition: Approved

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Motion No. 4: Resolution No. 356 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 11 of 2015, (A Local Law Establishing The Ulster County Animal Abuse Registry)

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

Discussion: Legislator Ronk said most of the comments and suggestions at the public hearing were directed at Proposed Local Law No. 12 regarding pet sellers. He noted that Proposed Local Laws 11 and 12 had been received and treated as a package but saw no reason to hold up PLL 11 while working to improve PLL 12.

Mr. Delaney, a breeder, had no problem with the Animal Abuse Registry.

Legislative Chairman J. Parete related a recent experience in which he was bitten by a dog while protecting his grandchildren. He noted that if he was not with his grandchildren and this dog came after him he would have defended himself physically against the dog. He asked if he hurt or killed an attacking dog, what would be the repercussions. Would he have a "record", could he be put on this registry?



Legislator Roberts felt the county had enough regulations and the proposed local law was unnecessary. He was prepared to vote it down now.

Legislator Ronk noted that this was an example of a public hearing that attracted individuals and comments that would ultimately improve the proposed law.

There was a discussion about what committee should re-examine the proposal and the best way to insure input from all stakeholders.

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against:	Legislators R. Parete and Roberts
No. of Votes in Favor:	3
No. of Votes Against:	2
Disposition:	Resolution Referred to Law Enforcement, Public Safety

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Motion No. 6: LATE Resolution No. 358 - Approving The Memorandum Of Agreement By And Between The County Of Ulster, The Ulster County Sheriff And The Ulster County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association, Inc. And The Memorandum Of Agreement By And Between The County Of Ulster, The Ulster County Sheriff And The Ulster County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association, Inc. For The Superior Officers Unit

Motion Made By:	Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By:	Legislators Roberts and Greene

Discussion:	There was a brief discussion about the drug testing provisions of the contract.
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Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Approved

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New Business:	None
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Old Business:	None
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## Motion to adjourn

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Donaldson, seconded by Legislator Roberts and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 16th day of September, 2015

Fawn A. Tantillo, Senior Legislative Employee

Minutes Approved on October 19, 2015