

**Government Efficiency & Review Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: February 13, 2017 – 5:00 PM
LOCATION: COB, 6th Floor, Karen Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman John Parete
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Belfiglio, Greene and Briggs (arrived at 5:15 PM)
ABSENT: Legislator R. Parete
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Bartels, Tom Kadgen – League of Women Voters, Evan Gallo- Ulster County Comptroller’s Office

Chairman J. Parete called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the November 21, 2016 meeting
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Briggs, Greene, and J. Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes **APPROVED**

Resolution for the February 15, 2017 Session of the Legislature:

Resolution No. 30: Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into Agreements With The Villages Of Ellenville, New Paltz, And Saugerties Relating To The Enforcement Of Real Property Tax Liens Under Article 11, Sections 1102, 1110 and 1150 Of The New York State Real Property Tax Law – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chairman to enter into agreements with the Villages of Ellenville, New Paltz and Saugerties relative to the division of proceeds of the sale of parcels within said villages for non-payment of taxes.

Motion No. 2: Moved to **ADOPT Resolution No. 30**
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion:

The members briefly discussed the purpose of the Resolution. Chairman J. Parete mentioned his prior attempt to pass legislation to require the county make the Villages whole as they do the towns and school districts.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Greene, and J. Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution **ADOPTED**

Chairman J. Parete moved on to item number one under new business, Resolution No. 319 of 2001 – Establishing The Policy Of The County Of Ulster With Regard To Project Labor Agreements For Construction Projects In Excess Of \$1,000,000.

He informed the members that the policy requires review of capital projects in excess of \$1,000,000 to have a Project Labor Agreement. He said there were a couple of projects started or coming up and stated that he had not heard any mention of evaluations or analysis of PLAs. He suggested that a letter be written to the Director of Purchasing and the Executive’s Office to see what they are doing about it.

Legislator Greene asked if anyone knew what the justification was for changing the dollar amount from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Chairman J. Parete stated that he did not know the justification for the change and commented that it was up to the Legislature to decide if the policy was a good one and should be enforced, or if it should be repealed. He added that he has been contacted by individuals who are in favor of PLAs.

The members briefly discussed the provisions contained in PLAs, including prevailing wages, using union labor, commitments to providing sufficient staff, avoiding delay claims, etc. Legislator Bartels asked if Chairman J. Parete was aware of any PLAs in the county. He responded no. He added that the Rail Trail and Family Court Projects were two upcoming projects that would require review and a report in regard to a PLA under the provisions of the Resolution.

The members agreed that a letter should be drafted to the Purchasing Director and the Executive’s Office for information on their procedure for complying with the policy. They suggested that a report of current PLAs, and a list of all PLAs since the enactment of the policy also be requested. Legislators Greene and Bartels proposed inviting the Purchasing Director to a future meeting. Legislator Briggs mentioned that all contracts with the county require prevailing wages and would like someone to explain in more detail the provisions of a PLA.

Legislator Bartels mentioned a report issued by Cornell University entitled “Project Labor Agreements in New York State: *In the Public Interest.*” Legislator Briggs questioned whether prevailing wages could be circumvented. Legislator Bartels commented that PLAs also include prohibitions on strikes or walk outs, among other things, which, in her understanding, are negotiated prior to RFPs being sent out and are included in the bid specifications.

Chairman J. Parete asked Legislative Staff to forward the Cornell report, as well as assessment of PLAs from The Partnership for Working Families titled “Community Workforce Agreements *Building a Better Construction Industry for Communities, Workers, and the Public Interest*” to the members.

Legislator Belfiglio commented that restrictions in PLAs might narrow the field of bidders. Legislator Bartels asked if someone might be able to run the COLA adjustment figures referenced in the Resolution to get a current day number. Chairman J. Parete responded that he did not have that ability, but would look for someone who could provide that information.

Chairman J. Parete informed the members that he would ask Legislative Staff to draft a letter to the Purchasing Director. Legislator Greene commented that PLAs are an important issue to the Working Families Party. She thanked Chairman J. Parete for finding the Resolution and bringing it to the committee’s attention.

Chairman J. Parete stated that he was disappointed that the Legislature did not approve funding in the 2017 County Budget to update a housing study. He added that the need for affordable housing has been studied and supported by the ALICE Report, a Report from the NYS Comptroller, assessments by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, and many others. Legislator Belfiglio suggested bringing developers to a meeting to discuss the need for affordable and senior housing.

Legislator Greene asked if Chairman J. Parete had received a response from RUPCO to the committee’s letter asking for an opinion on the Resolution which established the Ulster County Housing Consortium and whether it should be revived post discovery that the Continuum of Care has replaced it. She was advised that Kathy Germain from RUPCO had been contacted to follow up on the letter. Ms. Germain stated that the matter had been placed on the agenda for the Continuum of Care’s Annual meeting agenda in January. The members asked staff to follow-up on the result of that meeting.

Legislator Belfiglio mentioned that RUPCO said they were also looking in to leveraging funding for Sober Housing. Chairman J. Parete advised the members that he thought RUPCO was walking back from that due to political pressures and community resistance. He gave mentioned issues RUPCO encountered with the senior housing project in Woodstock a few years back and currently in the early stages of the Alms House development in Kingston. Legislator Briggs stated that he was trying to help leverage money to make improvements to a senior housing project in Ellenville which was in need of updates, especially to the elevators.

Legislator Bartels asked about Resolution No. 260 of 2010 – Appointing a Special Committee to Draft a Proposed Local Law and/or Policy for Capital Projects Oversight for the County of Ulster on the agenda. Mr. Kadgen stated that the committee only met once and discussed a preliminary outline of what a Local Law or policy might look like. He added that there was some overreaching by certain members into the operations and responsibilities of the Executive’s Office so the committee stopped meeting. He recommended that the committee reach out to Legislator Fabiano who was a member of the special committee. Legislator Bartels stated that one of the recommendations that came out of the committee formed to review the Jail project was the creation of a committee to review large capital projects. She added that the recommendation was prior to the

Charter form of government and stated that she felt the Legislature should be discussing this, including the best way to interface with the Executive's Office to be able to independently review projects within the scope of the Charter.

The members discussed a resolution which existed before the jail project which required certain things that, if followed, could have prevented some the issues that were encountered with the project.

Chairman J. Parete reminded the members to review the lists of previously adopted Local Laws and Policies they have been given and consider which might merit further review.

Chairman J. Parete asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:50 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: