

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

**DATE & TIME:** June 20, 2016 – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** COB, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Karen Binder Library  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman John Parete  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Belfiglio, Briggs, and R. Parete  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Greene  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Loughran, Tom Kadgen – League of Women Voters, Deputy County Comptroller Gallo, Kathy Nolan – UC Trails Advisory Comm/UC Tourism Advisory Comm

Chairman J. Parete called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

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**Motion No. 1:                    Moved to Approve the Minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting**

**Motion By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Belfiglio

**Discussion:**                    None

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

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Resolutions for the June 21, 2016 Session of the Legislature

**Resolution No. 297:** Establishing A Policy For The Ulster County Office Of The Comptroller That Governs The Accessibility And Timeliness Of Information And Records Possessed By Various Departments, Offices, Units, And Programs Of The County

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution establishes a policy specifying timeframes and methods by which county departments must respond to requests for information from the County Comptroller or his office.

**Motion No. 2:                    Resolution moved for discussion**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Belfiglio  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Discussion:**

Chairman J. Parete informed the members he was advised that the legislative attorneys believe this type of legislation should be accomplished by Local Law as opposed to a policy. He suggested that it might be best to postpone the resolution until that question is answered. Legislator Belfiglio commented that he felt a policy is more open to interpretation while a Local Law is more binding. He added that he was not pleased with having to go through the Executive's office for information rather than asking a department head directly. He gave an example of an instance when he was told to FOIL information he was seeking.

Legislator R. Parete commented that part of the fault was on the Legislature for passing resolutions without being given the information they request. Legislator Briggs informed the members that the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee does not pass any resolution unless a department head is present to answer questions. Legislator R. Parete commented that Sheriff Van Blarcum always makes himself available to Legislators if they have questions.

Chairman J. Parete added that the policy was only aimed at the Office of the Executive and perhaps should also be applied to the Sheriff, District Attorney and other elected officials. Legislator Briggs asked for examples of when the Comptroller's Office requested information and did not receive it within a reasonable timeframe. Legislator Belfiglio commented that the job of the Comptroller is dependent on his ability to conduct timely assessments and reviews. He continued by saying that ability is compromised if the Comptroller does not receive information in a timely manner.

Deputy Comptroller Gallo spoke about the Comptroller's charge and abilities as specified in the Charter. He added that the current agreement between the Comptroller and the Executive's Office is that information will be provided within 10 days; more if the request meets certain criteria. He continued by saying that the Executive's Office waits the entire 10 days and frequently provides just enough information to say the request was complied with, which then requires follow up and extends the amount of time before they receive the information. He added that the Executive's Office has also responded in the past that they were too busy to provide the information.

Legislator Briggs responded that the Comptroller already has the ability to issue subpoenas to compel information be provided. Legislator R. Parete asked if the Comptroller's office has the same level of access to the county's financial records as the Executive's office. Deputy Comptroller Gallo responded that was also an issue. Legislator Belfiglio commented that the Charter is the law when it comes to procedure and if it says the comptroller is to have "unfettered access," then that should be the final say. Legislator R. Parete suggested that the policy be amended to include access to the financial system. He asked Deputy Comptroller Gallo to write down some things that might make the Comptroller's job easier.

**Motion No. 3:** Moved to Postpone Resolution No. 297 for one month  
**Motion By:** Legislator Belfiglio  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators J. Parete, Belfiglio, Briggs and R. Parete  
**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 4  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution is POSTPONED

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Chairman J. Parete moved on to old business.

He informed the members that each of the towns specified in Resolution No. 130 - Amending The 2016 Ulster County Budget To Reimburse Indicated Ulster County Towns For Flood Mitigation Work In The Wake Of Hurricane Irene, have received payment from the county. He added that Denning, in particular needed the funds in order to avoid exceeding the 2% Tax Cap.

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Chairman J. Parete advised the members that he was asked to reach out to Joseph Del Sindaco, Managing Director of the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) to inquire if anyone had signed up for the Sustainable Energy Loan Program established by Local Law Number 6 of 2014. He said that the program had just launched on January 27. He informed the members that the EIC made a presentation at one of the Chamber of Commerce breakfasts. He reminded the members that individuals and businesses in the three villages and the City of Kingston could not participate in the program because they are not made whole for delinquent taxes as the Towns are. He added that represented  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the properties in the county and pointed out that he brought up the concern when the law was being considered. He concluded by saying that the EIC has received 4 or 5 inquiries and that they are looking at this as an economic development tool as opposed to an environmental initiative. He said the program should be tracked for the next few years.

Legislator R. Parete pointed out that the program would greatly benefit multi-dwelling buildings. He added that it was a shame that most of the multi-dwelling buildings in the county are located in the four communities that cannot participate.

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Chairman J. Parete asked the members if they would like to proceed with forwarding Resolution No. 128 of 2011 – Requiring Healthy-Vending Options in County Buildings along with the communications from the Purchasing Director to the Health Committee for further review and possible amendment or repeal. Legislator Loughran asked what kind of foods qualified as healthy. The members discussed the various criteria for healthy food and the requirements of the policy. The members agreed to send the policy to the Public Health & Social Services Committee for review.

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As a follow up to Legislator Belfiglio's question the previous month, Chairman J. Parete shared information about invoices paid through the Office for the Aging for legal services to Seniors. He added that no invoices were paid through the Department of Probation for legal services for victims of domestic violence. R. Parete asked what the qualifications were for an individual to receive the legal services and how the vendors are selected. Legislator Belfiglio said he was very interested in finding out how many hours were being spent helping Seniors to avoid eviction. He added that his budget amendment was originally for funding for Hudson Valley Legal Services, not for the Office for the Aging. Legislator Belfiglio added that he would like to know if eviction

prevention services were being offered, or if only Will preparation, health care proxies and Power of Attorney services were being advertised. The members discussed Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, the services they provide and the budget process.

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Chairman J. Parete brought up the subject of the electric vehicle charging stations and that he would like to see a list of names of the people who use the stations. He said that the stations were installed based on an argument that they were for tourism. He stated that locals were the ones using the stations, not tourists and expressed his feeling that the practice was not allowable by law. The members discussed whether an individual's names could be obtained and if that information could be shared.

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

**Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Belfiglio  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 6:00 PM

**Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk**  
**Minutes Approved: July 18, 2016**