

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

DATE & TIME: July 17, 2017 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: COB, 6th Floor, Karen Binder Library
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman John Parete
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Belfiglio, Greene (arrived at 5:37 PM), and R. Parete
ABSENT: Legislator Briggs
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Evan Gallo - Ulster County Comptroller's Office

Chairman J. Parete called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the June 19, 2017 meeting**
Motion By: Legislator R. Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, J. Parete, and R. Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes **APPROVED**

Resolutions for the July 18, 2017 Session of the Legislature:

Resolution No. 294: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2017, (A Local Law To Provide For The Collection Of Village Real Property Taxes)

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2017.

Motion No. 2: **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 294**
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Discussion:

Chairman J. Parete stated that the county makes whole the town and county taxes and should do the same for the villages. The members reviewed backup material provided including a NYS Comptroller Fiscal Stress Summary of Ellenville and information regarding which other counties in New York State make their villages whole.

Legislator Greene stated that she supports the concept of the resolution but would like to understand if the problem in Ellenville was due to work not being handled properly. Chairman J.

Parete stated that the issue was much more complicated than one person not doing his or her job and encouraged Legislator Greene to reach out to the Ellenville Mayor and others for a more detailed explanation of the situation. Legislator R. Parete commented that the county will be assuming the tax responsibility if the village is dissolved. He added that village residents pay county taxes and do not receive the same services as the town taxpayer.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Greene, J. Parete and R. Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution **ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 223: Requiring The Payment Of A Living Wage To Employees Of Contractors And Sub-Contractors That Provide Services To The County Of Ulster

Resolution Summary: This resolution fixes the compensation of all officers and employees paid from County funds, or, for employees not covered by a collective bargaining agreement, to be no less than \$15 per hour.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 223 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Discussion:

Chairman J. Parete stated that he would like to amend the second resolved to afford the opportunity to apply to the Legislature for an exemption to all providers rather than limit it to not-for-profits. The proposed amended language was indicated in bold on the resolution before the members. He advised the committee that living wage calculations for Ulster, Sullivan, Dutchess, Orange and New York Counties was also provided in the meeting materials.

Motion No. 4: **Moved to AMEND Resolution No. 223 to have the second resolved to read as follows:**

RESOLVED, that an exemption to this Resolution may be granted, with prior Legislative approval, to ~~not-for-profit organizations which perform~~ **any provider of covered services to for** the County or its Departments; and, be it further

Motion By: Legislator Greene
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Discussion:

Legislator Belfiglio stated that he had some reservations with the law. He commented that a main reason that the county contracts for services is in order to save money in employee retirement and health care costs, as well as salary requirements. He added that a number of the providers the county contracts with for social services pay their employees very low wages. He felt that was wrong and that the county was essentially encouraging sub-standard wages for people in the field. He also questioned the county's authority to tell a company what to pay their workers. He added that, aside from the social service providers, he doubted if any service provider the county contracts with pays less than \$15/hour.

Legislator Greene asked who requested the amendment. Chairman J. Parete stated that the Legislature wanted to make sure municipalities could be exempted. It was also mentioned that Legislator Bartels had asked about ensuring single source providers would have an opportunity to request exemption. Legislator Greene commented that businesses are often choose to pay their executives handsomely at the expense of better wages for employees. The members confirmed that the Resolution grants the Legislature the authority to approve or deny exemptions.

Motion No. 5: **Moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 223**
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Discussion:

The members discussed whether the county could determine a financial impact. Legislator Belfiglio asked about the effective date and the effect on contract amendments. Chairman J. Parete stated that the Department of Finance has already stated their unwillingness to do an assessment saying the task was overly burdensome. He added that he would be okay with postponing the resolution for one month for the members to evaluate it, but would like to see it move forward after that.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Greene, J. Parete and R. Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution **POSTPONED**

Chairman J. Parete moved on to old business. He informed the members that Legislative staff is researching any potential effects that rescinding or amending Resolution No. 411 of 2002 (Ulster County Housing Consortium) would have on the current operations and funding sources of the Continuum of Care.

Chairman J. Parete informed the members that he was reaching out to folks in labor to get their thoughts on the \$1 million threshold. Legislator Greene stated that she had spoken to some labor representatives and mentioned that she had the name of an individual who specializes in PLAs and would forward the name to staff.

Under new business, Chairman J. Parete stated that he wanted to invite the EMS Coordinator to get an update on what they have been working on to help the EMS services across the county. He added that all of the county's EMS services are stressed and in need of volunteers. He informed the members that a while back EMS providers from Johnstown, NY came to Ulster County to make a presentation on how they established a special taxing district to pay for a full time paramedic and ambulance service. Legislator Greene informed the members that she was speaking with someone from Dutchess County who told her about an EMS Task Force that was formed to study ways to look into shared services and ultimately the creation of an Authority. She offered to forward that contact to staff.

Chairman J. Parete asked if Deputy Comptroller Gallo had anything he would like to discuss with the members. Mr. Gallo informed the members that the Comptroller's Office has initiated a review of the ACE Division of the Finance Department. He asked the members to share any concerns they might have or any specific interest they have with the division. The review is focusing on program performance evaluations, department efficiency evaluations, internal controls ACE has developed and used, and any costs savings.

Chairman J. Parete asked the members 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: 6:12 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: August 14, 2017