

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

DATE & TIME: August 14, 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, Briggs (left at 6:06 PM,) Greene, R. Parete and Ronk (arrived at 5:45 PM)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Evan Gallo - Ulster County Comptroller's Office, Mike Ham – IUOE Local 825, Jack Auster, Chris Ludlow & Fred Destefano – CSEA

Chairman J. Parete called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the July 17, 2017 meeting
Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Briggs, Greene, J. Parete, and R. Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes **APPROVED**

Resolutions for the August 15, 2017 Session of the Legislature:

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

Discussion:

Legislator Belfiglio expressed his concern that the policy would devastate the not-for-profits that the county contracts with. He added that they operate with very tight budgets and a mandatory pay increase to employees would not be sustainable. He said that the county has been eliminating

county jobs by contracting for services which has created opportunities to replace good paying county jobs with benefits with lower paying jobs in private companies which may not offer health care, retirement and other benefits. He stated that he was undecided on the policy but was willing to support moving the legislation to the next committee.

Legislator Greene asked if there were any protections for not-for-profits in the policy. The members discussed the portion of the legislation which provides a mechanism for any contract agency to apply to the Legislature for an exemption from the policy.

Legislator Briggs expressed his concern that the policy does not indicate a financial impact to the county. He acknowledged that might be difficult to ascertain, but felt that at least a few of the bigger contract agencies, like Family, could be contacted to get an idea of the amount in salary increases. The members discussed that the policy only applies to employees of a contract agency who perform the work specified in the contract.

Chairman J. Parete recognized Chris Ludlow, Political Coordinator, CSEA Region 3, for his comments on the policy. Mr. Ludlow introduced the other CSEA members who joined him and expressed their support for the Resolution. He stated that the policy does not affect his members, but added that CSEA believes that living wage initiatives like the one being proposed have a measurable effect on families and communities. He continued by saying that a living wage increase could provide an opportunity for someone working two jobs to only need to work one, and might give them more money to spend at local businesses. He concluded by saying that he felt the benefits outweigh the cost.

Motion No. 3: Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 223
Motion By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Voting In Favor: Legislators Belfiglio, Briggs, Greene, J. Parete, and R. Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution No. 223 ADOPTED

Chairman J. Parete moved on to old business on the agenda, Resolution No. 319 of 2011 regarding Project Labor Agreements. He explained that the Purchasing Director had stated at a previous meeting that the \$1 million threshold in the current policy is too low and should be revised. He introduced Mr. Mike Ham from IUOE Local 825 to speak about the county's policy and to offer his opinion on the threshold amount.

Mr. Ham thanked the members for the invitation and opportunity to weigh in on revisions to the policy. He stated that he met with the Hudson Valley Building Trades, comprised of 32 trades organizations with 14,000+ building trades, to discuss the policy. He advised the members that a PLA standardizes terms among various trades for the duration of a project. He stated that claims that PLAs increase project costs are false and more often result in overall savings to projects. Mr.

Ham also informed the members that PLA studies, when conducted by qualified firms, honestly represent whether cost savings will be realized through a PLA.

Mr. Ham informed the members that a PLA is one of the only ways to ensure that local labor will be used on a project. He advised the members that the building trades have recommended the Ulster County threshold be increased to \$3.5 million so it may facilitate a more cost-effective finding and serve the best interests of the Ulster County taxpayer.

Chairman Ronk asked if there were any county policies in New York that the trades supported. Mr. Ham responded that Rockland County has the best PLA policy language. He added that Orange County is making headway and encouraged the members to look at Orange County's policy first.

Legislator Greene advised the members that she had asked for a cost benefit analysis of adding solar to the Family Court Building during the renovation process. She acknowledged that solar did not necessarily have to do with the PLA discussion, but said she wanted to take the opportunity to discuss it while Mr. Ham was there. The members briefly discussed Legislator Greene's request for an analysis of the costs to add solar on the roof on the Family Court building.

Chairman J. Parete asked Mr. Ham for his thoughts on the county's construction apprenticeship law on bridge projects. Mr. Ham said that the law is working perfectly. The members thanked Mr. Ham for his time and advised him that they would share any draft changes to the policy with him.

Chairman J. Parete moved on to new business on the agenda. He advised the members that, despite repeated invitations, he has been unable to get the EMS Coordinator to attend a meeting to give an update on EMS services throughout the county. The members briefly discussed issues facing local EMS providers, especially the shortage of volunteers. Legislator Greene commented that she was impressed with the Task Force that was established in Dutchess County. Chairman Ronk said he would be willing to reach out to Dutchess County Executive Molinaro if the committee would like. Legislator Greene asked if the Ulster County EMS Advisory Board, created by Resolution No. 276 of 2014 was appointed and currently meeting. Chairman J. Parete responded that they were appointed and had met a few times, but not in a while.

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 R. Parete
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:22 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: October 16, 2017