

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

DATE & TIME: October 17, 2016 – 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 R. Parete
ABSENT: Legislator Briggs
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

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

Chairman J. Parete called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve the Minutes of the September 19, 2016 meeting**

Motion By: Legislator R. Parete

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators J. Parete, Belfiglio, Greene and R. Parete

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes approved

Chairman J. Parete informed the members that Resolution No. 411 of 2002 – Authorization to Establish the Ulster County Housing Consortium was on the agenda under new business in order to follow-up on the discussion at the September meeting with RUPCO Executive Director Kevin O’Connor and Vice President of Housing Services Kathy Germain, Mr. Michael Berg from Family and Ulster County Planning Director Dennis Doyle.

He reminded the members that it was reported that the Housing Consortium established by the resolution had essentially been replaced by the Continuum of Care to focus exclusively on homeless individuals. He added that a housing assessment study was completed by the Housing Consortium in 2005 which should be updated. He suggested a budget amendment during the 2017 County Budget process to fund an update of the study.

Legislator Belfiglio asked how the Housing Consortium was dissolved if there was no sunset clause in the resolution. At the September meeting the committee was informed that a letter was sent to Legislature Chair Bernardo in 2013 informing her that in response to the enactment of the federal HEARTH Act and the additional reporting requirements in order to maintain federal funding, the

Consortium would be reorganizing into the Continuum of Care with a new Board of Directors and By-Laws. The letter also sought a legislative representative for the board.

Chairman J. Parete commented that the Resolution is still in existence and asked the members for their recommendation on whether to resurrect it or officially repeal it. He stated that there was a significant lack of affordable housing for middle income individuals in Ulster County and added that Ulster County was identified as one of the more expensive places to live in the state according to the NYS Comptroller's 2014 Housing Affordability Report. He informed the members that he would like to see the members put forward a budget amendment to update the study.

Legislator R. Parete asked if anything was done with the 2005 study. At the September meeting Planning Director Doyle stated that the 2005 report was incorporated into the County's Comprehensive plan which can be accessed via the Planning Department's website.

Legislator Belfiglio commented that the construction of affordable housing can be directly tied to federal or HUD funding. He mentioned an instance in Esopus where a developer interested in building affordable housing units in Esopus did not move forward with construction after he was notified that he was not awarded a federal grant.

The members briefly discussed affordable housing developments like Wiltwyck Gardens in Kingston and higher rent properties like Woodland Ponds senior housing in New Paltz.

Legislator Greene commented that she would like to have the recommendation of RUPCO on what should be done in relation to Resolution No. 411. She added that a Housing Consortium should focus on affordable housing across the spectrum, not just housing for homeless individuals. She suggested that the committee seek the recommendations of RUPCO, Family and the Planning Department.

Chairman J. Parete advised the members that he met with Legislator Gerentine about a year ago and toured a few affordable housing projects in the Marlboro area. He informed the members that Legislator Gerentine stated that developers would not pursue building housing developments unless there was existing services and infrastructure in place such as sewer and water. Chairman J. Parete suggested that perhaps county involvement in securing those services would be needed to promote more affordable housing units in the county.

The committee requested a letter be drafted to RUPCO and Family seeking their recommendation in relation to Resolution No. 411.

Legislator R. Parete informed the members that communities in Cape Code offer lotteries for a percentage of new homes constructed to lower income families. He added that the families have to contribute a certain number of hours towards the completion of the house and have restrictions on when and for how much they can sell the house for. He suggested that the revenue generated from an Airbnb tax could be dedicated to a similar program. The program was compared to the Habitat for Humanity program locally.

The members briefly discussed repurposing properties put up for sale through the auction process, as well as a program being facilitated through the NYS Attorney General's Office to repurpose

“zombie” properties. Chairman J. Parete mentioned the Patriots Place home for veterans in Kingston as an example.

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: 5:42 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: November 21, 2016