

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : June 4, 2014 – 5:30pm
LOCATION : Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, New York
CHAIRMAN : David B. Donaldson, Chairman - Present
RECORDER : Janet Salanitri, Adm. Assistant, SUNY, Ulster Co. Community College
LEGISLATORS PRESENT : Legs. Donald Gregorius, Mary Wawro and Craig Lopez
OTHERS PRESENT : Michael P. Hein, Ulster County Executive
Adele Reiter, Chief of Staff, Ulster Co. Executive's Office;
Kenneth Crannell, Deputy Ulster County Executive;
Burton Gulnick, Jr., U.C. Commissioner of Finance
Harold Rosenkranse, American Legion
Victor Melville, Observer for League of Women Voters;
Theresa Brundage, Assistant to Leg. Lopez.
QUORUM : Yes

A quorum being present and Chairman Donaldson being detained, the meeting was called to order at 5:52pm by Deputy Chairman Mary Wawro.

MOTION #1

Text of Motion : To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee of May 7, 2014
Motion Made : Leg. Lopez
Seconded : Leg. Gregorius
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Deputy Chair. Wawro, Leg. Gregorius and Leg. Lopez., Chairman Donaldson.
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 4
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : The motion to approve the minutes of this committee meeting of May 7, 2014 was unanimously approved. Note: Shortly after this motion was concluded and voted upon, Chairman Donaldson arrived and cast his vote to approve same and his vote is reflected there.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ULSTER COUNTY:

Report by : No report. A resolution is offered by the County Executive to appoint a member of the Legislature to the Ulster County Cooperative Extension Board.

Resolutions: Resolution #190 for the June 17, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #2 – RESOLUTION #190:

Text of Motion : Appointing Legislator Mary Wawro to the Board of Directors of The Ulster County Cooperative Extension Board.
Motion Made : Leg. Gregorius
Seconded : Leg.Lopez
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Deputy Chairman Wawro, and Leg. Lopez, Leg. Gregorius and Chairman Donaldson

Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 4
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : The motion to approve the resolution to appoint a member (Legislator Wawro) to The the Ulster County Cooperative Extension Board. Note: As part of this motion it was agreed that in the event of any question as to the legality of Deputy Chairman Wawro voting on this motion the committee would revote if necessary; however, Chairman Donaldson entered the meeting just at the end of this vote and added his affirmative vote and the motion was unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE AGENCY:

Report by : Presentation given by Michael Hein, Ulster County Executive and Ken Crannell, Deputy Ulster County Executive and Harold Rosenkranze of The American Legion.

Presentation : Mr. Hein discussed the Patriots Project, the veteran's housing the county is developing on Wurts Street in a former group home building which has been deeded to the county by the State. He discussed the process of obtaining funding including the monies received through the sale of the residence formerly occupied by the President of the Community College. He also said a large portion of the funding came from various donations, large and small and a lot of the physical work was performed by volunteers from the community . He said this project has been a true cooperative venture between the county government, the public and various not-for-profit organizations.

Soldier On, said Mr. Hein, is a not-for-profit company specializing in administering these types of facilities and they will be on-site 24/7/365. The County will provide the physical work, such as lawn and grounds work and snowplowing. He said there will be a formal ribbon cutting on July 2nd at 1:00pm.

Mr. Hein also advised that the Vietnam Memorial has been moved from the Flatbush Avenue site to its new site in front of the Armory. There will be a re-dedication this Saturday, June 7th at 11:00am. He also said that the face of war has changed. He would like to work with the Veterans' Advisory Board to make sure things are done right. He is recommending that the County Legislature, the County Executive and the Veterans' Advisory Board collaborate to put a memorial on the lawn of the County Office Building listing the names of all those who have died in the service to their country from the very beginning; and he hopes this can be accomplished by next Memorial Day, 2015.

He also wanted to let this committee know in advance that he is issuing his third Executive Order calling for Ulster County to set a goal to have 100% of our electricity come from renewable energy sources.

Mr. Crannell expanded on the management company, Soldier On which will be operating the facility as transitional housing. The fees charged by this company will be paid by the Veterans Administration. The county will be providing base carrying costs, maintenance. He said these veterans are not charged rent. The program itself is designed by and run by veterans. He distributed a hand-out to everyone. Mr. Rosenkranze said he had heard from several area chefs who are also veterans that they would like to come in one night a week and cook for the residents. Mr. Crannell said the ultimate goal is for this to become a model for this and other communities.

Resolutions : None

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA):

Report : There was no report; however, Chairman Donaldson advised the committee that he and Ken Crannell, Deputy Ulster County Executive, had met with the CASA people and also some of the volunteers, and the matter is moving forward.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ULSTER COUNTY:

Report : No report. Resolution offered by County to approve contract as follows:

Resolution : Resolution #197 for the June 17, 2014 Session of the Legislature.

MOTION #3 – RESOLUTION #197:

Text of Motion : Approving the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County (\$597,873) – Cornell Cooperative Extension – Department of The Environment.

Motion Made : Leg. Wawro

Seconded : Leg. Gregorius

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Wawro, and Leg. Lopez

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 4

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : The motion to approve the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County –(\$597,873)– Cornell Cooperative Extension – Department of the Environment was unanimously approved.

VETERANS' SERVICES AGENCY:

Report : No report. Resolution offered by County Executive proclaiming Ulster County as a Purple Heart County. No Discussion.

Resolution : Resolution #199 for the June 17, 2014 Session of the Legislature.

MOTION #4 - RESOLUTION #199:

Text of Motion : Proclaiming Ulster County to be a Purple Heart County

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez

Seconded : Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Wawro, and Leg. Lopez

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 4

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : The motion to proclaim Ulster County as a Purple Heart County was unanimously approved.

SUNY, ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Report : There was no report. The matter was placed on the agenda for discussion only.

Discussion : Chairman Donaldson discussed the original thirds funding formula for community colleges and said the state does not pay its full one-third; however, the state does pay 50% of all capital projects. He said the county is currently paying about 30% and the students are paying the most and tuition is going up again. The county would have to increase its contribution about \$225,000 in order to prevent a tuition increase and he said it is his intention to offer a resolution to amend the college's budget to provide for such increase at the budget hearing next week. He also said he had worked with the County Comptroller's Office to try and find some way to deal with the millions of dollars in chargebacks. He discussed putting a survey on the back of the Certificate of Residence the students have to complete; however, in order to do that there has to be a resolution and he will bring that on next month.

Leg. Gregorius said it is his intention to vote against any motion to increase the budget of the college. Although he realizes the college has not had an increase from Ulster County in six years, he said he has not even seen the college's budget. He also is aware of the Maintenance of Effort and knows if whatever the college receives this year that amount will never go down. He also had a copy of a report from NYSAC showing Ulster County as paying one of the highest percentages to our community college. He said in addition to that the county has to pay more than \$3 million in chargebacks, although he is aware those funds do not go to the college, they still come from the county. Leg. Gregorius said that SUNY Ulster has the 3rd highest tuition in the state but even at that he feels it is still a bargain in today's economy. In addition, he feels the county is not in good shape financially and believes this is the wrong time to be spending.

Chairman Donaldson said that to include the \$3 million in chargebacks had no bearing on the budget and to hold that because the state didn't pick up their share we shouldn't pick up our share was not realistic. Leg. Gregorius said he didn't say that was the reason but he feels there are just too many variables and he doesn't know what effect an increase to the college's budget at this time would have on other budget lines in October.

There were no other comments.

Resolutions : The resolution before this Committee, No. 200 for the June 17, 2014 session of the Legislature, was for discussion only and will not be acted upon until after the public hearing on June 11, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before this committee, Chairman Donaldson requested a motion to adjourn. Such motion was made by Leg. Lopez and seconded by Leg. Wawro and thereupon Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:55p.m.

Dated the 9th day of June, 2014

Janet Salanitri, Recorder

Minutes Approved on July 2, 2014