

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON  
ARTS, EDUCATION, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, HELD AT ULSTER  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2008**

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman (Excused)  
WAYNE HARRIS, Deputy Chairman  
THOMAS "T.J." BRIGGS  
DONALD J. GREGORIUS  
MARY F. SHEELEY  
SUSAN CUMMINGS  
CATHERINE TERRIZZI

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CLAIRE BURLINGHAM, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College  
LYDIA REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
RICK REMSNYDER, Director, Ulster County Tourism

Chairwoman Zimet being excused from this meeting, and a quorum being present, Deputy Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2008 meeting was made by Leg. Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Cummings and upon voice vote was minutes were unanimously approved. Deputy Chairman Harris then recognized Claire Burlingham, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College.

Ulster County Community College:

Discussing the cell tower matter, the Dean said she had received an e-mail from Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning that he had spoken with Mr. Martello, and it appears that by the fall this area will have cell service, be it Verizon, Singular, AT&T or others. The service will come from the High Falls Water District cell tower site. The college will wait and see how that goes before we proceed further.

Dean Burlingham discussed the current and future price of gasoline and said it has a great impact upon our students. Because of that she has had some preliminary discussions with Cynthia Ruiz, Director of Ulster County Rural Transportation in the hopes of finding a way for our students to defray some of the transportation costs. Ideally, students could use Rural Transportation for free by showing an up-to-date student I.D. Dean Burlingham said even a 50% subsidy for students would be a great help.

The Dean said she just found that Ulster County employees can use Ulster County Area Transit at thirty cents per ride. She asked why that rate does not apply to college employees. She said she needs to have Chairman Donaldson certify that all Ulster County Community College

employees are eligible to use UCAT at the thirty cents per ride rate. Leg. Sheeley said that she was surprised that the lower rate didn't apply to college employees, especially since the Community College is one of the bus "hubs". Dean Burlingham said she does not think she needs anything from this committee, but will continue to work with Cynthia Ruiz and Dave Donaldson to get something going on this.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Mr. Reidy distributed copies of Legislative Update, a quarterly report issued by her office giving a synopsis of the many things her agency is handling at the present time. She asked the committee if there were any suggestions as to any other way she could get information to them.

She said her office has had many calls about energy, alternative fuel, food and nutrition. Also there has been an increase in the demand for classes on financial management, credit cards, etc. Ms. Reidy believes there will be many people in Ulster County who will have a real problem when winter comes.

The Ulster County Fair will be from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup> and the opening ceremony will be on Wednesday at 6:00pm advised Ms. Reidy. She said everyone should have gotten their invitation to the opening ceremony. She also advised that all of the programs she had been talking about will be spotlighted at the Fair to reach as many people as possible.

On Cooperative Extension's 2009 budget requests, she said they were being finalized. She has an appointment on July 28<sup>th</sup> with the County Administrator's Office. After that she will send the whole packet on to all members of this committee. Ms. Reidy said her agency was doing all they possibly could to keep costs down.

Reporting on the Farm Labor Housing Program, Ms. Reidy advised that because it took so long to get through Contract Management, she doesn't know how many units they will be able to get in before harvesting time. Also, the price of the trailers has since gone up because of transportation costs. She said they should be able to get sixteen (16) installed. The Farm Labor Housing Committee is now evaluating the bids from the mobile home companies.

In reply to a question from Leg. Harris, Ms. Reidy said the average price was between \$45,000 and \$50,000. She said the farmer pays a 25% share of the cost and agrees to use them only for farm labor housing for at least five years.

Ms. Reidy discussed the Master Gardner rain garden at the Town of Ulster Town Hall. This is to manage storm water runoff from the building. She believes they are diverting 1,000 gallons of

storm water into the Esopus Creek. Rain gardens are being planned for the Saugerties Town Hall and for the Rosendale Library. The Master Gardeners will also be hosting a tea in the Xeriscape Garden at Ulster County Community College on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized Rick Remsnyder, Director of Ulster County Tourism.

Ulster County Tourism:

Mr. Remsnyder reported that the 2008 Ulster County Travel Guide had been printed and was in the process of being distributed to various locations throughout the county. The hiking guide is at the printers and will be ready by next week. He said we have finished the prototype of the golf guide and he passed the galley around for all to examine.

On the Quadracentennial, Mr. Remsnyder discussed the recent press conference and some of the planned events such as the Tulip Festival and Walkway Across the Hudson. He said the idea of a Quadracentennial only started as a viable concept in 2007 and said we have come a long way since that time.

A proposed Resolution was introduced as follows: "Supporting the Mission of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadracentennial Commission and Requesting Designation as an Explore NY 400 Community". A motion to approve the proposed Resolution was made by Leg. Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Briggs. After a brief discussion and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote, the Resolution as presented was unanimously approved.

A general discussion was had regarding the tulip giveaway and proposed bulb giveaway and planting day.

Mr. Remsnyder said he had met with the head of Marketing for the "I Love New York" campaign who was in the area for the day. He visited Huguenot Street and Mohonk as well as took an airplane tour of the area out of Wurtsboro Airport. Mr. Remsnyder said everyone was very impressed with the area.

Leg. Gregorius brought up the subject of Belleayre and wanted to know if anyone had any idea as to what was happening. Mr. Remsnyder said he knew the Chairman had let his feelings be known in a press release but doesn't know anything else. He said that Ulster County Tourism does support Belleayre.

The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris recognized Anne Cardinale, Director of Ulster County Office for the Aging.

Ulster County Office for the Aging:

Ms. Cardinale introduced Donna Leslie of her office who will be assisting her with her report. She distributed an "Overview of Department" containing justifications for the hiring of additional staff. She also distributed copies of OFA's employee newsletter "Loop".

Ms. Cardinale said her office was also being called heavily about fuel oil costs. She said there is also a problem in the Meals on Wheels program wherein the volunteers who deliver the meals and should be getting reimbursement for mileage, are quitting because they don't get enough money to cover the cost of their gas. She also said the Farmers' Market coupons were coming out soon.

A Resolution was presented regarding the renewal of the Long Term Care Insurance and as there were no extra copies, Deputy Chairman Harris read the resolution to the committee and confirmed that there were no additional county dollars involved. A brief discussion followed.

The committee and Ms. Cardinale discussed the various programs that are aimed at keeping senior citizens in their homes rather than have them confined in nursing homes. Leg. Cummings asked if OFA had a sense that as people's budgets get tighter it will be harder to get in-home services. Ms. Cardinale said that already home health aides don't want to go into the rural areas because they don't get reimbursed for travel. She also said there are many other things that Office for the Aging does, and she wants the Legislature and other governing branches to understand that OFA cannot do it alone. This is why she wants to have a joint meeting with the Legislature and other county officials to try and find a way of sharing services.

Returning to the proposed Resolution, at this time a motion to approve said Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Briggs, and upon voice vote the following Resolution was unanimously approved.

"Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to Execute a Contract with the New York State Office for the Aging to Renew the Long Term Insurance Education and Outreach program (LTCIEOP) – Amending the 2008 Ulster County Budget – Office for the Aging"

Leg. Gregorio wanted to know if Prestige was required to deliver the meals in rural areas as he had heard there was a problem in Denning, and what was its responsibility. Ms. Cardinale advised that Prestige has a contract that they are going to deliver meals to home-bound clients. Ms. Cardinale reported that it looked like there was going to be a change to frozen meals (one hot meal and the rest of the week frozen). This will considerably cut down on delivery costs. Leg. Sheeley was concerned about this as many of the seniors need the human contact and the socialization of the delivery system, as well as the meal.

At this time Ms. Cardinale presented a propose conference request for one person from her office to go to a data recording training conference. She said that in March of 2009 we have to

be in compliance with the date recording procedures of the State of New York. The cost of the conference is \$223.00. Leg. Cummings moved to approve the conference request, Leg. Terrizzi seconded and the conference request was unanimously approved.

Turning to her proposed budget, a synopsis of which was distributed to the Committee, Ms. Cardinale gave the rationale for hiring additional staff. She said that she originally thought Office for the Aging was getting a 50% cut across the board; however, she has learned that they will be getting a cost of living increase from the state and more money from the federal government. She said that the additional funding covers almost the whole cost of her budget increases and as a result is only asking for \$19.00 more from the County. Needless to say, this pleased the Committee.

The report of Ulster County Office for the Aging being concluded, Deputy Chairman Harris gave a report for the Ulster County Arts Council.

Ulster County Arts Council:

Leg. Harris distributed copies of the Dutchess County Arts Council 2008 Ulster County Cultural Services and Promotion Fund Report and the Ulster County Cultural Funding 2008 results sheet. These are the awards made with the \$50,000 (\$47,500) after costs allocated to the Arts by the County Legislature. He suggested everyone review it at their leisure and if there were any questions we could get back to the Dutchess Arts Council people.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Briggs and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and Deputy Chairman Harris declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder

