

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARTS, EDUCATION, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD AT ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2008**

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DAVID DONALDSON, Chairman, Ulster County Legislature  
CLAIRE BURLINGHAM, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College  
ANNE CARDINALE, Director, Ulster County Office for the Aging  
MARGARET GAGNON, Office for the Aging  
TERRY BREITENSTEIN, Director, Ulster County Veterans' Service Agency  
RICK REMSNYDER, Director, Ulster County Tourism  
LISA BERGER, Ulster County Tourism  
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

A quorum being present, Chairwoman Zimet called the meeting to order at 5:00pm and recognized Claire Burlingham, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College.

Ulster County Community College:

Dean Burlingham, reporting on facilities, said the renovations to the interior of the gymnasium have been completed. The gym seats about 1400 people and has all new flooring and bleachers. She said many groups use the gym, among them the Ulster County Music Educators for festivals, the Business- to -Business Showcase and the quilt show. A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued and Dean Burlingham said she was happy to report that this project came in on time and on budget.

On the Microbiology Labs the Dean said they are almost completed and she expects them to be turned over to the college by mid-April. She is not sure if classes will be held in the new facility for the summer sessions; however, they will definitely be up and running for the fall. At present, said the Dean, we are two weeks ahead of schedule and on budget, with no cost overruns.

On enrollment, Dean Burlingham reported for the spring we are 16 FTEs over our budget projection. We are still registering for our Express Semester and are hoping for a 2- to 2-1/2 % increase for the fall and spring. We are also about 30 FTEs over projections for summer sessions as of this time last year. She also advised that pre-registration for the fall semester will start next week.

Dean Burlingham said the college is working on its 2008-09 budget. The various departments have submitted budgets and strategic plans and she and President Katt will be meeting with all department heads. She said we would be bring the proposed budget to the Board of Trustees at their May meeting and will have the public hearing in June as usual. We are still waiting on the State budget to be finalized as we are currently faced with a \$50 cut per FTE. She said that may change and may be restored; however, there will definitely be no increase.

Regarding the County contribution the Dean said the college has held the line for the past three years and we may be looking for an increased contribution; however, it is really too early to tell if or how much will be requested.

The Dean said she had spoken with Dennis Doyle regarding the cell antenna and he had given her the name of his contact person so hopefully we will be able to move this along now. The tower that has been proposed by the firehouse on the corner of 299 and Cottekill Road looks like a go; however, we still need to have the antenna on campus. It would be used for emergencies and also for weather alerts. Students would have to sign up for the text messaging service which is free, but we would need their consent to send text messages.

On sustainability and the greening of the campus, Dean Burlingham said one of the things we are doing on campus is installing solar terminal hot water in the gymnasium. Also, bids are out for the elevator in Vanderlyn and for the PA system. The bid opening is April 10<sup>th</sup> and there will be a walk-through for the PA system on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ann Cardinale asked if the elevator would be repaired on time for the Senior Games in June and the Dean advised it probably would not. Dean Burlingham suggested that the Senior Games coordinator contact Mike McAuliffe of Security prior to the date and he would see that additional staff would be on hand to assist anyone.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Terry Breitenstein, Director of Ulster County Veterans' Service Agency.

Ulster County Veterans' Service Agency:

Mr. Breitenstein reviewed the meeting held prior to this meeting with the Veteran's Cemetery Subcommittee. There has been some interest shown by other veterans' agencies and groups and they will be looking into a few leads.

The report of the Veterans' Service Agency being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Ann Cardinale, Director of Office for the Aging.

Ulster County Office for the Aging:

Ms. Cardinale introduced Margaret Gagnon, RN who is in charge of the "Care-A-Van", which is the mobile medical service van sponsored by Office for the Aging. Ms. Gagnon gave a Power Point presentation on this service, which provides senior citizens with health screenings, health education and information on community resources for seniors. Some of the health screenings include blood sugars, health inventory, blood pressure and vision among others. She said some of the current

health concerns of seniors is lack of health insurance, and lack of laboratory and transportation in rural areas, as well as a lack of insurance for vision, dental and hearing.

In reply to a question from Leg. Harris, she said that testing was done for the Ulster County employees and for the migrant workers at Gill's Farm. This came about because Office for the Aging acts on behalf of the Hudson Valley diabetes Coalition Community Outreach, which is funded through the New York State Department of Health.

Leg. Cummings said that when the grant for this was announced, she received calls from some seniors who were upset because they thought Office for the Aging funds were being used and that it was taking away from the senior citizens, which it does not. Chairman Donaldson reminded the committee that there are many part time people who work for the county who do not have health insurance. He thought it was a good idea because in the long run early detection of anything cuts down on future costs. Leg. Cummings thought it may be the way it was communicated to the public and maybe that should be looked at to see if we can do it better.

Ms. Cardinale advised the committee that a resolution would be presented to the full Legislature on April 9<sup>th</sup> through Human Development and Public Works regarding the Lease Agreement for the space at the BRC. She said this is only until September and when the lease is renewed at that time in connection with New York Connects Program it will be brought before this committee. She also asked if they could do a presentation next month on the New York Connects program.

Chairwoman Zimet discussed the Meals on Wheels program. Today she and many of the other Legislators assisted in delivering the meals to many seniors. She said it was a very good program and very fulfilling. The subject of the amount paid to the volunteers for mileage was broached, as Prestige is still paying \$.33 per mile while the going IRS rate is \$.50. Chairwoman Zimet and others agreed that it was Prestige's responsibility to deliver the meals by whatever means there were and what they paid for mileage was between the company and the volunteer driver. It may be something to be taken into consideration at the next contract renewal. Regardless, it is Prestige's job to deliver the meals. If the volunteers do not want to deliver because of this disagreement, Prestige will still have to find a way to get the meals out without interruption.

The report of Office for the Aging being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized David Donaldson, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature who had brought a resolution for the committee's consideration.

Chairman David Donaldson:

Chairman Donaldson presented a resolution for the committee's information and consideration. Since copies of same were not available, Chairwoman Zimet read aloud the resolution which was for:

“ Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Kingston for an Arts & Cultural Development Officer = fees for Services – amending the Ulster County budget – Tourism.”

This resolution would transfer \$12,000 from contingency to Tourism to cover the expenses of the inter-municipal agreement. Chairman Donaldson set forth the criteria for an Arts Officer and what they would do. He said they would be the main contact person for the arts and would also take care of the volunteers. He also said we needed someone to coordinate the different arts programs. The Chairman stressed he is not looking for a vote at this time; however, he may be coming back next month with more information and would be looking for a vote at that time. The City of Kingston would be the employer and the County would tie in with them.

Leg. Harris said the County had just contracted with the Dutchess County Arts Council to administer the arts fund created by the County and Chairman Donaldson said that the Arts Officer would eventually take over that part but it would not be right off. He mentioned the Quadacentennial and other events that are coming up. Leg. Cummings said the position needs to have some kind of a job description and the Chairman agreed. He also said the \$12,000 to be transferred from contingency would be one-half of the cost of this person.

Chairwoman Zimet said things are going very well with Dutchess County Arts Council administering the arts fund. She also said she would get a list of organizations as well as copies of the press release.

This matter being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

Ms. Reidy said she is asking each member of this committee as well as the rest of the Legislature to take a look at the various brochures and pamphlets and if anyone knows of anyone who would benefit from attending one of the programs to pass the information on to them.

She distributed a brochure "Eat Smart & Live Well" which is a free nutrition program for seniors and limited income families and on the "Relatives as Parents Program" aimed at grandparents and others who have assumed responsibility for children related to them. Also, Spring Garden Day 2008 will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at Ulster County Community College and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 4-H Golf Classic will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Apple Greens Golf Course. There will also be a "Flood Response, Recovery and Mitigation Workshop" on March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Kingston.

Ms. Reidy also discussed the Farmland Protection Plan and advised that there are some towns in Ulster County, among them New Paltz and Marbletown that will be doing their own plan. She said the County Plan needed to be updated.

It was decided that the August meeting of this Committee would be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension offices.

Ms. Reidy said they are still waiting to hear on the contract for the Farm Labor Housing program, which is still with legal. She said the farmers are very concerned about getting this program going as soon as possible to insure the housing is in place for the up-coming growing season.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Shaun Johnson.

Shaun Johnson:

Mr. Johnson, as the principal of Shaun Johnson Designs, Ltd., an on-line marketing consultant company, handed out information and made a presentation on his proposal for boosting county tourism on-line. His handouts included the proposals, his credentials and some information on NYC Getaways regional travel directory.

The presentation of Shaun Johnson being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Rick Remsnyder, Director of Ulster County Tourism.

Ulster County Tourism:

Mr. Remsnyder gave an update on the proposed building to replace the present caboose at the Kingston Thruway Circle. He would like to bring in the people from Alta Log Homes and Ashley Homes, the people who are making the proposal. Chairwoman Zimet said the biggest problem was location but we do want there. It is just a replacement of what is already there. She suggested to Mr. Remsnyder that he contact John Gill about the property. Mr. Remsnyder said there does not seem to be any problem with hooking into the sewer and water lines. He said the manufacturer wants a three-year commitment and accordingly, we would need to get a three-year commitment from John Gill.

Mr. Remsnyder introduced Lisa Berger who discussed group sales and said they were what we traditionally refer to as motor coach or bus tours. The group sales people are the ones who arrange the day and overnight trips. She also explained that there were problems with this industry resulting in a market loss and gave a rundown of the reasons for the market loss, including people's use of the internet.

Ms. Berger referred the committee to the "Proposed List of Shows & Sales Blitzes 2008" information sheet and discussed the cost and value of some of these shows. Chairwoman Zimet asked what shows the tourism office is unable to attend to because of budget restraints. Mr. Remsnyder said he puts money into Hudson Valley Tourism Bureau and CATS and we receive a lot of tourism information and leads for this area through them.

Chairman Donaldson discussed international travel as something we would not even be thinking about before but now it has become more available. Leg. Harris brought up the subject of cruise ship destinations.

Mr. Remsnyder discussed Ulster County's celebration plans for the Quadracentennial and distributed an information sheet on same. He and Nina Postupack are co-chairs on this and Evy Larios will be assisting with the plantings. There will be a press conference shortly on the tulip festival which will be county-wide. A discussion of deer and their preference for tulips followed.

The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet brought up a proposed Resolution which Legislator Brian Shapiro had asked her to present to the Committee:

Resolution of Leg. Brian Shapiro:

Chairwoman Zimet reviewed with the Committee the proposed memorializing resolution regarding the situation of The Dali Lama in Tibet and the Chinese. Chairwoman Zimet made a motion to approve the resolution which was seconded by Chairman Donaldson. Upon discussion Leg. Sheeley said that there are many international things that may or may not have merit; however, as a County Legislator there are also very many things that need attention here at home and she knows her constituents as well as many county residents would question the appropriateness of the Legislature spending its time on this matter. Leg. Harris said he believed it was not appropriate for this Committee. Leg. Terrizzi agreed with both Leg. Harris and Leg. Sheeley that it was not appropriate.

At this time Chairman Zimet withdrew her motion and Chairman Donaldson withdrew his second and the resolution was not acted upon.

There being no further business, Chairman Zimet declared the meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder