

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Government Operations & Efficiency

DATE: February 3, 2010

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Library/Conference Room B
Ulster County Office Building

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chair T. Bernardo; Legislators P. Hansut; M. Maio;
L. Petit; R.A. Parete; K. Ronk; B. Shapiro

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislator S. Zimet

OTHERS ATTENDING: Legislators P. Hansut; M. Madsen & J. Hayes;
Budget Director A. Smith; Comptroller E.
Auerbach; T. Kadgen; E. & J. DeFalco; A. Bosch,
THR; P. Sirc, Shawangunk Journal; Deputy Clerk
K. Spinozzi

- Call Meeting to Order
- Attendance
- Introductions & review of the four attitudes that have been found to predict relationship failure
- Review Meeting Day and Time
- Procedure to Change Meeting Day or Time
- Option to Attend Remotely
- WiFi in the County Office building is an inexpensive option; however, Information Services Director says it is part of a larger capital project to be addressed by the Legislature.
- Forms to be completed by new personnel could be completed on line at home, saving the County time and money

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 47: Supporting Submission Of Grant Application To The New York State Department Of State For A 2009-2010 Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Project Grant - For Implementation Of Certain Shared Services

Motion offered by Legislator Shapiro, seconded by Legislator Ronk.
Motion adopted unanimously.

T. Bernardo distributed copies of the press release from Chairman Wadnola requesting that this committee undertake a complete review of the current personnel policy, and a comprehensive evaluation of current ethics and conflict of interest laws. She also distributed County Executive Hein's executive order regarding employment of relatives and his request to Chairman Wadnola for the Legislature to pass a local law addressing nepotism. She noted that the Personnel Policy Manual only covers management employees, not union employees.

Her goal is to keep meetings to an hour and a half. She stated that the goal for tonight to go over steps to document the current structure of County government and relationships. She referred to her color chart entitled "Divisions of Ulster County Government."

B. Shapiro felt that the Ethics Board should bring issues/recommendations to this committee, rather than this committee reinventing the wheel. A lot is already codified. The ethics committee worked for two years on what was to become the Local Law Known as the Ulster County Ethics and Disclosure Law.

K. Ronk suggested looking at current ethics law and current state ethics law at next meeting.

R. Parete felt the vacation and sick buyback programs are costing the County too much money, and something this committee should be looking at.

T. Bernardo stated that ethics and personnel policy are two separate issues. We could look to other counties or the state rather than reinventing the wheel. She wanted committees structured similar to reporting lines in the County Executive's organization. She tried to tie every line in the budget to a committee or a deputy. All fit except the Legislature. One line that is not accounted for in our budget is the Resource Recovery Agency. This is an opportunity to clarify County government structure for the public.

R. Parete stated that the take home policy for vehicles is not being taken seriously or enforced and he would like this committee to look at this.

K. Ronk suggested inviting Comptroller Auerbach, County Executive Hein and Chairman Wadnola to next meeting to ascertain whether they have specific grievances or goals. T. Bernardo will do so.

R. Parete suggested getting nepotism policies from other municipalities.

Appointment for committee deputy was discussed

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Bernardo, Chair
Government Operations & Finance