

COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Government Operations & Efficiency

DATE: June 17, 2010

TIME: 7:00 PM

PLACE: Library/Conference Room B
Ulster County Office Building

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chair T. Bernardo; Legislators M. Madsen; M. Maio; L. Petit; K. Ronk; B. Shapiro; S. Zimet

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS ATTENDING: M. Beckman, Deputy County Executive; J. Farina, Director of Employee Relations

Chairperson Bernardo called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Personnel Policy Manual subcommittee – T. Bernardo and M. Maio met with Personnel Officer Brenda Bartholomew. The entire manual needs to be updated. This project will be a joint effort with Personnel and this committee. T. Bernardo noted that a series of resolutions from 1982 went into the making of the manual. Nepotism was the first issue that the committee was charged with addressing. Chairman Wadnola would like the entire manual reviewed. The manual only covers certain managerial employees; nepotism is a County-wide issue. Many items in the manual are outdated, and Resolution 290 of 2009 on longevity needs to be added. B. Shapiro: One should not have direct supervision over a relative. J. Farina: Personnel may not have the manual in electronic format.

RESOLUTIONS

Draft Resolution 0531: Requiring Specific Elected and Appointed Officials, as called for in the Charter, that Have State Of New York Mandates In Their Budgets, to Provide To The Ulster County Legislature, Information, Explanations And Financial Impacts Of Such Mandates

T. Bernardo: According to the County Executive's press release, over 70% of the County budget is mandated. The charter gives the legislature the ability to assign duties to department heads. They should have a list of mandates to hand in with their budgets. Legislator Zimet gave a

history of the mandates subcommittee, which was asked to drop the project when the administration changed. No one ever goes back to see if a mandate is still valid. B. Shapiro doesn't necessarily see the need for this and questioned whether the legislature has this authority. He asked M. Beckman for his opinion on the resolution; he would also would like opinions from the County Attorney and Mike Hein. T. Bernardo: The legislature can pass a resolution to require action; a single legislator cannot. M. Beckman stated that Westchester County had six attorneys study each department's mandates for one year. He warned that this will be an exhausting project. He will try to get a copy of Westchester's report for the committee. B. Shapiro stated that he supported the resolution. Legislator Ronk moved the resolution as amended, Legislator Zimet seconded. All in favor. S. Zimet moved, K. Ronk seconded, to remove the Whereas quoting the county executive as recommended by Brian Shapiro. All in favor. 70% of budget mandated is attributed to the State.

Draft Resolution 0530: Amending The Rules Of Order To Set Procedure For All Resolutions For Consideration By The Budget And Finance Committee

K. Spinozzi will remind B. Havranek that she offered to research an old opinion on this matter and get back to this committee.

Miscellaneous

WiFi in the County Building – A motion was made by K. Ronk, seconded by B. Shapiro, to invite the Director of Information Services to the next meeting to discuss. All in favor.

Security in the County Building – K. Ronk felt that lack of security in the building was an issue, no cameras. Something to think about.

Resolution on the County's use of the Town of Ulster's firing range – No one was sure how the resolution got to committee. Did not go thru committee or department, but went directly to contract management. Process needed. M. Madsen summarized the City of Kingston's procedures.

County Forms – T. Bernardo felt that there should be a policy on the forms the County hands out, as many of them can be downloaded from the Internet and emailed to the appropriate office.

M. Beckman will ask Bob Sudlow to invite the Director of Information Services to the July 7 meeting.

Motion to adjourn offered by Legislator Madsen, seconded by Legislator Shapiro.
Motion adopted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Bernardo, Chair
Government Operations & Finance