

# COUNTY LEGISLATURE

## COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Government Operations & Efficiency

DATE: May 5, 2010

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Library/Conference Room B  
Ulster County Office Building

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chair T. Bernardo; Legislators M. Madsen; B. Shapiro; S. Zimet

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators M. Maio; L. Petit; K. Ronk;

OTHERS ATTENDING: B. Havranek, Co. Attorney; T Kadgen, LOWV; Deputy Clerk K. Spinozzi; Two students from Onteora High School Government Class

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bernardo.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

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

T. Bernardo explained that this resolution resulted from confusion regarding whether the Legislature had to act on a resolution that was in the packet, but wasn't passed in committee (Budget & Finance). Legislator Zimet noted that Budget & Finance Committee often sees a resolution for the first time when it must vote on it. The resolution was amended to address only those resolutions to be considered solely by the Budget & Finance Committee.

B. Havranek will pull out an old opinion on this issue. Legislator Shapiro requested that the resolution be held until the next meeting of this committee. B. Havranek said it needs to be re-drafted to be sure not to preclude any legislator from presenting a resolution as long as it is timely submitted to the Legislature. She will meet with the County Attorney on the issue. Legislator Zimet asked that the committee pass the resolution in concept. Legislator Shapiro

said there may be a significant change; therefore it should not be passed in concept. No vote taken.

**Draft Resolution 0531: Requesting That The Ulster County Executive And Departments In Ulster County That Have State Of New York Mandates In Their Budgets, Provide To The Ulster County Legislature Information, Explanations And Financial Impacts Of Such Mandates, So That The Legislature Can Perform Their Duties As Elected Officials As The Legislative And Appropriating Bodies Of Ulster County Government**

Legislator Zimet chaired a budget reform subcommittee that did a lot of work on mandates several years ago. Things may have changed since mandates were originally made.

B. Havranek stated that the Legislature can't direct the County Executive; the Executive is bound by NYS law. She felt Budget Director Arthur Smith should have some input on this. Legislator Shapiro felt there isn't a problem getting information currently. He felt that as a memorializing resolution it would have no weight.

**Draft Resolution: Opposing Assembly Bill No. A9911 Amending the Public Officers Law, in relation to requiring certain records which are the subject of a discussion conducted at an open meeting be made available to the public.**

Chair Bernardo stated that this is excess legislation by NYS, another unfunded mandate. Legislator Shapiro supports, Legislator Madsen seconds. No vote taken.

**Amendment to Resolution Approving An Agreement Between The County Of Ulster And The Ulster County Staff Association (UCSA) For The Period January 1, 2006 Through December 31, 2010 – Legislator Zimet**

Legislator Zimet would like to use money from money already saved to pay for the contract, rather than using the fund balance.

B. Havranek suggested adding a WHEREAS, to read: WHEREAS, the County anticipates a savings from the Taxpayer First Initiative as a result of attrition and other savings.

Legislator Zimet made a motion to include the above clause in an amendment, seconded by Legislator Madsen. All in favor.

**Creation of Subcommittees**

Chair Bernardo talked about the different, inconsistent websites that various county departments have, and the need for a policy dealing with the websites. She appointed the following committees to deal with this and two other topics of concern.

**Subcommittee to study Personnel Policy Manual for Ulster County**

**Marybeth Maio - Chair**

**Mike Madsen**

**Ken Ronk**

**Subcommittee to define Policy vs Operations**

**Sue Zimet - Chair**

**Laura Petit**

**Terry Bernardo**

**Subcommittee to create Policy for County Website**

**Terry Bernardo - Chair**

**Brian Shapiro**

**Mike Madsen**

The subcommittees will provide a monthly status report, with the goal being final results by the end of the summer.

T. Kadgen asked what the Legislature plans to do about unfunded mandates. Legislator Zimet wants department heads to give us information about their mandates and the cost of delivery.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Bernardo, Chair  
Government Operations & Finance