

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Government Operations and Efficiency

**DATE:** November 3, 2010

**TIME:** 6:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** UCOB, Library Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairperson Bernardo, Legislators Madsen, Petit, Ronk, and Zimet

**LEGISLATOR EXCUSED:** Legislators Maio and Shapiro

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Ken Gilligan, Legislative Counsel; Tom Kadgen, LWV; Victoria Fabella, Deputy Clerk, Legislature

- The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bernardo at 6:16 PM.
- A motion by Legislator Zimet was made to accept the October 6, 2010 Committee Meeting Minutes, Seconded by Legislator Madsen, all were in favor, Carried.

- Resolution:

**Draft Resolution No. 1116- November 16, 2010:** Adopting The Revised Personnel Policy Manual For Ulster County For Department Heads, Managerial Staff, Legislative Employees And Board of Election Employees

**Motion offered to move Resolution forward by Legislator Petit, Seconded by Legislator Ronk. All in Favor. Unanimously Carried.**

- New Business/Discussion:

1) Late Resolution: Electronic Distribution of Personnel Manual

Chairperson Bernardo discussed the late Resolution she created (see handout: POTENTIAL LATE RESOLUTION) that ensures that the new Personnel Manual will be distributed electronically, and only a limited number of hard copies will be printed. Currently the Manual is distributed 100% hard bound book and 0% electronic.

Legislator Madsen suggested adding that a copy via disk also be made available upon request.

Legislator Zimet suggested that a financial impact of savings be added.

Legislator Madsen motioned to move the late resolution forward, as amended, to the Governmental Services, Environmental and Administrative Committee. Seconded by Legislator Zimet. All in favor. Carried.

2) Changing Resolution Deadline

Legislator Zimet suggested moving Resolution deadline for Standing Committees to the Friday (9 A.M.) following the last regularly scheduled monthly Standing Committee Meeting. Therefore, the new deadline would fall on either the first or second Friday of the month, allowing Committees to submit Resolutions after their monthly meeting instead of always having to work one+ month ahead of time to ensure a Resolution is not submitted late.

Legislator Zimet made a motion to move the Resolution for amending the Rules of the Legislature for timely submission of Resolutions. Seconded by Legislator Petit. All in favor. Carried.

Ken Gilligan will draft the Resolution.

3) Rules Change: Two Readings Required on Labor Contracts

Legislator Ronk proposed a possible change to the Rules requiring two readings of any labor contract in order to be able to vote on it. Legislator Ronk also believes that when labor negotiations are taking place there should be one member of the majority and one member of the minority present so that they can relay to caucus how/why decisions were made. He hopes the Charter Revision Commission will take this on.

Legislator Zimet: Q./ What labor contracts do we have coming up? A./ Legislator Ronk: CWA (Correction Workers) is up end of 2010, CSEA is up end of 2010, the Ulster County Staff Association is up end of 2010, and the Road Patrol Deputies haven't had a contract since 2007 and we are close to binding arbitration with them. CSEA is 1,400 employees. Bob Sudlow said he doesn't think there is any chance their contract will be settled by the end of 2011. We are going to be looking at retroactive pay.

Legislator Ronk said he is planning on bringing the Resolution requiring two readings on labor contracts to next month's meeting. Since it's a change of the Rules it in itself requires two readings. It will be in December's packet and voted on in January.

4) Memorializing Resolution: 911 Surcharge

Legislator Ronk explained that the State reported to the Federal Government on an FCC report that they collected \$23million in the County for the wireless surcharge. They gave back \$9.8million. The State Department of Taxation and Finance numbers that the 911 Coordinators Association came up with was \$230million, and they gave us \$9.8million. \$92million went into the General Fund. The specific intent of the 1998 Wireless Surcharge Law that the Federal Government passed was to allow states to charge this in furtherance of 911, 911 service and upgrades. They are not doing this so we are asking the State for more money.

Chairperson Bernardo suggested contacting/having sit -downs with Assemblymen Clifford Crouch and Peter Lopez and State Senators John Bonacic and William Larkin to sponsor Legislation and make something happen at the state level. Ask them, "Will you commit to introducing Legislation?"

Legislator Zimet suggested putting the names of our State Representatives in the Resolution stating that they are being called upon by name to change this injustice by drafting Legislation that will be introduced

no later than the January 2011 Session. Then we follow up and ask them at the end of January, "Did you do this?"

Legislator Ronk said he will make an amendment on the Floor to include this language.

Legislator Zimet made a motion that the Government Operations and Efficiency Committee will amend the Resolution submitted by Legislator Ronk relative to 911 Wireless Surcharge to add the names of our elected State officials calling upon them to draft specific Legislation on this issue to be introduced early in the 2011 Session. Seconded by Legislator Ronk. All in favor. Carried.

#### 5) Periodic Compensation Review Committee Recommendations/Budget

Legislator Zimet suggested reviewing the Periodic Compensation Review Committee's research to determine how to act on their recommendations to lower the salary of the County Executive and Comptroller. The Legislators should not take the recommended salary increase at this time.

Legislator Ronk commented that he wanted to discuss this issue in Caucus before making any decisions.

Chairperson Bernardo suggested lowering the budget by reducing the salaries of all County workers making over \$100K, or reducing the salaries of Elected Officials making over \$100K: Executive, Comptroller, Sherriff, and County Clerk, (DA's salary is set by the State), by 5%, in an effort to save a job.

Legislator Ronk commented that he believes it is in poor taste to change someone's compensation in the middle of a term.

Chairperson Bernardo suggested making the Resolution effective 2012, or at the end of the current elected official's term. Either way, she believes the issue must be addressed.

Legislator Zimet proposed putting in the Resolution that the Periodic Compensation Review Committee's recommendations are accepted pursuant to agreement by the elected official.

The Committee agreed to re-evaluate the information the Periodic Compensation Committee used to formulate their recommendations before making a final decision on how to proceed. Vicky will gather and distribute this information to the Committee.

#### 6) Efficiency

Legislator Petit spoke about the role the Government Operations and Efficiency Committee should play in evaluating the operations of County agencies. She spoke about the mismanagement at the RRA and suggested forming a Blue Ribbon Commission to assess performance. She suggested starting with contract agencies because they are not under any sort of mandate.

Legislator Ronk commented that the Legislature voted last month to hold off with any additional investigations until the DA's investigation is complete.

Chairperson Bernardo said that she has requested, and just today received, a copy of the RRA Contract. It can be a charge of this Committee to evaluate the contract.

Legislator Zimet made a motion, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to have Legislative Counsel present at the next Government Operations and Efficiency Committee Meeting, as the Committee will be conducting a thorough review of the RRA's contract and any of the pertinent information that the Committee believes is relevant to their review. All in favor. Carried.

7) Standing Committee Minutes

Chairperson Bernardo requested that it be standard office procedure to have the Legislative Office Staff e-mail all Standing Committee Minutes to every Legislator. Vicky will speak to the staff.

Legislator Zimet believes that it should be a responsibility of the Committee to review all of the minutes. Not only will it help everyone become familiar with all issues being discussed, but it allows for a proactive approach to ensuring efficiency.

- Motion to Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 P.M. with a motion by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Zimet, with all in favor, Carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Terry Bernardo/vf**  
**Chairperson, Government Operations and Efficiency Committee**