

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Governmental Services & Administration Committee

**DATE:** April 25, 2011

**TIME:** 6:00 PM

**PLACE:** **Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**  
999 Flatbush Road  
Kingston, New York

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman Kevin A. Roberts, Deputy Chairman Hector Rodriguez (arr. 6:07 PM), Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Dean Fabiano, Kenneth Ronk (arr. 6:10 PM), Michael Madsen and Robert Parete

**LEGISLATORS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Legislator Mary Beth Maio  
Thomas Turco, Commissioner, Board of Elections  
Victor Work, Commissioner, Board of Elections  
Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Department of the Environment  
Tim Rose, Executive Director, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency  
Dennis Helm, Board Member, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency  
Leon Smith, Board Member, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency  
Victor J. Melville, LWV-Observer Corp  
Karen L. Binder, Clerk of the Legislature, Recording

1. **Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM**
2. **Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Robert Parete to approve minutes from March 1, 2011 and March 14, 2011. All in favor.**
3. **Departments/Agencies**

Board of Elections

Chairman Kevin Roberts took two late resolutions for the Board of Elections out of order.

- **Requesting Transfer of Funds From Contingent Account For Payment To The NYS Office Of General Services - The Balance Of County's Share Of New Voting Machines And Supplies For Such Machines - Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget - Board Of Elections**

Commissioner Work addressed the need for a transfer from the contingent account in order to pay the County's share of the new voting machines and supplies for such machines. The Board of Elections must pay this in accordance with the initial terms of agreement.

There was no further discussion regarding this resolution.

Legislator Robert Parete motioned, seconded by Legislator Roberts to approve the resolution. All in favor (5 - 0).

- **Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Board Of Elections To Receive Allocated Funds For HHS Voting Access For Individuals With Disabilities Polling Place Access Improvements Grant - Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget - Board Of Elections**

Commissioner Turco explained this resolution which represents additional revenues to the County. He added that the funding is earmarked for polling place access for individuals with disabilities.

There was no further discussion regarding this resolution.

Legislator Robert Parete motioned, seconded by Legislator Roberts to approve the resolution. All in favor (5 - 0).

Commissioners Turco and Work discussed that funding in the amount of \$21,500 federal funds is available for the purchase of a van which would be used to transport inspectors, machines and bags. The funding base is from voter education funds and requires a 5% County match. The Department of Purchasing has done a RFB. The vehicle could be decorated in any manner appropriate and would be used to encourage people to vote. No special license is required for operation of the vehicle. Eight counties in New York now have a similar van and have seen good results from their use. Commissioner Turco commented that the van would be used year round for events/fairs with school drives occurring on weekdays rather than weekends.

Legislator Robert Parete questioned whether this funding had been put in the Board of Elections' 2011 Budget? Commissioners said that it was budgeted.

Commissioners Turco and Work expressed their concern over space to the committee. They need to find space for storage of the old voting machines which they are not disposing of at this time. They are currently using space at the old County jail. The Board of Elections also has another space concern - the entire BOE operation was supposed to move to CCP. The Commissioners have been told by the County Executive that this move wasn't going to happen this year pending the sale of Golden Hill. The Commissioners said this puts serious concerns on the election process. They need a site for the machines and training - Commissioner Work said that no other space seems to be available. The new voting machines must be stored in an environmentally friendly building.

There was a brief discussion regarding the options open to the County Executive and the fact that Golden Hill wasn't going to be sold this year.

Commissioner Turco reminded the Legislators about the upcoming Finance Seminar and the need to properly report their campaign accounts.

## **Department of the Environment**

- **Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation Accepting A Grant For The Ulster County Open Space Plan - Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget - Department Of The Environment**

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator of the Department of Environment provided the background information to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation grant for the County's Open Space Plan. This grant originated in 2008 and in late March 2011, they received notice of the award. She said that they had already been working on updating GIS and the in-kind services that are required had already been done.

There was no further discussion regarding this resolution.

Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Robert Parete to approve the resolution. All in favor (7 - 0).

## **Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**

Board Members Leon Smith and Dennis Helm jointly announced that at last week's Board Meeting of the RRA, the decision was made to hire Tim Rose as the Executive Director. The vote was unanimous. They advised that a news release was sent out on this date but they wanted to share this directly with the Committee.

Tim Rose received congratulations from the Committee and spoke briefly about his goals for the future at the RRA. Legislator Belfiglio asked if a copy of Tim Rose's contract could be shared with Committee members? Tim Rose will forward a copy of his contract to Karen Binder, Clerk and she will forward it to the Committee members. The contract is for 5 years at the same salary Tim Rose came in at and there are minor changes concerning tuition reimbursement - Tim Rose asked to have his education credits kept current to maintain his license.

## **4. Resolutions**

- **Resolution No. 80 - Appointing Members To The Hudson Valley Regional Council**

Legislator Robert Parete questioned the verbiage in the resolution - entitled to appoint. It was explained to him that the language reflects the agreement with the Hudson Valley Regional Council.

There was no further discussion regarding this resolution.

Legislator Robert Parete motioned, seconded by Legislator Rodriguez to approve the resolution. All in favor (7 - 0).

## 5. Late Resolutions

- **Confirming County Executive's Appointment Of The Director Of The Veterans' Service Agency**

The record was noted that this resolution was approved by the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee. There was no further discussion regarding this resolution.

Legislator Belfiglio motioned, seconded by Legislator Madsen to approve the resolution. All in favor (7 - 0).

- **Authorizing Acceptance Of Payments Of Past-Due Taxes And Conveyance Of County-Owned Properties To Original Owners**

There was no discussion regarding this resolution.

Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk to approve the resolution. All in favor (7 - 0).

- **For discussion only:**
  - **Setting A Public Hearing On Introductory Local Law No. 1 Of 2011 (A Local Law To Provide For 23 Single-Member Legislative Districts For Election Of Ulster County Legislators Commencing With The Election Of 2011 For Two Year Terms Beginning January 1, 2012 And Thereafter), To Be Held On Tuesday, May xx, 2011 At 7:00 PM**

There was a brief discussion regarding the process of the redistricting. The Commission on Reapportionment has not yet approved a final plan for the Legislature to consider and therefore Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2011 doesn't exist at this time. Time constraints regarding the proposed local law, notice of the public hearing and suspending the rules if necessary were discussed.

- **Setting A Public Hearing On Introductory Local Law No. 2 Of 2011 (A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 9 Of 1991 Ulster County Solid Waste Management Law), To Be Held On Tuesday, May 10, 2011 At 7:00 PM**

Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk to move the resolution for discussion. All in favor.

Tim Rose stated that Flow Control was discussed at the last Board meeting but no action at that time.

Chairman Roberts asked if the Resource Recovery Agency would not be able to handle anything required by the proposed local law?

Tim Rose stated that they were working through the regulatory process and DEC is ready to increase the limit to 550 and to 650 if Flow Control is passed. The licensing of haulers could be done by the RRA too. The proposed local law would take effect when filed with the

Secretary of State in Albany. All garbage would then come to the RRA but they would have to wait until 2013 for all of the rates to become the same due to existing contracts.

Legislator Robert Parete asked what would happen if the City of Kingston signed with Albany for single stream?

Tim Rose responded that recycling cannot be regulated by the proposed local law. In order to change that it would have to be done at the state level. He also spoke about what the proposed local law would do. There would have to be decisions on what to charge taking into account how many tons of trash would be handled and the fact that this would increase competition.

Legislator Rodriguez offered comment about the Agency and the Net Service Fee and when things would change with the NSF - not until after the contracts expire. He asked Tim Rose how much of the trash is coming to the RRA now? Tim Rose responded that 90% of the trash over the scales is from Ulster County and 10% is from Dutchess and Orange County.

There was a brief discussion regarding C & D. The RRA is not pushing C & D but they wouldn't turn it away. C & D is not included in the proposed local law.

Chairman Roberts asked Tim Rose is a facility could be opened in Wawarsing or Rochester? Tim Rose said that he has had conversations with Town Supervisors including John Valk. They have discussed working together to have larger facilities.

Legislator Rodriguez mentioned that the New Paltz Transfer Station operates in the black and Tim Rose stated that Saugerties does too. He added that a lot of the towns are guessing at tonnage because they don't have scales. Wawarsing is going to get a compactor and that will reduce the pulling charges. He believes any station should have a scale - it is beneficial.

Legislator Ronk asked about the application fee and what exactly it would apply to: moving vehicles or dumpsters? Tim Rose explained the fee and the GPS section of the proposed local law.

Chairman Roberts offered that there would be time to ask more questions about Flow Control after the Public Hearing. There isn't a rush to move forward with the adoption of the proposed local law and the Committee would be revisiting this subject.

Legislator Rodriguez wishes that this happened a long time ago - he feels that there has been a loss of revenue.

Tim Rose also commented that the RRA can handle the trash without any problem and he won't have to hire a lot of additional staff to perform any duties associated with the volume increase; he feels that maybe 1 additional person would have to be hired as the Compliance Officer. He repeated that the proposed local law would have all trash come to the RRA now and then the same rates would be charged to everyone when the contracts expire.

**Legislator Fabiano motioned, seconded by Legislator Rodriguez to approve the resolution to set a Public Hearing. All in favor (7 - 0).**

- **Setting a Public Hearing on Local Law #\_\_ of 2011 Granting Sole Authority to the Ulster County Reapportionment Commission To Create The Redistricting Plan For The 23 Single Member Districts For The Ulster County Legislature. (Local Law to Clarify Ulster County Charter Section C-10, Ulster County Reapportionment Commission) Clarifying the Powers and Authority Vested in the Commission On Reapportionment To Be Held On May 3, 2011 At 6:00 PM**

Legislator Robert Parete explained that currently redistricting is the obligation of the Legislature. His proposed local law would be too late for the redistricting process in place at this time but would rectify the situation for the next Commission. He believes that the Legislature should be removed from the situation and clarifying the powers and authority vested in the Commission should be done. The Commission was created to be independent and politics should not become part of it.

There was discussion regarding the entire redistricting process including the selection of members of the Commission.

Legislator Robert Parete further stated his opinion as to the current Commission and said that even though he didn't have much support at this time that he would be resubmitting this resolution and the proposed local law next month. It was suggested that he submit this to the Charter Revision Commission when it is formed.

Legislator Ronk spoke about the process and his concerns about constituents - the constituents do have a vested interest in redistricting and don't want to see their districts separated in ways that don't make sense - towns have different concerns from one another. Legislator Robert Parete feels that bottom line is most constituents are more concerned that their taxes are low and they have a job to go to rather than with who actually represents them. Legislator Fabiano agrees with Legislator Ronk - people like to be represented by someone that they know.

Legislator Belfiglio stated what the Charter says - in accordance with the process, the Commission has to allow for timely input from Legislators and the public.

There was further discussion about the redistricting process -- the plans that have been considered, the suggestions, etc.

## **6. Motion to adjourn**

Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Belfiglio to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Binder, Clerk  
Ulster County Legislature