

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Governmental Services, Environmental & Administrative Committee

DATE: February 8, 2010

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Library Conference Room, 6th Floor
County Office Building

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Kevin A. Roberts, Deputy Chairman Hector Rodriguez, Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Dean Fabiano, Kenneth Ronk, Michael Madsen and Robert Parete

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Legislator Laura Petit
Thomas Turco, Commissioner, Board of Elections
Kathleen Mihm, Commissioner, Board of Elections
Sylvia Wohlfahrt, Director, Information Services
Captain Michael Freer, Sheriff's Office
Deputy Sheriff Thomas Lattin
Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Department of the Environment
Arthur Smith III, Budget Director, Office of the County Executive
Jacki Moriarty, LWV Observer Corp

1. Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

2. Departments/Agencies:

- **Board of Elections**

Resolution No. 24 - Requesting Transfer of Funds for Restoration of Two Registrarial Clerks - Amending the 2010 Ulster County Budget (amendment appears on page 3 of resolution)

There was a brief discussion about the proposed resolution. Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Rodriguez to move the resolution forward as amended (see page 3 of the resolution). All in favor (7 - 0).

Resolution No. 31 - 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 The New York State Voting Access For Individuals With Disabilities - Polling Place Access Improvement - Amending The 2010 Ulster County Budget - Board Of Elections

There was no discussion on the proposed resolution. Legislator Robert Parete motioned, seconded by Legislator Rodriguez to move the resolution forward. All in favor (7 - 0).

- **Sylvia Wohlfahrt, Director, Information Services**

She spoke regarding a proposed March Resolution - Establishing Capital Project No. 333 For Acquisition Of Technology Infrastructure For Ulster County - Information Services (Bond Resolution Required). She explained the need for 1291-2161 equipment that is not in the budget. Her objective is to keep the County running at a reliable level which cannot be done without certain replacement of equipment and/or upgrading other equipment.

A list of equipment suitable for bonding was provided to all committee members (copy attached). There was discussion regarding the equipment list and how it varies from year to year.

-Legislator Belfiglio asked if the County participates in a recycling program and Sylvia Wohlfahrt said this is done through Advance Recovery.

-Chairman Roberts questioned why the equipment wasn't in the budget?

-Several other Legislators asked whether the equipment list could be reduced?

Budget Officer Arthur Smith explained that the Tech Bonds always become targets in the Budget process. IS has presented a bare bones replacement plan which indicates the depreciation of equipment over time. There was discussion regarding the previous bond and the need to look at the service and wear and tear that equipment endures. Arthur Smith further offered answers to questions regarding the bonding process.

Tom Lattin, Sheriff's Office is the Tech person. He explained the need for 22 Toughbooks and 11 Arbitrator Cameras; the lifespan and warranty; and the fact that 45 vehicles use the Toughbooks daily. He mentioned that it is less expensive to replace the equipment versus making repairs.

Captain Freer, Sheriff's Office added that the laptops (Toughbooks) help run the department efficiently and these cars must be up and running. He offered that Deputy Sheriff Perry Soule is instrumental in securing funding for the department.

Sylvia Wohlfahrt discussed the County servers and the fact that the Board of Elections has a dedicated server.

Several committee members asked if there was any possibility of IS presenting a scaled-down version of their request and if any other options exist for funding the project.

Sylvia Wohlfahrt will bring the proposed Capital Project resolution to the next committee meeting.

- **Soil and Water Conservation District**

Resolution No. 11 - Reappointing Members to the Soil & Water Conservation District Board

There was no discussion on this resolution. Legislator Rodriguez motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk to move the resolution forward. All in favor (7-0).

- **Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Department of the Environment**

Ms. LaValle was introduced to the committee.

She discussed the resolution to set a public hearing on the Proposed Type II Actions SEQRA for the County of Ulster which was referred back to committee at the November 10, 2009 Legislative Session. Pursuant to Article 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York and Title 6, Part 617 of New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (more commonly known as the State Environmental Quality Review Act), all agencies, including the County, must comply with this act. Pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.14(e) of SEQRA, all agencies are subject to the Type I and Type II SEQRA lists, but each may adopt its own lists of Type I and Type II actions so long as (1) such lists include all the actions specified in the SEQRA lists, (2) the environmental criteria to be applied to the listed actions are no less protective than the environmental criteria in the SEQRA Type I and Type II actions, and (3) such lists are adopted in accordance with SEQRA criteria. 6 NYCRR § 617.14(f) requires that a public hearing must be held prior to the adoption of such SEQRA local procedures, and further requires that the County file the adopted procedures with the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, after the public hearing.

Legislator Robert Parete asked if Planning would have to look at SEQRA that would affect local municipalities? Ms. LaValle said adoption of the proposed changes would only affect County issues.

Since Proposed Type II Actions SEQRA is extensive and many committee members are viewing it for the first time, Legislator Belfiglio motioned to table the proposed resolution to set a public hearing until next month; motion seconded by Legislator Ronk. All in favor (7 - 0).

Ms. LaValle presented an overview of the Department of Environment which is the coordinating department for environmental issues, stormwater and energy conservation. Coordinates stormwater (water quality and water pollution); keeping the County compliant. They do what they can to help the local municipalities, holding workshops and providing digital maps for attendees. The next workshop is scheduled for February 23/Construction Site Inspection.

[The Department of the Environment was created by Local Law No. 17 of 2007 which reads: The Coordinator of the Department of the Environment shall:

[a] Have the authority to appoint and remove all officers and employees of the Department of the Environment, except as such power and authority is specifically limited by local law or New York State statute;

- [b] Coordinate environmental policy and resource planning for all inter-related County Departments and the Ulster County Environmental Management Council;*
- [c] Supervise the efforts of the Department of the Environment employees and coordinate with the efforts of other inter-related County Departmental staff on all environmental projects;*
- [d] Review the progress of environmental projects through oversight of the duties of technical staff assigned and make recommendations to ensure the project is on-time and the goals of the Environmental Management Council are being met;*
- [e] Provide administrative and technical assistance to the Environmental Management Council;*
- [f] Review on-going County projects and/or activities with environmental implications and assure that the requirements and guidelines of the project are followed in context with established policies and procedures;*
- [g] Act as administrative liaison with personnel in other County Departments, as well as with Federal, State, regional and private environmental planning agencies, consultants and other interested parties involved with environmental issues;*
- [h] Formulate and prepare the annual departmental budget;*
- [i] Prepare plans, reports, informational material and administrative documents designed to support or implement environmental objectives of Ulster County and the Environmental Management Council to meet both State and Federal requirements;*
- [j] Coordinate the efforts of County departments and municipalities to utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) equipment and software, as well as global positioning equipment to compile, collect, organize and analyze geographic information relative to the focus and planning objectives of Ulster County and the Environmental Management Council;*
- [k] Prepare and present oral, written and multi-medial reports to the County Legislature, municipal officials, the media and the public;*
- [l] Have all the powers and perform all the duties now or hereafter conferred or imposed by local law or resolution of the Ulster County Legislature.]*

Ms. LaValle provided background on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and described the projects which will be funded

- Comprehensive Energy audits;
- Solar Installation at Salt Shed in New Paltz (will provide 75% of power to facility);
- Lighting retrofit at the Golden Hill Facilities;
- Hybrid vehicles for fleet vehicles; and
- Implementing Energy Policy.

Some other considerations are renewable energy, insulation, lighting, and film on windows.

3. Resolution:

- Amending Resolution No. 4 Of January 6, 2010 - Creating Standing Committees For The Year 2010

There was discussion regarding the Environmental Committee becoming a stand alone standing committee.

-Legislator Ronk stated that the number of Standing Committees which were created this year, was reduced in anticipation of the reduction in the number of Legislators in 2012.

-Legislator Rodriguez offered that the resolution be amended to keep Environmental as part of this committee and to delete the 4th "WHEREAS". Motion seconded by Legislator Ronk. All in favor (7 - 0).

-Legislator Rodriguez motioned to move the resolution forward as amended, seconded by Chairman Roberts. All in favor (7 -0).

-There was further discussion about increasing the number of members who sit on this committee. Chairman Roberts will discuss this matter with Legislative Chairman Wadnola.

4. Other Business

There was no additional business discussed.

5. Motion to adjourn

Legislator Robert Parete motioned, seconded by Legislator Madsen to adjourn.
All in favor (7 - 0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature