

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Governmental Services & Administration Committee

DATE: July 18, 2011

TIME: 6:00 PM

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

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Kevin A. Roberts, Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Kenneth Ronk, Michael Madsen (arr. 6:07 PM), and Hector Rodriguez

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Dean Fabiano and Robert Parete

OTHERS PRESENT: Legislator Laura Petit
Bonnie Szpulecki, Insurance Officer
Tim Rose, Executive Director, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency
Leon Smith, Board Member, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency
Cindy Lanzetta, LWV, Mid-Hudson Region
Dare Thompson, VWV, Mid-Hudson Region
Victor J. Melville, LWV-Observer Corp
Karen L. Binder, Clerk of the Legislature, Recording

1. **Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.**
2. **Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Belfiglio to approve minutes from June 20, 2011. All in favor.**
3. **Departments/Agencies**

Bonnie Szpulecki, Insurance

She distributed copies of the General Municipal Law pertaining to the Insurance Reserve Fund - there are guidelines for the use of Reserve Fund money. She also distributed copies of the 1910 Balances as of July 18, 2011. Copies of both documents are attached.

Several committee members asked questions regarding the Reserve Fund and how the claims accounted for during the Budget process. Bonnie explained that budgeting for claims is rather difficult since claims are often unforeseen.

Legislator Rodriguez asked how the account would be built back up? Bonnie Szpulecki explained that no funds have been put into this account in a long time and the fund is built back up only by the interest that accumulates.

Insurance has a \$50,000. Deductible. Bonnie Szpulecki provided additional information about the workers' compensation, disability and self insurance fund.

There was no further discussion.

Resolution No. 171 - Appropriating Funds From The Liability and Casualty Reserve For Payment Of Various Judgments And Claims - Section 6-n, General Municipal Law - Amending The 2011 Ulster County Budget - Insurance

Legislator Belfiglio motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk to approve the resolution. All in favor (5 - 0).

4. Late Resolutions

Resolution - Climate Smart Community Pledge for the County of Ulster

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

Legislator Laura Petit explained the goals associated with the resolution - working on sustainability. This resolution incorporates previous resolutions into one and doesn't overlook issues that have been addressed such as: green cleaning, recycled paper and planning.

Legislator Belfiglio noted that he suggested the addition of item #11. He added that he received the email regarding LEED standards and did research the issue.

Legislator Rodriguez asked, "How does this help get grants?" Legislator Petit responded that Climate Smart is endorsed by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Legislator Rodriguez: "Call the question."

Resolution Approved: 4 - 1 (NOES: Legislator Roberts)

Resolution - Dissolving the Global Warming Committee and Creating A Climate Smart

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Belfiglio to move the resolution. All in favor.

There was a brief discussion regarding revamping the Global Warming Committee.

Legislator Rodriguez: "Call the question."

Resolution Approved: 4 - 1 (NOES: Legislator Roberts)

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Copies of the Monthly Treasurer's Report were distributed - see attached.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Board and their action on Flow Control. The RRA Board voted: 2 - 3.

The Special Committee which was formed to study the viability of the RRA has met only once according to several Legislators present. Legislator Belfiglio stated that Flow Control wasn't part of the discussion at that meeting.

Chairman Roberts mentioned several other options that might be considered i.e. a County-wide tax, privatizing or amendments to the proposed local law.

Members from both caucuses mentioned that there are Legislators who are not comfortable moving forward with Flow Control without the RRA Board endorsing it. Legislator Ronk stated that the Board didn't come to Committee to speak about Flow Control. Legislator Belfiglio noted his objection to the lobbying at the Informational Meeting and feels that Michael Cahill, Esq., didn't present the case very well. There was sufficient historical background given and all present agreed that the public should not have been allowed to participate in any manner during the Informational Meeting.

Legislator Rodriguez feels that we are at the mercy of large haulers and will now face another round of going back to the taxpayers for a Net Service Fee of \$1 million to \$1.8 million.

Legislator Ronk expressed that he has mixed feelings about Flow Control. The RRA was originally based on having Flow Control. They now have \$21 million in debt. He understands that the debt was incurred by closing the municipalities' landfills. He questions user fees versus taxes.

Legislator Rodriguez noted that the contracts are ending - having more haulers would be generate competition and would be growing business.

Legislator Madsen discussed the impact of the contract ending with the COK. He mentioned that the residents already step up and pay for trucks, employees, etc. associated with solid waste. He is concerned about user fees versus taxes for the COK.

Legislator Ronk discussed that substations in parts of the County might be useful since Shawangunk and Accord are so far away from the RRA - scales, etc. would have to be put in place.

Chairman Roberts stated, "I don't know if 'no' means the RRA Board couldn't reconsider Flow Control." There was discussion about the procedure that would have to be followed for the RRA Board to reconsider the issue. This would help the proposed local law gain support in the Legislature. Legislator Rodriguez offered that if the Board were to change their minds, they must do so within 30 days. The Committee agreed to have a Special Committee Meeting for discussion of the proposed local law and other viable options for the financial future of the RRA - the entire RRA Board will be invited and encouraged to attend and participate in this meeting. The Special Committee Meeting will be scheduled for Monday, August 8, 2011 at 6:00 PM at the RRA.

5. Other Business

There was discussion about the Assessment Report of the Ulster County Department of Information Services. A request was made to Deputy County Executive Robert Sudlow to have Sylvia Wohlfahrt, Director, UCDIS, to attend the next committee meeting.

Mr. Sudlow advised the Clerk of the Legislature that the request was being denied since the Assessment Report is considered operational. Several Committee members expressed that requests for Department Heads to appear at meetings in the past have been denied. IS has huge concerns with its location - building safety and of equal importance - back-up and disaster capabilities. Legislator Rodriguez offered to speak directly to the County Executive - the Committee agreed that this would be a good idea and asked Legislator Rodriguez to report back.

6. Motion to adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature