

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Labor Relations Committee

DATE: April 7, 2009

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Legislative Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Honorable Philip C. Terpening (Chair), Honorable Wayne Harris (Deputy Chair), Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson, Legislators Jon Decker (4:22 PM), Roy Hochberg and Richard Gerentine

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Maloney and Stoeckler

OTHERS ATTENDING: Brittany Turner (HVALF)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:11pm by Legislator Terpening.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to all committee members by Brittany Turner via e-mail. If anyone requires additional copies, they are available.

A motion was made by Legislator Hochberg, seconded by Legislator Donaldson, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Ayes 5, Noes 0, Absent 3 (Legislators Decker, Maloney and Stoeckler). Motion passed.

3. Home Improvement Contractor Licensing Workshop

Brittany Turner explained that the new working draft of the Home Improvement and Contractor Licensing will be made available via email prior to the May meeting. Brittany Turner and Jen Fuentes are working to merge the Westchester, Rockland and sample language drafts.

Legislator Terpening announced that once the Home Improvement and Contractor Licensing language is finalized, the committee will move on to Plumbing or Electrical Licensing.

4. Buy American Resolution

Legislator Terpening explained that the Buy American Resolution passed the Democratic caucus and will be on the agenda for the April legislative meeting on the consent agenda, although Legislator Rich Parete had legal concerns. Legislator Peter Loughran suggested that the resolution be expanded to include all purchasing, rather than purchasing associated with only stimulus money. This is already practiced with county vehicles but not all purchasing.

Legislator Hochberg added that the Transportation Committee is also exploring options to "Buy American" whenever possible. Legislator Loughran will probably propose an amendment on the floor to strengthen the resolution.

5. Ulster County Community Service Initiative Projects

Legislator Terpening raised the question of funding and suggested that Ulster County send out letters soliciting donations for materials. Brittany Turner will draft the letter and Legislator Donaldson will sign and mail the letter to Home Depot, Lowe's, Herzog's, Williams Lumber, Callanan's and others, especially for the Saugerties project.

Legislator Harris added the Women's Studio Workshop (WSW) to the list of projects. The WSW is a non-profit organization located in Rosendale. They need assistance with a few acres of land clearing so they can create a garden to grow plants used in papermaking. They intend to show the process of papermaking for educational purposes and currently purchase their papermaking supplies from elsewhere. They have also used community sponsored gardens in the past.

Brittany Turner will contact Anita Wetzel or Ann Kalmbach and schedule a date for John Nilsen (BSOIW 417) to evaluate the site for feasibility.

6. Additional Business

Legislator Terpening requested that James Malcolm (UBCJA 19), newly seated Industrial Development Agency labor representative, attend future meetings to provide the Labor Committee with updates on the IDA.

Legislator Decker suggested that the Building Trades look at the types of projects slated for stimulus funding to help ensure that they are done faster. Legislator Harris added that the timetable is rapid so there will be many projects.

Legislator Donaldson indicated that there will be a heavy emphasis on weatherization. Legislator Harris noted that the money is available but there are not enough customers or crews. Legislator Decker suggested using the list compiled for the Labor Days of Caring to identify potential projects. Legislator Harris pointed out that even the full list would not draw down the funding significantly.

Legislator Terpening explained that the funding will last for 2 to 2.5 years and that extra vehicles will be needed. There is also a large housing project slated to be built on the waterfront which was just voted on by the council. Legislator Donaldson added that Ulster County is currently completing 40 weatherizations per year but will be expected to complete 4 to 5 weatherizations per week (208 to 260 per year). Legislator Harris suggested that the possibility of contracting out weatherization and other projects also be explored.

7. Set Up Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 4:00pm. The meeting will be held on the 6th Floor of the County Office Building, located at 244 Fair St. in Kingston, NY.

8. Adjourn

A motion was made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Donaldson, to adjourn the meeting at 4:32pm. *Ayes 6, Noes 0, Absent 2 (Legislators Maloney and Stoeckler). Motion passed.*

*Respectfully submitted by
Brittany Turner*