

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Labor Relations and Negotiation Committee

DATE: August 13, 2008

TIME: 4:30 PM

PLACE: Administrative Conference Room, 6th Floor

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Honorable Philip C. Terpening (Co-Chair), Honorable David B. Donaldson (Co-Chair), Legislators Richard Gerentine, Wayne Harris, Peter Kraft and James Maloney

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Decker and Stoeckeler

OTHERS ATTENDING: Troy Ashdown (CSEA)
Jen Fuentes (HVALF)
Brittany Turner (HVALF)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 PM.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

3. Contractor Licensing Committee

A meeting was held and it was decided that the initial focus will be on construction, primarily general contractors. The goal is to have a vote on the law in October. It is being drawn up by Legislator Hector Rodriguez and will apply to major contractors. Later, the committee will focus on plumbers and electricians. There will be a breakfast meeting in the next month and Legislator Terpening will email the committee with this information.

4. Labor Day House Renovations Project/Ulster County Community Service Projects

The Labor Days of Caring project at the Christ Lutheran Church at 105 Center Street, Ellenville is scheduled for Saturday, August 16 at 8:00am. Volunteers are needed and there have been donations from ACE Hardware of Ellenville and Strober's Lumber. Callanan's has also donated for the project at 1105 Berne Road, High Falls. Legislator Donaldson will send a thank you letter to companies that donated materials.

The work on the Veterans' Cemetery is underway for Veteran's Day. John Nilsen is coordinating the effort with Legislator Harris. Legislator Susan Zimet will notify all Legion Posts. They are seeking \$10,000 in donations for the monument and cemetery. Union donations and donations from the Corrections Officers may also be available.

Brittany Turner will create a press release and distribute. Legislators Donaldson and Terpening will be additional contacts.

Legislator Donaldson will send thank you letters to vendors who donated materials.

5. Insurance Coverage and Waiver

Jen Fuentes explained that the HVALF policy will cover everyone.

Bea Havranek, First Assistant County Attorney, explained that it was important to emphasize that this is volunteer-driven, not county employee-driven. She will discuss it further with the HVALF Insurance Agency.

Bonnie Szpulecki, Ulster County Insurance, explained that an indemnification waiver must be signed by the property owners.

Ms. Havranek suggested that next year a legislative resolution be issued to serve as a contract. She agreed to edit Legislator Donaldson's email before it is distributed to the county-wide email list. She also suggested that the County of Ulster be added to the HVALF policy as an additional insured. She requested a copy of the certificate, once completed.

Ms. Szpulecki also requested a copy of the certificate and she will contact the HVALF Insurance Agency. It was later decided that the HVALF should contact the insurance company itself and that a copy of the certificate would not be needed.

Jen Fuentes will contact the HVALF Insurance Agency for an updated certificate.

Bea Havranek will review Legislator Donaldson's email before it is sent. She will also email a waiver to Brittany Turner.

6. HVALF Policy

See agenda item 5.

7. Additional Business

Jen Fuentes gave an update on the organizing campaign of Benedictine Hospital nurses. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has not ruled yet and it has been over 3 months. The timetable is generally 6 to 8 weeks.

Legislator Terpening suggested a resolution supporting the right of nurses to vote on a union and being allowed to decide for themselves. This could be on the County Legislature agenda in September if it is still an issue.

A motion was made by Legislator Terpening, seconded by Legislator Donaldson, to draft a resolution for September, if needed, affirming the right of nurses to vote on the union. Ayes 5. Motion approved.

Brittany Turner will email copies of sample letters to Tom Dee, sample letters to the editor, talking points, a list of Benedictine Hospital Board Members and information on the NLRB's Kentucky River decision.

8. Set Up Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 10 at 4:30 PM** on the 6th floor of the Ulster County Office Building, located at 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY.

9. Adjourn

No formal motion to adjourn while present. Executive Session began at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Brittany L. Turner