

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Labor Relations and Negotiation Committee

DATE: July 9, 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 Jon Decker, Richard Gerentine, Wayne Harris and James Maloney

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Kraft and Stoeckeler

OTHERS ATTENDING: Jen Fuentes (HVALF)
Joe Libonati (LIUNA)
John Nilsen (BSOIW and UHCLC)
Brittany Turner (HVALF)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:39pm.

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.

3. Contractor Licensing Committee

Legislator Terpening explained that Legislator Hector Rodriguez has not had a chance to schedule the meeting as he has taken a new job. While offered to be relieved of the committee responsibility, Legislator Rodriguez affirmed that the next meeting will be scheduled. Jen Fuentes called two weeks prior and offered to schedule the meeting for Legislator Rodriguez, but has not received a return call. Members of the committee will continue reminding Legislator Rodriguez to schedule the next meeting.

4. Ulster County Film Commission & Festival

Jen Fuentes explained that a Film Festival simply isn't an option for 2008, but will continue to be explored for 2009.

5. Letter to State Senators and Assemblymembers for Funding

Legislator Donaldson explained that he received positive responses from the elected officials solicited for line items and other funding. Unfortunately, the budget will not allow for this type of support in 2008 but it is definitely an option for 2009. Funding will be determined for February 1, 2009, since line items no longer have a rolling policy. Once the projects for 2008 are completed, the committee will have a better sense of how much funding to request.

Jen Fuentes added that up to \$10,000.00 is available through the Workforce Development Institute, contingent on the filing of an application and the use of the project as a training program.

Decisions on all projects will be made at the July meeting.

6. Labor Day House Renovation Projects/Ulster County Community Service Initiative Projects

John Nilsen and Jen Fuentes reported on the projects they visited and provided photos to the committee.

They visited 4 locations and only one was found unsuitable. The projects recommended included 37 Old Patch Rd. in Saugerties (ramp), 1105 Berme Rd. in High Falls (step and walkway grade) and the Christ Lutheran Church in Ellenville (ramp repairs, gutter repairs, exterior paint).

Legislator Jim Maloney, Ms. Fuentes and Brittany Turner also drove in downtown Kingston in an attempt to identify a number of projects situated in the same neighborhood. Four locations were recommended. Unfortunately, Legislator Maloney checked the records and none of the locations were owner-occupied homes and therefore ineligible for consideration.

The final recommendations, in order of priority, are:

- 1) 1105 Berme Rd., High Falls
- 2) Christ Lutheran Church, Ellenville
- 3) 37 Old Patch Rd., Saugerties

If time permits, other projects can be considered.

Legislator Rich Gerentine raised the question of insurance for volunteers and property owners in order to minimize liability. Legislator Phil Terpening would contact Bonnie in order to determine any insurance issues. Ms. Fuentes would look into the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation (HVALF) policy to ensure coverage for volunteers. In addition, Bea will draft a waiver. The issue of separation of church and state was also raised with regard to the Ellenville project.

Mr. Nilsen requested that Veteran's projects be given first priority in 2009.

Project dates will be scheduled at the Upper Hudson Central Labor Council (UHCLC) meeting on July 28.

Volunteers and materials will be solicited by the HVALF and UHCLC. Volunteers will include both elected officials and labor representatives.

- *Brittany Turner will disseminate dates when final via e-mail and/or telephone.*
- *Legislator Terpening will contact the attorneys in order to draft a waiver and look into any insurance issues.*
- *Jen Fuentes will look into the HVALF policy.*

7. Additional Business

John O'Connor, a representative from the New York State Nurses' Association (NYSNA) gave an update on the organizing campaign at Benedictine Hospital. The hospital administration has filed a number of objections with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in an attempt to stall the vote. Legislators were asked for support in the ongoing campaign.

LIUNA 108 is holding a rally at Waste Management in Kingston. The committee, and full legislature, were given flyers and invited to attend.

8. Set Up Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on ***Wednesday, August 13 at 4:30pm*** on the 6th floor of the Ulster County Office Building, located at 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY.

9. Adjourn *No formal motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.*

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Turner