

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Labor Relations and Negotiation Committee

**DATE:** October 7, 2008

**TIME:** 4:30 PM

**PLACE:** Administrative Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

**LEGISLATORS ABSENT:** Legislators Decker, Kraft and Stoeckeler

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** John Nilsen (BSOIW and UHCLC)  
Jen Fuentes (HVALF)  
Brittany Turner (HVALF)  
Jessica Damrath (HVALF)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:37pm.

**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 discussed the conversation he had with Legislator Hector Rodriguez, who went to the Association of Towns and Supervisors meeting and presented to finished product. Legislator Terpening felt that Legislator Rodriguez was holding off a vote on it until after the election. Legislator Rodriguez wishes to bring it to the Association of Towns and Supervisors again, but with changes that no one from this committee has had a chance to review. Legislator Harris said that the proposal should come back to this committee for review.

**4. Heterosexual Domestic Partner Health Insurance**

Legislator Terpening explained that information has come back from five counties (one of which only has one couple) on who extends domestic partner health insurance and it is between 1 and 3%. Almost all other counties do not distinguish between heterosexual and homosexual domestic partners. This health insurance is estimated to cost about \$78,000 to the County. Legislator Terpening will support this bill, but is not optimistic about its passage.

**5. Ulster County Community Service Initiative Projects**

Legislator Terpening explained that the ramp project for 37 Old Patch Rd. in Saugerties may have to wait until next year due to low funding for materials and inability to procure volunteers around election season.

John Nilsen reported on the Veteran's project. The total cost of the stone will be \$4,150. Mr. Nilsen's American Legion post has donated \$3,000 to the project. He and Legislators Harris and Maloney discussed

the placement of the walkway and decided on four entry ways from each side of the stone. Legislator Maloney suggested hedges rather than fences to surround the memorial. Legislator Harris informed the committee that the stone would be installed this week or next in time for Veteran's Day when the memorial is set to debut.

Legislators Terpening and Gerentine discussed placing an ad for the event or sending out a press release. *Legislator Harris will contact those who are doing to instillation to make sure it's done in time for Veteran's Day.*

*Brittany Turner will put the event in an upcoming Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation (HVALF) newsletter.*

#### **6. Benedictine Hospital Vote on Nurses Union**

Legislator Terpening reports that Benedictine Hospital got an injunction to stop the votes from being counted. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has not made a decision yet regarding this matter. The committee discussed a proposed second letter to the NLRB indicating their support of the New York State Nurses' Association (NYSNA) in light of these recent events.

*A motion was made by Legislator Terpening, seconded by Legislator Harris, to authorize the delivery of a second letter to the NLRB. Ayes (all). Motion approved.*

#### **7. Additional Business**

Brittany Turner reported on the Dutchess County Legislature Democratic Caucus meeting in which she and John Nilsen proposed a Labor Relations Committee in their legislature. Ms. Turner explained that the Dutchess County Legislature might reach out to this committee for more information.

Brittany Turner also reported on the October 1<sup>st</sup> New Paltz Board of Education meeting.

At a previous meeting, School Board members Patrick Rausch, Laura Walls, Rod Dressell and David Dukler objected to the Davis-Bacon protections, which require prevailing wage on public works projects, included in the Green High Performing Schools bill. The Green High Performing Schools bill would provide grant opportunities to school districts in order to encourage environmentally sound construction and fair labor practices, and was sponsored by Congressman Maurice Hinchey in the US Congress. The School Board is continuing its attempt to overturn these specific guidelines within the grant.

Legislator Harris proposed drafting a letter of support for these Davis-Bacon provisions from the Ulster County School Board. Ms. Turner also proposed setting up a forum to educate local school boards on labor practices and protections.

#### **8. Set Up Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on *Wednesday, November 12, 2008 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. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm.*

JD/jd