

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Labor Relations and Negotiation Committee

DATE: September 10, 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, and James Maloney

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators Decker, Kraft and Stoeckeler

OTHERS ATTENDING: Jen Fuentes (HVALF)
Brittany Turner (HVALF)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 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

There was no meeting for the Contractor Licensing Sub-Committee since there was no meeting of the board of Supervisors. Joe Libonati and Jen Fuentes have both left messages for Legislator Hector Rodriguez. Legislator Rodriguez has indicated that the draft is finished and he is waiting for the Board of Supervisors to review it before making changes and presenting it to the Sub-Committee.

Legislator Terpening will ask about the draft and meetings at the Ulster County Legislature meeting.

Legislator Donaldson will send a formal letter requesting a copy of the draft and next meeting.

4. Heterosexual Domestic Partner Health Insurance

Legislator Frank Dart proposed this legislation in the Personnel Committee and it is on the agenda for the Ulster County Legislature meeting on September 10, 2008.

The sub-committee is chaired by Legislator Terpening. The legislation will be referred back to committee to determine the cost and information on counties currently extending domestic partner health insurance to heterosexual couples. The current insurance plan has been extended to same-sex domestic partners and only seven individuals are participating. There is a problem for many individuals due to tax requirements of participating in the health plan. The existing program is far below the cost estimated when originally offered.

Jen Fuentes explained that Ferncliff makes no distinction between same-sex and heterosexual domestic partners. This is the preference of the committee.

5. 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 occurred on Saturday, August 16. There were over 30 volunteers, including Legislators Donaldson, Harris and Terpening. Donations were received from ACE Hardware of Ellenville, the Hudson Valley Area Labor Federation and Strober's Lumber. The project at 1105 Berme Road in High Falls still needs to be scheduled, due to the cancellation from weather.

Legislator Harris gave an update on the Veteran's cemetery in New Paltz. The monument is 5' x 30" x 8". It is light gray Bari Granite and will have six insignias of the military including the merchant marines and two flags in the center. The installation is pending the completion of the surveyor's work and foundation, which will be done by Widener Memorial. A \$2,500.00 donation was received from the New Paltz Veteran's of Foreign Wars. The total cost of the monument will be \$4,100.00 and checks can be made out to the New Paltz Rural Cemetery with "Veteran's Cemetery" on the Memo line. This portion will be completed by Veteran's Day; additional work, such as lighting, flag poles, walkways, plantings and benches can be done once the center monument has been installed. Ulster County has allocated \$10,000 for 20 graves in 2008. Terry Brightenstein is writing a letter to all Legion posts and VFWs over the coming weeks. A sub-committee meeting is upcoming.

John Nilsen has compiled photos of various Veterans parks, including Putnam, Rockland, and Legion Posts for layout ideas. He has never received a funding solicitation or notification from Legislator Susan Zimet. He will meet with Legislator Maloney to show the Rosendale Legion Post.

5. Insurance Coverage and Waiver

There were no problems with the insurance. Next year, the projects will be done in conjunction with a legislative resolution and the issue can be revisited, if necessary.

7. Additional Business

There was no need for the resolution affirming the right of nurses to vote on the union, as the date was scheduled for September 18, 2008. However, a letter requesting Tom Dee, CEO of Benedictine Hospital, to withdraw the challenges and accept the will of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) was desirable. Dee's current challenge is that both Benedictine and Kingston nurses must explore union membership concurrently, as the two hospitals are merged. However, the hospitals are not technically merged until the completion of the Foxhall Ambulatory Surgery Center.

A motion was made by Legislator Harris, seconded by Legislator Maloney, to send a letter to Tom Dee, CEO of Benedictine Hospital, requesting a withdrawal of any challenges and an adherence to the decisions of the nurses and NLRB. Ayes 5. Motion approved.

Brittany Turner will email copies of sample Congressman Hinchey's letter to Tom Dee and a draft letter from the Ulster County Legislature.

8. Set Up Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 14 at 4:30pm** on the 6th floor of the Ulster County Office Building, located at 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by Legislator Maloney, seconded by Legislator Harris, to adjourn at 5:25pm. Ayes 5. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted
Brittany L. Turner