

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON  
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS, EDUCATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES, HELD IN THE LIBRARY  
CONFERENCE ROOM, ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING, KINGSTON, NEW YORK, ON  
THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2011.

---

PRESENT:

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman  
DAVID B. DONALDSON, Deputy Chairman  
CARL BELFIGLIO  
DONALD J. GREGORIUS  
CATHERINE TERRIZZI  
JACK HAYES  
MICHAEL MADSEN

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
JOHN MILLER, Coordinator, Ulster County Stop DWI  
GARY CAPELLA, Executive Director, U.C. Soil & Water Conservation District  
VICTOR MELVILLE, League of Women Voters  
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder, Adm. Assistant, SUNY, UCCC

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 5:02pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of this committee of June 7, 2011 and the minutes of the joint meeting of this committee and the Budget & Finance committee of June 14, 2011. Such a motion was made by Leg. Madsen and seconded by Leg. Gregorius and upon Chairman Harris asking for a voice vote the resolution to approve the minutes of both meetings as aforesaid was unanimously approved.

Home Delivered Meals Subcommittee Report:

At this time Chairman Harris asked for a status report from Leg. Terrizzi as Chair of the Subcommittee on Home Delivered Meals. Leg. Terrizzi said it was her understanding that the bid process was going to begin in August and she was waiting for preliminary bids to be drawn up. Chairman Harris said this committee should be involved before that and Leg. Terrizzi agreed and said we want to see what is in the contract and don't want to be left out of the loop but thought we should let the process begin and review the contract.

There was discussion as to the amount of input the legislature should have in the contract and bid process. Leg. Donaldson said as a legislature we direct policy and it is up to the departments to carry out that policy. Leg. Terrizzi said that is a stumbling block and she will have to get some clarification as to how much input we can have. Leg. Gregorius said we should review the contract before it is signed as we have had problems with other contracts in the past. This means we should see it before it gets sent out he said, and this way everyone is on the same page and we don't have to start the process all over again. Leg. Gregorius said we should get a sense of what we want to do and what we think is important.

## Minutes

July 5, 2011

Page 2

Chairman Harris suggested a subcommittee meeting with Mr. Sudlow of the Executive's Office before our next meeting to try and determine how much we can be involved. Leg. Hayes suggested a resolution might be in order as to what we are looking for. Leg. Gregorius did not think a resolution was the way to go at this time. He reminded everyone that there is federal money involved in this program also. Chairman Harris was also not sure about a resolution but he would also like Leg. Terrizzi to look into the possibility of giving credits or some kind of preference to local vendors. Leg. Belfiglio said that last year when the tourism contract went to an Orange County firm he looked into it. At that time it seemed it would have had to almost be a local purchasing law, and would be something a whole committee would have to take on and write. Leg. Terrizzi said she would like to see it as county policy if possible. Leg. Gregorius said its worthwhile working with the County Executive's Office on the bid process so there will be a common understanding before anything goes out.

Leg. Donaldson said when we offer our Meals on Wheels Program, we have the ability to say the types of meals we want, etc., through resolution which would be policy. However, he said, our big problem is the proposed use of frozen meals which cuts back on personal contact with many of the seniors as the drivers also check on the seniors. Chairman Harris said they have been delivering meals five days a week and there should be some kind of compromise. Leg. Gregorius said the people who look in on the seniors are usually home on the weekends so we are talking about weekdays. Leg. Terrizzi said we have to make sure that the things we believe are important are in the bid before it goes out.

After a brief discussion it was decided that a meeting of the home delivered meals subcommittee would be held next Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at 4pm before the 6pm Ways & Means committee meeting and that the Executive's Office would be asked to attend as well as a representative from the Office for the Aging and any other Legislators who were interested..

The report of the Home Delivered Meals Subcommittee being concluded, Chairman Harris introduced John Miller, Coordinator of the Ulster County Stop DWI Program.

### Ulster County Stop DWI Program:

Mr. Miller gave a brief synopsis of the Stop DWI Program. He said the office of Coordinator allows the state to funnel DWI fine money back into the county. Originally the DWI Task Force consisted of paying for overtime for full-time police officers or for part-time police officers. In 2010 the Task Force logged 2803 hours of patrol which included sobriety check points. He said 50% of the arrests for DWI come from the southern end of the county.

Mr. Miller said the program is overseen by the DWI Advisory Board which is responsible for making the allocation of funds. There are other matters and programs in addition to patrols, and in order to fund a new program we have to not fund something else. One of the new ones is the interlock ignition device which Stop DWI is charged with monitoring along with the Probation Dept. He also advised his office buys some equipment for the police, such as Alkasensors; however, the federal government buys the breathalyzers. The state pays the county \$114 for each interlock device that is installed and this reimbursement is split between DWI and Probation.

Minutes

July 5, 2011

Page 3

On funding, Leg. Donaldson asked if the entire DWI budget comes from fines. Mr. Miller said most of it does although there is some funding from grants and allocations from the county such as for the after-prom programs. He said if DWI's funding gets cut that would cut what he was able to fund, such as a part-time Assistant District Attorney. He said any left-over money go into a dedicated fund for public service announcements and for drunken driving education in the classrooms.

Mr. Miller had the following statistics for 2010:

- 1) DWI Task Force Funded Police there were 25 DWAI, 11 zero tolerance, 106 aggravated DWI, 344 DWI, 57 DWAI/drugs, 39 refusals and 346 aggravated unlicensed operations.
- 2) Unfunded Agencies there was 1 DWAI, 0 zero tolerance, 4 aggravated DWI, 20 DWI, 6 DWAI/drugs, 1 refusal and 15 aggravated unlicensed operations.
- 3) New York State Police there were 91 DWAI, 11 zero tolerance, 124 aggravated DWI, 671 DWI, 176 DWAI/drugs, 18 refusals and 52 aggravated unlicensed operations.

The total statistics for 2010 were 117 DWAI, 22 zero tolerances, 234 aggravated DWI, 1035 DWI, 176 DWI/drugs, 58 refusals and 413 aggravated unlicensed operations.

A discussion ensued as to the costs involved and who shares in payment. Mr. Miller said New York State requires the offender to pay \$75-\$80 for installation of the interlock ignition device, an additional amount to monitor, and more costs for removal. This applies for those who can pay. For those who cannot pay the cost is 10% upon proof of need. He said sometimes there are even cameras installed so people can't have someone operate the interlock device for them. In a discussion as to how vendors were determined, Mr. Miller said offenders are given a list of vendors in and out of the area and it is their choice; he does not make any recommendations. He did say that when they first started using cameras there was only one vendor but now most of the vendors have them. Leg. Belfiglio wanted to know how much money the interlock device brought in but Mr. Miller said they did not have any figures as it was too early in the program.

Leg. Gregorius asked who selects the full-time and/or part time employees of the Sheriff's Department or police departments who will work on the Task Force, and if this committee should be looking at how these funds are disbursed. He said there is a lot of money and overtime floating around and would like to know how it is allocated so everyone gets their fair share. Leg. Donaldson said as far as the police and sheriff's departments, he knows all of the assignments are done in-house in each department and seniority is a factor. He said not everyone wants to do this and he thinks it is pretty much a volunteer thing. In any event, most of the agencies are fully unionized and they keep strict track of it.

Leg. Hayes said there is a problem of veterans coming back from Iraq getting DWIs and asked if Mr. Miller had received an invitation to meet with the VA representative. Mr. Miller said he

## Minutes

July 5, 2011

Page 4

had met with a VA representative, and they are looking for us to create a "Veteran's Court". We have not yet been able to meet with some of the other veterans' groups here. Leg. Hayes said Pamela Wanning of the traffic safety program at UCCC is interested in this program, as are some of the area judges. Leg. Hayes said he would look into this further and would follow up on it.

Leg. Terrizzi was concerned about young people and said she doesn't believe these kids are consciously going out and drinking and driving. Mr. Miller said he and his staff are going out and visiting area high schools as much as possible talking about making good choices. We try to book a full day each year in each county high school. He said the schools like what we do; however, trying to carve the time out in each school is a real challenge for the schools.

The report of Ulster County Stop DWI being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

### Cornell Cooperative Extension

Ms. Reidy distributed the spring 2011 edition of Cooperative Extension's "Legislative Update" and referred the committee to that for a complete overview of most of the items currently in progress and planned by her department.

Ms. Reidy informed the committee that Cooperative Extension had received a large grant for Building Sustainable Agriculture from the New World Foundation in the Rondout Valley area. We are talking about a model farm and value added products with an emphasis on organics. The grant is for over \$1 million spread over three years. They are particularly interested in working with us because Ulster County supports agriculture and they wanted to make sure there would be continued county support. She said they would be getting started on that program very shortly. She also said they would be able to tie that program into the Eastern New York Horticulture, a program that Cornell and other universities have that continue to do research in agriculture. These programs run from Long Island up to Clinton County. The Hudson Valley Laboratory will be a part of both programs and there will be a big emphasis on Integrated Pest Management. She said there is going to be a lot of use of smart phones and iPads because there is so much distance between localities. They have been doing some specific hiring for this program and hope to have everything in place and ready to go by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Leg. Terrizzi asked if New World Foundation was a United States company and Ms. Reidy said she believed it was a part of the McCormack family. She said there are a lot of activists on the Board. She said New World also made a trip to Cornell University and met with the Dean. She said they will be cooperating with the university on research because that seems to be where the biggest need is going to be in the future. It is Cooperative Extension's job to get that information out.

Chairman Harris asked if Ms. Reidy knew anything about the prison farms that had closed and if anything was being done about it. Ms. Reidy said she believed the prisons were all

Minutes

July 5, 2011

Page 5

losing money on their farm operations. She said the problem with prison people is that prisons are all they know. They really don't know anything about agriculture.

She reminded everyone that the Ulster County Fair was coming up from August 2-7 with the Opening Ceremonies being held on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00pm. Invitations had been placed in all Legislators' mailboxes.

Ms. Reidy said she was also thinking about getting together another Agricultural Tour in September or October depending if she could fit it in. She is currently filling in as a part time Director for Sullivan County Cooperative Extension. She said Sullivan County had advertised three times in two and one-half years and recently another person accepted the job and then just turned it down. She will be working with them briefly to try and get them caught up. She said her Board of Directors has approved it. Leg. Hayes asked if Cooperative Extension was having a program for veterans at the Ulster County Fair. Ms. Reidy said she would check into it, but she did not think it would be ready for this year.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Gary Capella, Executive Director, Soil and Water Conservation District.

#### Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District

Mr. Capella said the Soil and Water Conservation District was formed forty-six years ago and was created by County Resolution to monitor water quality, and to protect the streams and natural resources of the County. He has been the Director for the past eighteen years and he reports to the Government Services and Environmental Committee. This is a field-oriented hands-on agency he said, with a main office at Route 299 in Highland and another office on Route 28 in Phoenicia which they share with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

He said the District consists of nearly 1,146 acres of wetlands, habitat and buffer area and assists municipalities and landowners with stream bank stabilization efforts and flood mitigation assistance. He said the District responds to requests for site assessments, runoff data, and recommendations for erosion and sediment control. He also discussed projects such as the riparian buffer system at the New Paltz Community Gardens, the County Salt and Sand barn in the Town of New Paltz and the project at the former Galeville Airport.

Regarding the Galeville Airport project he said the project should be completed by November. It went to full construction last week. Mr. Capella said this is a Ducks Unlimited project and they are responsible for financing the job and making sure the job is done correctly. Leg. Terrizzi said this project has been a mess from the start and the people in her district are very upset with the condition of the property. Mr. Capella said there was a lack of communication between Ducks Unlimited and the Department of Environmental Conservation leading to a lot of the problems. He said his agency was not involved in the project originally and now has been trying to help get the present situation corrected.

Mr. Capella presented his 2012 proposed budget which had been approved by his Board of Directors at their recent meeting. His total budget is \$283,324 and he is requesting

Minutes

July 5, 2011

Page 6

\$135,824 from the County. He said his current allocation was \$76,500 after last years' cut in funding. He is requesting the additional amount in order to add staff including a proposed Technician with a salary and benefit package of \$51,020. He said additional staff is necessary due to increased contract demand, to reduce response time and is essential for the agricultural workload, among other things. He also said he expects no major changes to his expenses as proposed except possibly for fuel which fluctuates.

The report of Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District being concluded, Chairman Harris advised Mr. Capella that the Legislature Clerk's Office would be sending out the proper forms for the submission of his proposed budget.

Other Business:

Chairman Harris advised the committee that the Arts Council would be holding a reception on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> to distribute grant awards. He will have more details by the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of this committee.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Hayes and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi, and Chairman Harris declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:39pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder