

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Public Works & Capital Projects Committee  
**DATE:** March 1, 2010  
**TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**PLACE:** Legislative Chambers, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
County Office Building

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman Dean Fabiano, Deputy Chairman Peter Loughran, Legislators Frank Felicello, Roy Hochberg, James Maloney, Jeanette Provenzano, Kevin Roberts

**LEGISLATORS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Chairman Wadnola, Legislator Belfiglio, Deputy County Executive Robert Sudlow, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Sue Ronga (Finance), Deputy Commissioner of Public Works David Bolles (Administrative), Lee Cane (LWV), Steve Peruso & Jack McGarril (Representing the Ulster County Highway Employees), Ulster County Highway Employees

---

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 7:00 PM**

Chairman Fabiano thanked Deputy County Executive Robert Sudlow, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Sue Ronga, and Deputy Commissioner of Public Works David Bolles for their attendance and for their representation of the County Executive's Office.

**APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2010 MINUTES:** The Committee unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Resolution Draft No. 0303, March 16, 2010** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Lease Agreement With Tivoli Management Corporation For The Department Of Health Satellite Office In Highland - Department Of Public Works

Motion offered by Legislator Felicello, Seconded by Legislator Maloney, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: None

2. **Resolution Draft No. 0304, March 16, 2010** - Establishing Capital Project No. 334 For Preliminary Design And Environmental Review For The Rail Trail Connector Link From City Of Kingston To Town Of Hurley - Amending the 2010 Ulster County Capital Project Fund

**Note: This Resolution Requires A Bond Resolution.  
(Coincides with the above Resolution)**

Motion offered by Legislator Provenzano, Seconded by Legislator Felicello, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: None

**Draft No. 0322** - Authorizing The Preliminary Design For The Rail Trail Connector Link From City Of Kingston To Town Of Hurley, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$140,000.00 And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$140,000.00 Bond Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Motion offered by Legislator Felicello, Seconded by Legislator Maloney, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: None

3. **Resolution Draft No. 0310, March 16, 2010** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature to Execute A Lease Agreement With Wallkill Body Shop And Glass, Inc. For A Substation of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office

Motion offered by Legislator Felicello, Seconded by Legislator Maloney, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: None

4. **Resolution Draft No. 0318, March 16, 2010** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With Kemp Properties For The Department Of Health Satellite Office In Saugerties

**Contingent on a response from the Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Sue Ronga as to the amount of square feet of space in relation to the Kemp Properties Lease.**

Motion offered by Legislator Felicello, Seconded by Legislator Loughran, All in Favor, Carried.

**In Response, dated March 2, 2010, the following information was obtained for the record:**

- Landlord has always been very responsive.
  - There were roof leaks a couple of years ago, but the landlord took care of that quickly and replaced the roof system.
  - The lease is 1,575 sq. ft. @\$11/sq ft for a total of \$17,325 per year.
  - This is a 5 year lease with a 90 day escape clause.
  - The rate is holding @ \$11.00 SF, the same as the last 2 years of the expiring lease with no escalator for the 5 years of this new agreement.
  - The landlord pays the taxes and maintenance cost including maintenance for heat and electric. We pay utilities.
5. **Resolution Draft No. 0319, March 16, 2010** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With The Town Of Wawarsing For A Substation Of The Ulster County Sheriff's Office

Motion offered by Legislator Felicello, Seconded by Legislator Maloney, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: None

6. **Resolution Draft No. 0321, March 16, 2010** - In Support Of Posted Speed Limit On County Road 49A At Belleayre Mountain Ski Center, Town Of Shandaken, Ulster County, New York

Motion offered by Legislator Felicello, Seconded by Chairman Fabiano, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: Legislator Hochberg asked that from a Home Rule aspect and due to past experiences with issues concerning the area around the Belleayre Ski Center, that the District No. 2 Legislators (Brian Shapiro & Don Gregorius) be kept informed with any information concerning Belleayre and the surrounding area.

**NEW BUSINESS: (2 items)**

**1) Shared Services / Highway Department**

Steve Peruso spoke on behalf of himself and the DPW employees, who were well in attendance at the meeting. A review of Mr. Peruso's concerns is as follows:

- Communications are lacking as to the duties between Buildings & Grounds and Highways & Bridges.
- Rumors are that B&G are going to take over the plowing of parking lots, lots that have always been maintained by H&B.
- H&B guys are showing up to do their lots and B&G guys have already plowed them. Last week Steve stated that he salted up at Golden Hill and as he was leaving, B&G plowed and plowed up all the salt that he had just put down. This is not cost effective.

Mr. Sudlow: H&B is a singular entity; B&G is responsible for the buildings, sidewalks, lawns, and the grounds. To maximize our efforts on County roads, we are going to transition B&G into plowing or snow blowing the smaller parking lots. This plan has not yet been fully implemented.

- Is this going to hurt guys that are doing it now? Some guys signed up for bigger trucks and were asked to stay with what they are currently doing, so now guys with less seniority have filled those jobs. If we start getting bumped out of parking lots will we be offered those jobs?

Mr. Sudlow: Yes, and he addressed the issue on communication. Both Deputy Commissioners of Public Works Sue Ronga and David Bolles have been meeting on a regular basis with the rest of the management team. He explained that communication has to start at the top, but your concerns are that it is not filtering down. What they are trying to avoid is having three distinct entities being under one roof, the concept is one entity under one roof.

- Agreed with the concept, as long as there is communication.

Legislator Felicello: Stated that as a member and past Chairman of this Committee for the past twenty years, it was a struggle as to which territory would be H&B and B&G, and after much deliberation and a lot of hard work it was decided that the Highway would take care of the plowing of most parking lots, he addressed Steve Peruso, that he understands his concern, he then addressed Mr. Sudlow that he feels that it is still two different entities. He stated are we now going back to B&G to plowing the parking lots?

Mr. Sulow: Yes

Legislator Felicello: He stated that he would like to see the figures that would show that this is cost effective. What savings are we giving our constituents in Ulster County by making this change? Until he sees the figures, he is not in favor of the change.

Legislator Provenzano: Stated that what she is hearing here today is that there is not an argument about the changes it is that they were not informed of the changes. Communications are very important, you have to show respect to the employees that have been with the County for such a long time. She asked if this is Commissioner Sheeley's responsibility.

Chairman Fabiano: Stated that when he approached the County Executive about this issue, about the employees concerns, that there was no communication from Mr. Sheeley, the County Executive's reply was that Mr. Sheeley does not have to communicate with this group because Mr. Sheeley is not their boss, that Mr. Kouhout (H&B Field Operations Manager) is their boss. What is the order of succession?

Mr. Sudlow: Reassured everyone that the communication issue will be addressed and clarification will be made.

Jack McGarril from the Highway Department had the following concerns:

- Job descriptions are specific, are they being crossed?
- Would also like to see better communication from management.

Chairman Fabiano: Stated that during the Shared Services Implementation Committee meetings that he has stressed the fact that the contracts, until they expire, need to be referred to. This problem is going to continue to come up unless the contracts are renegotiated.

Legislator Loughran: You cannot violate past practice.

Jack Becker from the Highway Department had the following concerns:

- As employees, we all read the paper and are well aware what is going on.
- Employees are walking on egg shells.
- Is concerned that this is only the start of it.
- Stated that the employees feel unappreciated.

Chairman Fabiano: Reassured the employees of the Highway Department that as of tomorrow he will look into the communication issue and what the order of succession is. All your questions and concerns will be addressed.

David Bolles: Stated that Mr. Sudlow, Sue Ronga, and he are trying to manage this and foremost in their minds is taking care of the people at PWD. Management is trying to make the changes as easy as possible on everyone and is only in the beginning of the planning stages at this point.

Sue Ronga: Stated that she, Mr. Bolles, Brian Cunningham, Mr. Sheeley, Mr. Kouhout, and Mr. Pines have just started to meet weekly and that she will take back all their concerns to the next meeting so they can be addressed.

Mr. Sudlow: Stated to everyone that he has an open door to anyone that wants to come in and meet with him, he is completely flexible for time and will work around all of your schedules. He added that both Sue Ronga and David Bolles are at DPW for the purpose of reorganizing DPW.

Jack McGarril:

- Attended the Pattern for Progress breakfast and all he heard was privatize, privatize, privatize.
- He feels that it is only a matter of time before they are all out of jobs.
- Need to work out a grid system, it can be done, and it can work.
- He feels the door to management has been closed.
- He suggested that the employees get the chance to sit down with the Highway Superintendents, not management; show them a grid system that they have prepared and that could save the tax payers money.
- Urged everyone to look at the grid system before they start to contract out. He feels that they are already sharing services with the Towns.

Legislator Felicello: Stated that he is sure that sharing services would be cost effective. There would be a savings to the constituents, a savings to the County, and a savings to the Towns, if it is done correctly. But it does not mean that people are going to necessarily lose their jobs. That is not where they are looking to make the savings. He reiterated how important open communication is. He addressed Jack McGarril and said that he should make a grid system and that he should bring his proposal to management for them to look at.

In closing, Chairman Fabiano thanked all the Highway employees for coming and sharing their concerns with the Committee. He also thanked them for all of their hard work and efforts. He also thanked Mr. Sudlow, David Bolles and Sue Ronga for coming and addressing the Highway employees' questions and asked that the lines of communication stay open with regards to their concerns.

## **2) Incident/Werner Property**

Chairman Fabiano received a letter and several phone calls from Dietrich Werner's widow in regards to property damage to the Werner property. It is his understanding that the damage to the property will be taken care of. The question that still remains to be answered and Chairman Fabiano did not have an answer to, is who in fact did Dietrich speak with first, to have the boxes picked up at their home and second, after Mr. Werner's passing on that day who gave the order to have the trucks come back to pick up the boxes? Chairman Fabiano spoke with Mr. Sheeley and Mr. Kouhout and both stated that the order was given from the Attorney General's Office. Chairman Fabiano stated that this is the answer he would forward to Mrs. Werner.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Sue Ronga gave an update as to the direction that the Department of Public Works is going and the changes that are being made administratively. There are many cases of duplication of services and that is where many of the changes are being made.

Chairman Fabiano asked the Legislative office to distribute to the Committee, copies of all the Minutes from the Shared Services Implementation Committee (distribution of Minutes was completed the following day). Mr. Sudlow gave a brief timeline, by May/commitments from Towns, by August/contracts in place, by next snow season/start implementing shared services.

### **Motion to adjourn @ 8:13 PM**

Motion offered by Legislator Loughran, Seconded by Legislator Maloney, All in Favor, Carried.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Wilson, Senior Legislative Employee**