

# **ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee

DATE: August 13, 2008

TIME: 4:45 PM

PLACE: Library/Conference Room B  
Ulster County Office Building  
244 Fair Street - 6th Floor  
Kingston, New York

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman A. Lomita and Legislators B. Cahill,  
D. Gregorius, J. Provenzano, S. Cummings,  
R. Gerentine(arrived 5:10 PM) and G. Noonan

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: F. Dart, S. Zimet

OTHERS ATTENDING: County Administrator M. Hein; Deputy County  
Administrator A. Smith; Deputy County  
Administrator S. Ronga; Deputy County  
Administrator M. Dellay; Sr. Management  
Analyst F. Fawcett; County Attorney Josh  
Koplovitz

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I) **PENDING PROPERTY LITIGATION**

Motion to open for discussion offered by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.

Committee Chairman Alan Lomita called for an Executive Session at 4:45 PM at the request of County Attorney Josh Koplovitz. The session discussed legal and other issues pertaining to an issue of property litigation. The Executive Session ended at 5:05 PM.

II) **FISCAL UPDATE**

County Administrator Mike Hein addressed the Committee to update the members on the current state of the fiscal situation in the State as it relates to Ulster County. The one billion dollar budget cut called for by the Governor results in at least a \$250 million cost shift to the counties and affects programs such as DSS Early Intervention and Foster Care, Probation and others. In addition, there are major cuts promised for Golden Hill Health Care Center and U.C.C.C.

Legislator Noonan – This is an unfair burden to the counties, the State should cut their own waste first.

Legislator Cummings – NYSAC conferences coming up, we have to join together in one voice to tell State this is not a cost shift, we cannot cut the budget around it.

Administrator Hein – I am now a member of the NYSAC Board of Directors and have immediate input.

Legislator Provenzano – When we know the State is cutting a specific program we have to be sure to not go beyond the mandate. Cuts could be done there.

Legislator Gregorius – When State requires us to provide services and they cut our funding – aren't they mandated to provide support for these services?

Administrator Hein – The Counties receive all of their authority through the State. We are an administrative arm of the State. They have no responsibility beyond that.

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Legislator Noonan – Since we have a hiring freeze, why do I see advertisements for positions?

Legislator Gregorius – DSS is always trying to find SWE's which are federally funded. This is a disaster waiting to happen. Starting January we have to hire temps to image every document. Is this an "essential" position? It is mandated but obviously an unskilled job.

Legislator Provenzano – Any State Aid involved?

Legislator Gregorius – Supposed to be 100% Federal.

### III) **PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

Legislator Cahill – On Resolution #264 – Thought the names for Election Commissioners were submitted to the County Clerk – but informed it goes to The Chairman.

### IV) **MISCELLANEOUS**

Copies of backup for Resolution #237 and Fiscal update were distributed to all Legislators.

Motion to adjourn offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Cahill.

Meeting adjourned 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Lomita, Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee