

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee

DATE: June 11, 2008

TIME: 4:45 P.M.

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

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman A. Lomita and Legislators
F. Dart, D. Gregorius, J. Provenzano, G.
Noonan, S. Cummings, B. Cahill
(arrived 4:50 P.M.) and R. Gerentine
(arrived 4:50 P.M.)

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: 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;
Probation Director, Bob Sudlow, District
Attorney, Holley Carnright; Deputy
Treasurer, Burt Gulnick; Public Works
Commissioner, Dave Sheeley, County
Attorney, Josh Koplovitz and Legislator
Phil Terpening

I RESOLUTIONS CARRIED FORWARD FROM LAST WEEK

Resolution No. 183 Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislator to Execute a Contract Amendment for Year 2008 with New York State Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives for Ulster County Alternatives to Incarceration – Probation

Motion offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Cummings.

Director Bob Sudlow: The \$1800 shortfall was never an actual shortage. The money was more than covered by an increase in the program.

Motion was adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 191 Authorizing Ulster County Departments to Sign a Policy to Decline Acceptance of Tobacco Industry Funding or Donations

Motion offered by Legislator Provenzano, seconded by Legislator Dart.

Legislator Lomita: There has been no smoking cessation grant money in any of the last four or five years. The securitized funds will remain as is regardless.

Legislator Gregorius: Krista Barringer (Youth Bureau) sent a memo recently. The local school districts get money from tobacco interests but the County does not get any money directly.

Legislator Noonan: This resolution does not say anything, only that if it passes, we can opt to decline tobacco money. That is the way it is now. Why don't we send it back to Committee? This is not a plan, and if we pass it in its present form, we put ourselves in a bad position for no benefit.

Legislator Dart: We should change the wording to "shall decline".

Legislator Gregorius: If we decide to change the wording, we should send it back to the Health committee.

Legislator Lomita: We cannot amend the resolution in its present form. It can only be done on the floor.

Legislator Dart will offer amendment and give it teeth.

Motion approved unanimously with understanding that changes will be addressed on the floor.

Resolution No. 199 Upgrading Automotive Mechanic Helper to Auto Mechanic II – Amending the 2008 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County Purchasing (Central Auto)

Motion offered by Legislator Provenzano, seconded by Legislator Cummings.

Legislator Lomita will personally vote for it, but has many reservations and concerns. Besides doing state inspections, what will this person do?

Legislator Provenzano: Doing state inspections is just a bonus. The Helper can only change oil, and the extra \$4,000 is not much to pay for a higher trained mechanic.

Legislator Noonan: Have we done anything to reduce county vehicles on the road? It has been a year.

Legislator Provenzano: Robin Peruso and Bob DiBella are now working on a new take home policy.

Legislator Cahill: To be fair, we always renew the take home policy every June, so we are actually on schedule.

II LATE RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 200 Ulster County Salt Storage Facility – Adoption of Negative Declaration and Authorizing Distribution of Notice of Determination of Non-Significance, Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA)

Motion offered by Legislator Gregorius, seconded by Legislator Cahill.
Motion adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 201 Establishing Capital Project No. 306 for the Construction of a Salt Shed Substation Located in the Town of New Paltz on Libertyville Road – Amending the Capital Program 2008-2013 – Amending the 2008 Capital Project Fund – Public Works (Highways and Bridges)

Motion offered by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Dart.

Legislator Gerentine: The project is long overdue, but I wonder if we have a time limit to how long the contractors will hold their bid price.

Commissioner Sheeley: We are okay through this month because the bids went out in November and are good through June 30. Checked the contractors and they are holding their price. He is concerned that it might get caught up in Contract Management.

Motion adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 202 (Bond Resolution for Salt Shed)

This is not voted on in Ways and Means.

Resolution No. 203 Amending the 2008 Ulster County Budget – Office of Employment and Training for Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) – 2008 NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance – Office of Employment and Training

Motion offered by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.

Legislator Lomita: This program was previously contracted through the YMCA but they opted to not participate. The resolution approved the new agreement with United Way to administer the program (using the same YMCA staff members that previously administered the program).

Motion adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 204 Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to Sign an Application with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for Funding for the Establishment or Continuation of a County Re-Entry Task Force and Enhanced Services Program – Probation

Motion offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.

Director Bob Sudlow: Apologized for lateness, but the State came back to us late with a \$100,000 grant with no local match required. We will work within our existing resources.

Legislator Cummings: Only question in Caucus was why there was no sunset clause. (We will add one).

Legislator Dart: It is a worthwhile project, but with a current hiring freeze, even with 100% funding, how do we work it?

Director Sudlow: We may contract it out.

Motion adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 205 Amending the 2008 Ulster county Budget –
Reallocating Operation Impact IV Funds for Assistant District Attorney –
District Attorney's Office

Motion offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Cahill.

Legislator Noonan: Attorney's salaries in all three disciplines where they are employed are a problem in general, but if we bump up one attorney, but not the others, aren't we asking for trouble because it obviously affects the others.

District Attorney Carnright: The money required already exists within the Operation Impact IV Grant but is leftover from equipment. The State gave us permission to transfer that money to our personnel line. This is not additional money and is not raising the salary of the Attorney. It simply extends their employment at the same level for six more weeks.

Legislator Provenzano: The Attorneys in Social Service have been ignored. As Legislators we have to be cautious and aware of parity issues. We are facing bad times with the college getting \$250,000 more plus a million more committed to the Salt Shed. We are heading the wrong way.

Legislator Dart: We must be cautious, and with the heating season coming up – our funds will be stretched and sales tax revenues are dropping drastically.

Legislator Gregorius: We committed \$1.6 million to CSEA and have four more contracts to negotiate. We understand that we have to strive for parity with the DA and the Public Defender. The DSS Attorneys are a training ground. We keep losing attorneys to others. We have little choice but to raise salaries, and it will cost us.

DA Carnright: Personnel (Brenda Bartholomew) put together a proposal. The concept is great, making salaries commensurate to experience and duties. We can argue actual salaries later, but the concept is good. There is good news. We will receive \$76,716 in an Aid to Prosecution Grant that

has been approved. We applied for more money in our Impact V Grant. DSS wants the DA to assign an Assistant DA for child abuse cases at DSS expense Senator Bonacic has a grant on the way. The DA's Office is also a training ground. We lose Assistant DA's all the time. We hire law students and they leave in two years.

Legislator Cahill: If we address salaries, can we ask them to sign an employment contract?

DA Carnright: Many Assistant DA's salaries were reduced on day one in order to use the money to hire several experienced attorneys. Every day that a person sits in jail waiting for trial, it costs us money. We have already cut the wait time by 30 days. While those savings do not show, they are real and substantial.

Legislator Provenzano: We have retention problem with nurses also.

District Attorney Carnright: Students come to me with student loans of \$100,000. The D.A. prosecuted every single case in the courts while the Public Defender only sees 40% of the cases. It costs the County \$9 million while the DA's Office is less than \$2 million.

III MISCELLANEOUS

Resolution No. 181 Mason-Johnson Retainer Agreement

Legislator Lomita: We already approved the resolution last week but Legislator Noonan and others have requested details of the fees paid to Mason-Johnson, so we have included that information in your packet.

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

Motion adopted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 5:20 P.M.