

Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: December 14, 2015 – 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Legislator Richard Parete
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo, Sr. Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Legislators Kevin Roberts, David Donaldson (6:35), Manna Jo Greene, Kenneth Ronk, Jr. and Chairman John Parete (6:35)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Hector Rodriguez (6:50); Legislative Counsel Christopher Ragucci; Burt Gulnick, Commissioner of Finance; Dennis Doyle and Chris White, Planning Department; John A. Hurson, Karin Ross, Pat Reilly, Julie Jursik - Personal Care Products Council; League of Women Voters Observers Vic Melville and Tom Kadgen; Kathy Nolan, Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee; Kate Hudson, Riverkeeper; Nick Mercurio

Chairman R. Parete called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Motion No. 1: The minutes of November 16, 2015 were approved as distributed.
Motion Made By: Legislator Roberts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene
Discussion: None
Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

Motion No. 2 - Resolution No. 457 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 14 of 2015 (A Local Law Prohibiting The Sale Of Personal Care Products Containing Microbeads In Ulster County)

Motion Made By: Legislator Roberts for discussion
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: There was a discussion about the definition of Microbeads. Representatives of the Personal Care Products Council expressed concern that the definition did not match the definition used in other locations and as such might set a different standard.

Motion to Amend Made By: Legislator Donaldson

(a) “Microbeads” shall mean any **added** plastic component of a personal cosmetic **care** product measured to be 5 millimeters or less in size **used for exfoliate or cleansing purposes.**

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Amendment Approved

Legislator Roberts felt the fines were too high.

Legislator Ronk was concerned about due process and enforcement.

There was a discussion about the fines and enforcement aspects of the proposal. Several legislators expressed concerns about the manpower of the Ulster County Weights and Measures staff and if they had the necessary resources to inspect and enforce this once adopted. There was discussion about the patchwork nature of this law in various jurisdictions.

Motion to Amend Made By: Legislator Roberts

(a) Any person who violates any portion of this law shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed **\$500** ~~\$2500~~ for each day during which such violation continues, and in addition thereto, such person may be enjoined from continuing such violation. For a second violation, such person shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed **\$1000** ~~\$5000~~ for each day during which such violation continues and in addition thereto, such person may be enjoined from continuing such violation.

Motion Seconded By: Legislator R. Parete

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Amendment Approved

There was a discussion about how substantive these changes were. Because the new term begins in a few weeks and the calendar has not yet been established, Legislator R. Parete said a new public hearing would be scheduled as early as possible in the next term. He called for a vote on the changes to Proposed Local Law 14 as amended.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against: Legislator Ronk
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Approved as Amended

Chairman R. Parete asked to take Late Resolution No. 487 out of order to accommodate Burt Gulnick, Commissioner of Finance.

Motion No. 3 - Late Resolution No. 487 - Declaring Certain County-Owned Real Property Located In The Town of Wawarsing, Acquired by the County Through the Greater Catskill Flood Remediation Program To Be Surplus Property And Authorizing The Commissioner Of Finance To Sell Said Real Property To The Highest Bidder Pursuant to Section 215 (6) Of New York State County Law
Resolution No. 456 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2015 (A Local Law Regarding Campaign Finance Reform in Ulster County)

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Commissioner Gulnick explained that these four parcels were included in the 2014 resolution but had not closed by the auction for various reasons. The county is now ready to close.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4 - Resolution No. 456 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2015 (A Local Law Regarding Campaign Finance Reform in Ulster County)

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk for discussion

Committee Chairman R. Parete confirmed for the record that hunting will be allowed in appropriate areas.

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	6
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Approved

Motion No. 6 - Resolution No. 458 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 19 of 2015 (A Local Law Applying Salary Revisions for Certain Elected Ulster County Officials Serving For Fixed Terms)

Motion Made By:	Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Greene

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk felt this was long overdue, noting that the legislature has eliminated or reduced other benefits since the last raise between 16 and 18 years ago.

Chairman R. Parete said health care premiums go up annually so any legislator who takes those benefits has had a raise. He felt most legislators don't do this job for the money and any proposed salary changes should have been voted on before the election.

Legislator Ronk noted the time line for the Periodic Compensation Review and the election did not allow a vote before the election. He noted any changes to the health care benefit co-pay would need to be done by a separate resolution.

Legislator Donaldson felt there was never a "good" time but that a raise was long overdue. He and Legislator Ronk were on record long before the election supporting it.

Legislative Chairman J. Parete was disappointed that this proposed local law ignored the recommendations of the Periodic Compensation Review Committee. He did not support it but wanted to insure the committee passed it so it could go to the floor for a vote of the full Legislature.

The committee discussed possible amendments to the compensation package.

Legislator Roberts said he does not support the raise but agreed it should go to the floor.

Chairman R. Parete said the local law could be subject to a permissive referendum and if it passes he will spearhead an attempt to collect enough signatures to put it on the ballot.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Roberts, Donaldson, Greene and Ronk
Voting Against: Legislator R. Parete and Chairman J. Parete
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 7. - Resolution No. 459 - Calling Organizational Meeting Of 2016

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

No Discussion

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and
Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Resolution No. 470 - Confirming Re-Appointment Of A Member To The Ulster County Board Of Ethics

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

No Discussion

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and
Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Late Resolution No. 485 - Urging The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation To Assume Lead Agency Status For The State Environmental Quality Review Process For The Pilgrim Pipeline Project

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene

Discussion: Chairman J. Parete reminded the members the Legislature is on record opposing the Pilgrim Pipeline and asked why we would now support the DEC being lead agency.

Legislator Greene explained that when the Legislature went on record opposing it there was no plan in place. Now there was a proposed project.

There was a discussion about the next steps in the New York State Environmental Quality Review process and how future concerns may be addressed.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Late Resolution No. 486 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Multi County Community Development Corp – Department of Social Services

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: There was a discussion about the lateness of this resolution and several legislators express disappointment that the County Executive's office did not send a representative or reach out to the committee chairman to explain why it is late.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators R. Parete, Roberts, Donaldson, Greene, Ronk and Chairman J. Parete
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

New Business: None

Old Business: Legislator Roberts questioned the fee for the false alarm law that was recently passed. Legislator Ronk will get him the information.

Legislator Greene expressed her surprise at the amount of time and effort being a county legislator required. She said she enjoys the challenges for the most part and thanked her fellow legislators for their hard work.

There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Chairman R. Parete, seconded by Legislator Roberts and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of December, 2015

Fawn A. Tantillo, Senior Legislative Employee

Minutes Approved on February 11, 2016