

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee  
**DATE:** February 2, 2010  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM  
**PLACE:** Library Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman Jack Hayes, Deputy Chairman Thomas Briggs, Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Roy Hochberg, Hector Rodriguez, Kenneth Ronk (Arrived at 6:35), Michael Sweeney

**LEGISLATORS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Legislator Michael Madsen, Budget Director Arthur Smith, Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum, Undersheriff Frank Faluotico, Corrections Superintendent James Hanstein, Captain Michael Freer, District Attorney Holley Carnright, Tom Kadgen (LWV)

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 6:30 PM**

Chairman Hayes introduced himself as the new Chairman to the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee and guests; he gave a brief background about himself and his qualifications. He stated that he is much honored to be the Chair of this Committee. The Committee also introduced themselves and stated the Districts that they represent.

Sheriff VanBlarcum added that he himself or Undersheriff Faluotico, or both will always be present at the monthly Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee meetings representing the Sheriff's Department. Representation from the Corrections Unit will also be in attendance. He stated that they are always available for communication, either by contacting the Department or by calling their individual cell phones.

**Sheriff's Department - Paul VanBlarcum/Frank Faluotico**

1. **Resolution Draft No. 32, February 2, 2010** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The Town Of Rosendale - Employment Of Off Duty Deputy Sheriff - Sheriff's Office

**MOTION WAS MADE TO REFER BACK TO COMMITTEE**

Motion offered by Legislator Rodriguez, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: Sheriff VanBlarcum discussed the above Resolution and was concerned with the fact that this Resolution did not follow normal procedure. The change seems to be the fact that this is an Inter-Municipal Agreement that is being signed by the Chairman of the Legislature

and as per the Charter, a Resolution is required. The Committee agreed to refer back to Committee until all questions are answered and Counsel approves.

2. **Resolution Draft No. 43, February 2, 2010** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Unified Court System For Court Attendants Contract (C200397) For The Period April 1, 2009 To March 31, 2014 - Amending The 2010 Ulster County Budget - Sheriff's Office

Motion offered by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: Sheriff VanBlarcum spoke on the Resolution and explained that the Court Attendants are included on the Sheriff Departments payroll, but they in fact do not actually work for the Sheriff's Department. They are not uniformed Court Attendants. New York State reimburses Ulster County 100% of the expense of these attendants.

3. **For Discussion Only, Resolution Draft No. 51, February 2, 2010, This Resolution is to be signed off on by the Budget and Finance Committee (Back Up Provided)** - Establishing Capital Project No. 328 For The Purchase Of Vehicles For Various County Departments For The Year 2010 - Amending The 2010 Ulster County Capital Project Fund Budget

Discussion: (See 2010 Central Auto Vehicle Replacement Plan and Letter of Recommendation from Fleet Manager, Kim Millian, attached), Budget Director Arthur Smith addressed the Committee on this Resolution. The amount of \$303,500 is the recommended amount in the Budget for new capital financing; the Fleet Manager has reduced the initial request to \$170,500 by replacing requested vehicles with existing underutilized vehicles from within the fleet. The Department of Fleet Management is recommending replacement of 5 Sheriff's vehicles and 1 Veterans' van because of excessive mileage. The request is being made because these vehicles cannot be replaced by vehicles in the existing fleet. The request is being made in February to take advantage of State bid pricing which is substantially lower than local bid prices. The mileage that these vehicles put on is excessive and to repair at this point would be too costly. If these vehicles are not replaced they are going to be up over 200,000 miles by the end of the year. The high mileage is the reason for the urgency of this Resolution. All other requests that were approved to make up the rest of the \$303,500 will be done within the Fleet; vehicles will be reassigned by the Fleet Manager.

Hayes: Is this on top of the existing Budget?

Smith: This is part of the Capital Financing; the project requires a serial bond.

Hayes: Is it normal to run the vehicles to 200,000 miles?

VanBlarcum: No, it is not. The upkeep is just too costly when the mileage gets that high, 120 to 130,000 is normal.

Sweeney: Does the Veterans Agency get reimbursed when we buy a van?

Smith: They get a flat reimbursement for their administrative costs; it is not necessarily towards the vehicle, it does not go over \$15,000.

Hochberg: How does the AVL work on the Sheriff's vehicles?

Faluotico: Software? The software that we are using will be adapted in with all the County vehicles. Our Department has been using it for years and it is very effective.

Hochberg: Are the Sheriff's vehicles on the same Fleet Management concept?

Faluotico: Yes, the Fleet Management vehicles are coming on to our system. All County vehicles are to be included, all but the confidential vehicles used by our Department.

In conclusion, even though this Resolution was presented to the Committee for informational purposes, the Committee is fully supporting that this Resolution be approved.

#### **District Attorney - Holley Carnright**

4. **Resolution Draft No. 25, February 2, 2010** - Amending The 2010 Ulster County Budget - Operation Impact VI

Motion offered by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: To the new faces on the Committee, District Attorney Holley Carnright offers that anyone that would like to touch base with him about his Department, to feel free to call him. He is very proud of what his Department does, and the more you know the easier it will be to assess what their needs are. He explained that his fiscal year and the County's fiscal year does not always coincide and that can become confusing. The fiscal year for the Impact VI grant is July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 as opposed from January through December. So what happens is funds are left over from the previous year and what he is asking for is to be able to use those funds in the current year. These funds are either used or they will lose then.

#### **Emergency Communications/Emergency Management - Art Snyder**

5. **Resolution Draft No. 40, February 2, 2010** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Participation Agreement With The New York State Emergency Management Office For The Use Of The Emergency Notification System Known As NY-ALERT - Department Of Emergency Communications / Emergency Management

Motion offered by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, All in Favor, Carried.

6. **Resolution Draft No. 35, February 2, 2010** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Participation Agreement And Any Amendments To The Agreement With The New York State Emergency Management Office For Participation In The Emergency Management Performance Grant Program For Federal Fiscal Year 2009 - Emergency Communications/Emergency Management

Motion offered by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, All in Favor, Carried.

Discussion: The Chairman explained that both of the two above Resolutions from the Department of Emergency Management are yearly incentives. Budget Director Arthur Smith added that the State has enhanced their alert notification and is asking municipalities to update their authorization for contracts. There is no cost to the County.

**NEW BUSINESS** - Chairman Hayes has been very busy over the last month, meeting with all the Departments that would fall under the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee. He gave the following update:

- Traffic Safety Board - Department is running smoothly, Charles Schaller is doing a great job, as far as progress goes, Charlie needs access to computer generated data from other agencies. He uses hard copies now and to review data is time consuming, he works alone and could use an administrative assistant.
- Emergency Communications/Emergency Management - IT infrastructure is maxed out, strategic planning needs to move forward on deciding if it is physical infrastructure or IT infrastructure concerning Emergency Management at the Golden Hill Facility. He would also like to talk about radio discipline in the future.
- Arson Task Force - Stated that they put in a tremendous amount of hours in 2009 and what ever funding we give them, it is not enough. Would like to see end of year reports of the statistics of these calls. Policy can not be changed if we do not have the statistics stating the facts.
- Sherriff's Department - Met with Chairman Wadnola, the Sheriff and the Undersheriff. Chairman Hayes stated that he has been to many County Jails, and he complimented the Sheriff and Undersheriff how orderly, secure, and how clean the Ulster County Jail was. He stated that he was extremely impressed. Very high morale, excellent staff, nice training section, outstanding kitchen facility.
- New York State Police, met with Patrick Regan, Zone Commander, Troop F, Zone 3, Kingston. Zone 3 is Ulster and Green County. They are looking at the State draw down in respect to funding, immediately there is not a big impact with regards to personnel. Touched on the issue of School Resource Officers being pulled out of schools, they may have to be done privately. Mr. Regan stated to Chairman Hayes that our inter-police relations have never been better.
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Police, met with Captain Richard Martin, concerns about the budget cuts. Also met with Highland Fire Department and discussed their concern for communication needs. They spoke about the need for changes in regards to Radio Communication.
- Criminal Justice Council - got a real exposure to a lot of different programs, like probation and parole. There was discussion on the significance of the inter-relations of all of them in regards to the court system and remote arraignments, the amount of time spent transporting prisoners back and forth to Town, State, or Federal Courts is enormous. An enormous amount of infrastructure would have to take place to make changes in this area. The Undersheriff stated that as far as preliminary hearings go; until the Criminal Procedure Law is modified by the State Legislature they have the opportunity and the right to be present at their hearings. But added that with today's technology this should be modified. These changes need to take place State wide. The

NYS Police Association is also on board with this. Legislature Ronk added that a Memorializing Resolution could be put forth at this time to show our support.

- Fire Advisory Board - Had some of the same concerns in regard to Radio Communication. Legislator Ronk added that this has been an ongoing issue with the Fire Departments. Chairman Hayes stated that this is an issue that he would like to see address.
- Town of Shawangunk Chief of Police, Frank Petrone, was going to be meeting with him the next day. Will update the Committee.
- Chairman Hayes also contacted Melanie Mullions, Director of the Ulster County Probation Department, Charles Mutz, Chief Fire Coordinator, Bernard Ellsworth, Second Deputy Fire Coordinator, and the Ulster County public Defender's Office.

Legislator Hochberg stated that Sullivan County is going through a big exercise on new jail and state requirements and would like an opportunity to meet and assess their findings with them. Chairman Hayes stated that this could be arranged. The Sherriff stated that he would also like to be involved.

**Motion to adjourn meeting @ 7:25 PM**

Motion offered by Legislator Ronk, Seconded by Legislator Sweeney, All in Favor, Carried.

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

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