

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
LAWS & RULES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – March 9, 2009
LOCATION – Chambers, 6th Floor, COB**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Legislator Gary Bischoff, Chair
Legislator Sue Cummings, Deputy Chair
Legislator Brian Cahill
Legislator Hector Rodriguez
Legislator James Maloney
Legislator Kevin Roberts

ABSENT:

Legislator Jon Decker (excused)
Legislator Robert Parete (excused)
Legislator Brian Shapiro (excused)

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Dan Heppner, Counsel to Legislature
Marshall Beckman, UC Deputy Executive
Bea Havranek, UC Deputy Executive
Tom Turco, Commissioner, Board of Elections
Kathy Mihm, Commissioner, Board of Elections
Jay Mahler, Deputy Commissioner, BOE
Sylvia Wohlfahrt, Information Services Director
Meg Dellay, Deputy Clerk, Legislature
Tom Kadgen, LWV

Legislator Gary Bischoff (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Agenda items were taken out of order to accommodate guests.

Board of Election Commissioners Report:

- Consolidations being considered; suggestions coming from towns.
- With fewer sites, then fewer inspectors, different duties, less programming costs.
- Definite benefits to combining districts.
- Improving web site to help locate proper polling sites.

1. Amendments to BOE Contracts – Resolution #74 – *Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Sign Amendments And Any Further Amendments To Various Contracts With New York State Board Of Elections For Funds For Voting Access For Individuals With Disabilities Polling Place Access Improvement And Voter Education/Poll Worker Training Program – Amending The 2009 Ulster County Budget – Board of Elections.*

Motion made by Legislator Cummings, seconded by Legislator Maloney. Passed unanimously.

2. Late Resolutions:

A. Resolution #79 – *Authorization To Amend The 2009 Ulster County Budget And To Amend The March 11, 2009 Legislative Abstract To Include The Contracts With Accumedic Computer Systems, Inc., And DocuTrac, Inc., For The Purchase And Implementation Of Billing System Software, Electronic Medical Record Software And Necessary Hardware – Department Of Mental Health.*

Motion made by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Maloney. Passed, with one opposed (Legislator Roberts).

- Marshall Beckman stressed the need to implement new system by 1/1/10.
- Sue Cummings asked if other county agencies are using this system? Marshall said other agencies do. (Note: He later verified 20 county operated mental health clinics use the system in NYS.)

B. Resolution #83 – *Authorizing The Settlement Of The Federal Lawsuit Regarding The Construction Of The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center.*
Settlement amount to be amended on the floor of Session 3/11/09.

- Bea Havranek reported Ed Bean will recommend settlement as discussed last month during Executive Session.

LATE RESOLUTIONS TO BE CONTINUED LATER.

3. Monies from UCLEC Litigation – Resolution #48 – *Requiring Any Financial Judgment, Reimbursement, Settlement Or Award Resulting From Any And All Litigation, Mediation, Trial Or Agreements To Be Applied Solely As Pay Down Of Debt Already Accrued For The Building, Study And Investigation Of Cost Overruns In Relation To The Building Of The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center (UCLEC).*
Motion made by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Maloney.
After discussion, motion made by Legislator Cahill to refer to Ways and Means, seconded by Legislator Maloney. Passed, with one opposed (Legislator Cummings).

Tom Kadgen reminded members Hill Report to be released when money is settled.

4. Introductory Local Law No. 3 of 2009 Establishing Plastic Bag Fee (Draft #5, 3/6/09)

Gary explained this local law is on the agenda simply to look at. A good segway into the policy of laws...Gary handed out a draft of Proposed Law Flow Through the Legislature. Discussion included:

- Is law effective? Needed? Enforceable? Right department to enforce?
- Orderly flow chart will clarify route of a local law (especially if it needs reworking), public hearings, referrals back to committees, etc.
- Gary suggested adding words to explain the process; **committee members agreed.**

Returning to plastic bag discussion, Environmental Committee approved it. Gary reported Ireland in 2002 enacted a law to restrict plastic bag usage; now has 90% reduction rate.

5. Web Cam – postponed.

6. Late Resolutions (cont.)

C. Resolution #80 – *Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Substance Abuse Subcommittee Of The Community Services Board. (Carol Sutcliffe)*

D. Resolution #81 – *Confirming Appointment Of Member to The Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee Of The Community Services Board. (Justina M. Ortlieb)*

Both resolutions moved by Legislator Maloney, seconded by Legislator Cahill. Passed unanimously.

E. Resolution #82 – *Urging The New York State Governor And New York State Legislature To Maintain And Return Funding To The Current Youth Bureau System And The Youth Delinquency Prevention, Intervention And Youth Development Programs Throughout Ulster County.*

Motion made by Legislator Cummings, seconded by Legislator Maloney. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg E. Dellay

Deputy Clerk, UC Legislature