

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
LAWS & RULES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – October 13, 2009
LOCATION – Chambers, 6th Floor, COB**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Legislator Gary Bischoff, Chair
Legislator Brian Cahill
Legislator Jon Decker
Legislator Robert Parete
Legislator Hector Rodriguez
Legislator Kevin Roberts

ABSENT/EXCUSED:

Legislator Sue Cummings, Deputy Chair – excused
Legislator Brian Shapiro – absent
Legislator James Maloney – absent

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Marshall Beckman, Deputy Co Executive
Daniel Heppner, Counsel to Legislature
Meg Dellay, Deputy Clerk, Legislature
Tom Kadgen, LWV
Len Bernardo

Chair Gary Bischoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Late Resolution – New Public Health Director – *Confirming County Executive’s Appointment Of The Public Health Director.* Marshall Beckman reported on the appointment, and the excellent credentials of La Mar Hasbrouck, M.D., M.P.H., as Public Health Director.

Moved by Legislator Parete, seconded by Legislator Rodriguez. Passed unanimously.

2. Late Resolution – Swine Flu (H1N1) – *Amending The 2009 Ulster County Budget – Authorizing Funds For H1N1 Virus Immunization Program And Services – Department Of Health.*

Marshall Beckman explained that the office was notified only last week of the allocation of \$600,000 for all activities for immunizing for H1N1. Contract documents coming later.

Moved by Legislator Rodriguez, seconded by Legislator Parete. Passed unanimously.

3. Resolution #300 – People’s Convention – *In Support Of The State Legislature’s Proposed Legislation “People’s Convention To Reform New York Act.”* Legislator Cahill reported on a Constitutional Convention initiated by state assembly members to consider government reform on many issues, similar to NYSAC’s initiative. It excludes public officials as members and stipulates only nonpartisan delegates may serve.

Moved by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Parete. Passed unanimously.

4. Resolution #275 – Setting A Public Hearing On Introductory Local Law No. 10 of 2009 (A Local Law Revising The Kingston Ulster Empire Zone Boundaries) To Be Held On Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 6:00 PM

Legislator Rodriguez spoke about the Empire Zones reconfiguration which was approved this morning at a meeting of the Empire Zone Board and City of Kingston.

Moved by Legislator Rodriguez, seconded by Legislator Parete. Passed unanimously.

5. Plastic Bag Law - update

Legislator Bischoff reported that after the public hearing on plastic bag law, Chairman Donaldson convened a Green Ribbon Task Force which included industry representatives from Pathmark and Hannaford. One idea generated from the group is to mandate big box stores to refund shoppers for bringing in cloth bags to use. Counsel Dan Heppner gave the opinion that this may be viewed as a municipality imposing a tax by mandating retailers to charge less money to customers, which may be overturned by litigation. Legislator Cahill said when dealing with this issue previously, the resistance came from Walmart. Legislator Bischoff said the policy is still in formative stages.

6. Other Business -

Legislator Parete discussed his observations of comparing the 2009 Budget with 2010. Legislator Cahill asked about a more plain language format. Legislator Bischoff suggested any financial questions be directed to budget analysts coming next week.

Other points of discussion:

- All reports to be kept in a “UC Virtual Document Store House.”
- Abstract be available a month prior for legislative review.
- Create electronic warehouse for annual reports and documents mandated by state.
- Articulate a policy and be very specific

Legislator Parete will write a letter to Administrative Services for both he and Gary to sign.

Legislator Cahill will follow up with Sylvia Wolfart about past survey on out puts/purchase orders.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meg E. Dellay
Deputy Clerk, UC Legislature