

**Ways & Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** February 18, 2014 – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Karen L. Binder Library, Sixth Floor, County Office Building  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Richard Gerentine, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn A. Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Richard Gerentine, Tracey Bartels, Carl Belfiglio, James F. Maloney, Mary Beth Maio (arrived at 5:15), Richard A. Parete and Hector Rodriguez  
**ABSENT:** Legislators Thomas J. Briggs  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Jeanette Provenzano, Kevin Roberts, Kenneth Ronk, Legislative Clerk Victoria Fabella, Election Commissioners Thomas Turco and Victor Work, Elections Clerk Patricia Jacobsen, Comptroller Elliot Auerbach, Susan Plonski - County Attorney's Office, Roland Bloomer -Kingston City Attorney's Office, Undersheriff Frank Faluotico, Tom Kadgen – Ulster County League of Women Voters

- **Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.**
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**MOTION NO. 1                      Resolutions No. 70 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**                      **Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 70** – Resolution No. 70 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2014 (A Local Law Applying The Salary Revisions Of Resolution No. 69 of 2014 To All County Officers Serving For Fixed Terms) To Be Held On Tuesday, March 18, 2014 At 7:00 PM

**Motion Made By:**                      Legislator Richard Parete  
**Motion Seconded By:**                      Legislator Maloney

**Resolution No. 70 Summary:** This resolution would set a date and time for a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2014.

**Discussion:** Chairman Gerentine provided information about the salaries of positions listed in the Proposed Local Law and explained the salaries of County Officers serving for fixed term of office may be changed and adjusted only by local law. This currently only applies to the Commissioners of Elections, Commissioner of Public Health, Commissioner of Social Services, Personnel Director and Real Property Tax Service Agency Director.

Deputy County Executive Kenneth Crannell pointed out that the Commissioner of Public Health has received a stipend in addition to the salary listed since the position was given oversight of the Mental Health Department as well. He explained this stipend was not subject to the raise being considered for the position.

Chairman Gerentine introduced Election Commissioners Thomas Turco and Victor Work. There was a discussion about the salary adjustment made in 2011. Commissioner Turco said the Election Commissioners had the lowest salaries of any Department Head at the time and this was done to bring their salaries in line with other County Department Heads.

Commissioner Turco explained that at that time there was discussion about revenue generating and cost savings efforts including charging for some voter lists and providing information on CD. He said there is a major cost associated with printing the list for each political party to facilitate collecting signatures for candidates – something that is required to qualify candidates to run for office. He also discussed ongoing outreach to the towns and savings in charge backs to the towns for election costs.

Chairman Gerentine assured the Commissioners that the Legislature did not question the quality of their work. He pointed out that the election charge backs to the towns were an ongoing concern to Legislators. He asked the Commissioners to notify the appropriate Legislators when the Commissioners met with town officials to afford the Legislator the opportunity to attend these meetings.

There was a lengthy discussion about the revenues and costs savings efforts by the Board of Elections; the revenue the Board of Elections returns to the County; additional hours worked and other adjustments made to other Management salaries.

Legislator Richard Parete pointed out that all other management personnel are slated to get a 2% raise in Resolution No. 69. He feels all of these Management positions are in the same class and feels it is inappropriate to single out two Department Heads.

Commissioner Work agreed with the revenue and cost savings analysis Commissioner Turco stated and questioned why they were being singled out. The felt the salary increase they received four years ago just created equity, and they should be included in this resolution to insure they maintain equity.

Chairman Gerentine said that the issue with increased hours points out an ongoing concern of his about County departments all working different hours and changing the hours randomly without Legislative approval or oversight. Some departments work a standard week of 35 hours, 37.5 hours or 40 hours. He feels that should be a policy set by the Legislature not the Department Heads. This is not a reflection on the Board of Elections or any other department but you cannot compare salaries when we don't have the same hours. He is concerned that some Department Heads are using a change of hours to circumvent Legislative approval of salary increases.

Legislator Rodriguez said he voted against the raise in 2012 for the Election Commissioners the last time and might vote against this raise but wanted to clarify that in this case, a 2% raise for each Commissioner was \$1500 per Election Commissioner or \$3000 for both of them on an annual basis and they would both continue to work 37.5 hours a week.

Legislator Ronk said it was a dangerous precedent to single out two employees when other Management employees who were not serving a fixed term had received raises in the same time frame and all other management employees would receive a 2% raise. He expressed concern that it would leave the County open to a law suit.

Legislator Bartels said she was not afraid of a law suit but wanted the discussion to be held at an appropriate time. She said the appropriate time is when the budget is discussed.

Legislator Rodriguez moved the question.

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| <b>Voting In Favor:</b>       | Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, Maio, Richard Parete and Rodrigues |
| <b>Voting Against:</b>        | None   |
| <b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b> | 7  |
| <b>No. of Votes Against:</b>  | 0  |
| <b>Disposition:</b>           | Carried  |

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**There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Belfiglio, seconded by Legislator Rodriguez and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 PM.**

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**Dated the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of February, 2014**  
**Fawn A. Tantillo, Senior Legislative Employee**  
**Minutes Approved On: March 12, 2014**