

Energy & Environment Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: October 8, 2015, 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Peter Loughran
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Krista J. Barringer, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Hector Rodriguez, Richard Parete and Mary Wawro
(arrived 7:04 PM)
EXCUSED: Legislator Ken Ronk
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Manna Jo Greene, Resource Recovery Agency Executive Director Tim Rose, Trails Advisory Committee Member Kathy Nolan, League of Women Voters of the Mid Hudson Valley Observation Corp Member Vic Melville.

Chairman Loughran called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

MOTION NO. 1 RESOLVED To Approve the Minutes of September 3, 2015

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete
Discussion: None
Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Loughran, Rodriguez, Parete and Wawro
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Guest Presentation: Resource Recovery Agency Report – Tim Rose, Executive Director

Resource Recovery Agency Executive Director Rose reported the preliminary budget for the agency was out and highlighted the public hearing would be held next Wednesday. He stated he did not expect any controversial items for this year's budget. He stated the final budget document would change slightly following the bid opening for sludge disposal. He stated there was no bid from Colony and they would have to transport the sludge three times further to Chemung. He stated they were moving money in the Capital Plan line to adjust for this shift.

Resource Recovery Agency Executive Director Rose noted the rates would remain the same for the third straight year. He stated the Agency's Board of Director budget vote would take place on October 28th.

Legislator Wawro asked if Saugerties signed on. Resource Recovery Agency Executive Director Rose replied there were no changes since last month in the participating municipalities. He stated the following municipalities had not signed on to service agreements: City of Kingston and the Towns of Marlborough, Marbletown, Saugerties and Ulster. He stated letters were sent to this municipalities indicating the current service would end, as of December 31, 2015 and in mid-December, he would call to arrange the final pick up of equipment in January.

Chairman Loughran noted the anticipated change in leadership for the City of Kingston would occur on January 1, 2015 and asked if they could still agree to participate should the new leadership so desire. Resource Recovery Agency Executive Director Rose stated the City of Kingston owned it's own roll offs and could easily service itself. He noted there had been communication with a Town Board member in a non-participating municipality and he had expressed the ability for the Town to have the Supervisor send a letter indicating the desire to participate. He stated he would take any such letters to the Agency Board of Directors for consideration.

Resource Recovery Agency Executive Director Rose noted a bid opening for 35 new recycling boxes would occur on October 21, 2015.

Motion No. 2 Resolution No. 325 October 20, 2015

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Wawro

Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 325 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 14 of 2015 (A Local Law Prohibiting The Sale Of Personal Care Products Containing Microbeads In Ulster County) To Be Held On Tuesday, November 10, 2015 At 7:05 PM

Resolution No. 325 Summary: This Resolution submits and tables Proposed Local Law No. 14 of 2015 pending the holding of a public hearing thereon, directs the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature to cause a legal notice of said public hearing to be published according to law, and sets the date and time for the public hearing as Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:05 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Ulster County Office Building, 6th Floor, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.

Discussion:

Legislator Rodriguez noted the amended section was done to address the hypothetical store clerk situation. He stated the County and Legislative Attorneys assisted on the amendment. He stated this request was to move the proposal to a public hearing.

Legislator Parete stated he did not understand and asked if other counties have done this. Chairman Loughran replied at least four other counties have passed this law. Legislator Rodriguez discussed the implications of microbeads and the opportunity to use alternative products. He highlighted the threats to the environment versus the cosmetic, sparkly benefit. Chairman Loughran noted fish consume the microbeads and they move up the food chain.

Legislator Parete felt this should be a state law. Chairman Loughran replied this was a grassroots effort to bring it up through the state. He noted legislation had been submitted at the state level. He stated he invited Mike Thompson, from the Personal Care Products Association, to speak at the Public Hearing. Legislator Wawro and Chairman Loughran discussed the alternatives available with less threat to the environment. Legislator Wawro spoke of the dental health implications. Chairman Loughran noted an article describing the microbead pollution in Lake Erie and stated he would send this to Legislator Parete and Ms. Nolan.

Legislator Parete noted the County's Weights and Measures Department would enforce this law and in noting it is a two-person operation, asked if they could do this enforcement without having to increase staff. Legislator Rodriguez stated he spoke with the County Executive who confirmed they would not need to increase staff.

Legislator Parete felt in order for this ban to be effective, it would have to be passed by all surrounding counties. Chairman Loughran stated Ulster County was ahead of the curve on this issue.

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Loughran, Rodriguez, Parete and Wawro
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	4
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Carried

New Business

None

Old Business: Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission – Brief Update

Legislator Rodriguez stated the Commission was looking at short, mid and longer-term solutions. He stated, while they have until March for their final report, they were trying to get as much done by December as possible. He noted example short term solutions discussed included enhanced food waste composting and environmental bags and following the visits to the Delaware County facility, the long-term focus is looking like the development of a similar facility. He noted this was the back of the envelop level of review at this time and that the Commission would need to look at firmer figures before making a recommendation. He indicated it would cost between \$60 – 70 million to replicate their system. Legislator Parete concurred that the cost would be increased, as Ulster County was a larger county with more waste to dispose. Legislator Rodriguez discussed the facility maintenance needs and a portion of the Commission pushing for a landfill. He noted a multi-phase system could manage a smaller landfill if they could reduce waste at the front end. He noted the difference of dealing with mulch versus the disposal of full solid waste. He noted there continues to be initial discussion with Sullivan County representatives regarding a regional effort. Legislator Parete asked if Delaware County's landfill was open to which Legislator Rodriguez replied it was not. He noted Delaware County had received approval for expansion of their landfill but after they had taken NYC trash, there are now political implications in taking other county's trash and they

are preparing for the impact from the casino. Legislator Rodriguez highlighted the generosity from the Department of Environmental Conservation Region 3 staff with their time, advisors, and technical assistance. He stated the Commission picked up a number of things from there various site visits. He noted the Commission's discussion regarding single stream versus co-mingled and the impact of the recycling marking. He stated the estimate provided is only a ballpark number and that they are compiling costs of what other facilities paid to develop their systems. He highlighted the host benefits and strategic characteristics of site location of a landfill based on waste disposal.

Old Business: Climate Smart Committee – Brief Update

None

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:23 PM

Dated the 13th day of October, 2015

Krista J. Barringer, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved on: November 10, 2015