

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**NAME OF COMMITTEE:** Criminal Justice & Safety Committee  
**DATE:** May 26, 2009  
**TIME:** 4:45 PM  
**PLACE:** Library Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building

**LEGISLATORS PRESENT:** Chairman Frank Dart, Deputy Chairman Paul Hansut, Legislator Thomas Briggs, Legislator James Maloney, Legislator Richard Parete, Legislator Kenneth Ronk Jr., Legislator Susan Zimet

**LEGISLATORS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Legislator Jeanette Provenzano, Legislator Donald Gregorius, Deputy County Executive Robert Sudlow, Counsel to Legislature Daniel Heppner, Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum, Undersheriff Frank Faluotico, Probation Director Melanie Mullins, Joseph A. Sinagra (Ulster Police/UC Chief's Association), Thomas Kadgen (LWV, CJC), Tana Agostini (Re-Entry Advocate),

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER @ 4:50 PM**

**APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2009 MINUTES:**

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

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - Paul VanBlarcum/Frank Faluotico**

1) **Resolution - Draft** (Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement And Any Amendments To The Agreement With The New York State Office Of Homeland Security - Law Enforcement Terrorism And Prevention Program - Amending The 2009 Ulster County Budget - Sheriff's Office)

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

Discussion: Sheriff VanBlarcum explained to the Committee that the grant funds will be used to compensate a Part-time NIMS coordinator to coordinate and conduct training, on a County level, and to purchase equipment and supplies to prevent, detect and respond to improvised explosive devices attacks. The Grant requires no matching County funds. The agreement with NYS Office of Homeland Security is to be used for the Law Enforcement Terrorism and Prevention Program.

2) **Resolution - Draft** (Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The County Of Oneida For Security For Ulster County Inmates Boarded At Central New York State Psychiatric Center - Sheriff's Office)

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

Discussion: The Sheriff explained to the Committee that the Central New York Psychiatric Center is the only facility that the Sheriff's Department can board-out inmates who are in need psychiatric care.

3) **Resolution - Draft** (Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The County Of Putnam For Boarding In Prisoners In The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center - Sheriff's Office)

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

Discussion: The Sheriff explained that this agreement is necessary in the event that the service of boarding-in inmates from Putnam County is needed.

4) **Resolution - Draft** (Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Department of the Navy - Naval Surface Warfare Center - Amending The 2009 Ulster County Budget - Sheriff's Office)

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

Discussion: The Sheriff explained that these are night vision goggles and that the Urgent Team, County-Wide Response Team, Regular Patrol Missions and the River Patrol will be using the goggles.

#### **PROBATION DEPARTMENT - Melanie Mullins**

5) **Resolution - Draft** (Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into Agreement With The City of Kingston For The Year 2009 - Department Of Probation)

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

Discussion: The newly appointed Director of Probation Melanie Mullins introduced herself to the Committee. She has requested the renewal of an agreement with the City of Kingston whereby the County will provide a Supervisor for the City's dedicated work crew for community service.

6) **Resolution - Draft** (Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Probation And Correctional Alternatives For Ulster County Alternatives To Incarceration/Community Corrections Facility Programs - Department Of Probation)

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

Discussion: Director of Probation has requested that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature be authorized to execute an agreement with the New York Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives for the Alternatives to Incarceration/Community Corrections Facility Programs. These funds will provide programs, shelter and benefits to men and women who have committed crimes and have substance abuse problems.

7) **Resolution - Draft** (Creating The Position Of Deputy Probation Director II, And Establishing A Salary Range For The Position - Department Of Probation)

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

Discussion: Deputy County Executive Robert Sudlow addressed the Committee on this Resolution. He stated that as per the Charter, the County Executive has the ability to create this Deputy position. The position will be funded within the budget that exists for 2009. There will be as a result of the reorganization a savings. He believes that the Deputy position will create a straighter line of command. Additionally, this is a state specified job so the qualifications are predetermined by the state and it exists when an agency gets to a certain size. Bob further explained that this resolution is not creating a position; it is in fact reclassifying a person and savings will be achieved within the budget. This person will be carrying a work load, their own plus additional duties that the Probation Director will be providing. Within the budget, some of the titles will be reduced which creates a savings.

**Legislators Hansut, Ronk and Maloney offer the following Resolution:**

8) **Resolution Draft** (In Support Of Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Engage The New York State Department Of Corrections To Investigate The November 28, 2008 Determinations Issued By The United States Equal Opportunity Commission Regarding The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center)

Motion offered by Legislator Briggs, Seconded by Legislator Parete, All in Favor of the following Amendment:

- Resolved, that the Criminal Justice Committee recommends the creation of a special Subcommittee to investigate the EEOC report that was delivered to Ulster County on Nov, 28, 2008 and the dissemination of information, and the timeline that this document took.

It was also resolved that the Committee would meet for a Special Criminal Justice & Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 2 @ 4:30 in the Legislative Conference room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor. It was decided after much deliberation and numerous suggestions that before the resolution would move forward the following suggestions will need to be clarified:

- That the title should read New York State Commission of Corrections, not Department of Corrections.
- Questioned whether or not the New York State Commission of Corrections can even investigate EEOC matters? The report is confidential.
- Process setup that would notify Committee or Leadership when there are potential lawsuits or lawsuits.
- Should the word EEOC stay in the resolution or be taken out?

Legislator Zimet asked that the following statement be added to the minutes. That she at no time said that she would not of voted in favor of the UCSEA/CWA Contract if she had know about the lawsuit involving the Sheriff's Department. She stated that she would have liked to have known if it was available to have been told. If this lawsuit was about to be filed that if we had known ahead of time it would of made us feel more comfortable about the vote after the fact when we found out and people questioned us the next day.

Legislator Gregorius also asked to be added to the minutes that he also agrees that when people asked him if he knew about the law suit, he would have liked to have said yes, not no. He also would not of voted against the contract he just would of liked to of had the information beforehand.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Introductory Local Law For The Licensing Of Persons In The Business Of Purchasing Secondhand Articles.

Discussion: Both Joseph A. Sinagra (Ulster Police/UC Chief's Association) and Legislator Don Gregorius spoke on the issue. The motion was made by Legislator Zimet, Seconded by Legislator Ronk, All in Favor to create a Special Committee consisting of Don Gregorius as the Chairman and members Legislators Richard Parete and Kenneth Ronk, and Mr. Sinagra to work on specific issues before bringing this Introductory Local Law forward. Special Committee will report back in June.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Collecting & Analyzing Data to address the recommendations that Tom Kadgen made in a report to this Committee concerning the need for reviewing recommendations of previous criminal justice studies.

Discussion: Legislator Parete and Tom Kadgen will be working together and will be contacting Deputy Executive Robert Sudlow and Professor Gerald Benjamin from SUNY New Paltz to set up a tracking system and will continue to update the Committee as to their progress.

**Motion to adjourn meeting @ 6:50 PM**

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

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Tammy Wilson,  
Senior Legislative Employee**

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