



Date: August 6, 2012

COMMITTEE MINTUES APPROVAL

HEALTH AND PERSONNEL:



Robert Aiello, Chairman


Jeanette Provenzano, Deputy Chairman
Carl Belfiglio
Robert Parete

Kenneth J. Ronk

Today's Date: October 1, 2012

Health and Personnel Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: August 6, 2012, 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Robert T. Aiello, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Krista J. Barringer and Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerks
PRESENT: Legislators Carl Belfiglio, Robert S. Parete, and Kenneth J. Ronk
EXCUSED: Legislator Jeanette Provenzano
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Jim Maloney, Tom Jackson (Real Property Tax Service), Burt Gulnick (Department of Finance), Brenda Bartholomew (Personnel Department), Ken Crannell (County Executive), James Hanson (County Executive), Lee Cane (League of Women Voters – Mid-Hudson Region), Sandy Mathes (Deputy Clerk of the Legislature), and Frank Reggero (Senior Legislative Aide)

- Chairman Aiello called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM

MOTION NO. 1 RESOLVED To Approve the Minutes of July 17, 2012

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

PRESENTATION: At the request of **Legislator Provenzano**, Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell updated the Committee regarding the status of the bids received by the Golden Hill Local Development Corporation (LDC). At this time, six bids are being reviewed. The LDC has received a \$150,000 in earnest deposit from each of these bidders. Each bid received was at or above the minimum purchase price set by the LDC. The members of the LDC will be visiting the existing facilities of each bidder this week.

Question & Answer Session: **Legislator Parete** asked about the five-year residency requirement for the bids. Mr. Crannell stated the LDC members were concerned a buyer might be a flipper and they were seeking a consistent, long-term partner to ensure the goal of keeping nursing home beds in Kingston. Mr. Crannell noted some bidders have indicated an interest in expanding into Assisted Living programming. **Legislator Belfiglio** asked and Mr. Crannell confirmed the Ulster County has no power or authority over the LDC activities or the final sale of the facility. **Legislator Belfiglio** asked why there was a 10 million dollar bid minimum. He noted there was an estimated \$81 million renovation cost and inquired why anyone would want to take on this expense. Mr. Crannell noted the awarding bidder would be required to continue the facility for at least 5 years as a nursing home and that the expenses of renovation would be the responsibility of the bidder.

Motion No. 2 Resolution No. 205 – August 14, 2012
Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 205 – Confirming The Appointment of Thomas H. Jackson, Jr. As Real Property Tax Service Agency

Resolution Summary: Pursuant to Sections C-25 (A) of the Ulster County Charter and Section A3-4 (A) of the Administrative Code, the County Executive has the power and duty to appoint department heads. The Executive appointed Thomas H. Jackson, Jr. This Resolution would confirm this appointment.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion Mr. Hanson introduced Mr. Jackson as a current employee of the Real Property Tax Service Agency. Mr. Jackson summarized his experience. Legislator Ronk asked how this appointment would factor into the consolidation of the Real Property Tax Service Agency into the Department of Finance. Mr. Hanson noted Mr. Jackson would assume the role of Director of the Real Property Tax Service Agency, a State required position and this position would be a Deputy Commissioner of Finance under Burt Gulnick as Department Head. Mr. Hanson further explained the savings would occur as a result of not needing to backfill to replace Mr. Jackson's position and utilizing the Department of Finance Department Head for purchasing and budgeting purposes. Mr. Hanson reported the Real Property Tax Service Agency would remain at the same location with the possibility that a wall might be removed to accommodate the relocation of employees as space needs are determined by the County. **Legislator Parete** stated Mr. Jackson is a well qualified candidate and he is excited for the nomination. **Legislator Aiello** stated he agreed 100%.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Aiello, Belfiglio, Parete, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 3 **Resolution No. 207 – August 14, 2012**
Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 207 – Implementing A Voluntary Separation Program for Eligible Ulster County Employees

Resolution Summary: Eligible County employees must be a member of the Civil Service Employee Association (CSEA) or Ulster County Staff Association (UCSA) and enrolled in the New York State Retirement System in either Tier 1, 2 or 3, or was hired prior to January 1, 1994. Only employees from the following departments are deemed eligible: Public Works, Social Services, Environment, Finance, Health, Information Services, Mental Health, Office for the Aging, Employment and Training, Personnel, Planning, Probation, Purchasing/Central Services, Real Property Tax Service Agency, Safety, Insurance, Stop DWI, Public Transportation, Tourism, Veterans' Service Agency, Weights & Measures and Youth Bureau. Approved participating employees will receive a cash payment of \$12,500.00 in exchange for voluntarily separating from county employment by December 1, 2012. In order to participate in the Program, an eligible employee must apply in writing to the Personnel Director no later than close of business on August 31, 2012. Each application will be reviewed by the Personnel Director who shall determine the employee's initial eligibility, and will confer with the County Executive's Office who shall determine final approval of an application after considering the operational impact on county departments, the necessity of backfilling the position, and other considerations. This resolution would authorize the implementation of this Program.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Discussion Legislator Ronk asked if there would be a liability to the County for unemployment for these individuals. Mr. Hanson stated individuals can make a claim to the appropriate State agency and it would be up to that State agency to make the final determination. Mr. Hansen stated the County would oppose any claim. When asked by **Legislator Ronk** if the CSEA separation pay was included in the \$12,500 cash payment, Mr. Hanson stated the \$12,500 cash payment was in addition to the contractual separation payment. **Legislator Parete** asked if this funding would be coming from the Contingency Fund. Mr. Hanson noted the Resolution authorizes the Commissioner of Finance to take the funds from available lines. He noted these lines are not determined yet and would be based on excess located in the budget at year's end. **Legislator Belfiglio** asked how many positions were expected to be included in the program. Mr. Hanson reported there were currently 232 FTE's (full time equivalents) eligible to participate. He stated the County was estimating that if 5% or 12 positions voluntarily participated in the program, the average savings could be \$400,000 or \$800,000 if 10% participated. Mr. Hanson explained this figure was dependent on the unit from which the position originated as higher costs savings would occur from within 100% county share budgets. When asked by **Legislator Belfiglio** why other units were not included in the program such as the Jail and Golden Hill, Mr. Hanson stated these units would be negotiated separately. Mr. Hanson also noted elected officials were not included, as the County Executive did not have the authority to not backfill positions and this action is what has resulted in the savings seen by the County over the last few years. Mr. Hanson reported other unit exemptions from the program were due to health and safety reasons. He further explained managers

were also excluded from the program. When asked by **Legislator Belfiglio** what might happen if less participation than needed should occur, Mr. Hanson stated less participation would mean increased cuts from other areas. Following a follow-up question **from Legislator Belfiglio**, Mr. Hanson noted he could not say if it will or will not result in lay offs. Mr. Hanson reiterated if there was less participation in the program, money would be taken from other areas.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Aiello, Belfiglio, Parete, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 4 Resolution No. 209 – August 14, 2012

Text of Motion: Resolved to approve Resolution No. 209 – Adopting Introductory Local Law No. 10 Of 2012 (A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code By Deleting Article XVII From Each [Real Property Tax Service Agency], And Amending The Ulster County Charter With Respect To Article VIII [Department Of Finance]), Hereinafter Known As Local Law No. 8 of 2012

Resolution Summary: Following a public hearing held on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, where all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said proposed Local Law, this Resolution will adopt said Introductory Local Law and it will hereinafter be known as Local Law Number 8 of 2012.

Local Law Number 8 of 2012 enacts a local first time homebuyer partial County property tax exemption pursuant to New York Real Property Tax Law section 457.

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

Abstract for August 14, 2012 Session: 1 Contract

Abstract No. L43-6/Family Services, Inc./Amendment to NYS mandated agreement to receive OASAS Aid to provide administrative services for the UC Substance Abuse Prevention Board/100% State

Motion Made By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislative Counsel Guerin asked if this was a new program or service. She noted the language indicated it appeared to be new language to an existing contract and it has been previously practice that new money and new programs would be approved through resolution. Mr. Crannell stated he did not have his file to properly answer this question but that he would provide the information at the Ways and Means Committee. The Committee's vote was to move the contract abstract on to the Ways and Means Committee for additional information to be provided by the Ulster County Executive's office.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Aiello, Belfiglio, Parete, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

New Business: **Legislator Aiello** was encouraged to provide the Committee with a report from the July 31st Lyme Disease Public Forum. **Legislator Aiello** noted the Daily Freeman did attend but has not, as of yet, reported on the event. He stated the forum went exactly as he had hoped and that it was an emotional and moving experience. **Legislator Aiello** stated attendees saw the horror of the disease and were educated that this is not just a rash. **Legislator Aiello** noted the medical community has been split on how to treat this disease with one treatment being a longer cycle of antibiotics than the other. According to **Legislator Aiello**, the CDC finds that longer antibiotic treatment is harmful. He noted that if one knows they have been bit and see the rash and/or bull's eye, a short round of antibiotics seems to be okay but for individuals who are experiencing their symptoms later, the diagnosis is inconsistent and treatment can vary. **Legislator Aiello** noted the medical community participation, including Doctors Smith, Bock, and Tack. He noted that although the Doctors are coming with different schools of thought regarding treatment, the dialogue at the forum helped to bring them closure to consensus. **Legislator Aiello** noted Mr. Crannell offered to follow-up with the Daily Freeman to ensure an article runs and the larger community is educated about this disease. **Legislator Aiello** gave his thanks to the staff and in particular Mr. Crannell for their assistance in putting the forum together. He noted it took a lot of effort on everyone's part. **Legislator Aiello** stated the Lyme Disease Advisory Committee is completing a report to present to the Health Department. Mr. Crannell suggested that this report, similar to the forum, be presented in a public forum. Mr. Crannell also suggested individuals be advised to review the preliminary findings and recommendations that are posted on the Health Department website.

Next scheduled Committee meeting is September 10, 2012 at 5:30 p.m., Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:49 P.M.

Dated the 6th day of August, 2012

Krista J. Barringer, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved on: