

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE
ON ARTS, EDUCATION, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, HELD AT ULSTER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON THE 19TH DAY OF JULY, 2006**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman
BRIAN CAHILL
ALAN LOMITA
GARY BISCHOFF
WAYNE HARRIS
MARY SHEELEY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

FRANK FELICELLO

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

CLAIRE BURLINGHAM, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College;
KATHY PUGLISI, Acting Director, Ulster County Office for the Aging;
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension;
SHERRI BRITTAIN, Executive Director, Ulster Arts Alliance;
RICK REMSNYDER, Deputy Director, Ulster County Tourism.
MRS. GARY BISCHOFF, Spouse of Committee Member
JANET CRISPINO SALANITRI, Recorder.

Ulster County Office for the Aging:

A quorum being present, Chairwoman Zimet called the meeting to order at 5:05pm and recognized Kathy Puglisi, Director of Ulster County Office for the Aging, who stated she had brought the correct Resolution form authorizing the transfer of the sum of \$37,110.00 from contingency into her budget to cover her buyout on retirement

Chairwoman Zimet reminded the Committee that this transfer had been voted on and unanimously approved at the June 21st meeting. The Resolution form was not presented at that time and it was signed at this time.

Ms. Puglisi then presented a proposed Resolution to accept the sum of \$14,900 from the State of New York Office for the Aging for the HIICAP Program. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Leg. Lomita and seconded by Leg. Cahill and upon voice vote the motion was unanimously approved.

At this time Ms. Puglisi advised that she had multiple requests for approval of various expenses and it was suggest that she present all requests and at the end of the presentation the committee would vote on them as a whole, rather than have four or five motions. The requests are:

- 1) Approval of \$26.78 for admission fee to Health Services Fair in October;
- 2) Approval of \$33.00 for bus transportation to a Medicare Part B conference in N.Y. City;
- 3) Approval of \$500.00 for refreshments and supplies for their Medicare trainings (more than one) for new counselors and coordinators;
- 4) Approval of \$49.06 for reimbursement for the person who paid for the refreshments and supplies for the last training; and
- 5) Approval of \$136 for membership in the National Association of Agencies on Aging.

All requests for approval having been submitted, Leg. Lomita made a motion to approval in total and the motion was duly seconded by Leg. Bischoff. Upon voice vote said motion was unanimously approved.

Chairwoman Zimet advised the Committee that she had told the department heads, that if they wanted to they could submit their proposed budgets now so this Committee would have time to review them. Ms. Puglisi submitted her proposed budget for 2007 at this time.

Turning to the Meals on Wheels program, Ms. Puglisi said the contract with Prestige expires on December 31st, Ms. Puglisi said they have been running into a few problems and were also concerned that the Jail is not yet ready. Her thought was that we hold off and renew this contract for only one year. This was the recommendation of her Advisory Committee.

Leg. Harris said that in order to start in January, everything would have to come in just right; however, everything is not coming in just right. He said we still have to get permission from the State Department of Corrections Ms. Puglisi said this would also give us more time to consider our options and how much can be saved. She expects to have a really big savings by preparing these meals at the new Jail.

At this time Leg. Cahill said the Lease at the BRC is about due and the Legislature was looking at that and some other leases. We are looking at the property the Sheriff is moving out of on Schwenk Drive. If the Office for the Aging gets selected as Administrator of the Point of Entry program they will really need more space. We would also like to put the Tourism offices in that Building and we would like to move Cornell Cooperative Extension to #1 Pearl Street. He said this is in an attempt to reduce the amount of rent the County is paying. Ms. Puglisi thought is was a good idea particularly since it is so accessible.

Leg. Lomita said there was twice the square footage as Aging's current offices which is why we are also putting Tourism there. He said the Public Works Committee gave its tentative approval last night, which is why we are talking about it now.

At this time Leg. Cahill asked Ms. Reidy of Cornell Cooperative Extension to explain her lease structure as it pertains to the County. Ms. Reidy said CCE has a agreement with DSS, USDA and SUNY which

is why we are able to charge off the rent. It gives us more money to do programs. She said what the County pays to house CCE shows up in the budget and that figure is used by the State.

Leg. Cahill advised that the owner of the Sheriff's former building is keeping the rent as is for the next five years, and is doing whatever repairs, etc. are necessary. A general discussion of rent and suitable properties followed. Leg. Lomita suggested that Ms. Reidy do a walk-through of 1 Pearl Street with Buildings & Grounds to determine space, needs, etc.

At this time Leg. Cahill moved that this Committee accept in concept the moving of Cornell Cooperative Extension to 1 Pearl Street, and the moving of the Ulster County Office for the Aging as well as Ulster County Tourism to the former Ulster County Sheriff's Offices on Schwenk Drive.

The report of the Ulster County Office for the Aging being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet introduced Mr. Rick Remsnyder, the new Deputy Director of Ulster County Tourism and presently acting as Tourism Director during Hallie Arnold's illness. She told Mr. Remsnyder that this Committee would want to help him as much as possible.

Mr. Remsnyder said Kathy Ellis and Rose McCabe of his office have been really cooperative and the office is up to speed. He said he is really glad to be here and with the County and is looking forward to bringing some business into the county. Mr. Remsnyder said there is a lot of work to be done at a very busy time of the year. He said we have great resources here in Ulster and he will be playing catch-up for a while, and will try to follow up on some of Hallie's new ideas.

Chairwoman Zimet asked if there had been any preliminary work done on the budget, and Mr. Remsnyder advised he had spoken with Mike Hein and was going to speak with Burt Gulnik. Chairwoman Zimet said the Committee would work with him to get this done. Leg. Harris asked if he had contacted the new Tourism Advisory Council. Chairwoman Zimet said the new Advisory Council was formed and it did not need to be done by Resolution; however, the Chairman has not yet appointed the Advisory Council. At this time, and after a brief discussion, Leg. Harris moved that this Committee approve and support the formation of the Tourism Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Leg. Lomita and upon voice vote said motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Remsnyder said he would be in contact with members of the Advisory Council.

Ulster County Arts Alliance:

The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Sherri Brittain was advised that she was not at recent meetings because she was the Festival Director for a classical music festival at Mohonk. She said all of the funding for this festival came from Europe and from Russia. Next year one of the sponsors wants to bring a full symphony orchestra. The timing was a plan to get the jump on Tanglewood and Saratoga.

She advised the committee that the Ulster County Arts Alliance offers insurance for artists and others and that they were currently putting together a retirement plan.

Also, said Ms. Brittain for the past three years she has been working on a strategic plan involving the Highland Cultural Center and now she will be doing a press release on its merger with Ulster County Arts Alliance. This will help her organization with administrative tasks and we will have a resource and data base center. She explained how the merged organizations will function. She expects to be moving to the store front next to UPAC.

Chairwoman Zimet advised that legislation had been passed in Albany to create an economic development zone for the arts. The law allows counties to create "art zones" at different places within the county. Ms. Brittain explained the zones. The county has to work with a local arts council. There would be two miles of art zone and it does not have to be contiguous. In addition, it would be the county that would set the tax rates in these zones.

The report of the Ulster Arts Alliance being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet said she would like to have a meeting of this committee in Ellenville, maybe at Shadowland Theatre. It could be either the regular meeting or a special meeting. Leg. Harris said he will call Brendan Burke at Shadowland and make arrangements.

Ulster County Community College:

At this time Chairwoman Zimet recognized Claire Burlingham, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College who reported that enrollment projections for the Summer exceeded budget projections. She said this was important because our Fall and Spring enrollments were below projections. Fall '06 enrollment also looks good at this time.

Some of our growth programs, said the Dean, include Engineering Science, Computer Science and our new Theatre Arts program. We are also looking at doing some new initiatives which will fall into line with our student's home obligations, as well as with rising gas prices. To that end we have started two new time-saving programs. There is a Saturday Tech Networking Academy to help students with their preparation for the Cisco Certified Network Associate exam. The Accelerated College Experience (ACE) program requires only one evening a week on campus. Also, the General Education Certificate which helps students complete their liberal arts requirements. These are blended courses which are made up of online and classroom work.

We are also holding a "New Options Workshop" on August 1 at the Business Resource Center and August 3 at Stone Ridge. These workshops are designed to give more options to the adult learner.

Dean Burlingham said that although we have always had good enrollment at the BRC at night, this Fall we will be looking to offer more classes in the 10:00am to 2:00pm time period. This would be good for people who work in the evening and also for parents of school-age children.

On the Capital Program, Dean Burlingham and the committee reviewed the Memorandum from Chairman Donaldson regarding the Oversight Committee. This committee will consist of Glenn Noonan, Jeanette Provenzano, Alan Lomita, Wayne Harris, Mike Berardi and Chair Susan Zimet. Being also chairwoman of this Committee, Chairwoman Zimet suggested the oversight committee meet here at the college at 4:00pm and then have the regular meeting at 5:00pm. Dean Burlingham said the Board of Trustees also oversees this project. The college has had its first pre-construction meeting, the contracts have been reviewed by the county and construction is scheduled to begin on July 24th. Dean Burlingham said the roof on Vanderlyn was a priority to be completed before classes begin.

Dean Burlingham was pleased to advise this committee what when the bids were awarded, the total amount was \$27,000 under budget projections. She did note that there are always change orders but, at least through the bidding process we were holding to our estimates. She also advised that the paving project for parking lots and roadways is tentatively scheduled for the second week in August.

On the \$400,000 telecommunications upgrade for the telephone system and the emergency light system the Dean said she has been working with Robin Peruso at Purchasing who is going to sign off and the college will manage it through the Dean of Administration's Office. She will come back to this committee for the necessary approvals.

Leg. Cahill thought it might be possible that, if there were savings in Phase I, the college might be able to use them to do things scheduled for Phase II such as the air conditioning in the gym. The Dean said that the work in Phase II in the gym would be close to \$1 million so the savings so far would not be of much help.

Ulster County Tourism (continuation):

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Rick Remsnyder of Ulster County Tourism who advised that he had several requests for approval of expenses. The first was for the American Bus Association tour from January 27, 2007 to February 2, 2007 for \$2,917.85. After some discussion it was decided by the Committee to hold this request pending further information.

The second request was for the October 24, 2006 Buyers Sales Exchange, Tour Operators, in the sum of \$1,095 for registration and transportation. Motion to approve made by Leg. Cahill and seconded by Leg. Lomita. Upon voice vote the request was unanimously approved.

Next was for Tour Operations through Hudson Valley Tourism at no cost to the County but still needing approval. Motion to approve made by Leg. Cahill and seconded by Leg. Lomita and upon voice vote unanimously approved. Leg. Cahill asked Mr. Remsnyder if he could find out if there was any way of determining the value to the county of these trips and he said he would look into it.

Cornell Cooperative Extension:

The continuation of the report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, and Chairwoman Zimet having had to leave, Deputy Chairman Wayne Harris recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension who distributed The Esopus Creek News, a newsletter published by the Esopus Creek Stream Management Plan. There are four people funded through grants that are working on this project. Interestingly, the Coordinator of this Plan started here the week after the flooding in 2005 and now has the Gilboa Dam problem. Their office is on Route 28 in the Phoenicia Plaza and they are open Tuesday and Thursday.

Ms. Reidy advised she also serves as Chair of the Agriculture Farmland Protection Board and on the Purchase of Development Rights Ulster County has submitted one farm, the Peter Davis Farm in Rochester. There were four farms submitted by the towns. The Town of Rochester submitted the DeWitt farm and the Town of Marbletown submitted Stone Ridge Orchards, Randy Hornbeck's Farm and Generation Farms. We should know the results by the end of the year. She said we have closed on the Paul Farm PDR and the Davenport and Misner Farms are near closing. She said that the Open Space Institute and Scenic Hudson work with Farmland Protection, and they will do the monitoring.

Cornell Cooperative Extension will be submitting its budget by tomorrow. Ms. Reidy said ours will look different because we are not Civil Service and all are included in our budget.

The Ulster County Fair starts on August 1st. There will be a flower show for the first time. Opening ceremonies will be on Wednesday, August 2nd at 10:00am. She also discussed several other aspects of the Fair.

Another program being worked on is Childhood Obesity which is joint with Kingston Parks and Recreation. There is also a program for Special Needs clients so they can live on their own.

She distributed a flyer on the Grand Reserve Tasting and Silent & Live Auction in which Cooperative Extension is involved.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, and there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Lomita and seconded by Leg. Bischoff and there being no opposition on voice vote, Deputy Chairman Harris declared the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janet Crispino Salanitri, Recorder