

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE MEETING

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Community Services Committee  
DATE: March 18, 1998  
TIME: 6:00 PM  
LOCATION: Conference Library  
Ulster County Office Building  
LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Alice Tipp, Robert Aiello, Joan Feldmann,  
Brian Hathaway, Edward Jennings, Philip Sinagra,  
Robert Wilkins, Sam Magarelli  
LEGISLATORS ABSENT: David Donaldson  
OTHERS PRESENT: Sue McCarthy, Youth Bureau  
Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Service  
Ellen Greczynski, Office for the Aging

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

The meeting began with Alice Tipp's introduction of the new Community Services Committee member, Legislator Philip Sinagra. The other members welcomed him

Sue McCarthy:

Sue began by expressing her thanks to the Legislators for her years of service as Director of the Ulster County Youth Bureau. She is taking on a new position as Director of the Ulster County Youth Advocate Program.

Sue stated that she had talked to Legislator Danny Alfonso and Romey Kelley (from the Youth Bureau) that morning and they discussed the merge between the Youth Bureau and the Department of Social Services on a State level. In order to get State funding, the programs in the Youth Bureau need to be monitored. A county comprehensive plan, therefore, is required. Sue advised the committee that a \$75,000 grant was requested to the state for an interagency plan which has been established between the Youth Bureau, the Probation department, Mental Health, the Health Department and the Department of Social Services. This is due July 1998, however, since they are attempting interagency planning, the deadline is extended to 12/98. If the grant is given, the deadline will then be 12/99. Sue claims that they have a good chance of getting the grant. At this time, a plan is submitted by each department, however, they hope to someday combine each departments' plan and submit only one. Brian asked Sue about the money that was given to each town last year. He questioned why Rosendale, a town with less children, received more money than Esopus, a town with more children. Sue stated that a municipality is entitled to certain money depending on youth population. The money is given to 2 funds: ,

recreation and service. Each are allotted a certain amount of money and the amount can rise over time. The town of Esopus only has a service program so no money is allotted for recreation. In addition, Rosendale has been established a long time and their funding has increased over the years. Brian asked for an example of a service program. Sue's examples were Big Brothers, Big Sisters, along with after school programs such as latch key.

Sue finished with a short overall description of her new position. She will be involved with preventative work with children. Kids coming out of residential care will be given services that enable them to remain in the community. Alice asked if there were any further questions and there were none. Sue once again thanked the committee and the committee wished her good luck in her new job.

#### Terry Breitenstein - Veterans Service Agency

Alice introduced Terry to Philip Sinagra and Terry began with an update of the status of the Real Property exemption for Veterans. He stated that he had spent a lot of time working with people in the town of Hurley regarding the re-val.. Everything went well and they are almost finished. Phil asked how the towns did with the assessment caps. Terry answered that 10 towns raised their assessment cap and 10 towns did not. Robert Wilkins asked if Olive was one of the towns that did. Terry said it was not. He went on to say that the average assessment in Ulster County runs about \$110,000. He asked the towns to raise the cap to a minimum of 120%. In order for a town to raise their assessment cap, it must be brought before the town board. To date, Saugerties has not moved on it yet. Robert Aiello asked if Terry knew if anyone from Saugerties had gone before the board yet. Terry answered yes and Joan Feldmann asked who? Terry stated that Paul did. He also said they still have time to sign the Resolution and if they do so, they can still get it in for the 1998 year. Terry noted that he had checked with other County Veterans agencies and found that Ulster County is the only county where the Veterans Agency is involved with the revals and tax exemptions.

In regard to the VA Primary Health Clinic, Terry announced that it should be open and running in June 1998.

The next issue Terry brought up was the personnel loss in the Veterans Agency office. He informed the committee that his staff was being cut. One employee has been cut down to 2 days per week, and he is losing his College VOC Rehab. employee in 2 weeks with no one to replace him. A full time counselor is needed. Alice suggested that he write to the state and advise them of the need for this employee. He responded that he had written to the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs twice, requesting a full time counselor, with no response. Phil Sinagra then advised Terry that it should go on record that the committee is opposed to the loss of employees and that a letter should be written and signed by all committee members indicating that the full time counselor is needed. Alice asked Terry to draft the letter and then present to the committee for their signatures. Alice remarked that if the whole committee signed the letter, it would be stronger.

The last issue Terry discussed was the renovation to their building. He feels that there may be a problem with the fresh air system within the building. It may not be exhausting properly. Dick Bergin was there and is going back next week. Terry expressed much concern with this as he feels it has affected his health. He advised the committee that although he suffers from allergy

problems, he feels the environment in his office and the building may be affecting him to a higher degree. He has seen a few physicians due to this. His symptoms included dizziness, fatigue and general flu symptoms and the symptoms appear to have worsened since the new carpeting was installed 2 weeks ago. Joan questioned if Harvey said anything about this and Ed asked if he was the only one affected. Terry replied that he was not. A woman with asthma had to be removed from the building the week before because she couldn't breathe. He said that between the Safety office and the Grounds department, they've been very responsive, they baked the building and shampooed the carpets but nothing has been found.

Alice asked if there were any other questions, there were none.

Joan brought up the new "Hoptel" which is located in the Albany VA Hospital on the 9th floor.

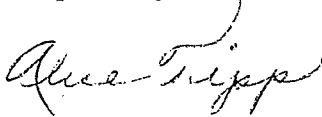
Terry was not sure what it was about and would look into it.

Alice then asked about submitting the resolution again. Now that there is more than one sponsor it will be submitted again.

With regard to the March report for the Office for the Aging, due to Kathy Puglisi's absence, copies of the report were handed out to each committee member along with an application form for the 1998 Senior Games.

Bob Aiello made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Robert Wilkins. The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alice Tipp, Chairman  
Community Services Committee