

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE

NAME OF COMMITTEE: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

DATE: July 21, 1994

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Ulster County Office Building, 6th Floor
244 Fair Street, Kingston, N.Y.

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Alice Tipp, Chairman, Susan Cummings,
George Devine, David Donaldson, Brian
Hathaway, Richard Husted, and Frederick
Wadnola

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Frank Dart and Fawn Tantillo

LEGISLATORS EXCUSED:

OTHERS PRESENT: Alice White, Youth Bureau
Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Service Agency
Lucy Honig, Human Relations Commission
Barbara Short, Office for the Aging

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Alice White, Youth Bureau, presented preliminary budget figures, which showed an overall decrease of \$3,461. There was some discussion on the budget and Chairman Tipp queried the committee on if they wished to review the proposal prior to making their recommendations. Legislator Hathaway made a motion that the budget be accepted as presented, and Legislator Husted seconded the motion.

Terry Breitenstein, Veterans Service Agency, presented preliminary budget figures, which showed an overall increase of 27%, 9% of which was the salary changes enacted by the CSEA contract in 1994. Legislator Devine asked how Ulster County can come up with a 27% increase in funds for the Veterans Service Agency, a department financially supported almost entirely by Ulster County funds, without raising taxes. Also how can Ulster County get the state to pick up some of the financial responsibility for services that they are mandating? Discussion ensued on the budget and on any possible ways to achieve reductions.

Chairman Tipp requested that Legislator Devine visit the Veterans Service Agency to get a clearer picture of what that department's function is, and how it operates. The budget would be reviewed and discussed further at the next meeting.

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Mr. Breitenstein noted that Jim Gage, Deputy Director, will be retiring on Sept. 9th. The help wanted advertisement had gone out as directed at the last committee meeting. To date Mr. Breitenstein had received 20-some applications for this position, 3 of which were from out of county.

Legislator Devine wished to go on record as stating that in his opinion the recruitment for Jim Gage's position should be prioritized through all of the county departments before advertising publicly. He was advised that it is circulated through all of the departments per the CSEA contract prior to being advertised in the public sector.

Lucy Honig, Human Relations Commission, presented a preliminary budget, which showed a 51% increase. This was due to a request to change the position of the Director from a part-time position (21 hours) to a full-time position. The rationale for this request was the increase in the commission's workload, and the expanding role the commission plays in assisting local businesses. Discussion ensued on the proposed budget and it would be reviewed and discussed further at the next meeting.

There being no further business, Legislator Hathaway moved to adjourn and Legislator Husted seconded. The committee adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Alice Tipp, Chairman
Community Services Committee