

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: General Services Committee
DATE: March 16, 1992
TIME: 7:30 PM
PLACE: Legislative Chambers
LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman Philip J. Sinagra,
Legislators Bertone, Gerentine,
Provenzano, Sottile, Tipp
LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislator Naccarato
OTHERS PRESENT: Herb Hekler, Planning Board; Mary McMickle
STOP DWI; Joe Lemme, Information Services;
Peter Savago, Harry Castiglione, Board of
Elections; Barbara Applegate, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Sinagra.

PLANNING BOARD

Herb Hekler presented the agenda for the Planning Board.

Herb reported on UCRT Operations for January and February. Revenues, passengers and miles were up both months. Ulster County is considered to have one of the most successful bus operations in New York State. The New Paltz bus runs at capacity, as does the bus going to UCCC. Chairman Sinagra informed Herb that he would be hearing from the Office on the Aging regarding centralization of transportation, i.e. running the Senior Citizen bus and the Veterans bus to Albany. It was suggested that possibly the agency could be charged back for the service. Chairman Sinagra asked that Herb give him a copy of all routes covered by UCRT.

Budget Reduction Impact. Herb reported that his budget has been trimmed all it can. His staff will be taking furloughs. Herb will

give back five sick days and five vacation days. If the price of fuel remains low, there will be extra revenue in that account. Herb also discussed the high cost of running buses when UCCC is open and the county is closed due to a holiday. Herb has spoken to Bob Brown at UCCC about coordinating school closings with county closings.

STOP DWI

Mary McMickle presented the agenda.

Mary reported on the recent Prosecution Enforcement Conference that was held at the Fallsview Hotel in Ellenville. This year an awards ceremony was held, honoring the first and second highest DWI enforcer for municipalities and State Police. All the counties in the Mid Hudson Region participated.

The STOP DWI office has been asked by many of the high schools in Ulster County to help defray the costs of After Prom parties. Funds have been designated for Kingston, Highland, New Paltz, Saugerties and Onteora High Schools, so far this year.

The STOP DWI office loans equipment to various municipalities. They also pay to have it maintained. Many departments were given equipment when the program was started ten years ago, as a result, many of the units need to be replaced. STOP DWI has been asked to purchase radar units and breathalyzers for several of the departments.

A Servers Academy will held in May or June. A breathalyzer school will be planned for part time officers in the summer. The STOP DWI Advisory Board will meet in late April to discuss funding for second half 1992.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Joe Lemme presented his agenda.

Joe presented a resolution to transfer \$7,627.00 from account AAA-1680-0-1011 to AAA-1680-0-1996 to cover termination of two employees. Susan Henry and Stephen Conley. Moved by Legislator Sottile, seconded by Legislator Provenzano. Unanimously passed. (Legislator Sinagra, Tipp, Gerentine, Sottile, Provenzano and Bertone all in favor). Joe stated that this position will remain vacant for a while. When it is filled, it will be listed differently than it is now, which will be more cost efficient.

Joe presented a resolution to increase AAA-1680-0-2500, equipment

purchase and AAA-1680-0-9000 reimbursement various departments, each by \$25,000 to complete the new computerized Mental Health System. Moved by Legislator Tipp, seconded by Legislator Sottile, Unanimously passed. (Legislators Sinagra, Tipp, Gerentine, Sottile, Provenzano and Bertone all in favor).

The 1992 Plan for Information Services has been compiled and forwarded to the departments. The plan was compiled via the survey letter and request for electronic data processing equipment submitted by the departments with their budget. The hardware portion is on "hold" pending "target" budget reduction proposals submitted by County Administrator. The reimbursable departments were not affected. Joe presented his department's proposed budget reductions.

Two new applications were made available to the public access customers at the beginning of February 1992; on line phone directory and E911 street address file. There is no charge for this service to county subscribers. A water and sewer database will be offered in the future. It will be built using Health Dept. Sanitation Division data.

Joe met with the Ulster County Board of Realtors. They asked for a discount fee on the Public Access System in return for getting a volume of subscribers. Joe has agreed to wave the one time \$250.00 charge and to drop the \$50.00 monthly fee to \$25.00 for one year; if the Board of Realtors get 20 subscribers, sign a one year contract with no termination, do training all at once, do consulting by telephone and use the existing number of dial lines. If it is necessary to increase the hardware needed to support the additional subscribers, or get more than 20, then a connect charge to cover the cost of installing more telephone lines and modems will be imposed.

Joe reported on the status of AS/400 installation at Sheriff's Department and County Clerk's Office. Both departments will go live within 60 to 90 days. Everything is on schedule for both installations. A report was also given on the status of RS/6000 installation at the Mental Health Department. This processor will run a full complement of software for Mental Health from Administration to Client Services. The current automation installed on the county's mainframe for use by Mental Health will be removed in early Fall 1992. This project is also on schedule.

The 1992 rates have been published. Joe reported that generally the rates have been very stable or have gone down. It is becoming more cost-effective than ever to proceed with automation.

Joe gave a status report of the major projects in progress. Thirteen of the seventeen projects are on time.

Joe distributed copies of the department's operations statistics.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Peter Savago and Harry Castiglione, presented their agenda.

A total of 762 students from ten area high schools have registered to vote during the "Day of Registration" that was held at each school. That is 173 more than last year. A third of the students registered in a party.

The Ellenville Village Election will be held March 17th noon to 9:00 p.m. The Board of Elections offices will be open until the polls close and the results come in. The presidential primary will be held April 7th 6:00 am to 9:00 p.m.

Voter registration forms will be delivered to all the post offices in Ulster County.

Commissioner Castiglione reported on the Election Commissioners Conference that was held in January.

In cooperation with the League of Women Voters the Election Board is supplying area banks with counter boxes and registration forms.

Total registrations to date are 1,654.

Legislator Provenzano moved and Legislator Sottile seconded that meeting be adjourned at 10:10 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip J. Sinagra
Chairman
General Services Committee