



Commentator

AUGUST 2012

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates for public office but does encourage its members as individuals to participate actively in the political process. The League acts on those issues the membership chooses for study and action

The LWV of the Mid-Hudson Region covers the Ulster County area and the Dutchess County area. We belong to the LWV of New York State and the LWV of the US.

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CALENDAR		
2012		
JULY		
30	Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 pm	Public Meeting on the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan at SUNY Orange, Newburgh Campus, 1 Washington Ctr, Newburgh, NY 12550, Kaplan Hall, The Great Room. See "Program News" below for more details.
31	Tues. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge, Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, packback56@yahoo.com
AUGUST		
7	Tues 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
9	Thurs 2 pm	Resource Development Committee meeting , home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Road, Kingston, 845-339-3180, mcsellers@aol.com . Time, date and location tentative; please confirm with Margaret.
14	Tues 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge, Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, packback56@yahoo.com
25	Sat. 7 pm	" Iron-Jawed Angels ," 2004 HBO film about Alice Paul's (Hilary Swank) and Carrie Chapman Catt's (Anjelica Huston) struggles to win the women's vote. Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting House, 249 Hooker Ave. at Whittier Blvd., POK 12603. 845-454-2870. Friends Meeting co-sponsoring.
26		WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY Women won the vote 92 years ago
28	Tues 10 am	Dutchess Shared Services Committee meeting , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Rd., Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, echarwat@yahoo.com
SEPTEMBER		
5	WED 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.

Check our Calendar on-line at

<http://lwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>

MEMBERS: Need a ride? Want to car-pool?

Contact: Dare Thompson: darethompson@gmail.com
 (845) 236-307

Prez Sez...

So much for the lazy, hazy days of summer - all sorts of political activity is brewing and the League is as busy as ever!

Top issues for us in Ulster are the revisions being made to our County Charter - especially the changes to redistricting - and the questions being raised about the future of the Resource Recovery Agency.

In Dutchess we have been following the County's redistricting process, and while we applaud public hearings, we are concerned that the maps are still going to be drawn by legislators without much, if any, public involvement in the actual map-drawing process. When elected officials carve out their own districts, the results are never pretty. (Witness the state Assembly and Senate districts vs the court-drawn Congressional districts and the independent commission-drawn Ulster County districts.)

Alas, as important as all these issues are, the public is paying little attention. League members are often the only ones at the critical public meetings. But we are out in numbers and we're hoping you're looking over the reports we generate.

We also hope you'll join us on August 25th to salute the suffragists whose sacrifices remind us just how much we should value our right to participate in our government.

And finally we hope you'll find a big or little way to participate in our Tea & Trash Party, which is already generating a lot of energy and creativity and should be a lot of fun. The event is not until October, but you know that means we need helpers NOW! Just call the League number - 845-340-2003 - and we'll get back to you!

Dave Thompson

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845-236-3074 (cell: 845-797-5045)
Fax: 845-236-2626

PROGRAM NEWS

SAVE THE DATE for TEA and TRASH - a very "Green" Tea Party

to recognize the pioneers of the recycling movement in Ulster and Dutchess Counties and celebrate the League's long history in this

Sunday, October 14th, 2012, 1 pm, Wiltwyck Golf Club, 404 Stewart Lane, Kingston, NY 12401

"High Tea" goodies, a silent and live auction, and a chance to meet and hear from environmentalists who began it all

We're looking for volunteers, sponsors, and auction item donors of local and green products and services - including gently used treasures to be reused (antique tea pots are perfect!)

To help, donate, or get more information call 845-340-2003 or contact info@lwvmidhudson.org

Last March we showed the 2004 HBO film, "**Iron-Jawed Angels**" in Rosendale to celebrate Women's History Month and the event that started the League of Women Voters - the 1920 approval of the amendment to give women the vote.

Now we're bringing the film to Poughkeepsie on the eve of Women's Equality Day (the day the victory became official). Join us on **Sat., August 25 at 7 pm**, this time at the **Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting House** at 249 Hooker Avenue (at Whittier Blvd., just west of Grand). Parking's easy - there's a large lot off Whittier.

The film features Hilary Swank as the activist Quaker, Alice Paul, and Anjelica Houston as the League's founder, Carrie Chapman Catt. Houston won a Golden Globe for her role as well as an Emmy nomination and the film received 4 other nominations. And those of us who watched the film in Rosendale can guarantee that you will come away inspired, and with more respect than ever for what the suffragists endured to win us the vote.

The showing is free and open to all and we thank the Poughkeepsie Quakers for being our host and partner. The post-film discussion should be lively!



Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance on behalf of Mid-Hudson Sustainability Planning Consortium

By December 2012 we will have a 7-County PLAN. This Plan will Guide Integrated Sustainable Solutions from Statewide Investments to Regional Decision-Making on Land Use, Housing, Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy, & Environmental Practices

Find out Who, How, What and When, on Monday, July 30, 2012 , 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM - (Doors will open at 6:00 for refreshments)

SUNY Orange, Newburgh Campus, 1 Washington Ctr, Newburgh, NY 12550, Kaplan Hall, The Great Room

Visit www.engagemidhudson.com to see the 6 different Topics of the Plan.

Come to the gathering on Monday, July 30th, 2012 and learn how the plan is being created, how to have input, who are the hired planning consultants, the stake-holder committee members, what the plan will contain, (imagine integrating and consolidating all the existing municipal, county, and specialized plans for this region), when the plan needs to be completed, where you can have input and ask questions.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Annual Report, June Board meeting minutes and the revised Bylaws can be found at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Committees.html>

VOTER SERVICE

Be sure to visit VOTE411.org and lwvny.org as well as our own page at lwvmidhudson.org/elections.html for national, state, and local information to help you with nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information on the following aspects of the election process:

- Absentee ballot information
- Ballot measure information (where applicable)
- Early voting options (where applicable)
- Election dates
- Factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races
- General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye
- ID requirements
- Registration deadlines
- Voter qualifications
- Voter registration forms
- Voting machines
- Polling place locations*

Keepin' 'Em Honest - And Keeping Ourselves Informed

Have you ever gone to a town or county meeting only to be frustrated by the body calling an "executive session" and hiding itself away from public view? Most people know that the body have to has a good reason to do this, and often the head person does mumble something about what that reason is (usually "personnel" or "litigation") but you have a right to demand more of an explanation that you might realize.

Here are the rules as outlined by New York's amazing **Committee on Open Government** (part of the Department of State) whose Executive Director, **Robert J. Freeman**, has done so much to increase citizens access to their government across the country. **We've bolded a portion that most bodies don't adhere to.** If you want to see more, go to http://www.dos.ny.gov/coog/right_to_know.html#oml.

When can a meeting be closed?

The law provides for closed or "executive" sessions under circumstances prescribed in the law. It is important to emphasize that an executive session is not separate from an open meeting, but rather is defined as a portion of an open meeting during which the public may be excluded (§105).

To hold an executive session, the law requires that a public body take several procedural steps. First, a motion must be made during an open meeting to enter into executive session; second, **the motion must identify "the general area or areas of the subject or subjects to be considered;"** and third, the motion must be carried by a majority vote of the total membership of a public body.

A public body cannot close its doors to the public to discuss the subject of its choice, for the law specifies and limits the subject matter that may appropriately be discussed in executive session. The eight areas that may be discussed behind closed doors include:

- (a) matters which will imperil the public safety if disclosed;
- (b) any matter which may disclose the identity of a law enforcement agency or informer;
- (c) information relating to current or future investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense which would imperil effective law enforcement if disclosed;

- (d) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation;
- (e) collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law);
- (f) the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation;
- (g) the preparation, grading or administration of examinations; and
- (h) the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

These are the only subjects that may be discussed behind closed doors; all other deliberations must be conducted during open meetings.

It is important to point out that a public body can never vote to appropriate public monies during a closed session. Therefore, although most public bodies may vote during a properly convened executive session, any vote to appropriate public monies must be taken in public.

The law also states that an executive session can be attended by members of the public body and any other persons authorized by the public body.

Note that item (f) is often referenced as "personnel," even though that term does not appear in the grounds for holding executive sessions. Only when the discussion focuses on "a particular person or corporation" in relation to one or more of the topics listed in that provision is an executive session permitted.

Moderating Guidelines

New on our website are guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events. Check it out and please refer anyone who is interested in sponsoring a debate to our website. The guidelines can be found directly at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.

Ulster County Charter Revision Commission

In May the Commission submitted to the Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee a draft of its recommendations for changes to the current charter (<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/charterrevision/docs/Complete Charter w track changes 5.8.12 ES 2.pdf>) Thereafter, the Committee drafted a Local Law (<http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/resolutions/Proposed Local Law No. 11 of 2012.pdf>) which continues to be revised.

The Committee held an informational meeting on July 18th, an informal meeting on July 23rd in the afternoon and a full committee meeting later that evening. Another special Committee meeting was held on July 25th in advance of the Legislature's Special Meeting that evening. A Public Hearing will be held by the Legislature on August 7th regarding its proposal including any revisions that may have been made as of that date.

Members of the League and Charter Commission as well as a spattering of citizens attended and spoke at one or more of the meetings.

Under the existing Charter, the Commission has the power to directly place on the November ballot proposals regarding either the Executive or Legislature. To do so it must first hold a public hearing (which was held on July 24th) and approve that action with an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Commission membership. The Commission will meet to vote on the question in August. Meetings of the Commission are always open to the public and are included in the Legislative Calendar. (See <http://www.calendarwiz.com/ucalendar>)

The dialog between the Commission and Legislature has been notably marked by an effort to reconcile the proposals and present for public approval those that are agreeable to both. While the parties have generally acknowledged the reasonableness of various suggestions for compromises, one issue has shown to have strong advocates on either side of the question. The issue is, in a nutshell, Reapportionment (Redistricting) and who shall have the final word.

From all reports, it was the intent of the original Charter Commission to create an independent commission to redraw the local election districts every 10 years and that its determination would be binding on the County (subject, of course, to judicial intervention.)

The language of the Charter failed to clearly delegate that power to the commission that was created and a judicial decision found that the power to adopt a reapportionment plan remained a legislative function. The Charter Revision Commission recommended a variety of procedural changes and drafted language to clearly delegate the power to adopt a reapportionment plan to the independent commission.

Those in favor of a legislative approval procedure contend, among other arguments, that it is an essential element to assure a democratically formed plan based on the voice of the electorate.

Those promoting an independent commission procedure argued that it was the only way to assure a plan free of political influence.

One speaker at the informational hearing observed that legislative reapportionment is inherently fraught with self interest (also known as Gerrymandering.)

The parties are likely to continue efforts to reach accord but by September 6th the die will be cast. That is the last date by which propositions for the November ballot must be delivered to the Board of Elections. Whether there will be two, one or no propositions to consider remains to be seen.

Be sure to read the Committee and Legislature Agenda and Minutes at the county Website:
<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/legislature.html>.

Access the Commission's pages at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/charterrevision/index.html>

ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ulster & Dutchess Counties Solid Waste

July Report on Solid Waste Committee

This has been a very busy month for members of the LWV Solid Waste Committee. On a State level the DEC has been pushing for Counties & Planning Units to submit updated Solid Waste Plans that would conform to the State's "Beyond Waste" hierarchy. At the same time Governor Cuomo has initiated a Regional Sustainability Plan, with solid waste being an integral part. With a target date of December 25th, groups are actively meeting and communicating throughout the Hudson Valley.

In Dutchess County, the Legislature just voted to approve a \$1.8 million dollar subsidy to the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency.

In Ulster County, the Board of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) has asked the Legislature to reinstitute flow control regulations in order to stem the decline in solid waste & recyclables to the Agency and thereby reducing revenues, which makes for a larger service net fee to be paid by taxpayers from the General Fund. The Agency is also developing a capitol program, which is very difficult to do when there is so much uncertainty. The Environmental, Energy & Technology Committee (the overseeing Legislative committee- EET) met to discuss flow control and other options. Legislators Kenneth Wishnick & Carl Belfiglio presented "A Proposal to Enhance the Environmental & Financial Sustainability of Ulster County's Solid Waste System". One suggestion was to give more authority to the County Executive – which Mike Hein has made very clear that he doesn't want to have happen. The proposal is a good concrete starting point with many thought provoking suggestions.

Locally, municipalities' contracts with UCRRA are expiring. Many communities are relying on private haulers to take single stream recyclables, which UCRRA is not able to process.

July is also the target month for UCRRA to begin its pilot commercial composting program.

You can see there's a lot happening and the reason we know about it is we have such an active League committee that makes it a point to attend so many of the important meetings. The League had almost as much representation at the EET meeting as the Legislative Committee! At that meeting the legislators discussed a letter from our Committee that listed our concerns as the County moves through the process of developing better ways to decrease & provide for the collection of waste. Legislators had also availed themselves of some the educational materials we had been collecting and can be access on the League website – www.lwvmidhudson.org. We had our regular meeting on the 10th, a special meeting on the 16th and are planning another meeting on July 31st. A group of us will be going to Rockland County for a Regional Workshop on July 26th. We are also in the process of making comment on the Wishnick/Belfiglio Proposal and are participating on the Regional Sustainability Interactive Site – www.engagemidhudson.com

Stay tuned...

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

Mid-Hudson Sustainability Plan's Website Now Online

Engage MidHudson is an online platform where citizens and government of the Mid-Hudson Region share knowledge and brainstorm project ideas and initiatives that will help build a more sustainable region. Engage MidHudson is being developed in support of the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Planning Project, led by the Mid-Hudson Sustainability Planning Consortium. The Consortium is steering the development of the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan as part of the Cleaner, Greener Communities Program announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in his 2011 State of the State address.

Visit <http://www.engagemidhudson.com/> to register and help spread the word!

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP**Environmental
Energy &
Technology
Committee****July 5, 2012**

In attendance: Carl Belfiglio, Tracey Bartels, Craig Lopez, John Parete, Ken Ronk, Ken Wishnick, Fawn Tantillo (Secretary), Mr. Cranell(? Ex. rep), Charlie Landi & Tim Rose (UCRRA)

Mr. Belfiglio shared a letter he had received from Gerald Benjamin (CREEO) informing the committee about the study CREEO completed in 2010. It highlighted the need for a regional approach to solid waste planning. Mr. Belfiglio asked to have the letter & study added into the public record.

Emilie Hauser also sent information including two reports done in 1998/9 and Mr. Belfiglio instructed that all members of the committee receive copies.

Mr. Wishnick talked about some of the recommendations of the various reports and agreed with regionalization though he said "it's many years in the making".

There was a disagreement with Mr. Parate & Mr. Belfiglio as to the presentation of a proposal for consideration by the committee. Mr. Parate insisted that he had verbally presented the group with "policy proposals" and said he would not put anything in writing.

There was a discussion of the Executive taking over Solid Waste in Ulster County. Mr. Ronk said that could only be considered if the UCRRA was being grossly mismanaged. Charlie Landri assured the group that management is not an issue. He requested the Committee support flow control legislation. The Agency believes flow control would increase volume and the tipping fees would stabilize. Mr. Wishnick said, "Something has to be done in the next couple months."

Mr. Parate voiced his displeasure with a flow control law believing it to be an "unfunded mandate".

Mr. Wishnick said a net service fee from the County's General Fund is "the least equitable means to finance solid waste".

Mr. Wishnick & Mr. Belfiglio presented their "Proposal to Enhance the Environmental & Financial Sustainability of Ulster County's Solid Waste System". Issues discussed included:

- Background
- The Problems
- Making the UCRRA Self Supporting
- Restructuring the UCRRA
- Implementation Strategy

After much discussion it was agreed that Ms. Bartels insistence on analyzing additional financial impacts be addressed. The Committee will send their articulated financial questions to the Chairman. It was also agreed that the County Attorney should give an opinion on the legalities of flow control & whether a restructuring of UCRRA would be cause to call the bonds. The Committee will also solicit the opinions of UCRRA on the proposal.

Public Comment:

Manna Jo Greene asked the Committee to consider climate change and the need to site a landfill in or closer to Ulster County.

Vic Mellville asked the Committee to consider Solid Waste as a commodity and meet with Solid Waste Disposal Companies to learn of the most recent developments in the field.

Dare Thompson reminded Mr. Belfiglio that the League of Women Voters Solid Waste Committee had sent a letter outlining their concerns & issues as the Committee moves forward with a plan. Ms. Tantillo distributed copies to Committee members.

Cindy Lanzetta suggested the Committee look to the League as a resource.

Susan Holland suggested the Committee consider what is happening in New Paltz with the Zero Waste Initiative and how it can be incorporated into County policy.

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

**Ulster County
Resource
Recovery
Agency
(UCRRA)
Board
Meeting****July 16, 2012**

In attendance:

Board Members – Dennis Helm, Leon Smith, Catherine Nilsen, Al Teetsel (late), Charles Landi

Absent -Leon Smith

Staff Members – Tim Rose, Stephen Wing, Timothy DeGraff, Charlie Whittaker, Michelle Bergkamp

Dennis Helm chaired the meeting.; Approved minutes.

Tim Rose reported that Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) was down significantly. Recycling amounts continue to decrease due to private haulers diverting materials elsewhere. Mr. Rose also explained that Leachate collection

was down as precipitation has also been less.

Michelle Bergkamp talked about the Agency's new pilot composting program. Preliminary preparations are done for the site. Additional materials are coming including 800' of PVC piping that has to be drilled and 1,000 yards of wood chips to be recycled into the compost. Michelle has developed educational materials for the businesses & haulers. She is hoping to have a Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting Event at the end of July. There is a documentary film being made by a professional film maker about the entire process of this pilot composting program – a guide to help others replicate what happens here in Ulster County.

There will be a Household Hazardous Waste/ Pharmaceuticals Drop Off in New Paltz on July 21st.

The Recycling Containers that are being offered for public events are being distributed. So far 50 containers have been spoken for.

Tim DeGraff made his Treasurer's Report. Revenues are down. There was a discussion of the County Net Service Fee versus the formula that is supposed to be applied to any budget shortfall. Mr. Landi asked that the formula be calculated so that it could be compared to present requests of the Service Fee.

The Report was accepted.

Resolutions:

The first resolution was to amend the Capitol Plan for future needs (specifically excavators). The discussion pivoted on the "uncertainty" of the position of UCRRA. Mr. Landi is concerned that the Legislature doesn't understand the "urgency" of the need for flow control for solid waste & recyclables. He believes there should be representation from the Legislative oversight committee (EET – Environmental, Energy & Technology) at Board meetings. It was agreed that the resolution would be tabled and Mr. Landi will bring his concerns to the next EET meeting.

The second resolution was to enable the Agency to award a bid to an engineering firm to repair a landfill wall that slid during the Irene/Lee storm. FEEMA & the State will reimburse 75% & 12% respectively. Approved.

Mr. Landi asked that a "financial impact statement" be included on future resolutions that warranted it.

The presentation by consultants Conerstone on the leachate issue at the New Paltz landfill was postponed to August's meeting.

Discussion on good working relationship with the Town of Lloyd.

Exhaust fans have been added to the transfer station to increase ventilation and keep down dust.

The Board voted to go into executive session (no reason stated).

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

The Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors

The June 26, 2012 meeting of the T/Supervisors of Ulster County was convened by T.Shawangunk Supervisor and President John Valk at 8:33 and adjourned at 10:30. The Next meeting will be July 17, 2012.

Attendees: Rosendale, Shandaken, Marbletown, Wawarsing, T/Kingston, Woodstock, Hurley, Rochester, Hardenburgh, Olive, New Paltz, Saugerties.

Other attendees: County Executive Michael Hein, Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell, Fawn Tantillo, Secretary to Chairman County Legislature, Judith Karpova T/Rochester Defense against fracking

Initially, County Executive Michael Hein commented on the special events that occur throughout UC during the year like Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day, etc. He noted that people are welcomed at these events; feels that they reflect very positive attitudes.

His next comments concerned the challenges that UC generally is facing. He felt that schools, county, community college were tending to take a narrow view of the world...more just their own view. Noted that there is a problem with lower graduation rates of African-American and Hispanic students. He has talked with the Superintendent and Community College president, both of whom had positive comments to make at their meeting. No Question UCCC is a beautiful campus, but if one can't drive, can't get there. Projected school closings in Kingston school district includes Sophie Finn which is located adjacent to the KHS.

Mr. Hein indicated that he presented a plan to the above to take advantage of the above in a positive manner: The STRIVE Project (Strategic Taxpayer Relief through Innovative Visions in Education).

According to the handout that was presented at the meeting, the project will relocate the existing satellite campus of SUNY Ulster from the Business Resource Center (BRC) to the Sophie Finn Elementary School which has been proposed for closure. This would place the new college site with access to public transportation, be within walking distance for high school students and many city residents.

It is projected that BRC with 30,000 square feet plus of space would enable the county to centralize health and human services in the county, providing a single point of access for residents of UC for the following: Veterans Services, Health Department, Mental Health Department, Information Services, among others. (Note:

Department of Social Services is already located in the complex as is the Office for the Aging).

Such moves would allow the county to sell 300 Flatbush Avenue (where DOH presently is located) 25 South Manor Avenue (where IS presently is located) and possibly other county owned properties. This reduces county costs, saves taxpayer money, and again, according to the handout, save more than \$1.7 million a year and about \$21.6 million over the next decade. See www.UlsterCountyNY.gov for additional information on this project.

His second topic dealt with DEC and DEP programs and he thanked the towns for providing space for the related meetings. Expressed observation that the communities in UC have to continue to work together and not allow these two agencies to prevent such.

The next item involved a lengthy presentation on anti-fracking procedures by the attorney that the T/New Paltz had employed in the latter's efforts to develop its position supporting such. He suggested that zoning which towns have the right to deal with under the NYS Constitution need to be part of the Comprehensive Plan and zoning law which includes all the elements in the process to ban fracking is the best way to proceed.

A representative of the UC Veterans' Service then explained that there are disabled veterans who need housing. The number varies, sometimes 4 in a month, other months none. They have income, but more than would enable them to receive help from DSS, rent about \$30-\$500 affordable. He was asking the group to make note and if such rooms were available locally to keep this group of veterans in mind and contact him. Apparently this has been done with some success in Saugerties.

Vince Bradley who is in charge of the attorney general's office in Poughkeepsie reported on the National Mortgage Settlement which will provide \$130 million to NYS to be used to fund legal services and housing counseling for homeowners. Nationwide \$25 billion dollars is involved. This involves the five largest banks dealing with mortgages: Bank of America, Citi, Chase, GMC, Wells Fargo. He introduced Mr. Kim who is the first intergovernmental representative. The funding that is involved is for the agencies that provide services for a full three years. Mr. Kim distributed a handout on the topic.

Supervisor Leifeld, Treasurer, reported that the association has \$6,520.04 in its account.

April, 2012 minutes were accepted.

Supervisor Chipman raised some concerns about Comptroller Auerbach's recent report suggesting that the county take over the business of assessment. He suggested that this should be carefully considered as there is no indication that this would for town's best process. Need discussion on this matter.

Supervisor Valk asked that Supervisor Zimet keep the group up dated on the anti-fracking work.

Supervisor Chip expressed concerns about the water levels at the reservoir; quite high due to the recent storms. He suggested a protocol was needed to address the situations that develop when there is a substantial increase in the amount of water that results in flooding of the roads like Route 209.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The July meeting of the UC Association of Town Supervisors was convened at 8:30 AM by President T/Shawangunk Supervisor John Valk and adjourned at 10:22 AM.

Attendees: Ulster, Denning, New Paltz, Wawarsing, Mabletown, Rosendale, Hardenburgh, T/Kingston, Shawangunk

Other Attendees: County Executive Michael Hein, Chairman County Legislature Teri Bernardo, Adele Reiter, Chief of Staff to the County Executive, David Sillford, NYS Comptroller's Office, James Taylor, Taylor Biomass Energy

First on the agenda was UC Executive Hein. Initially he spoke of the county concerns re the DEP and the water damage that has been caused to so many homeowners. Apparently the consent order that was involved was considered to be flawed. Additionally, it appears the EPA is supportive of the UC position.

Another point concerned the RRA and the costs involved. If this agency runs a deficit, the county covers it, which means there are in-roads into the county budget, which is of great concern to the county executive. He urged talking, sharing points of view with a desire to come to a reasoned end.

He asked how the county was doing for the towns. Question about the Safety Net program was answered with it is being worked on. Working on the Nevele project, particularly with respect to the casino aspect: T/Wawarsing Supervisor indicated that the town board would receive information on Thursday; he also thanked the County Executive and County Legislature for the support both have given to this project.

Teri Bernardo, Chairman of the UC Legislature spoke next. Initially she referenced the Resource Recovery

Agency and the problems related to it as well as the costs. Apparently there have been three possible ways of handling including creating a special taxing district, which would require an act of the state legislature according to the legislature's counsel and dissolving the agency, which apparently would also require such an act. Whatever method might be employed would cost a considerable amount of money for the county, i.e., pay off the debt. It was noted that the contracts that the towns have with the agency expire in October, 2012, but there are some towns whose contracts do not expire until the bond issue is settled. Mrs. Bernardo did note that if the agency was dissolved, then the handling of waste, etc. would be in private hands.

(Note: Later in the meeting when the representative of the Biomass Energy company spoke during the discussion she did note that one other method that she had not mentioned was to dissolve the RRA and place its responsibilities under a county department; which resulted in Mr. Taylor suggesting that the debt of the agency should be refinanced so that it would not fall on tax payer shoulders)

Chairman Bernardo then updated the supervisors on the status of the county charter review. There will be a vote this week at the informational meeting; an August public hearing; and then whatever changes go on the November ballot.

Mr. Sillford, the Regional Director of the Office of the State Comptroller spoke next. He explained that his office audits local government based on how long it has been since the previous one or if there is a complaint from an individual. During 2011 he noted that the property cap was the biggest problem that his office apparently was faced with. Additionally, he noted that the State Comptroller is also in charge of the NYS Pension Fund. How much must be contributed depends on a 5 year average, which has not yet been determined for this year. He expressed the hope that whatever financial matters impact this would even out by 2015. His staff and he are available to answer questions and to provide training, but pointed out that with cut backs there is a reduced staff available.

The Supervisor for T/Wawarsing made a point of thanking Mr. Sillford and his office for risk assessment audit that had been done for his town....said it was well worth it.

Supervisor Valk suggested that at the 9-18 meeting that someone from the State Comptroller's office provide some training on the tax cap. Mr. Sillford indicated that he would be willing to work with Mr. Valk on arranging such. The supervisors in general thought this a good idea.

The last presentation was made by James Taylor of Taylor Biomass Energy. This was a detailed and lengthy presentation.

According to the handout this process is "an environmentally clean method to separate biomass and recyclables fraction from wastes such as: construction and demolition (CD) municipal solid waste (MSW), commercial waste (CW) residuals and efficiently produce renewable, sustainable electricity (biopower)".

Mr. Taylor provided details regarding the development of his company, an explanation of the process that is used; noted the positive aspects and that apparently he expects to be operable January 1, 2014, but doing some pick up just prior to that date.

Given the concerns about the RRA that exist locally at the present time, this presentation apparently offered other ideas to consider.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. There was no treasurer's report.

Before adjourning there was a brief discussion initiated by the Supervisor of the T/Wawarsing on what can the association do regarding the matter of fracking as a group rather than individual towns having to spend money to obtain legal advice on opposing such. Before leaving the it was determined that the group would work on a resolution to be presented at the September meeting for discussion and possible adoption.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp