



Commentator

July/August 2011

CALENDAR

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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2011		
AUGUST		
2	7:15 – 9:15pm	Board Meeting at Esther Stickley's, 147 Griffin Dr, Hurley
4	1:30pm	Shared Services Study Committee at Lee Cane's, 50 Lipton St, Kingston
26		Women's Equality Day: The 91st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave full voting rights to women.
30	5:30pm	Solid Waste Study Committee Meeting, Gateway Diner, Highland (near Mid-Hudson Bridge) packback56@yahoo.com
31	2:30pm	Resource Development Committee at Margaret Sellers', 80 Ringtop Rd, Kingston
SEPTEMBER		
6	2:00pm	Shared Services in Dutchess Study Committee at Eleanor Charwat's, 7 Creek Bend Rd, POK
6	7:15pm	Board Meeting at Gloria Plasker's, 106 Park St, Hurley (location to be confirmed)
15	7:00pm	Ulster Co. Reapportionment Commission presentation for the Saugerties and Mid-Hudson LWVs, Saugerties Public Library, Washington Ave, Saugerties
27	5:30pm	Solid Waste Study Committee Meeting, Gateway Diner, Highland (near Mid-Hudson Bridge) packback56@yahoo.com
OCTOBER		
1	8:30am – 12:30pm	Conference on Solid Waste Management in Dutchess and Ulster Counties, SUNY New Paltz (time, location to be confirmed)
4	7:15pm	Board Meeting at Gloria Plasker's, 106 Park St, Hurley (location to be confirmed)
27	5:00 – 7:00pm	LWV's Ellie Charwat moderates forum for Dutchess Co. county executive candidates with NY Council of Nonprofits at Locust Grove, 2683 South Rd, POK

Check our Calendar on-line at
<http://lwwvmidhudson.org/calendar.html>
 for updated information

Commentator archives, State and National League newsletters are
 at <http://lwwvmidhudson.org/Newsletters.html>

MEMBERS: Need a ride? Want to car-pool? Contact Dare
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Interested in one of our committees? Just show up at a meeting.
 Our members are always welcome.

Prez Sez...

I hope you're enjoying the summer and staying cool.

League worker bees do disperse a bit in these months but enough stay in town to keep us busy, as you can see from the reports in this Commentator.

While we have an especially large concentration of these worker bees in the Kingston area, our new-ish studies on Shared Services in Dutchess County and Solid Waste Management in both counties are attracting more Dutchess members, and you'll see we're also doing candidate events in Dutchess this fall.

I encourage all Dutchess members who care about their county's redistricting efforts to let me know. Since the Dutchess lines are being drawn for the 2013 elections, there's still time to lean on those making the decisions. Most citizens don't "get" how central this issue is to a healthy government, so your voice is really needed.

The Solid Waste committee (which now includes almost a dozen people and meets in Highland) is monitoring both counties' Resource Recovery Agencies, which are facing remarkably similar problems. It's also planning a conference for October 1 which we hope to hold at SUNY New Paltz. For a variety of reasons, reducing the waste that goes into landfills also addresses the climate change crisis, so we all need to pay attention as both counties adopt new waste management plans and try to figure out what to do about both RRAs' debts and deficits.

Can you tell from the above that we also have FUN? Maybe not. But most people who are active in the League say the number one reason they enjoy it is "the people." They delight in being with other folks who believe that government should serve the people, not the politicians, and who like to know what they're talking about when they speak out.

All our meetings (including board meetings) are wide open. Join us! The work may be serious but we do get a kick out of it.

And congratulations to Jim McGarry on his appointment to the Charter Revision Commission. This is the first Commission formed pursuant to the Charter's requirement. The Legislature has made its appointments and we're awaiting the County Executive's choices sometime this fall. The Commission will no doubt be soliciting public input so start giving some thought to "tweaks" you would like to see implemented.

Dave

PROGRAM NEWS**Naturalization Ceremony**

On June 12, the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region once again participated in the Ulster County Naturalization Ceremony. Each of the new citizens was given a personal congratulations as well as information on voter registration and voting for the first time. Much thanks to league members Esther Sticklely, Kim McEvoy, Evelyn Ness and Jean McGarry for contributing to this special occasion.

ADVOCACY & STUDY**Solid Waste**

Our league is engaged in an ongoing study on solid waste in both Ulster and Dutchess Counties. Members are encouraged to support and participate in this effort. Cindy Lanzetta (packback56@yahoo.com) can answer all your questions. Check the calendar online or on the front page for meeting dates.

The committee has been producing and gathering a great deal of material. We hope to include brief summaries of what's on line in future years but for now you can find a list of some of the materials at http://midhudson.ny.lwvnet.org/Action_Study.html#Trash

Dutchess County Shared Services

The new Dutchess County Shared Services committee (Ellie Charwat, Nan Fogel, Diane Jablonski, Suzi Stoller, Anne Conroy and others) has been meeting regularly this year with the agreed-upon goal: To disseminate to the public and other government entities what is being done or is being studied in the region in respect to shared government services, but not to conduct any studies ourselves

Early on they met with Jonathan Drapkin, President/CEO of Pattern for Progress, who went over a report Pattern created (with Dyson Foundation funding) on Dutchess County's potential for shared services (<http://pattern-for-progress.org/dutchess-shared-services-study-brief-presented-dutchess->

edc-board) and talked more specifically with them about sharing purchasing and emergency medical services.

They also met with Jon Wagner of LaGrange, head of the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association, the group that initiated the Pattern study.

Most recently the committee has been talking with various towns and villages including Beekman, Clinton, Hyde Park, Red Hook (town and village), La Grange, Poughkeepsie (town and city), Stanford, Tivoli, Wappingers Falls (town and village), and the school districts of Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie, Spackenkill about how they do purchasing.

Findings from their notes:

- For large items like vehicles and fuel, most towns use the state bid system unless they find cheaper items by going to bid; for smaller items, most towns shop independently
- Few municipalities were aware of the Hudson Valley Municipal Purchasing Group, but wanted more information about it
- Barbara Lynch, the City of Poughkeepsie purchasing agent, seemed very knowledgeable about the purchasing function and tries to piggyback with other counties as well as NY State to get best prices. Cooperative purchasing can save money, staff time and information, as well as open bidding to more vendors, she said. She could be a resource for training other municipal purchasing officers.
- Town of La Grange is in the process of instituting a town-wide procurement policy.
- The Schools Districts use BOCES and the state for most purchases, including health insurance, workman's comp, supplies, fuel oil, etc.

Other areas where municipalities are currently sharing services:

Assessor – Town and Village of Wappingers, Town of Red Hook and Tivoli, Unionvale and LaGrange

Animal control – Beekman had an animal shelter that several municipalities used on a fee basis; destroyed by storm; hoping to rebuild

Highway – Hyde Park town and school district share fuel and salt; Wappingers town and village hoping to share new highway facility; Town and village of Red Hook are building a new highway garage

Library – City and Town of Poughkeepsie Library District

Recreation – LaGrange, Unionvale and Arlington School District - playing fields ; City and Town of Poughkeepsie – Spratt Park swimming pool; Town of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County – Rail trail maintenance

Sewer – Tri Municipal Sewer District for City and Town of Poughkeepsie and Village of Wappingers Falls

Water – City and Town of Poughkeepsie Water Plant

Zoning – Town of Red Hook and Tivoli share cost of a zoning officer

Animal control services – Recreation facilities and equipment

Continuing work:

More municipal officials should be made aware of Hudson Valley Municipal Purchasing Group and the savings involved in cooperative purchasing. Testimonials of those who use it might make it more attractive to others.

Diane will speak with someone in BOCES to develop a model that municipalities might participate in for large ticket items like fuel. She will also use a state web site that compares costs of similar services across towns that we can use to show the public the variations.

The major cost concern to municipalities is health insurance that is increasing so much each year. Suggestions to deal with this were:

1. Have NY State help towns who are too small for an insurance pool to get lower rates for medical insurance
 2. Work with bargaining units to negotiate with health insurance providers to get better rates or use the same insurer (Beekman did this)
 3. Establish a county wide consortium for health insurance as Tompkins County did
- Committee members are continuing to explore this issue further.
Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 6 at 2 pm at Ellie Charwat's house.
Herb Stoller will discuss emergency medical services and fire districts.

On June 9, 2011 the Shared Services Study group met with Robert Sudlow, Deputy County Executive of Ulster County, to discuss the municipal justice court system in Ulster County. We gave him a group of questions about that topic about a week in advance of the meeting.

The county has no stance per se on the town justice system. The justice courts are town based, the county cannot impose itself on the town courts. However, the county is interested in seeing efficiencies developed and cost savings.

Although the town courts are town based and believe that the town receives no monies from the county, those defendants who appear in the town courts are most frequently incarcerated in the UC Jail located on Rte. 32 in Kingston. As a consequence the defendants must be transported from Kingston to the town court which is handling the defendant's case. The cost of inmate transportation is high, not only for actual cost of running the vehicles (wear and tear, gas, insurance) but the overtime paid to the police, sheriff's deputies who must take the defendants to the town courts.

Additionally, representatives of the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender, Probation and Mental Health may need to be present and paid if outside their regular work schedule.

If there is a question of mental health problems, prisoners are given a mental health evaluation. If the prisoner is considered a possible suicide, a deputy is assigned to sit and watch this person. Additionally, there are other instances when defendants must be separated from others and watched, for example, fear of physical attack, fear of sexual assault, attack by another gang member, etc.

These costs are borne by the criminal justice system, not the towns.

One item that the county had suggested was the use of the video communication for non-mandatory situations, for example, rather than actually transporting the defendant to the town court to learn that the result of the defendant's blood work had not yet been received and that the court was postponing the trial for a month, notification could be done by video with no transportation or personnel costs involved.

Another problem noted was the actual times when the justice courts meet. Apparently, none are scheduled for Fridays.

Mr. Sudlow suggested that the Town Justices need to be "enlightened" as to the costs involved and the need for an effort to be made to develop efficiencies to save money. They will still be able to dispense justice.

He noted that Judge Lippman has advised that when a defendant is to be arraigned he/she is to have his/her lawyer present. This is new and could result in possible scheduling and cost problems

As to whether there is any merit to some negative comments that have been made about the town justice system in UC, for example, "messy, difficult, not what it should be", Mr. Sudlow indicated this does not apply to UC; more so out in the western part of the state. UC has not had justices removed from the bench, involved in scandal, etc.

He was asked whether there had been a change in attitude either from the T/Justices or T/Supervisors since the March, 2011 Judicial Conference in N. Paltz to which he responded that he hadn't heard of any change. Given the cost aspects of some of the work involved in having defendants in town courts what might be needed would be to get the justices together to discuss how joint planning could be done.

Sudlow did think that Justice Pape from T/Rosendale, who is now president of the county magistrates association, might get the other justices together to consider a discussion on how to develop cost savings and efficiencies.

In these particular economic times money is obviously the most important matter but procedures continue to be carried out in the same way as they have been. Why can't there be changes, efficiencies and cost savings introduced without having to think that justice can not be dispensed?

For the county, overtime is the biggest cost item that it must provide for.

Town justice courts do collect monies in the form of fines, fees or other revenues. The state, county and town may each receive a portion. These monies are deposited in the state general fund. What monies the county receives are therefore handled as a pass through to the local DWI program resulting in 100% of the DWI budget being covered by these funds. The funds are then used to assist those who are brought before the local DWI program; thus re-circulating the dollars back into the towns.

He had not heard whether anything had come of Denning and Hardenburgh seeking to consolidate their courts or in general whether the idea of circuit rider had moved ahead.

He felt that the Supervisory Justice process as noted in the state 2008 update on the Judicial System was more of a de facto position than anything else.

He said that the town justices rely on their local municipal justices association and the Division of Criminal Justice Services for help. The latter has a regular "help desk" that the town justice can call to get answers to their questions. Mr. Sudlow feels the town justices are very independent.

He has heard nothing from any of the town supervisors as to whether they feel differently about having financial oversight of the town courts. He remarked that at the Judicial Conference there had

been some observations from the town supervisors, but that he had pointed out to those T/Supervisors present that they were in fact the chief fiscal officer of the town courts.

He mentioned that the T/Hurley is not replacing its second town justice; looking to develop some cost savings. He had suggested to the T/Supervisor that now would be the time to evaluate the need to replace the justice and to develop some discussion on how to introduce efficiencies and cost savings.

Mr. Sudlow went on to say that if adjacent towns were overseen by T/Supervisors of the same party or when there is a vacancy, he might be able to get some discussion on consolidating the town courts.

Given the changes that will be occurring during the next several months as a result of the reapportionment commission's work and downsizing to 23 legislative districts as well as the number of T/Supervisors who will not be running again, he feels as he put it, the "tipping point" will be reached; there will be a need to "orient" the new T/Supervisors to the financial considerations that could possibly be achieved through the contracts covering highways...snow plowing and the t/justice court budgets.

As far as the status of the Criminal Justice Council at this time, he is the chairman; it is not getting the membership to attend; he doesn't feel it has a clear mission defined as yet as it was created as a legislative initiative with the alternatives to incarceration program as well. As a consequence the membership was divided between the two groups. The council has identified barriers and problems, but it hasn't put forth solutions on how to correct.

LWV Shared Services Study Committee (Cane, Ridgway, Sachs, Thompson)

DOCUMENTS ONLINE: <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/municipal.html>.

- [Ulster Intergovernmental Summary Report](#)
- [Economic Study](#)
- [Judicial Study](#)
- [Highway Study](#)
- [Action Plan](#)

Additional links of interest include

- The Draft Report can be found on the County Website at www.co.ulster.ny.us/municipalities/FINAL%20DRAFT%20Highway%20DOC%20with%20charts%20and%20maps.pdf
 - Frank Cassetta's concise summary is at our website at lwvmidhudson.org/files/Highway_Service_Cooperation_-_Summary.pdf
 - the Shared Services Program within the NYS Department of State Division of Local Government Services <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/lgss/sharedservices/index.html>
- Best Practices page of the NYS Association of Counties. www.nysac.org/County_Corner.php/

League Consensus Report to the Ulster County Legislature.

Summary: http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Consensus_Summary.pdf
Statement: http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Consensus_Statement.pdf
Pros & Cons: http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/GHHC_Study-Pros_and_Cons_10-19-10.pdf
Materials and resources used by the League in formulating its consensus
http://lwvmidhudson.org/Action_Study.html.

**LWV GOLDEN
HILL HEALTH
CARE CENTER
Study Group 2**

**OBSERVER
CORPS - ULSTER
COUNTY**

**Ulster County
Legislature
Meeting**

June 21, 2011 meeting convened at 7:00pm

Public Comments were received on Golden Hill, Safety Net funding and Mental Health Services. (Recall that formal consolidation of Public Health and Mental Health is under consideration by the Executive. One speaker suggested that Mental Health is being considered for privatization along with the Golden Hill considerations.)

Legislative items of note included:

- Approval of the UCCC Budget for 2011-2012 (\$28,183,021.00)
- An apportionment of additional TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds (anticipated to be \$1,300,000.00 to the Safety Net Program to offset reductions in state aid;

- Appropriating additional funding in the amount of \$62,978.00 for the provision of the Long Term Care Point of Entry (NY Connects Program. SEE: <http://www.nyconnects.org/NYConnectsProgramOverview.shtml>);
- Amending the county budget regarding the Youth Bureau's Allocation for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 reducing it from \$369,552.00 to \$272,466.00 as a result of State reimbursements reductions;
- Authorizations to bond and commence construction projects for box culverts (\$400,000.00); improvements to county buildings for ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act – *Federal Law*) (\$655,000.00); reconstruction of roofs at county facilities (County Courthouse - \$126,635.00 - and County Pool Bathhouse Roofs - \$123,365.00) and the purchase of DPW construction and maintenance equipment (\$622,376.00);
- Certain publications are now required to be printed on at least 30% recycled paper.
- Due to an increase in state appropriations, funding for the Ulster County Summer Youth Program has been increased in the amount of \$58,196.00.
- Resolution by which all Safety Net costs would be assumed by the County (as it is in all other counties of the state) was referred back to committee. (See notes under July's meeting below)

July 19, 2011 meeting convened at 7:00pm

Public Comments were received on Golden Hill, Mental Health Services, and the Climate Smart Community Pledge for Ulster County. Dare Thompson spoke on behalf of the League in support of the Pledge resolution.



Dare Thompson
President LWVMHR

Legislative items of note included:

- A task force is to be formed to study and report on the viability and financial impact of the Safety Net program comprised by the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, 3 members of the Legislative majority, 3 members of the Legislative minority, three 3 Town Supervisors, and the Mayor of the City of Kingston. The County Executive may appoint executive branch staff to assist. A report is due within 90 days. (*Some legislators pointed out that this matter has been considered at least twice before and observed that provincialism rather than the greater good had been a barrier to reform.*)
- The Department of Public Works, having received \$55,617.00 from the sale of scrap steel, requested this unanticipated revenue be used to fund the purchase of a trailer, technology equipment for the highway garage, and building repairs at the Sundown, Shandaken, and Ulster Heights substations. The legislature approved the request without discussion.
- A pair of resolutions under which the Global Warming Advisory Committee, established April 11, 2007, be reformed as the Climate Smart Committee, charged with investigating an 11 point agenda and making recommendations to the Ulster County Legislature were on the agenda. The various goals and rationales included that this program is intended to take advantage of opportunities to take a comprehensive approach to implementing policies and programs at the County government level to further reduce GHG (Green House Gas) emissions, increase energy efficiencies, promote local job growth, increase economic activity and resiliency, improve quality of life, and promote social justice. As the resolutions had been submitted as "Late Resolutions" the minority leader moved they be referred back to committee thereby giving legislators ample time to consider them. (NOTE: *The Towns of New Paltz, Rosendale and Saugerties, the Village of New Paltz and the City of Kingston have already set the bar as leaders in adopting the Climate Smart and Green Jobs Community Pledge*) (NOTE: *Modified resolutions are to be resubmitted at the August 16, 2011 meeting. SEE <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/184-11.pdf> and <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/185-11.pdf>*)

The legislative portion of the meeting lasted about 6 minutes.

Please review additional observations concerning the above mentioned legislation in the Observer Core committee reports below.

Jim McGarry

July 18, 2011, 4:30pm

All Board members were in attendance. Staff members were also in attendance. Meeting began with the only public comment – Legislator Kevin Roberts, who voiced the fact that he would vote for flow control legislation.

**Ulster County
Resource
Recovery Agency**

**Government
Services &
Administration
Committee**

Tim Rose reported the agency hit targets for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). Overall, recycling is down except for Kingston, with new single stream ability.

Michelle Bergkamp reported over 300 people signed up for the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection in New Paltz on July 23rd. The Agency will begin measures for more rigorous compliance for recycling.

Other items of discussion included the purchase of a scale, DEC consent orders, new contracts with haulers, shared use of the UC grinder with DEC/DEP and repair of the Ulster landfill cover.

The proposed "Flow Control" legislation was discussed. While many of the Board members voiced the belief that flow control was necessary to keep the Agency afloat there were also reasons that caused the Board to vote against supporting the current resolution in the Legislature.

August 15th will be next meeting.

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

Date: June 20, 2011 Start Time: 6:00 p.m. Finish Time: 6:33 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting to order, followed by approving minutes from May 16, 2011, and May 17, 2011, meetings. Highlights of the meeting are:

Leon Smith, Chairman, and Tim Rose, Executive Director, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) reviewed recent activities including: the agency a settlement with the DEC of a \$10,000 fine for a \$50,000 permit violation (\$40,000 suspended) for tonnage violations; a ten year forecast with Flow Control and pricing report is coming out; and an operating engineer replacement is in process.

Kevin Roberts asked about the UCRRA settlement hearing in Albany and the report on findings and investigation due August 1. The state comptroller has not visited the site.

The UCRRA budget is being prepared for August .

All resolutions were adopted except summer youth program resolution which was discussed.

A Special Informational Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at 7:00 PM on Flow Control.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 7/29/11

July 18, 2011, 6pm

In attendance: Kevin Roberts, Hector Rodriguez, Carl Belfiglio, Kenneth Ronk, Michael Madsen
Missing legislators Dean Fabiano & Robert Parete

Items of discussion included the need to dip into the Insurance Reserve Fund, problems with getting documents from the Executive's office in a timely manner, the April 2011 report on UC Information Services, and support for the Climate Smart Pledge. (see

<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/184-11.pdf> and

<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/185-11.pdf>)

Most of the discussion had to do with the UCRRA and "Flow Control" legislation. There was frustration that the UCRRA Board has not met with the Legislative Committee to discuss their concerns about the proposed legislation (this committee's meetings follow the Board meetings in the same location). It appears the Committee will not push for this legislation until they have the support of the UCRRA Board.

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

**Governmental
Operations &
Environmental
Services
Committee**

Committee Chair, Brian Shapiro, called the meeting to order at 6 pm on June 9, 2011.

In attendance: Shapiro, Carl Belfiglio, Mary Beth Maio, Rich and Rob Parete, Ken Ronk, and Vicky Fabella (clerk to the committee)

Absent: Terry Bernardo, Laura Petit (who sent regrets), Susan Zimet

Gary Capella reported on the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District of which he is the director. He distributed and discussed a four-page document highlighting their 2010 activities and activities anticipated in 2011. He also handed out their current newsletter, a sheet with their mission statement and contact information, and their 2010 Annual Report to the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee. The information is on their website at www.ucswcd.org.

Shapiro said that the work of this body is essential to the agricultural community and asked what this Committee and the Legislature could do to help. His response: "staffing!" - it's getting harder and harder to meet needs in a timely fashion.

A draft resolution on "Climate Smart and Green Jobs Community Pledge for Ulster County" was discussed. Emilie Hauser, a Kingston resident and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

employee, said that while she agreed with the Pledge (and helped write the template for the state), this document still has some areas that need editing. Dare Thompson, president of the LWV, spoke in favor of the Climate Smart Pledge, but deferred to Emilie (a LWV member) and her wisdom on the specific language. The Committee agreed to defer the decision until everyone is comfortable with the language.

A draft resolution on "Requiring That Publications Shall Be Printed on 100% Recycled Content Paper" was discussed. Ken Ronk suggested changing it to "at least 30%" recycled content paper since 100% sometimes doesn't work in printers. Mary Beth Maio and others complained about the overuse of paper generally and suggested more communication be done electronically. The resolution as amended passed.

They discussed a forum they help on hydrofracking and were pleased by the public input.

No new business or old business. Meeting adjourned at 6:50.

Dare Thompson for regular observer, Vic Melville

Date: July 6, 2011 Start Time: 6:00 p.m. Finish Time: 7:22 p.m.

This observer joined the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

The committee discussed and revised the Draft Resolution No. 0602, July 19, 2011 – Climate Smart and Green Jobs Community Pledge for Ulster County with Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Department of the Environment.

The committee discussed the Mandate Report including a discussion Legislator Jack Hayes on safety and road patrol issues.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 7/29/11

Date: July 6, 2011 Start Time: 4:52 p.m. Finish Time: 6:28 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order, followed by roll call and approval of the minutes of the May 9, 2011, meeting. Highlights of the meeting are:

All resolutions were approved.

Lance Matteson, President, Ulster County Development Corporation (UCDC), discussed the UCDC Update on marketing, retention and a new business (Halipower from China), and Melinda Beuf, Director of Business Development & Marketing, is working a day a week in the Ellenville area.

UCDC is now a Public Authority of NY and some mistakes in reporting have been corrected.

Carl Meyer, Co-CEO, The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) presented an encouraging outlook for manufacturing prospects for renewable and solar energy projects in the county considering the challenging and competitive conditions.

Legislator Aiello questioned why foreign companies would want to locate in the US. Mr. Meyer replied the new US policy of Made in America is having a significant effect.

The SUNY New Paltz Solar Car is going for a new land speed record in August.

Mr. Bob DiBella, Director of UCAT, reviewed the new S/W system, ridership issues and the new green buses (hybrids have a problem with travel distances).

Rick Remsnyder, Director, UC Tourism, discussed the new travel guide and media material. Legislator Aiello commended UC Tourism for the increased tourism in Saugerties.

Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning, and briefly discussed transportation and flooding issues.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 7/29/11

Date: July 5, 2011 Start Time: 5:02 p.m. Finish Time: 6:38 p.m.

Wayne Harris, Chairman, called the meeting to order followed by approval of the minutes of the June 7, 2011, and June 14, 2011, meetings. Highlights of the meeting are:

Legislator Catherine Terrizzi provided an update on the Subcommittee on Home Delivered Meals Program. A contract (RFP) is expected in August. Legislator Donaldson asked about a policy of the UC Legislature in coordination with a contract (OK). Mr. Harris is to schedule a meeting. Several issues were discussed (local vendors, local law, hot meals, etc.) to be discussed with subcommittee.

John Miller, Coordinator, Ulster County STOP DWI, presented an extensive review of the program: fines come back to UC to cover the cost of the program including education in schools. The committee discussed how the program works and who is involved.

Lydia Reidy, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, highlighted their activities including: reviewed the Legislative Update sustainable agriculture grant awarded by the New World Foundation for \$1M over 3 years. The Rondout Valley Growers and Eastern NY organizations are involved.

Economic Development and Tourism Committee

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee

**Health and
Human Services**

New funding for land grant universities is now through competitive process. Research initiatives are a goal.

The UC Fair is Aug. 2-7 and an ag tour is planned for Sept. - Oct.

Gary Capella, Executive Director, Soil and Water Conservation District, reviewed the last year and discussed the tentative budget. There is a \$1.3 benefit to UC. For the ag workload, a technician is needed to avoid contract completion shorts.

Legislator Tarrizzi is concerned about the Wallkill River storm water site in which Ducks Unlimited and the DEC are involved.

Legislator Gregorius asked about hydrofracking impacts and should S&WCD be involved.

On Aug. 4 the DC Arts Council will make the UC awards at the Ulster County Fair.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 7/29/11

The Health and Human Services Committee was convened by Chairman Legislator Walter Frey on 5-31-2011 at 6:01 and adjourned at 6:18.

All members of the committee were present

There were a number other attendees present: the majority were from the Golden Hill Health Care Center, members of the press and CSEA

There was no public comment period

The purpose of the meeting per Chairman Frye was to go over the nine options to handling the Center, which had been developed by the task force; establishing two teams of four each of the legislative committee members only. The teams would each have a team leader, have specific options to review, and meet to discuss such. Then they are to report back to the committee as a whole. The meetings are to be open to the public. Chairman Frye would act in an ex officio capacity for both teams.

The teams which were formed following discussion among the legislators:

Ken Ronk-leader joined by Laura Petit, Joe Stoeckeler and Wayne Harris will have a first meeting June 8 at 6PM, UCOB. They will review Option 4: Build a New Center; Option 5: Privatize the License, Lease the Center; Option 7: Sell the Bed License, Buildings and Grounds; Option 8: Sell the Bed License/keep the land/close the Center.

T.J. Briggs-leader joined by Rob Parete, Mary Beth Maio and Peter Loughran will have a first meeting June 7 at 5:45, UCOB. They will review Option 1: Continue the Status Quo; Option 2: Partnership; and Option 3: Renovate.

During the discussion on the options that followed, the committee voted to remove two of the nine options from consideration:

Option #6: Public Benefit Corporation: Mr. Stoeckeler stated he had experience with this when the hospital in Westchester County had adopted this process. Even though there were certain positive aspects, the hospital eventually was 3 ½ million dollars in debt. Mr. Harris noted that when the task force had dealt with this option it found it to be quite complicated as far as the process to bring it about.

Option #9: Close the Center: the county would surrender the license, no funds would accrue to the county, the residents would all have to be relocated, and the Center would be closed.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was convened by Chairman, Legislator Walter Frey on 6-2-11 at 6:03 and adjourned at 7:21.

Members present: Frey, Paret, Harris, Ronk, Loughran, Petit, Maio

Members absent: Briggs, Stoeckeler

Other attendees: Marshall Beckman, Deputy County Executive and members from UC Mental Health

While there were 5 resolutions listed there were in fact only 4 as the 5th one had not actually been formulated. Of the 4, numbers 1, 2, and 3 passed and the 4th failed; and the 5th item was withdrawn with the suggestion that once formulated and presented again the committee would be supportive.

#1 Additional money has been awarded to the county for the LTCare Point of Entry (NY Connects) Program, so the contract period for the program can be extended thru September 30, 2011. Passed

#2 Additional monies have been allocated by the federal government and will pass through the State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to the UC Office of Child Support Enforcement to be used for paternity establishment, current collections, arrears collections, etc.

While there was some concern because child support payment doesn't get paid to those needing the

payments the most in a timely manner, it was noted that there are two positions that needed to be filled. Passed.

#3 UC will use the estimated increase in funds for TANF that it is expected to receive (\$1,300,000.00), but not more than that sum and only for 2011 to reduce the local municipalities cost of the Safety Net Program and attempt to maintain the historical funding ratio of 50%. (Note: SNA costs in UC had been prior to the change in the state policy: 50% state, 50% local (in UC the towns and city of Kingston paid). The change in state policy is now 71% local and 29% state and was retroactive to January 1, 2011. Passed.

#4 This was resolution to allow for a 2 year phase in of the county to assume all the costs and administration of the Safety Net Program under the County Commissioner of DSS. Presently, UC is the only county in NYS which does not so administer this assistance program. The resolution was not passed. It failed in part because there was no information available as to the impact the new rate would have on the towns; and 2nd, there should be negotiations with the City of Kingston with respect to sharing the sales tax. These were comments from Legislators Harris and Ronk. Information on both to be obtained for next meeting.

#5 This was a late resolution regarding summer program run by Office of Employment and Training with respects to payroll functions to be performed by another agency. Withdrawn, see above.

Once the resolutions had been addressed, there were items distributed dealing with the basic rate methodology differences between public and private nursing homes, a response from the DOH Deputy Commissioner Kissinger to requests for information made at the March 11, 2011 meeting with him; and an explanation of what the enterprise fund is (which is used at the Center).

Marshall Beckman then reported on proposed closing of Hudson River Psychiatric Hospital by NYS.

This is planned in part to help close the state \$10 Billion budget gap;

At present it is the only such facility between Rockland County's facility and the capital district area;

As a consequence UC must do whatever it can to keep Tudor House and two community residences open, plus two that are located in Dutchess County;

Such a closure would have a negative impact not only in terms of the loss of jobs for local people but also regarding patient care;

In order to present the strongest position and effort is being made to bring Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Putnam and Greene counties together with Ulster County into a coalition to speak to legislators in a united fashion;

While the state is promising more community based residences, their value is questionable; and

Mr. Beckman hopes to have such a coalition and that the UC Legislature would support such.

Mr. Beckman then commented on the progress being made to merge the UCDOH and UC MH under one Commissioner, Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck and located in one building, which would be the present building where UCMD is located.

He will be providing additional information as time goes on. He did note that at present the work committee needs to show economies of scale, i.e., are two fiscal officers needed, etc. He has given presentations on this matter similar to the type he gave on the Center suggesting that continuation of present process could contribute to the \$15 million deficit.

Further, he noted Dutchess, Sullivan, Schoharie, Westchester have or are in the process of removing themselves from operating mental health clinics because it is too expensive and the MA reimbursement is not adequate.

Everything is on the table for discussion. It is a policy matter; therefore the UC Legislature must make a decision.

He also addressed the concerns of the employees at Mental Health (raised at the May committee meeting). There has been no agreement with any organization to privatize UCMH. IFUH had wanted to see what the MH building looked like and taking the representatives through at 7:30 in the AM was thought to be the best time to do this.

Further, he said no one will make a decision until the budget for 2012 is released by County Executive Hein in October, 2011.

Services must be preserved, but the question is how is it to be done.

Committee members expressed concern that it should be kept apprised in a more timely manner about what is taking place in the above mentioned matters. Apparently some of the members of the committee have spoken directly to County Executive Hein regarding their views.

Mr. Beckman advised the committee about the audit of the chemical dependency program by the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General. Apparently UC had corrected some matters that had occurred in the last 2 years, but the state can go back an additional 4 years before that for a total of 6 years. The county received the final report last week. It was advised that state could recover

\$800,000, but such sum was reduced to \$303,000. The corporate consultant has advised the county that it is not worth appealing because if the appeal is lost then the county would have to repay \$500,000 plus. (Note: On June 16, the committee will meet with the consultant regarding the compliance.) He commented that such audits can be expected to continue into the future.

Additionally Mr. Beckman noted that the Center is having an audit with regards to the Medicaid capital project.

At the end of his report, he note upon question regarding the sale of the license for Home Health and Long Term Care to Willcare, that the SDOH has to approve the prospective buyer's certificate of need application.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The first two meetings that were scheduled for 5:00 and 5:30 on July 7 were the two subcommittees of the Health and Human Services Committee: both of which were to deal with options regarding the future of Golden Hill (The Center). Following discussion, the two groups decided, with Chairman Frye's agreement, to discontinue the two sub-committees and return to just one regular committee to deal with the options from the task force on the future of The Center. The two sub-committees had been charged with each making one recommendation, which together would be the two presented to the UC Legislature to make a final decision.

One point that was stated and generally agreed to was that a decision on what option to use should not be made until the state releases the final bed rate figures.

The committee then agreed to meet on July 20 at 6PM and spend one hour discussing those options remaining regarding what should be recommended.

The third meeting to be held was the regular Health and Human Services Committee convened by Chairman Frey at 6 PM and adjourned at 7:20. All members were present except for Legislators Briggs and Stoeckeler.

Following the approval of the minutes for June 2 and June 16 meetings, the one resolution to be dealt with was presented: to create a safety net task force to evaluate the viability and financial impact of the safety net program to the taxpayers of Ulster County.

Legislator Loughran thanked all concerned for the development of the resolution; Chairman Frye reminded the committee that the county had arranged to assist the towns in June with the \$1.5 million dollars of TANF funds received from the state to alleviate the change that occurred as a result of the change in the percentage of the SNA money state and towns and city of Kingston would be responsible for. Passed.

Chairman Frey advised the committee that the county attorney Bea Havranek was present to hear any questions of a legal nature that the committee members might have dealing with The Center. The following were those expressed by the members:

- can county assist state in preventing cherry picking by any private nursing homes in UC;
- can the Legislature oversee operations; can legislature put in a proposal to develop property around the Center including sell the old jail particularly since the Legislature is suppose to be the policy making body under the Charter;
- at what point will Legislature be able to review the responses to the RFP request associated with the Center;
- can the Legislature raise the 2% property tax limit, recently enacted by the state, if 60% of the members vote in favor to do so;

Answers will be provided following some research by the county attorney.

The next item on the agenda involved comments from concerned parents regarding the merger of UC Mental Health and UC DOH, specifically any privatization of services.

The parents who offered comments noted how important the Nexus Program and Harbor Program have been in assisting them by providing services needed in the care of their children. The team approach was emphasized and felt to be of vital importance. Their concern: would such service continue virtually 24/7 if the services privatized?

Following the agenda Dr. LaMar Hasbrocjk provided a report on the work done in the last four months during seven meetings by a 12 member task force to integrate UCMH and UCDOH. Chairman Frye and DCE Beckman represented the County Legislature and County Executive respectively as members of the task force.

Some of the points that Dr. Hasbrouck noted:

- the task force was not charge to consider privatization;
- initially had contact with NYC and the few counties that are engaging in the same process; found

very helpful to task force;

-state offices of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Alcohol and Substance Abuse approved his appointment as Commissioner of Mental Health (he will be commissioner of both);

-task force found no negative findings;

-found there would be several advantages: improved coordination; possible economies, improved public education, etc.

-such efficiencies that might occur have yet to be determined in some of the following areas: payroll, contract management, etc.;

-as to fiscal considerations, he indicated the estimated cost covering moving staff, insurance, information services, integrating electronic systems up to \$20,000;

-recommendations: integrate Dept of Mental Health within DOH; new department: assumes current programmatic services of both; potential economies better determined after period of co-location, several benefits for health and welfare of clients.

-Dr. Hasbrouck noted that quality of service will be positive, needs of people in county were paramount; that the state agencies were supportive of the process UC engaged and that the state had been part of the discussion from the outset.

It was indicated that a 17 page report would be released soon.

The next agenda item concerned Medicaid transportation. As a previous meeting it had been noted that over \$2 million dollars had been spent on transporting MA clients to whatever medical appointments they needed to go to. Per Commissioner Rodriguez DSS got its costs back. There is still no cost to county. Usage of cabs is determined by client's eligibility for MA and doctor's statement that patient is to use a cab.

In the interim, as DSS Commissioner Rodriguez advised, NYSDOH has taken over Medicaid Transportation as of July 1, 2011. Local DSS's role in this instance will do some new things:

-reimburse State Transportation Manager™ for consumer trips and report such and file claim; evaluate performance of the TM; propose cost savings; request state approval of standard trip fees; and represent SDOH at Fair Hearings.

More than one of the committee members reiterated their concerns about the taxi costs being exorbitant...noting it was taxpayer money regardless.

Chairman Frye noted the county had received a letter from the NYS Association of Counties indicating that UC may have to return \$1.6 million in IGT payments as the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) had changed its process from covering certain payments that it says fall outside the two-year claiming period. NYSDOH has "vigorously" opposed this. Final decision apparently has yet to be made.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Board of Health

The UC Board of Health meeting was convened by President, Dr. Mark Tack at 7:02 on 6-13-2011 and adjourned at 7:58.

Members of Board present: Tack, Stellato, Hilderbrand, Authenreich, Godfrey

Other attendees: Dr. Hasbrouck, Mrs. Veytia, Dr. Heller, Erica Gifford, Katrina Kouhout and member of the public.

Minutes of the May 9, 2011 were accepted. The first order of business referenced the matter of Scandinavian Grace Café located on Rt 28. A letter has been sent to the owner by the Board of Health advising him of a reduced fine (\$5,000) to be paid in monthly installments commencing June 15, 2011 and ending May, 2012; all cited facility violations to be remedied within 60 days from the date of the letter and no later than July 16, 2011 and that all UCDOH signs remain posted until matters corrected and must remain in compliance per the NYS Sanitary Code for 2 years or fines revert to \$10,000. The Environmental Section will visit 6-14-11 to ensure compliance.

Dr. Hasbrouck then updated the Board as follows:

-improving customer service is a major consideration. To acquire information as to how the department is performing a postcard type mailing with specific questions to be answered has been developed and sent to an array of service recipients. Responses, while limited in number have been positive.

-health education has moved ahead with the announcement at the Everett Hodge Building on 6-10-11 of the Lead Primary Prevention Program. There was a good turnout. RUPCO hosted a meeting of about 70 landlords on June 9 to discuss the same program. Erica Gifford of the Environmental Health Services attended and on June 15 representatives of the NYS DOH will visit to check on how this program is progressing. Dr. Hasbrouck reminded the Board that UC would be receiving \$1.3 million over a period of 5 years to fund this program.

-lastly he updated the Board on the status of the meeting of UCDOH and UCMH dealing with the proposed merger. The group will have its 6th and last meeting on June 21. Hopes to have final report in July. There have been other county departments like IS and Buildings and Grounds in discussions on the DOH moving to Golden Hill to the MH building; as well as state agencies like Mental Health working with the committee locally.

In response to Dr. Tack's inquiry as to how an organizational chart of the joined agencies would look, Dr. Hasbrouck advised that there would be one commissioner, 2 units below that office (administrative and fiscal) and then 5 operational units. A more precise and detailed chart would be included in the final report to be available in July.

Dr. Heller provided a report on the Medical Examiner's office for May, 2011: 15 calls (8 autopsies, 2 suicides, 3 site visits); Dr. Grovenburg's numbers have not yet been submitted.

Mrs. Veytia provided a patient services report:

-the process by which the LTHHC and CHHA license is being sold to Will Care has now reached the point that Will Care's certificate of need (CON0 is now on the docket to be reviewed by the SDOH Health Services section. She noted that the usual results are that in 30 days expect closure process to be started.

-a report of communicable disease was distributed. It was primarily with respects to measles. Apparently cases are still being reported throughout the US and Europe. The report emphasized the importance of vaccinations.

-training for Incident Command System is being provided June 18. This deals with training in how to handle emergency matters.

Erica Gifford of Environmental Health Services reported on the subject of temporary food permits which are used at Farmer's Markets. These permits are good for 2 weekends; cost \$50 and must be renewed. There has been some concern expressed by the people associated with the Farmer's Market that these are a drain on the vendors. During the discussion it was determined that \$50 for initial permit, followed by renewal @\$35, which, if not consecutively renewed, i.e., if there was a break, then the person would have to pay \$50. The Environmental group inspects every two weeks.

Mrs. Gifford then reported on two facility updates, both of which have been in violation for sometime: repeat offenders, and one operates without a permit entirely. It was decided following discussion that a legal opinion should be obtained as to what power the Board had aside from hearings and fines.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**The Ulster
County
Association of
Town
Supervisors**

The UC T/Supervisors meeting was convened by President, T/Supervisor John Valk at 8:36 on June 21, 2011 and adjourned at 9:48.

T/Supervisors present from Denning, Hardenburgh, Olive, Shawangunk, Gardiner, Woodstock, Hurley, Rochester, Ulster, New Paltz

Other attendees: UCounty Michael Hein, Chief of Staff Reiter, Legislators Frye and Bernardo, Glenn Leisching of SeptiTech, Arthur Snyder, UC Director of Emergency Department.

Glenn Leisching of SeptiTech made an informational presentation on his company. The company is a commercial and engineered advanced wastewater treatment systems company. Some of the points that he presented:

- can handle 50-150,000 gals water per day;
- primarily in rural areas;
- a below ground system; therefore no massive building to care for;
- small shed-like structure houses equipment and technological material to conduct monitoring;
- both residential and commercial;
- local builders, contractors, electricians, etc. can be employed; then company technicians assemble components on site;
- not necessary to have person to provide oversight 24/7;
- the technology that is involved is simple to handle;
- has inventory fo materials and parts;
- stated that "only thing that can go wrong is pump fails, which can be replaced in 1-2 hours;
- provides remote system monitoring.

Based on pamphlets distributed, company has both business and residential, private and public sites.

Next on the agenda was County Executive Michael Hein. The sales tax was the first item to be brought up....State Senate has passed 60-0; but the Assembly has not passed the bill extending the 1% add on...6-21-11 supposed to be the last day for consideration. The impact on UC if it is not passed: \$21 Million loss for county; \$750,000 loss to towns (would be shared out to towns based on

town population); and \$2.8 million to city of Kingston. If not passed now, barring another special session, the loss projected would occur starting with the December quarter. The county is advocating very strongly with state representatives.

It appears that the Safety Net funding and paying for such has been included in the discussion. Mr. Hein indicated that he is will to discuss this matter locally.

Legislator Frye noted that the dollars recently received by the county from the state for the TANF program will be shared with the towns. There was some discussion about how SNA costs would be handled in 2012. He noted that it appears that a resolution maybe brought to the UC legislature this month with respect to the county assuming control of the SNA program; possibly a task force may be created to work out the best way to handle such a process.

Arthur Snyder, Director of Department of Emergency Management urged the group to file any requests for damage assessments with regards to such created by the weather, etc. this spring as quickly as possible. It maybe that the town(s) that do may be eligible for some type of reimbursement from the state.

Minutes were approved. Treasurer stated that as of 6-15-11 all members had paid; and the treasury had \$6,531.61.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

The Association of Town Supervisors was convened on Tuesday, July 19 at 8:38 by president, T/Supervisor John Valk and adjourned at 9:47. Please note there will be no August meeting. The next Supervisors meeting will be September 20 at the UC Resource Recovery Agency on Flatbush Road.

Supervisors present: Shawangunk, Ulster, Gardiner, Wawarsing, Olive, Denning, Hardenburgh, Rochester, Woodstock, Shandaken, New Paltz

Other Attendees: County Executive Michael Hein and Dr. Melissa Everett, Executive Director of Sustainable Hudson Valley.

First on the agenda was County Executive Hein. His presentation was comments about a variety of topics. He noted that the state had passed the two percent (2%) cap tax, which would require a 60% vote of a governing board plus a local law to have more than the current tax percentage cap to be overcome; that as it stands, whether the towns or the county, hard choices will need to be made regarding what services can be retained. Given the news coming from Washington, even borrowing money could be a problem.

As to shared services Mr. Hein noted that the highway project had worked well for all involved even though this past winter was the worst in over 25 years. There will be a continuation of the program. He noted that the county had saved \$2.3 million (retrofitted trucks so each could be operated by one person, added the AVL system as well). While there may be some towns which do not become involved, he has no problem as it is possible that there may be other types of services that can be shared, county and town, which will save dollars and be a benefit to the tax payer. Cuts that have to be made will impact the public and such actions need to be noted.

This led to an exchanged of possible areas to be considered for sharing between the towns and county as well as some that are shared now between the towns. Services involving the fire department, bridge repair, workers' compensation, assessment, and town justices were among the topics suggested for consideration.

Mr. Hein emphasized that he is open to discussing such matters with the towns.

Dr. Everett of Sustainable Hudson Valley then spoke on a variety of programs which have as an aim conserving energy. She emphasized the importance of creating jobs that would develop energy efficiencies. By doing so dollars can be retained in the local communities rather than seeing them leave the area.

Mr. Valk invited her to return at a later date to provide updates on the programs, which she agreed to do.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved; treasurer's report was the same as Junes.

Supervisors Chipman, Distel and Valk will join the task force being created by the county legislature to deal with the subject of Safety Net costs.

A committee to review workers' compensation procedures was put together with Supervisors Quigley, Valk and Chipman serving on it.

It was noted that to date the present supervisors of Gardiner, Lloyd, Marbletown, Rosendale and Woodstock are not seeking re-election.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp