



Commentator

OCTOBER 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		
OCTOBER		
2	Wed. 7:15 pm	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
4	Thurs 2 pm	Resource Development Committee meeting. Home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Rd, Kingston. Date and time may change. Call 845-340-2003 to confirm time and location and for directions.
4	Thu. 7 pm	Presidential Debate: Obama vs. Romney: Whose Foreign Policy Will Keep or Make the U.S. Stronger? Representing Pres. Obama: Juris Pupcenoks, PhD., Marist College; Representing Mitt Romney: Edward M. Cox, Chairman, NYS Republican State Committee. Held at The Henry Wallace Center of the FDR Library, Hyde Park. Sponsor: the World Affairs Council of the Mid-Hudson Region.
2 nd thru 12 th		Voter Registration at the Kingston Area Library , 55 Franklin St, Kingston. To volunteer, contact Jean McGarry at jfmcg@hvc.rr.com or 336-6622.
5 th thru 7 th		Voter Registration at Walmart in the Town of Ulster. To volunteer, contact Jean McGarry at jfmcg@hvc.rr.com or 845-336-6622.
9	Tues. 5:30 pm	Solid Waste Study Committee , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, packback56@yahoo.com or 845-236-7288,
10	Wed. 7-9 pm	The Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce Congressional Debate between the two candidates for Congress in Ulster County - Chris Gibson and Julian Schreibman. Ward Todd, Chamber President will be the moderator. To be held at M. Clifford Miller School, 65 Fording Place Road, Lake Katrine, NY 12449
12	Fri. 10 am	Dutchess Shared Services Committee meeting , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Rd., Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, echarwat@yahoo.com
14	Sun. 2 - 5 pm	TEA and TRASH , a celebration of environmentally sound waste materials management at Wiltwyck Golf Club . \$30 pp. Presided over by King Maurice (Hinchey) and Queen Shirley (Kobran) . Recycling pioneers particularly welcome. We're still accepting items for a "green" auction. Call 845-340-2003 to get an invitation!
TBA		We are trying to schedule a Congressional debate in Dutchess County – both the Gibson-Schreibman and the Hayworth-Maloney race. Watch our website for details if this should happen.

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...

Figuring out what to do about the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency's financial situation is consuming a lot of the League's energy as well as the Legislature's and this Commentator and past ones have a lot of information for those of you who want to dig into the issue further. There is additional information on the website (www.lwvmidhudson.org). Our recent salad supper focused on this topic and proved to be even more enlightening than we expected.

Meanwhile we are also having some fun with the issue and throwing a Tea and Trash Party on October 14th. Our long-time and beloved member and recycling pioneer, Shirley Kobran, is our Queen for the day (elevated from what she likes to call herself - "the Garbage Lady") and retiring Congressman Maurice Hinchey has graciously agreed to be her King.

We hope that we'll also be joined by Barbara Bartoletti, our LWVNYS legislative director, who has fought for the Bottle Bill and so many other "trash"-related causes over the 30+ years she has volunteered for the state LWV.

The three of them and many more recycling advocates and pioneers will be introduced and appreciated and we hope you'll join us. To register, just click on the following link: <http://teaandtrashparty.wordpress.com/>, find the **RSVP** link on the page and follow the instructions on the reply form page or call the League phone, 340-2003.

Wonderful auction items are coming in (including a FULL year of service from Waste Management, 8 beautiful Waterford wine glasses, elegant jewelry made from soda can tabs (!), special teapots, a Mohonk goody basket, and more) - and we **STILL WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTION**. Recycled treasures or items related to reuse and recycling are especially appropriate, but other gifts are welcome too. Again, just call the League phone.

And do plan to join the fun on October 14.

Dare

**PROGRAM
NEWS**

Last Call For Donations

E-mail darethompson@gmail.com or
call 340-2003 if you have any questions or
need an invitation to the event.

TEA and TRASH

*An educational "green" fundraiser to celebrate the pioneers and
other recycling heroes in Ulster and Dutchess Counties including
King Maurice (Hinchey) and Queen Shirley (Kobran)
Sunday, October 14, 2012, 2 – 5 pm
Wiltwyck Golf Club, Kingston
Tickets: \$30 pp*

Enjoy a "high tea" (aka light meal), a silent and live auction of green products and services including recycled treasures, and an introduction to our "green" pioneers.

SPONSORS:

- EMERALD (\$500 or more) – 4 tickets and online recognition before and after the event and on-going recognition (with logo) during the event
- JADE (\$250 – 499) - 2 tickets and online recognition before and after the event and on-going recognition (with logo) during the event
- SAGE (\$150 – 249) - online recognition before and after the event and on-going recognition (with logo) during the event

DONORS:

All gifts of cash, products or services valued at \$50 – 149 will be recognized at the event and on our website. Gifts may be made in honor of any recycling pioneer you choose and will be so recognized. **All proceeds will be spent locally.**

The League is a 501 (c) (4) organization. Please inquire about how to make tax-deductible gifts to

our 501 (c) (3) Education Fund.

Gifts from individuals and from "green" businesses or businesses related to waste management are particularly welcome. Green gifts from individuals might include anything from an antique teapot to a weekend at your own green get-away – or the always-appreciated bankable "green"!


For more information on this event, visit www.TeaAndTrashParty.wordpress.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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



to our Queen of Trash, Shirley Kobran, who will be 92 on October 12th. Thank you, Shirley, for all the years of dedication you have given to our league and the community.

Much love and kisses...

VOTER SERVICE

National Voter Registration Day

On September 25, League and AAUW members joined forces to promote civic duty and voter awareness. We were one of 249 Leagues in 44 states that hosted events. In four hours at three sites, we registered 38 individuals and answered countless questions, assisting shoppers in how to get an absentee ballot, how to change addresses or political party affiliation and educating people that there is no requirement to join a political party in order to vote.

Of the three shopping areas where we set up registration tables, Walmart had the greatest amount of traffic. For this reason, additional voter registration days will take place there on October 5- 7. If you are interested in volunteering at any time during these days, please contact Jean McGarry at 336-6622 or jfmcg@hvc.rr.com. We will also have on-going voter registration at the Kingston Library from October 2-12 and if you are interested in volunteering at the library, please give Jean a call.

Thank you to all the September 25th volunteers: ViVi Hlavsa, Laura Wells, Karen Goertzel, Jenn Mayfield, Cindy Lanzetta, Shirley Kobran, Irene Miller, Adele Calcavecchio, Dorothy Winrow, Robert Winrow, Karen Miller, Katherine Tiffany, Anne Neeham and Micky Shorr

Jean McGarry

Vote411.org

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*

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

On September 13th the League presented a public forum on the revisions to the Ulster County Charter that will appear on Ulster Co. residents' ballots this November.

We were extremely fortunate to have the chair of the original Charter Commission, Dr. Gerald Benjamin, and the chair of the Charter Revision Commission, Cynthia Lowe, offer their views on these revisions.

Beth Murphy of Saugerties taped the event for public access TV. Contact your public access station to find out when you might see this. If your station needs a copy of the video, please let us know at 340-2003. The League also has a copy which we might be able to lend you for group or personal use.

The League will be creating a fact sheet about the revisions to help voters and will decide at its October board meeting whether we will officially support these revisions.

Ulster County Charter Revision Commission

Following the *Commission's Draft submission to the Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee and its proposed revisions, a number of compromises and concessions resulted a revised draft local law adopted by the Legislature at its August 14th meeting (<http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/resolutions/LL11of2012.pdf>). This version, now known as Local Law 9 of 2012) will be on the ballot this November as state law requires a referendum.*

*The **Charter Revision Report** is (or will soon be) available at the Commission's pages at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/charterrevision/index.html> along with minutes of all its meetings. Be sure to read the Committee and Legislature Agenda and Minutes at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/legislature.html>.*

ADVOCACY & STUDY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dutchess County Shared Services Study Committee

The Dutchess County Shared Services Study Committee, chaired by Ellie Charwat, has been looking into ways that Dutchess County might find cost savings through a sharing of services between towns and between the towns and the County. One area that proved particularly worthy of careful review is FIRE DISTRICTS. These districts are quite independent governmental bodies with little citizen oversight and yet they levy taxes on all of us, whether we're fully aware of it or not.

Ellie created a fact sheet that summarizes some of the committee's insights so far. Although it is about Dutchess County, its insight applies to Ulster as well. To read and/or print it go click: http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/Fire_Districts_in_Dutchess_County.pdf

Ulster & Dutchess Counties Solid Waste

Minutes of the League of Women Voters Solid Waste Committee Meeting
September 11, 2012, , Gateway Diner, Highland 5:30pm

In attendance: Susan Holland, Emilie Hauser, Laura Petit, Dare Thompson, Jolanda Jansen, Candi Sterling, Soyal Smalls, Cindy Lanzetta & Manna Jo Greene

No Minutes from last meeting.

Reports:

- Regional Sustainability Solid Waste - Emilie H will get us more information on additional meetings. Emilie was surprised to learn that none of the Ulster County legislator responsible for the "Future of the UCRRA" knew that there was a regional task force meeting on Solid Waste/Material Management.
- Dutchess County/DCRRA - no report
- UCRRA – Several members of the LWV Solid Waste Committee attended the kick off of the Agency's new pilot composting program.
- Ulster County Legislature/EET Committee – Emilie H & Susan H have been attending the meetings. The Legislature has identified three areas of investigation:
 - o disband & sell the UCRRA
 - o setting up Solid Waste Taxing Districts *
 - o flow control

In reporting on the discussion with Bond Counsel it appears pretty clear that disbanding & selling the Agency is not a viable option. There will be a special meeting of the "Future of the UCRRA" on September 24th, 5pm, at the Legislative Building.

Zero Waste Program, New Paltz – Laura P is finishing the Zero Waste Action Plan and it was be put out for public input. The Food Waste Composting Program is in process with material from SUNY New Paltz & Stop & Shop.

Old Business:

- Hot Topics/Energy/Reuse
- Tea & Trash – Reserve the Date! October 14th
- Letter to Ulster County Legislators* attached at bottom

New Business:

- The status of the League Meeting on September 24th is going to change, as the Legislators we wanted to present (Wishnick & Belfiglio) will have to attend the special meeting on the RRA.

7:10pm – adjourned

Next meeting of Solid Waste Committee is October 9th, 5:30pm, Gateway Diner

*** Future of UCRRA**

See below for the Observer Corp

*“Report on Meeting of the Special Committee on the Future of the RRA
September 24, 2012”*

To: Richard Gerentine, Krista Barringer and members of the Committee on the Future of the UCRRA.

From: League of Women Voters, Solid Waste Committee, Emilie Hauser, chief author.

Re: Solid Waste District with Ad Valorem Tax, suggestions and questions for September 20th meeting

Date: September 12, 2012

Suggestions of experts to invite to give examples and options:

1. Eric Swenson – Superintendent of Environmental Control, Oyster Bay Long Island and officer in New York State Association of Solid Waste Managers and attorney, email him at nysaswm@gmail.com. The Town of Oyster Bay established a Solid Waste Disposal District in 1986. It handles the collection of recyclables, the disposal of MSW, the marketing of recyclables and the cleanup of two former landfills. It is funded by ad valorem taxes as well as tipping fees.
2. David Vitale – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Materials Management (518) 402-8678, email him at dxvitale@gw.dec.state.ny.us.
3. Steve Changaris – Manager, Northeast Region Environmental Industry Associations: NSWMA & WASTEC 482 Southbridge Street, Suite 373, Auburn, MA 01501. (508) 839-4751 / ((800) 679-6263 mobile: (508) 868-4523, email him at schangaris@nswma.org.
4. Anna Roppolo – Executive Director Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority (845) 753-2200. Rockland County has an Area Benefit Charge which pays for capital or debt service costs for the Authority’s solid waste facilities that is assessed on all properties in the County on an ad valorem basis. User fees pay for other programs, see: http://www.rocklandrecycles.com/about_us/rates.html.

Resources:

The specific New York County Law that explains the requirements for setting up a County Special District for refuse collection and management can be found here:

<http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/nycode/CNT/5-A/250>

This website describes all New York State laws associated with County Special Districts.

<http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/LAWSSEAF.cgi?+&QUERYDATA=county%20special%20districts+&SEARCH=SEA+&BROWSER=+&TOKEN=32121373&TARGET=VIEW>

Our questions:

We assume in our questions that a district would use ad valorem taxes not some other non-ad valorem billing or waste generator fees (user fees).

1. What exactly is an ad valorem tax?
2. What is the process to set up a district, under NYS law? How much time, effort and expense will be involved in setting up a district?
3. Who would set up the tax districts? Would it be a County-wide district? Could it be groups of municipalities that have similar circumstances? Would the municipalities be asked to set them up? If so, could municipalities opt out?
4. How would this option solve the net service fee problem?
5. Is an ad valorem tax an equitable method to charge for solid waste services? Do the

- provided solid waste services correlate with property values?
6. Who would set the tax amounts to the district(s)?
 7. Who would set the tax rates?
 8. Who would collect the tax?
 9. What options exist within the taxing district? For example:
 - a. How many districts?
 - b. How would the county be divided up in to districts?
 - c. What expenses of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) would be covered by the ad valorem tax?
 - i. Debt service?
 - ii. Capital Costs?
 - iii. Public benefit costs such as Household Hazardous Waste collection, recycling education, compliance, leachate collection and land fill monitoring?
 - iv. Operating costs?
 10. Is an ad valorem tax allowed under the 2% tax cap?
 11. How would solid waste districts affect the new Local Solid Waste Management Plan?
 12. Would the solid waste district include bidding out of collection services?
 13. How would this option move the county or UCRRA to a fully integrated solid waste system and maximum diversion?
 14. How would this option affect the towns and their drop off sites?
 15. Would this system allow for the *pay as you throw* method of charging for collection of curbside waste?
 16. How would this option address long-range sustainability issues such as maximizing recycling, organic waste composting and diversion of material from landfills?
 17. Would this option address the problem that private haulers overlap collection, causing excess air pollution and wear and tear on roads?
 18. How would this option affect the existence of the UCRRA and how they operate?

Take a look at the Sustainability Plan Informational Pamphlet posted on the Orange County Department of Planning website at <http://www.orangecountygov.com/content/124/1362/10101.aspx>

And for more information be sure to visit **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

Ulster County Legislature: Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee

Date: Aug. 2, 2012 Start Time: 6:15 p.m. Finish Time: 8:38 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting order.

The topic of this meeting was the UC Charter Revision (only a brief summary will be presented here as a public hearing is scheduled for Aug. 9, the LWV Mid-Hudson Region will have a forum on Sept. 13 and the proposed local law will be voted by the UC Legislature).

County Attorney expressed some concerns regarding job classifications (committee voted to strike that section) and discussed policy giving authority to the UC Charter Revision Commission - Re Redistricting.

Cynthia Lowe, chairman of the commission, discussed many items with the committee and the county attorney including: language on redistricting, timetables using census data, and a permissive referendum. She also discussed the revision process and problems with it.

Date: Sept. 19, 2012 Start Time: About 6:00 p.m. Finish Time: 6:19 p.m.

Chairman Kevin Roberts called the meeting order. A motion to approve previous minutes was approved.

Proposed Resolution No. 225 regarding approval of the UC legislature to allow individual municipalities in Ulster County to decide whether casinos should be located within its borders was

**Ulster County
Legislature:
Environmental
Energy &
Technology
Committee**

approved.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 246 regarding setting a public hearing on a section of Real Tax Property Law of the State of New York was approved.

Proposed LATE Resolution No. 247 regarding supporting applications for a broadband grant was adopted following discussion with Legislator T. J. Briggs.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 9/26/12

Date: Sept. 6, 2012 Start Time: 5:47 p.m. Finish Time: 8:05 p.m.

Carl Belfiglio, Chairman, called the meeting to order, took attendance. The Aug. 2 (amended) and Aug. 9, 2012, meetings minutes were approved.

Draft Resolution No. 208 regarding directing the UC Dept. of the Environment to assist UC municipalities to enact local ordinances prohibiting hydraulic fracturing was withdrawn by its sponsor (Legislator Robert Aiello).

Draft Resolution No. 245 regarding directing the Clerk of the Legislature to post information to assist UC municipalities to enact local ordinances prohibiting hydraulic fracturing was sponsored by Legislator Robert Aiello. Mr. Aiello was not present and Chairman Belfiglio said he had declined to attend.

The committee discussed, at length, the intent, provisions and language of the resolution. Several legislators said Mr. Aiello should be present to explain the resolution. Some legislators suggested changes and amendments to the resolution and even that a local law is needed. Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive, offered to help draft strong language on hydraulic fracturing and said the County Executive office would provide technical administrative support.

After this extended discussion, the committee voted to hold the resolution – passed.

[Subsequently on Sept. 19, 2012, this resolution and an amendment were defeated by vote of the full legislature at its regular meeting and referred back to the committee.]

Draft Resolution No. 244 regarding providing exemptions from sales and compensating use taxes was discussed including an agreement and possible issue with the City of Kingston. Mr. Crannell said he would speak with the county attorney. The resolution was passed to the UC Ways and Means Committee.

Some proposed Legal Abstracts were discussed to be followed by a discussion with Robert Sudlow, Deputy County Executive, and Susan Plonski, Asst. County Attorney/Contract Mgr.

Chairman Belfiglio placed on the agenda Ulster County Landfills and asked for comments:

The comments (and questions) raised possibilities and concerns about landfills and what can (should) be done at this time.

Tim Rose, P.E., UCRRR Executive Director, said he had had an informal discussion with DEC about how long it would take to site a landfill in the county (5 to 10 years and likely nearly 10 years). Regardless of the whether a landfill(s) would be good or bad, that comment seemed to put the discussion in perspective that this is could be a very long road to one of the possible solutions.

Legislator Ken Wishnick spoke of his experiences working in the solid waste industry of the many challenges of getting acceptance of a landfill and he indicated resolving a solid waste plan is a huge challenge that some underestimate (and can lead to another set of problems to resolve) the effort. He did not go into detail but indicated he could do that.

Several participants advocated getting other organizations and stakeholders involved (no firm commitment). Mr. Belfiglio called for a need to develop a plan about landfills and he is looking for joiners. (Unclear if anyone wants to volunteer.); he also expressed the concern the discussion may just be talk that does not lead to a plan.

The county is responsible for a county solid waste management plan.

Emilie Hauser, LWV SWC member emphasized the need of an integrated solid waste management system and that an environmental impact statement would address a landfill. Susan Holland, LWV SWC member, spoke about sites. [My (VJM) perspective is a standalone landfill plan would be out of context of the needed integrated plan and would be divisive].

Deputy Chair Tracey Bartles placed on the agenda and led a discussion regarding the on-line posting of committee audio recording. The discussion, included comments of Legislature Chairman, Terry Bernardo, is to continue, and the topic is to continue on the committee's agenda.

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 9/26/12

**Ulster County
Legislature:
Economic
Development**

Date: Sept. 5, 2012 Start Time: 6:35 p.m. Finish Time: 7:52 p.m.

James F. Maloney, Chairman, called the meeting to order and took attendance. The Aug. 6, 2012, meeting minutes were approved.

Melinda Beuf, Interim Director, Ulster County Development Corporation (UCDC) addressed the committee on what UCDC does and is doing: This included an overview of UCDC and partners, a

**and Tourism
Committee**

review of Projects and an overview of Ulster County Business Support Services. She was joined by UCDC Board Chairman Ronald Marquette and he made some comments, including they could not discuss the UC Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA).

Regarding Projects, Ms. Beuf discussed companies who have been helped; the financing options; referrals to public and private financing partners; alternative sources of financing; UCIDA incentives; infrastructure and capacity building; workforce development, research, information networking; advocacy; site selection, innovation including Shovel Ready and Ready to Go sites. The committee asked about and discussed various topics about the projects, economic environment, and issues (effectiveness, etc) related to economic development in Ulster County. Legislature Chairman Terry Bernardo said the UC economic development department is underperforming.

There was some discussion of UCIDA regarding some projects and their relationship. Ms. Beuf would not discuss the IDA further, even though she is the UCIDA CEO, following a direct comment by Mr. Marquette.

There was a discussion and a concern about the membership of the UDDC board as there is only one member from the private sector (the discussion focused on the disclosure requirements). Chairman Bernardo proposed a private sector resolution to address the issues and the committee voted to adopt the proposal.

Draft Resolution No. 195 regarding approving administrative guidelines for a performance - based economic plan agreement between UCDC and UC was adopted following discussion about claimed vagueness, questions about performance standards, documentation available and quality, and IDA & UCDC staffing – separate boards and policies.

Draft Resolution No. 222 regarding urging Gov. Cuomo ant the Regional Economic Development Council to provide funding for the Hudson Landing Development Project was adopted.

Draft Resolution No. 238 regarding amending the 2012 county budget to accept grant funding from the NYS DOL for the purpose of assistive technology equipment – Dept of Employment and Training - was adopted.

Draft Resolution No. 239 regarding amending the 2012 county budget to accept an additional allocation of dislocated worker funds from the NYS DOL – Dept of Employment and Training – was adopted.

New Business was a short discussion regarding a question of Legislator Wishnick to Chairman Maloney about the status of the county economic development streamlining initiative – private sector. Mr. Maloney indicated it had received some pushback. There was a comment about stop funding UCDC.

[On June 6, 2012, a proposed resolution requesting the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) file an annual report card (Elliott Auerbach, Comptroller, wants it) was approved.]

Document prepared by Vic Melville, 9/26/12

**Golden Hill
Local
Development
Corporation
(GHLDC)**

The Golden Hill Development Corporation was convened at 6:03 on September 18, 2012 by Chairpreson Dare Thompson. At 6:09 PM the meeting was moved into executive session.

Present: Beckman, Bernholz, Hanson, Provenzano, Sudlow.

Dr. Iannuzi had not arrived by 6:09, but was apparently on her way.

Other attendees: DCE Crannell, Justin Miller, general counsel to the LDC from Haris Beach, First Asst. County Attorney Johnson, Amy Border, assigned secretary to the LDC.

First order of business was the approval of the August 1 meeting minutes.

Following that, Chairperson Thompson, noting she was the FOIL representative for the group, advised that Michael Novinson of the Times Herald Record had requested information regarding the bids that had been made. There was a brief discussion by the committee. Mr. Miller, the general counsel, pointed out that the FOIL statue had to be considered, the committee must be respectful of its requirements and consider any confidential information as well before responding to the request. He advised that there would be an appropriate response developed and sent to Mr. Novinson.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Legislative
Health and
Personnel
Committee**

The Health and Personnel Committee of the UC Legislature scheduled for Thursday, September 13, 2012 was cancelled.

**UC Board of
Health**

The UC Board of Health was convened at 7:03 by President, Dr. Tack on 9-10-2012 and adjourned at 7:40. The next meeting is October 1, 2012.

Present: Tack, Delmar, Authenrieth, Graham, Hilderbrandt

Absent: Robbins. Note: there is one vacancy

Other Attendees: Director Smith, Mrs. Veytia, Dr.Heller, Katrina Kouhut
Minutes of the April and May, 2012 meetings were approved.

Director Smith presented the Director's report:

- -NYSDOH notifications: Governor Cuomo announced 8;7;12 that the NYSDOH had issued new regulations in order to crack down on the increase in the widespread use of bath salts and other synthetic drugs. The law allows police to intervene and there is police clout to enforce such. Mrs. Veytia noted that apparently the local DOH told retail stores in UC they could not have such items on their shelves some time ago.
- -smallpox vaccination-there has been concern raised over the use by terrorists in some fashion; noted how to handle in case of an outbreak. In 1980 the World Health Organization determined smallpox had been eradicated. However, it has been determined that smallpox can be utilized as a biological weapon. How real the threat is, is unknown. Mrs. Veytia noted that UC has a plan in place to deal with any outbreak of the disease locally. Note that the military still receives vaccinations. Those individuals and laboratories which deal with the disease or those who may be laboratory workers or those who work with the specimens are considered to be among those who should be vaccinated.
- -limitations on rabies vaccines availability: there has been some such amongst animals locally.
- -Dr. Smith also noted the medical examiner's report and how much its presentation had improved. Dr. Heller, the Medical Examiner, feels that the new format is a vast improvement. Additionally there is less lag time between autopsies being performed and the results being announced. Autopsies are done at the morgue located at Kingston Hospital.

Per the report, to date January, 2012-August, 2012, there have been 185 calls to the ME, 57 site visits, 76 autopsies, 16 suicides, 3 motor vehicle deaths, and 1 homicide.

There is no cost to a family for an autopsy if the death occurs in the hospital. If the death occurs outside the hospital and is not an ME case, the expense of the autopsy is the family's responsibility.

There is no set policy in the hospital as to whether the family can view the body. Dr. Heller recommended that a policy/protocol be developed to cover the family viewing the body. Dr. Tack suggested sending a letter to Dr. McNally, the head of pathology at Kingston Hospital indicating that the Board of Health wished to develop a policy/procedure to follow in such cases. The Board members agreed with the idea. A letter to this effect will be developed.

Under Patient Services Mrs. Veytia, the Director reported as follows:

-re vaccination procedure: Locally had vaccinated every one regardless of whether the individual had insurance or not; but as of October 1, 2012 this process will change. If the person has commercial health insurance then the insurance company must now handle the cost of the vaccine. If the local DOH must continue regardless then the local DOH must purchase the vaccine....most who are involved are adolescents....and then the child is billed and the latter must then bill its own insurance company.

Schools are required to submit vaccination levels to the DOH.

- Clinic schedule for flu and pneumonic shots was released as of 9-11-12. The cost is \$20 for flu shot and \$65 for pneumonic. The Board passed the motion setting the costs of each type of shot.
- She noted receipt of a letter from the Director of the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General dated August 17, 2012. The primary purpose on the part of this office is to ensure regulatory compliance for dual eligible Medicaid/Medicare beneficiaries. To do this, this office contracted with the U. Of Massachusetts Medical School to perform a Medicare Home Health Appeals Initiative. In so doing this office has a process to ensure providers seek reimbursement from Medicare and all other third parties before submitting a claim to Medicaid.

Environmental Health Report: There had been two attempts to have the Sanitary Code dealt with at public hearings. As there was no quorum or members of the public present at these two meetings, the vote could not be taken. As a consequence, the local DOH took up the matter. It was moved by member Authenrieth to accept the May 7 version of the Code, seconded by Graham and unanimously passed.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Ulster County
Resource
Recovery**

Board Meeting September 17, 2012 3:30pm, Agency Office

In attendance: Dennis Helm, Leon Smith, Catherine Nilsen, Al Teetsel, Charles Landi
Staff: Tim Rose, Stephen Wing, Timothy DeGraff, Charlie Whittaker, Michelle Bergkamp

**Agency
(UCRRA)**

Minutes were approved and the next meeting was announced – October 15th.

Tim Rose made his reports on municipal solid waste (MSW), recycling and leachate collection. MSW is low, attributed to the poor economy and better recycling. Recycling is also down (Waste Management diverts its recyclables elsewhere) but better marketing has helped revenues. Leachate is down also (it is tied to rainfall amounts).

Michelle Bergkamp reported the next collection of household hazardous waste, e-waste, and pharmaceuticals will take place on October 20th. The public is invited to register online.

There was a lot of interest given to the Agency by the public and media for the Grand Opening of the pilot Composting Program. The event was covered in the newspapers, radio and on TV. Already the Agency has diverted over 22 tons of organics, which has saved on the cost of trucking this waste to a landfill, and it is creating a useful, saleable product. Tim and Michelle will be addressing the County Legislature about the project.

Tim DeGraff gave the Treasurer's Report. Even though tonnage is down, creative marketing has helped with revenue. FEMA also reimbursed the Agency for problems stemming from Irene and Lee in 2011. Because of refinancing the loans for the Agency, there was an additional \$100,000 in revenue that could be added in next year's budget. The Board members voted to approve the revised budget to send to the Legislature.

Tim Rose shared a new letterhead developed in house for Agency use.

Charlie Landi brought up whether or not the Board wanted to develop a statement for the Legislature regarding the future of the Agency. The Board wants to wait to see what the Legislative Committee suggests. He also submitted an additional process of signing off on all bid packages. The rest of the Board believed present protocol is sufficient. He asked if the Agency had an Ethics Code. Tim DeGraff says it can be accessed on the Agency website.

Next month the Board will begin interviewing for a new Agency Attorney. Steve Wing is leaving. Dennis Helm also announced that he will be leaving the Agency Board in December.

4:30pm adjourned for Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Lanzetta

(UCRRA Minutes, Agenda, and Resolutions can be found at www.ucrra.org/aboutus/aboutus.htm)

**Report on
Meeting of the
Special
Committee on
the Future of
the RRA**

**Background – The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) is a public benefit authority that was created by the Legislature to handle solid waste management. Because all of the waste in the County has not been directed to Agency facilities (i.e. "flow control") as originally planned when the Agency was created, the Agency has had difficulty meeting its financial obligations. The County has been helping with the shortfall with a "net service fee" payment. If nothing changes, this fee will continue to increase. The Legislature is looking at different options to lessen the financial impact on taxpayers.*

Members from two Legislative Committees are cooperating in a new Special Committee to examine these three possibilities:

- *disband and sell the assets of the Agency*
- *set up a refuse district(or districts) for taxing*
- *institute County flow control*

The first option was discussed with bond counsel and did not look promising as an alternative. The September 24th meeting was called to discuss Special Districting.

**Report on Meeting of the Special Committee on the Future of the RRA
September 24, 2012
5pm, County Office Building, 6th Floor**

Committee Chairman, Legislator Gerentine, introduced special guests David Vitale, NY's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Planning Director for the Division of Materials Management, and Terry Laibach, DEC Region 3 Recycling Coordinator. Mr. Vitale did a presentation that led to a discussion, with questions from the Legislators and members of the public, about the status of materials management in New York State. Of particular interest were the variety of ways in which various other Resource Recovery Agencies around the state structure their business models and revenue streams. A unifying point was that the successful programs used "flow control" to direct the waste material to the Agencies.

Terry Laibach spoke of the need to look at regional collaboration, especially with Dutchess County, as Ulster County moves forward on developing its Solid Waste Management Plan.

The second half of the meeting focused on the use of County Special Districts for the collection and management of refuse. Legislator John Parate did a lot of research on this as a possible alternative to the "net service fee." Legislative Counsels believed that there would be a lot of legal hurdles should the Legislature want to pursue this. Ultimately it seemed like exchanging one tax for another that might be even less equitable than the present system.

There were many good questions from Legislators and the public. The memo from the League of Women Voters was disseminated but not discussed, as there was a problem in getting it to Counsel and Officials before the meeting. Legislator Gerentine directed Counsel to answer an updated list of questions from the League of Women Voters, which will be resubmitted after this meeting.

No date was set for the next meeting.

Respectfully, Cindy Lanzetta

Ulster County Town Supervisors

The meeting of the UC Town Supervisors was convened by President, T/Shawangunk Supervisor John Valk at 8:32 on September 18, 2012 and adjourned at 10:15. The next meeting will be October 16, 2012.

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

County Executive Hein was not in attendance.

Ray Guerin of Kingston Risk Management spoke on insurance and handling risk management. This is his business which has involved him in a variety of local businesses. He noted that his family has been involved in the insurance business for many years. Recommended that any "green projects" be carefully examined before becoming involved. Suggested, based on his experience that such are not economically better than traditional methods...green must be cared for, maintained with accompanying costs...done more for political than economic reasons. Solar items are also expensive to construct and must be maintained or they wont work.

He provided background and explanation about handling risks in the areas that could be of concern to the towns that the latter may be faced with as well as new items like computer theft and fraud: cyber crime. He noted that a former CIA employee had noted that the five biggest problems for the US are: cyber terrorism, Islamic terrorism, China, national debt, and the drug wars in Mexico.

Mr. Guerin observed that one problem in US is a mind set that it is not bad to steal from government.

He noted that risk management is a 6-step process. Time did not permit coverage of each of the six. He did note exposure identification examination of property owned as a very important point. From the group it was noted that when this was done some have found that there were items that were no longer owned by the town or the town did not have the number of vehicles as had been thought.

A second point that he mentioned was meeting with town supervisors and department heads. This allows people to learn about what they need to know about managing the work which can help the town in establishing the premiums that it pays as well as developing a list of best practices to follow.

Following Mr. Guerin's presentation, Teri Bernardo, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature reported on her attendance at the NYSAC Conference in Syracuse. Apparently the members in attendance at the conference supported reducing mandated costs for counties, returning the cost of the Safety Net program to the 50/50 sharing that existed prior to the state's change of 71% counties and 29% state; reducing the use of bath salts, and various pre-school recommendations.

There was a somewhat lengthy exchange between the supervisors and the chairman regarding the costs of the Safety Net program to the towns and the costs involved with the RRA, the state law regarding the cap, and the sales tax. There was no conclusion reached.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved. The treasurer reported the group had \$6,514.55.

It was noted that Elliott Auerbach, UC Comptroller will be a guest at the October meeting.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp