



# Commentator

SEPTEMBER 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		
SEPTEMBER		
5	WED 7:15 pm	<b>LWV MHR Board Meeting</b> , home of Shirley Kobran, 53 Schuler Lane, Lake Katrine, 845-382-6989.
6	Thurs. 2 pm	<b>Resource Development Committee meeting.</b> Home of Margaret Sellers, 80 Ringtop Rd, Kingston. Call 845-340-2003 to confirm time and location and for directions.
11	Tues. 5:30 pm	<b>Solid Waste Study Committee</b> , Gateway Diner, Rt 9W just north of Mid-Hudson Bridge (across from Burger King), Highland. For more info and to confirm, contact Cindy Lanzetta, 845-236-7288, <a href="mailto:packback56@yahoo.com">packback56@yahoo.com</a>
13	Thurs. 7 pm	<b>Revisions to the Ulster County Charter</b> , Esopus Town Hall, 172 Broadway (Rt. 9W), Port Ewen - on west side of 9W just north of BOCES on east side Speakers: <b>Cynthia Lowe</b> , chair of the Charter Revision Commission, and <b>Dr. Gerald Benjamin</b> , chair of the commission that wrote the Charter and Director of the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz.
14	Fri. 10 am	<b>Dutchess Shared Services Committee meeting</b> , home of Ellie Charwat, 7 Creek Bend Rd., Poughkeepsie, 845-462-7061, <a href="mailto:echarwat@yahoo.com">echarwat@yahoo.com</a>
24	Mon. 6 pm on	<b>What is the Future of Ulster's Resource Recovery Agency?</b> Esopus Public Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen. Salad Supper from 6 – 7 pm. Program at 7 pm. Speakers include Legislators <b>Carl Belfiglio</b> (R) and <b>Ken Wishnick</b> (D) of the Ulster County Legislature's Environmental, Energy and Technology Committee.
25		<b>NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY</b> Contact Jean McGarry, <a href="mailto:jfmcg@hvc.rr.com">jfmcg@hvc.rr.com</a> or 845-336-6622, to help out locally! For sites and times, check our Voter Service section below for more details, check our website ( <a href="http://www.lwvmidhudson.org">www.lwvmidhudson.org</a> ) or call (845) 340-2003. Go to <a href="http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org">www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org</a> for nationwide information. The list of partners is exploding – AAUW, Goodwill, YWCA are a few with local ties. Get your business, church, etc. to sign on!

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](mailto:darethompson@gmail.com)  
 (845) 236-307

## Prez Sez...

You can almost hear a gun go off on the Tuesday after Labor Day as the **candidates recognize that voters are starting to pay attention**. The League will be watching with special concern as more money than ever flows into their campaigns and as the personal attacks and misrepresentations are expected to escalate. Are we seeking out the candidates at public events and demanding that they talk about important issues and quit the mudslinging? Are we doing all we can to let candidates know that we expect them to represent US, not their big donors, and we'll be watching?

In New York we have already had a primary that established the Congressional candidates, but on **September 13** we will go to the polls again and select our representatives in Albany. An extra challenge for voters this year is that there are NEW Assembly and Senate districts. Do you know who your candidates are and where you vote? If we don't like what goes on in Albany, have you checked out the Senate and Assembly candidates to see if they will work for or against what you believe in?

The League is trying to get all candidates to cooperate with the site [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) but not all have done so. If you can't find the info you need there, contact your Board of Elections. In Dutchess go to [www.dutchesselections@dutchessny.gov](mailto:www.dutchesselections@dutchessny.gov) or call 845-486-2473. In Ulster go to [www.co.ulster.ny.us/elections](http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/elections) or call 845-334-5470. And don't hesitate to complain to the candidates if their responses are not on vote411 - it's their fault, not the League's.

Of course the League is not all about voting. Check out our September meetings on the **Ulster County Charter** and the **Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**. These are two issues we have been concerned about for decades and they come to a head this fall and we have meetings on the 13th and the 24th to bring you up to date. Meanwhile, **in Dutchess County three county legislators will be drawing new district lines**. Yes, those who have the most to gain will be the ones who decide! Dutchess residents need to speak up and let them hear that your county deserves better. If Ulster County can have an independent redistricting process, why can't Dutchess?

*Dave*

## PROGRAM NEWS

### 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](http://www.TeaAndTrashParty.wordpress.com).*

**SALAD SUPPER + "What's Next for Ulster's Resource Recovery Agency?"  
Monday, September 24, 6 pm supper, 7 pm program  
Esopus Public Library, 128 Canal St., Port Ewen**

It's at the north end of Port Ewen. Turn off Rt 9W toward the Hudson River, then take an immediate left into the library parking lot.

Join us for our fall membership "social" and a discussion touching on a topic near and dear to many of us - how best to handle our waste materials in Ulster County.

Specifically we will have County Legislators Carl Belfiglio (R, Esopus) and Ken Wishnick (D, New Paltz), chair and member of the Legislature's Environmental, Energy and Technology Committee, talk to us about their own efforts to find solutions to the financial problems facing Ulster Co.'s RRA and how the rest of the Legislature is approaching the problems. We'll have other knowledgeable folks weigh in too.

The evening will start with a salad supper at 6 pm. If you can, bring a salad item to add to our big bowl of greens, a separate salad, or a dessert - but in any case, COME!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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

## VOTER SERVICE

### National Voter Registration Day - September 25

Our League will be participating with other organizations across the country in registering voters so they may participate in this year's election. In Ulster County we will have tables set up at three different sites: Walmart's in the Town of Ulster, The Hudson Valley Mall in the Town of Ulster and at the Kingston Plaza in Uptown Kingston. (Ellie Charwat will also have a table at the Adriaance Memorial Library, 93 Market St., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601, 9:30-11:30.) The Ulster County registration drive is currently planned for four hours between 10am and 2pm. Two volunteers will serve at each shift of two hours so at least 12 volunteers are needed at this time. If more individuals volunteer, we will be able to extend our hours.

All volunteers will receive a packet of registration cards and pens along with a packet of frequently asked voter registration questions. Also included will be Board of Elections contact information for Ulster, Greene, and Dutchess Counties.

This is a great opportunity to join in a league activity if you have not been able to do so. More importantly, it is a great way to serve your community. Please call Jean McGarry at 336-6622 to sign up.

### Vote411.org

Be sure to visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) and [lwvny.org](http://lwvny.org) as well as our own page at [lwvmidhudson.org/elections.html](http://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                   | ➤ Factual data on candidates in various federal, state and local races           | ➤ ID requirements          |
| ➤ Ballot measure information (where applicable) | ➤ General information on such topics as how to watch debates with a critical eye | ➤ Registration deadlines   |
| ➤ Early voting options (where applicable)       |  | ➤ Voter qualifications     |
| ➤ Election dates                                |  | ➤ 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**

**"WHAT DO WE THINK OF THE ULSTER CO. CHARTER REVISIONS  
...and How Will We Help Voters Decide?"**

**Thursday, September 13, 7 pm at the Town of Esopus Town Hall  
284 Broadway(9W), Port Ewen (just north of BOCES on the west side of 9W)**

Ulster County achieved major governmental reform five years ago when it established a Charter form of government. With that came a County Executive, a County Comptroller, an independent Reapportionment Commission and many other major steps forward. The Charter required it be reviewed in 5 years and a commission was established to make any necessary revisions. On the November ballot, voters will be asked to approve some of those revisions.

Hear from the head of the Ulster Charter Revision Commission, **Cynthia Lowe** (an LWV member), and from **Dr. Gerald Benjamin\***, the chair of the Commission that wrote the Charter, and decide what to make of the revisions. We expect to have other members of both Commissions weigh in, including LWV members Marianne Collins and Renee Sachs of the Charter Commission, Tom Kadgen and Jim McGarry of the Charter Revision Commission.

The League will need to explain the revisions that will be on the November ballot. It also needs to decide if it will take a position for or against them. **This is important and we need YOU there!** We are fortunate to have excellent guidance.

*\*Dr. Benjamin has been Associate Vice President for Regional Engagement and Director of the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz since 2008. Before that he was Chair of the Department of Political Science, Presiding Officer of the faculty and (since 1996) Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Of his wider service he says: "I have written and commented extensively on state and local government and regional governance, with a special emphasis on New York. I have been involved in major efforts to reform state and local government in New York State and City. Additionally, I served for twelve years as a county elected official and was the chief elected officer in Ulster County, New York for two years. **Our translation: He is a state and county treasure!***

**Ulster County  
Charter  
Revision  
Commission**

Following the Commission's Draft submission to the Laws and Rules, Governmental Services Committee ([http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/charterrevision/docs/Complete\\_Charter\\_w\\_track\\_changes\\_5.8.12\\_ES\\_2.pdf](http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/charterrevision/docs/Complete_Charter_w_track_changes_5.8.12_ES_2.pdf)) and the drafting of ([http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/resolutions/Proposed\\_Local\\_Law\\_No.\\_11\\_of\\_2012.pdf](http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/resolutions/Proposed_Local_Law_No._11_of_2012.pdf)) a substantially revised proposal by the Committee, a number of formal and informal public meetings were held which various Commission members attended and participated in the discussions. During the course of these meetings a number of compromises and concessions resulted a revised draft local law adopted by the Legislature at its August 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> the Commission convened for the purpose of deciding whether to adopt a motion to place on the same ballot its proposed amendments to Articles II (Legislature) and III (Executive). (Proposals were made regarding other Articles of the Charter but the Commission did not have authority to include those on the ballot.) After a lengthy discussion and for various reasons the Commission members accepted the Legislators' final revisions and declined to vote in favor of the motion. Perhaps the most important Commission revision, establishing the Redistricting Commission's independence, was preserved with one change – a provision subjecting its Plan to a permissive 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](http://lwvmidhudson.org/files/Fire_Districts_in_Dutchess_County.pdf)

### Ulster & Dutchess Counties Solid Waste

Wow! Members of the Solid Waste Committee have kept busy this month. In an effort to promote the League's stand on Regionalism, Jolanda Jansen and I attended the Governor's Regional Sustainability Solid Waste Workshop at the Rockland Solid Waste Management Authority's facility. (Attached report)

We also tried to cover all the meetings in Ulster County as the legislature positioned to find the best way to address the issues of materials (aka solid waste) management. In response to the Belgio/Wishnick proposal, members of the Environmental, Energy & Technology (EET) Committee voted along party lines to move a resolution forward to the Legislature that would allow up to \$10,000 for a consultant to bid out the assets of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency. After much disagreement, that resolution was tabled and legislators suggested a special committee be appointed to address the issues connected with UCRRA and waste management. There was disagreement on this as well, and it appears that the Ways & Means Committee wants more input into the process and will be meeting along with EET to decide the course of action. The impetus is the upcoming budget and the need for additional monies to supplement the UCRRA. UCRRA has submitted their budget (as well as a suggested budget if the Legislature enforced flow control).

One bright positive for UCRRA is the pilot program to do composting. A delegation of League members, including our "Garbage Queen," Shirley Kobran, attended the kickoff for organics management at the UCRRA site. Funded by a grant from the DEC and supported by commercial entities like Hannafords, this composting diverts material from landfills and will be available to taxpayers to enhance landscaping.

The Committee continues to monitor County and Regional meetings, meets regularly on the second Tuesday of each month at the Gateway Diner in Highland (5:30pm), and will host a presentation on the Belgio/Wishnick proposal on 9/24.

We are very excited that the League's 10/14 "Tea and Trash" will help call attention to the history of this important example of environmental stewardship. See more elsewhere in this Commentator on both these events.

Cindy Lanzetta

### MidHudson Regional Sustainability Plan II Meeting on July 26, 2012 Rockland County Solid Waste Management Authority

The meeting was well attended with representation from Rockland, Westchester, Ulster, Orange, Dutchess and Sullivan Counties. Initially there was a discussion about the consultants' website and project management tool. Engage MidHudson is to foster discussion/open to the public. Basecamp is private for the Working Group.

The Agenda:

- address materials management issues
- establish regional objectives
- develop preliminary list of projects and initiatives
- review indicators and targets
- develop preliminary ranking criteria for projects

Materials Management Objectives:



**Dare & Shirley at the grand opening of the Organic Recovery Facility 8-22-12**

- reduce the amount of solid waste generated and sent to landfills
- reduce GHG emissions generated by materials management activities
- increase public access and involvement in waste reduction programs
- develop intra-regional solutions to reduce costs and increase job growth in the region

People from Westchester spoke about their “Love em and Leave em” project to keep yard waste organics on site. The mantra is “What is generated here has to stay here,” believing people will be more responsible about material management if it stays in their own back yard, literally.

Tim Rose and Michelle Bergkamp spoke about the pilot composting program in Ulster County. There was a lot of interest from the group. Organics in the landfill can contribute 23 times the amount of GHG than burning fuel. Composting not only gives a beneficial product, it saves GHG. It was stated that 13% of the solid waste stream is food waste, 30% is yard waste.

The reduction of GHG is a major component of the Governor’s Initiative on Sustainability. The goal is a 80% reduction by 2050.

The methodology that the consultants want to use is to Identify a Problem, List the Indicators and Identify the Target. They asked the group’s opinion of some issues that are universal. Some ideas:

- Collective marketing
- Best practices in purchasing
- Regional landfill
- Composting
- Flow control – contractual, legislative and economic

There was discussion about haulers, landfills and governmental agencies. The group agreed that governmental entities are more likely to “do the right thing” since they are accountable to the taxpayer.

While Solid Waste Planning Units must consider the State’s “Beyond Waste” plan, they are not bound to follow every suggestion – just prove that they examined them and why they excluded them.

The group was given the task of writing up suggestions for projects and submitting them to the consultants.

Rockland County made a presentation about their Agency and a group tour of the facilities was offered.

As a personal aside, the Rockland facility is amazing and the enthusiasm and knowledge of the Working Group was exciting.

[www.rocklandrecycles.com](http://www.rocklandrecycles.com)

Cindy Lanzetta

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

Convened at 9:15 on August 1, 2012 by Chairman Dare Thompson. At 9:30 AM the meeting was moved into executive session.

Present: Thompson, Provenzano, Sudlow, Hanson, Bernholz. Dr. Iannuzzi was on the telephone.

Other attendees: DCE Crannell, Justin Miller, general counsel to the LDC from Harris Beach, First Asst. County Attorney Johnson, Amy Borden, assigned secretary to the LDC, members of the media

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the June 6 meeting. Following that Mr. Hanson reported on bills received: group approved liability insurance bill of \$2,603, but agreed to table the bill for legal services until the next meeting. Mr. Hanson then commented on the "good faith" receipt of \$900,000 from the six bidders which is to be deposited in the corporation account. This is money that will not be spent, but retained until a final bidder is selected. At that point \$150,000 will be given to the LDC and the remainder returned to those not chosen. This procedure was accepted by the group.

The next item was the 2012 budget which Mr. Hanson presented. The total revenue source amounts to \$10,270,000 with expenditures of the same amount. This was accepted.

Following the above, Josh Jandris of Marcus and Millichap reviewed the process that the company followed in marketing the nursing home, which eventually resulted in the 6 bidders:

- 2, 237 announcements sent out nation wide, with 55 responses received of which about half were from out of state;

- eventually 9 of the responses resulted in tours of the nursing home;

- he emphasized how excellent Mrs. Cross, the Director of Golden Hill and the staff were in conducting the tour, answering questions and the positive reaction from those on the tour. Mr. Crannell later noted that the staff was excellent in how they conducted themselves; and noted that the potential buyers had indicated that whoever was selected would want to meet and talk with the employees;

- the tours covered every inch and part of the nursing home from the roof to the maintenance area to the kitchen to the generators and everything in between; apparently none of those on the tour showed any concern about the maintenance that might be needed; were impressed with the generator system, that the buildings were "strong, basic"; that the maintenance was good; were favorable to the addition that had been made to the kitchen, to the roof replacement previously done..

As far as the sprinkler system is concerned, the cost of such will be included in the county budget and the county will cover the cost per Mr. Crannell.

Additional positive observations from those on the tours: that the nursing home was within the city limits; that there was ready access to public transportation; that there was space to consider possibly adding a wing; and that consideration could be given to reconfiguring some aspects of the buildings.

Once the above review was completed, the group moved into executive session.

Note: the six bidders are: Focus Ventures, Avista Healthcare, Robinson Management, Centers for Specialty Care, Epic Healthcare Management, Susquehanna Realty LLC  
Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Legislative  
Health and  
Personnel  
Committee**

Convened at 6:07 on August 6, 2012 by Chairman Legislator Aiello and adjourned at 6:50. The next meeting is September 10@ 5:30 PM.

Present: Aiello, Bellfiglio, Parete, Rob, Ronk

Other Attendees: DCE Crannell, JJ Hanson, Brenda Bartholomew, Erica Guerin, Krista Barringer, Fawn Tantillo, Burton Gulnick, Jr., Frank Rugiero, Sandy Mathis, Legislator Maloney

The first order of business was the approval of the July minutes. Following that DCE Crannell brought the committee up to date regarding the work of the Golden Hill Local Development Corporation, as Legislator Provenzano was unable to attend the meeting and she had asked him to do this.

- six proposals from nursing home operators, all who operate in NYS, have submitted bids at or above \$10.5 million;

- the LDC board will visit each of them: ask questions, see how their facilities are managed; interview personnel; generally see how the bidders handle their nursing homes;

- Legislator Parete asked why the bidders were asked to remain at the site for 5 years if successful in being chosen; Mr. Crannell indicated this was done to establish a presence of the nursing home in the area for a long period of time, which would avoid the buyer leaving the area really fast; to possibly partner with and expand services locally;

- there were nine potential bidders who toured Golden Hill and the six bidders came from that

group;

Another question was whether the nursing home would remain an acute care center? The answer was that the bidders had expressed some ideas on adding services like rehabilitation to what other services were being offered.

The observation about the possibility of the facility adding assisted living was suggested, but it was pointed out that the county operated facility cannot provide such and continue to collect Medicaid.

To the question as to whether the county legislature was out of the process entirely, the answer was yes, and that the board of the LDC would make the final selection of which bidder would be accepted.

Mr. Crannell advised the committee that each of the six bidders had paid the \$150,000 fee to the county, it was in the bank; and the board of the LDC was now doing its due diligence.

There was some discussion about the \$10.5 million or more bids and how the estimated \$81 million to renovate worked into the consideration, but other than discussing buying and selling property in general, nothing definitive was determined.

There were three resolutions that the committee dealt with:

Resolution 205: the committee approved the appointment of Thomas H. Jackson, Jr. as Director of Real Property Tax, succeeding Dorothy Martin who has retired.

Resolution 207: Implementing a voluntary separation program for eligible UC Employees

At this time there are 232 Full Time Employees eligible for consideration; apparently if 5% of those accept that would be 12 positions which could create \$400,000-\$800,000 in savings. It was noted that no elected officials were included. During the discussion Mr. Hanson noted that the county would contest any application for UIB by any employee who accepted this voluntary separation; the funds to cover this program would come from contingency funds or such budget lines as would be available at the point that this was determined, which would be closer to the end of the year. According to Ms. Bartholomew, Director of Personnel, there are only 8 employees who have indicated any interest.

Further, it was noted that there will be separate negotiations with the union regarding personnel at the Golden Hill Nursing Center.

Resolution 209: The committee approved adopting local law # 10 of 2012 which would amend the county charter and the administrative code by deleting Article XVII from both (Real Property Tax Service Agency) and amending the charter with respect to Article VIII (Department of Finance) which would henceforth be known as Local Law #7 of 2012.

Under new business the committee approved an amendment to the NYS mandated agreement to OASAS Aid (100% state funds) to provide administrative services for the UC Substance Abuse Prevention Board. During discussion there appeared to be a question as to whether this would in fact add a new program to the work or not. Committee was advised information would be provided as Ways and Means would meet and this would be determined and the committee advised. It was suggested that this might require a new contract with a new provider.

Chairman Aiello reviewed what had taken place when the public provided input at the Lyme Disease public forum. He expressed the hope that there would be an article covering this in local paper. He thanked everyone who helped make the forum possible. Mr. Crannell had positive comments to make re the results as well. He noted that both Dutchess County and Ulster County Commissioners of Public Health have met with the resulting suggestion to have joint meeting of medical societies to make sure the medical groups are advised regarding the latest information of Lyme Disease.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp



**UC Board of Health**

The meeting was convened on August 13, 2012 at 7:15 by President Dr. Marc Tack and adjourned at 7:18. The next meeting will be September 10.

Present: Dr. Tack, Dr. Delma, Dr. Woodley, Marianne Hilderbrandt, Peter Graham

Absent: Ms. Authenreith

Other Attendees: Mrs. Veytia, Katrina Kouhout, First Asst. County Attorney Clinton Johnson

Dr. Tack indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to serve as a public hearing on the UC Sanitation Code. It was noted that no one had signed up to speak. As a result Dr. Tack entertained a motion to close the public hearing which was passed. There being no other subject on the agenda, a motion to adjourn the meeting was accepted and passed at 7:18. It was noted prior to adjournment that the Sanitation Code would be taken up/voted on at the next meeting of the Board of Health in September.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA)****Special Legislative Committee on the Future of the RRA**

The Committee met on August 27, 2012 at 4 PM to organize. Richard Gerentine convened the group as Acting Chair, Carl Belfiglio was nominated for Chair as well and Gerentine was elected Chair along party lines. The Committee was formed to implement Resolution 217 A passed on August 14. Other Legislators present at the meeting included Mary Wawro, Jeanette Provenzano, Wayne Harris, Mary Beth Maio, Ken Ronk, Tracy Bartels, Ken Wishnick, Hector Rodriguez and Donald Gregorius.

Also present were Tim Rose, P.E, Director of the UCRRA, Leon Smith, UCRRA Board Chair, several other Board members, Kelly Myers, Town of Saugerties Supervisor, James Quigley, Town Ulster Supervisor, Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive, members of the press and three LWV members.

The Committee started to discuss the purpose of the Committee as stated in the Resolution, i.e.,

“ to explore the path of (a) flow control as well as (b) a potential sale of the assets of the RRA or operating agreement, as well (c) the concept or setting up a fee or tax based system to finance the RRA, or (d) any combination thereof, the second (b) of which may require approval of the New York State Legislature, and the third (c) of which may also depending on how it is structured require state Legislative approval;”.

Jeanette Provenzano wanted to discuss citing a landfill in the county. Discussion ensued. During the discussion some interesting facts emerged. Landfills will probably be discussed later. An attempt would be made to find a willing host Town. One year extension contracts have been signed with all the towns except Warwarsing, Marlborough and Saugerties. The RRA said that it was negotiating with all the towns whose contracts expire October 1. Saugerties said that the RRA would not negotiate, but only offered the contract extension without any changes, and Saugerties wants changes. They may be going out to bid with others. The contracts with the haulers are the bigger contracts, over 80% of the total. The haulers appear to be opposed to flow control.

The Committee decided to continue with the sense of the Resolution. They plan to discuss each of the three areas in separate meetings. The first meeting will cover issues related to the sale of the RRA, including bond issues, and is scheduled for Monday, September 10 at 6 PM. Meetings on fee or tax based system and then flow control will be scheduled in the future. Committee members will send in questions on each subject. The questions will be sent to experts who will provide written answers to the extent possible before the meeting that they will appear. Others, including the LWV, are also invited to submit questions. The first set of questions should be submitted by the end of this week.

Margaret Sellers, Observer