



Commentator

SEPTEMBER 2015

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.

President:
 Jolanda Jansen
jgjansen@verizon.net
 (845) 505-0324

Newsletter:
 Jim McGarry
lwvmhr@hvc.rr.com
 (845) 336-6622

Membership:
 Shirley Kobran
 (845) 382-6989

	WE WELCOME THE GENERAL PUBLIC AT ALL EVENTS!	
2015		
September		
4	Fri. 12 Noon	Naturalization Ceremony , Ulster County Court House, 285 Wall St., Kingston Volunteers should arrive at 10:45
7	Mon. 7-9 PM	Meet the Candidates for Poughkeepsie mayoral race , Family Partnership Center, 29 North Hamilton St.
10	Thurs. 4:00 PM	LWV MHR Board Meeting , home of Jackie Moriarty
10	Tue. 12 Noon-9 PM	Primary Election Day
15	Tue. 6:30 PM	Voter Registration Training , home of Jean McGarry, 180 South Rd., Ruby. Call for directions 336-6622
22	Tue. 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM	National Voter Registration Day - Contact Jean McGarry at jfmcg@hvc.rr.com or call her at 336-6622. See Voter Service report below for more information.
November 3	6 AM - 9 PM	Election Day

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Jolanda Jansen, 845-505-0324, jgjansen@jansen-engineering.com,
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151 Stockade Drive, Kingston, NY 12401
845-334-3874, www.ml.com, frederick_woods@ml.com

PREZ SEZ...

Summer is not down time for members of the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region. We hold our annual meeting at which we appoint new officers and board members, we do a planning meeting to figure out what we are going to do the coming year, we gear up for the elections, debates, voter registration and vote 411 and some of us go to the State Convention. Some members do take time off for vacation, and we grudgingly let them go, "When will you be back?" "We'll move the date of the meeting so that you can attend." There is no escape.

Anne Needham keeps us on the air every month on Kingston Community Radio. After the event, which is rather early in the morning, 8:30 am – 9:00 am, we post the recording on facebook and try to send it out using Constant Contact. As we get smarter we'll figure out how to get it on our web site and how to reach those individuals who don't go on facebook or can't be reached by Constant Contact. The recording is both audio and video and you can actually watch Anne Needham, Soyal Smalls, Merrill Sunderland or myself struggling to articulate our thoughts into the microphone in a tiny recording booth. This summer we arranged for Joel Diamond, Professor of Government at Dutchess Community College to speak about poverty and wealth on an additional day on the radio show, and Dare Thompson and I were interviewed by Shane Egan and Mike Virga on "Inside Hudson Valley Politics" on 91.3 WVKR-FM, the Vassar College radio station.

Nothing like seeing a photo of myself wearing headphones, talking into the mike, and hanging onto my legs for dear life, as if they were about to fall off. What was I thinking? We answered questions about the League of Women Voters, how we operate, how we establish our positions, and I somehow ended up talking about income inequality and racism, as well as the Dutchess County Jail and the need for alternatives to incarceration. I'm almost beginning to enjoy it. Who knew.

Jolandae Jansen

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Monthly Board meeting minutes and more can be found at:
<http://lwvmidhudson.org/Committees.html>

VOTER SERVICE**Moderating Guidelines**

Guidelines for moderating and sponsorship of candidates' events by the League are our website at <http://lwvmidhudson.org/Moderating.html> or from the [Home](#) page and the [Elections](#) page.

**What we've done
What We're Doing**

On August 24, the League moderated a Meet the Candidates night for the Democrat primary mayoral race at Temple Emanuel in Kingston. Local news outlets reported the attendance to be between 200-250 individuals. Jean McGarry served as moderator and Lee Ridgway was our timekeeper. Assisting with organizing the submitted questions were Kim McEvoy, Jacki Moriarty, Daisy Tyler and Ashlyn McGarry. From all accounts, it was an educational and informative evening.

To date, Lee Cane has distributed about 2,000 LWNYS voter guides in Ulster County to town supervisors, BOCES, the County Office Building, the clerk of the City of Kingston, the Board of Health and Gateway. When the additional 3,000 voter guides are received, Lee will get them to the Ulster County School Districts. We could use some volunteers to distribute the guides in Dutchess County. Voter guides to the Mid Hudson Libraries will be via the Mid-Hudson Library System courier.

Please refer to the Commentator calendar for upcoming events that we are moderating and for voter registration training for National Voter Registration Day on September 22. Please call Jean McGarry at 336-6622 if you are able to participate at any of these events or if you are interested in becoming a moderator.

National Voter Registration Day: Tuesday, September 22. Many volunteers are needed . We will target college students this year at SUNY Ulster, SUNY Dutchess, SUNY New Paltz, and Marist College.

Moderating:

Interested in being a timekeeper or moderator? Personal training and shadowing will be available.

Volunteering:

Voter service requires many volunteers for short term commitments. If you only have a limited time to give to the league but would like to get involved, contact Jean McGarry at jfmcg@hvc.rr.com or call her at 336-6622.

STUDY AND ADVOCACY

Materials Management Committee

Delaware County Field Trip (Manna, Jolanda, Merrill)

Manna Jo Greene, Merrill Sunderland and Jolanda Jansen visited the Delaware County Solid Waste Facility on August 4, 2015.

The Ulster County Legislators have been very excited about this facility because almost all of the waste generated in Delaware County is processed at this facility, and very little is transported out of the County.

Some C& D (construction and demolition) such as mattresses is taken up North.

There is a recycling facility that can function both as a single stream and as dual stream. Some items are worth money and can be sold. Glass is a problem. They have a machine that breaks it and it can be used for drainage aggregate. They would like to get a different machine that can pulverize it and then they can use it for sand blasting, or maybe road salt.

The remaining waste (which is burnt in Dutchess County and transported to a landfill in Ulster County), is fed into a machine that is essentially a large heated grinder. After the grinder it goes through two consecutive screening operations that remove plastic, metal, glass, and then gets mixed with bio-solids from waste water treatment plants and put in compost bins. It is agitated every couple of days, takes 54 days to travel through the system and comes out as very fine compost. It still contains tiny pieces of glass and plastic. (glitters).

The finished product is sold, but the processing operation does not make a profit, it is subsidized by the Delaware County tax payer.

The screened out plastic, metal and glass gets placed in the landfill. The volume reduction is large and will buy Delaware County a significant extension in their landfill time. If installed in Ulster County, it would reduce our shipping costs to bring our waste to a landfill near Syracuse, because the volume to be shipped would be greatly reduced).

Ulster County Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission

A. WHAT IS THE ULSTER COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION?

On November 18, 2014, the Ulster County Legislature created the Ulster County Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission for the purpose of comprehensively reviewing the technologies, grant funding and host benefits available to newly established solid waste disposal facilities.

February 17, 2015, the Ulster County legislature appointed members to this commission.

As of June, 2015, the commission consists of 5 members of the Ulster County Legislature, Hector Rodriguez (Democrat District No. 20), Tracey Bartels (Democrat District No. 16), Manna Jo Green (Democrat District No. 19), John Parete (Democrat District No. 22) Laura Petit and T J Briggs (Democrat District No. 15), as well as members of the public, Carl Chipman (Supervisor Town of Rochester) , Gregg Swanzey (Director of the Office of Economic Development & Strategic

Partnerships, City of Kingston), Phillip Ferrara (SWDS Owner and UCRRA licensed Hauler), and Leon Smith (Chairman, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency), additionally one position is held by the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region. The LWVMHR Board selected Kathryn Beinkafner to hold this position and for Jolanda Jansen to serve as her backup. Kathy and Jolanda attended commission meetings on June 1 and June 29 and they both went on a field trip on July 13.

The commission is visiting other counties to see how Solid Waste is being handled elsewhere. It is considering such options as:

1. Sighting a new landfill in Ulster County that can take Ulster County waste and will not require the waste to be trucked to Seneca Meadows (halfway between Syracuse and Rochester and 200+ miles from Kingston).
2. Sending solid waste to adjacent counties. Both the Dutchess County burn plant and Wheelabrator burn plant located in Westchester County have excess capacity.
3. Removing organics from the waste stream and processing them into compost.
4. Sending the waste to Taylor Gassification to be turned into electricity using a process that allegedly does not create dioxins and other pollutants (the plant has not yet been built).
5. Converting all the waste into compost using a process similar to that used in Delaware County.

B. ANSWERS FROM NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

On June 29 a number of people from NYSDEC came before the committee and answered questions. Their answers are summarized below:

Question 1 – What would it take to create a new landfill in Ulster County?

Answer: The approval process usually takes 2-3 years.

We can't use former carbonate quarries – when engineering controls fail, we will have a disaster, because limestone is so soluble.

Former Ulster County clay pits are too close to the Hudson River – they would be subject to flooding.

Former Shale Quarries may be an option.

There was a study done in the early 1990's. 93 sites were evaluated. All sites were greater than 200 acres. The study was very well done. At the time the NYSDEC did not approve the selected locations. However there were other locations identified in the study that would have been approvable.

The ideal location has a thick low permeability deposit that is not underlain by limestone.

Question 2 – What is the status of NYSDEC review of the Ulster County Solid Waste Plan?

Answer: UCRRA has been waiting for comments.

NYSDEC promised detailed comments by July 29th, 2015.

Question 3 – Could Ulster County build an Anaerobic Digester?

Answer: Yes we could, and it could process Ulster County organics.

It could also process liquid waste from wastewater treatment facilities.

The digestate could be processed to create fertilizer.

If we made it the right size, it could also receive Dutchess County organics.

Then the left over non-organic, non-recyclable waste could possibly go to the Dutchess County burn plant.

Question 4 – What is the current state of recycling?

Answer: Recycling has been profitable for 20 years.

Lower grades of paper, not suitable for recycling, can be composted.

Glass has been a struggle, typically costs more to process than it is worth.

The value of plastics is on the rise.

Single stream works, but dual stream creates a higher quality product.

Question 5 – What is the status of manufacturing reduction?

Answer: Electronics – companies are taking back products.

More rechargeable batteries – less throw-aways.
 Mercury thermometers – EPA is supporting development of alternatives.
 Paint – working on a law to require manufacturers to take back unused paint.
 Mattresses – still a work in progress. They are a mixture of wood, metal and fibers and hard to disassemble.
 Packaging Stewardship – still on the list to be tackled.

C. UCRRA FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING

On August 3, Jolanda Jansen attended the meeting of UCSWMIC held at the UCCRA facilities in Ulster County. Committee members were given a tour of the food composting operation. The food waste is combined with wood chips in a ratio of 1:2 in a pre-mixing bin (concrete pad), and then is piled on top of a perforated pipe through which air is blown at regular intervals to aerate the pile. The pile is kept at temperatures of 100-150 degrees Fahrenheit. After some time the material is screened, wood chips removed and the compost is available for pick up. The facility charges \$20/ton tipping fee to receive the food waste. It has a Permit to receive 500 tons/year (1000 yards) and year to date (August) has received 350 tons. They have submitted a grant application to increase their capacity to 5,000 tons. After the tour the committee met in the UCCRA conference room. Greenway was present and presented the case that for haulers it is not profitable to run a truck dedicated to food waste until there is about 4000 tons/year to collect. All the existing facilities in Ulster County combined are not big enough to receive 4,000 tons/year. However, there is probably 20,000 tons of organic waste in Dutchess and the same in Ulster if we could divert it all. A first goal would be to increase county wide capacity to 10,000 tons. Royal Carting who had also been invited to share their experience with the committee discussed the fact that there is a significant behavioral change that will be required to increase diversion of organic waste. Their pilot study in the City of Beacon only achieved a small participation rate, and the cost of picking up organic waste separately would increase the overall cost to the City of Beacon, at least initially. The committee asked the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region to find locations where organic waste collection has been implemented successfully and to report on what was done to achieve the transition.

2015 Book Discussion Selections

Our League book club has been meeting regularly on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:45. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 15h at Enzo's Pizza, 207 Boices Lane, Kingston. Come help us select books for the next six months! We have been concentrating on economics and social issues, but all and any subjects are on the table. How will we choose our books? Bring three titles, either books you have read or reviews that have intrigued. We are currently exploring an upbeat book about the value of social involvement, "The Soul of a Citizen" by Paul Loeb. We began this discussion in August with Jacki Moriarty facilitating and plan to continue in September along with choosing a new round of books. Income inequality was the thread through several readings. The minimum wage world as experienced by so many of our neighbors was covered in "Nickel and Dime" by Barbara Ehrenreich, her tale of a temporary visit there and the heartbreak she saw and felt. "The Price of Inequality" by Joseph E. Stiglitz underlined how structural unfairness is damaging the fabric of America. SUNY Professor Emeritus Joel Diamond facilitated our March discussion of "Capital in the 21st Century" by Thomas Piketty and "Our Kids" by Robert Putnam, both fact heavy must-reads for an understanding of today's economy. More general sociology themes were covered by "Outliers, The Story of Success" by Malcom Gladwell which explored the many facets that create a thriving person and "The Village Effect" by Susan Pinker on our human need for face to face contact in a computer driven world. We also looked at the grim situation of young black men in our prison system as exposed by Michelle Alexander in "The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness".

“Undocumented: How Immigration Became Illegal” by Aviva Chomsky gave us an overview of the system that excludes and exploits immigrants.

Selections I’m considering for the upcoming round (neither of which I’ve read) are “This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate” by Naomi Klein and “Everyday Justice: The Global Impact of Our Daily Choices” by Julie Clawson. But then, I’ve got a couple of weeks to change my mind... See you at Enzo’s!

Anne Needham

ULSTER COUNTY OBSERVER CORP

Audio recordings, addenda and minutes of Legislative Committee meetings can be found at <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/legislature/committeesinfo/index.html>

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Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit Committee

August 4, 2015, 6:00 – 7:22 PM

Committee Members: **Thomas J. Briggs, Chairman, James F. Maloney, Deputy Chairman, Chris Allen, Lynn Archer, Tracey Bartels, Herbert Litts, III, Mary Beth Maio**

Other Legislator: Manna Jo Greene

Meeting called to order by Chairman Thomas Briggs, and approval of July 7, 2015 meeting minutes.

Guest Presenter: Kristine LaValle, Habitat for Humanity. Ms. LaValle presented an overview of Habitat for Humanity and reported they have completed their 13th house and they are proposing a multi-family house in Kingston. She also discussed their partner-family relations and their volunteer and donor arrangements.

Resolutions for August 18, 2015 Session:

Resolution No. 295 – Supporting The Consideration And Inclusion Of 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston New York In The State And National Registers Of Historic Places: After discussion, the resolution was defeated in the committee.

Resolution No. 314 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Between the County Of Ulster County Economic Development Alliance To Implement The recommendations Of The Ellenville Million Committee – Amending The 2015 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Planning: Steven Kelley of the Ellenville Million Task Force discussed aspects of the contract. The County would up-front the \$1M and \$1M would come later to the County from the state from casino application funds and operation returns. Legislator Tracey Bartels is against the resolution as she is concerned about the process as she believes the county Economic Development would lose control of spending of the funds. Legislator Manna Jo Greene stated there is a “climate crisis” and she is concerned about whether the provisions are favorable to the environmental. The resolution was approved.

All other resolutions were approved.

New Business: Legislator Lynn Archer wants regular reports of the Economic Development Alliance from committee members Legislators Thomas Briggs and James Maloney who are on the Board of Directors of the EDA.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer, 8-26-15

**Energy and
Environment
Committee****August 12, 2015, 5:50 PM – 6:10 PM**

Committee Members: **Peter Loughran, Chairman, Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Deputy Chairman, Richard A. Parete (absent), Hector Rodriguez, Mary Wawro (absent)**

Other Legislator: Manna Jo Greene

Peter Loughran, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the July 21, 2015 meeting were approved.

Guest Presentations:

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Report: Tim Rose, Executive Director, reported that 14 towns signed the proposed contract, 5 towns did not, 2 did not reply, including the City of Kingston. Two versions, one with 14 towns contracted and one with no towns contracted, of a tentative UCRRA proposed budget is to be presented at the August 26 UCRRA Board meeting. Either way, charges to the towns will not change next year, but may change next year. The UCRRA board has the option to pull the contracts. Mr. Rose, the committee and Legislator Manna Jo Greene discussed the budget process including the timeliness of the communications to the towns.

Grassroots Environmental Education – Ellen Weininger, Director, Education Outreach: Ms Weininger presented and discussed various initiatives in other counties by the AMA, Health Impact Assessment, and other activists regarding proposed projects considered harmful to health and the environment in our region. She is seeking resolutions and community actions to affect the proposed projects.

Resolutions for August 18, 2015:

Motion: Resolution No. 296 – Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2015 (A Local Law Establishing A Sustainable Green Fleet Policy): Approved.

Motion: Resolution No. 318 – Authorizing The Commissioner Of Finance To Accept The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation's Offer To Purchase A Parcel Of County Owned Real Property In The Town O Lloyd And Authorizing The Chairman Of the Ulster County Legislature To Convey Such Parcel – Department Of Finance: Postponed until committee meeting in September.

New Business: None.

Old Business:

Climate Smart Committee – Brief Update: Legislator Greene discussed the Energy Audit re Public Works, two new solar projects (UCRRA and UCCC) mentioning Solar City, and remote net metering.

Solid Waste Disposal Improvement Commission – Brief Update: Legislator Hector Rodriguez discussed food waste composting and the visit to the Delaware County facility. He reported a favorable outcome of the visit and mentioned a discussion with the NY DEC.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer, 8-26-15

**Laws and Rules,
Governmental
Services Committee**

August 17, 2015, 6:32 – 7:24 PM

Committee Members:

Richard A. Parete, Chairman (absent), Kevin A. Roberts, Deputy Chairman, David B, Donaldson, Kenneth J. Ronk, Manna Jo Greene

Meeting called to order by Kevin Roberts, Deputy Chairman

Minutes from July 20, 2015 meeting approved.

Resolutions:

Resolution No. 255 – Setting A Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2015 (A Local law Of the County Of Ulster, New York, Known As The “False Alarm Reduction Act”) To Be Held On Tuesday, September 15, 2015 At 7:05 PM: Approved, as amended, following a discussion of its intent, effects and possible unintended consequences.

Resolution No. 296 – Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2015 (A Local Law Establishing A Sustainable Green Fleet Policy): Approved, following a discussion (another) if this should be a Local Law or a Resolution.

Resolution No. 298 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2015 (A Local Law regarding Campaign Finance reform in Ulster County) To Be Held On Wednesday, October 14, 2015 At 6:00 PM: Postponed until September committee meeting.

Other resolutions were approved.

New Business:

(Late) Resolution No. 324 – Requesting The Public Service Commission To Direct Verizon To Provide Fiber-Optic Internet Access To The Hudson Valley: Legislator Ken Ronk objected to this proposed resolution as a qualifying LATE resolution. Legislator Manna Jo Greene requested to co-sponsor. A PSC comment period is to be determined. Approved.

Vic Melville, LWV Observer, 8-26-15

**UC Legislative
Public Health and
Social Services**

The Committee was convened by Chairman Lopez at 6:37 on August 3, 2015 and adjourned at 7:40. The next meeting and facility tour will be August 31, 2015 at the Northeast Center for Traumatic Brain Injury Center in Lake Katrine. Time of the meeting and room location is pending.

Present: Lopez, Provenzano (left early), Allen, Belfiglio, Litts

Others: Erica Guerin, Legislative Counsel, Nettie Tomshaw, Committee Clerk, Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive (left early)

Following the call to order, the first order of business was approval of the minutes of July 6, 2015 meeting.

The first item on the agenda for the committee to address: There were 11 Resolutions, all of which were passed:

- Resolution 294: confirmed the appointment of Helen Gonyea to a subcommittee of the UC Community Services Board for 3 years.
- Resolution 299 dealt with the number of patients that any nurse should be assigned to care for; discussion noted that this recognized it was both or patients well-being as well as nurses to have appropriate numbers.
- Resolution 300 Career Ladder Program is new; adopted by the UC Legislature; DC Crannell spoke to this item: It is a pilot program for 25 people who are receiving SNA assistance at DSS; United Way will provide the training for them; the participants will be paid for 3 months, gain experience during this training period; apparently there are some 30 employers who have agreed to do this; if the participants pass the training the employers would hire them;

DC Crannell indicated that there is no other county in NYS that does this apparently.

- Resolution 301 and 302: these two resolutions were taken together as each dealt with paying two bus companies (Roiling V Bus Co. and Arthur F. Mulligan, Inc.) to provide mandated transportation for pre-school children who are receiving mandated services through the County's Pre-School program.
- Resolution 303● Amendment to previously adopted legislation. It increases the amount of money to be paid to the home as a result of an increased number of children being placed in the Poughkeepsie Home. During discussion question was raised as to the increased number of children being placed—what had caused this situation; which then led to the increased cost—where was the additional money going to come from, even though the county would be responsible for only 35% of the increased cost. An inquiry will be made by Legislator Belfiglio of the Ways and Means Committee (he is a member) with respects to the financial aspects.
- Resolution 304 Gateway will provide job training for those who receive food stamps under SNAP which is a DSS program.
- Resolution 305 To provide mandated PINS Case Management services; county responsible for 35% of costs.
- Resolution 306 To provide payment (11%of cost by county) to Family of Woodstock for support and diversion services through the Supervision and Treatment Services for Juvenile Program (STSJP) for youth in receipt of Person in Need of Supervision (PINS) or Juvenile Delinquent petition through Family Court.
- Resolution 308 deals with authorizing a 5 year contract April 1, 2015-March 31, 2020 with the NYS Department of Health to continue the Drinking Water Enhancement Program; and
- Resolution 309 deals with authorizing a 5 year contract October 1, 2015-September 30,2020 with the US Department of the Interior, US Geological Survey to continue the Joint Funding Agreement to continue to operate and maintain the gauging station on the Esopus Creek in Mt. Marion, NY which provides flood plain elevation date in the lower Esopus Creek Basin

New Business:

- the committee will meet at the Northeast Center for Traumatic Brain Injury Center for its meeting on August 31, 2015 and also have a tour of the facility.
- Legislator Litts advised the committee of his recent meeting with a group on dyslexia; he noted that about 20% of the population learn from visualizing material rather than reading it; as a result of his positive comments with respects to this condition, he asked the committee to consider inviting representatives of the group to a meeting of the committee and possibly developing some type of legislation to make people generally more aware of this problem. The committee will invite the group to attend its October meeting. There will also be a check of the law in Connecticut which apparently is the only state to have passed legislation to deal with the problem.
- the third and last topic was a statement read by Judy Pinken on the problem she arid her family has experienced as a result of what she said had happened to her, i.e. during the 1st 11. years as a result of what she said was the improper, inappropriate actions of the UC child protective services group. She had 3 children: 2 girls, 1 boy. She was saying what she was because she believed that the system she had had to deal with was wrong in the way the various parts had conducted it business.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

UC Board of Health

The August 10, 2015 meeting of the Board was convened by President, Dr. Marc Tack at 6:37 and adjourned at 7:30. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2015.

Present: Tack, Woodley, Hilderbrandt, Graham, Delma

Absent: Cardinale, Kelly

Others: Commissioner of Health and Mental Health Dr. Carol Smith, Nereida Veytia, Director of

Patient Services, Katrina Kouhout, Secretary to Commissioner and Board Secretary

Initially, the Board approved the minutes of the May Board meeting.

Next on the agenda was Commissioner Smith's report on the following items:

- polystyrene law update: UC has banned the use of any items with polystyrene foam disposable containers in all food industries in UC. Permitted food establishments have been so advised. As far as the Board of Health is concerned the process appears to be moving ahead.
- Tobacco Retailer Law update: no new tobacco license will be issued "to any establishment located within 1000 feet of the nearest point of the property line of a school;" Note: According to the material distributed at the meeting the effective date of the local law shall be January 1, 2016. The law was adopted by the County Legislature April 21, 2015, approved by the County Executive May 14, 2015 and filed with the NYS Department of State May 21, 2015.
- Pet Sellers' Law Proposal: There is to be public hearing on the proposed law on Wednesday, August 12.

The Board of Health is working with the county attorney to put this law, which has many layers, together. There is to be an animal abuse registry completed as part of this proposed law.

During discussion the group noted it was generally familiar with the ASPCA, but not as to specifics: what criteria is used to select employees; are there sufficient paid staff; what is the chain of command; and how was the proposed law to be enforced.

The medical examiner's report for July, 2015 was then noted by the group.

Next of the agenda was a report dealing with Patient Services. This was handled by Nereida Veytia, the Director of Patient Services.

The first part of the report dealt with the Public Health Preparedness Program:

- Point of Dispensing Exercise (POD) held in June, 2015. This involved training in how the county would dispense services to the public when such services are needed. A cross section of community groups in addition to health and mental health were involved. The NYSDOH was satisfied with the results.
- ServNY Deliverable (2015● 2016) dealt with providing services in emergency situations. Involved reaching out to various community groups to be involved with/work with health department.
- ChemPack CDC/NYSDOH dealt with measures to be employed in the event of a terrorist bio● chemical attack. Apparently whatever procedures are to be employed are up to date.
- UC Animal Response Team (UCART): There is a volunteer group which responds to rescue animals. There was a drill held July 14, 2015 to provide training for participants in handling both large and small animals in emergency situations. Apparently among other groups the red Cross was present: needs to know how to handle animals in shelter situations.
- WIC: NYS acknowledged the local WIC program and UC was awarded another 5 year contract.

Under other business Commissioner Smith noted that the Board of Health had produced a radio commercial, sent to the NYSDOH which liked it.

The topic: smoking. Encouraging individuals to ask their doctors for assistance in quitting smoking.

During discussion it was noted that while patients may ask for such help that statistics suggest that only about 30% - 40% of physicians actually do provide such assistance. Further it was noted that UC apparently has the highest rate of smokers in NYS.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

**UC Association of
Town Supervisors
and Mayors**

The August 18, 2015 meeting of the UC Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors was convened at 8:36 by President, T/Rochester Supervisor Carl Chipman and adjourned at 9:51.

Present: Hurley, Marbletown, Ulster, Wawarsing, Rochester, Hardenburgh, New Paltz

Initially Supervisor Chipman indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear from the groups, which sponsor group homes, who had been invited to attend. Apparently the UGARC and the Anderson School had not responded and were not in attendance. New Horizon had and Andrea Pollock was present.

Supervisor Chipman also noted that by law (Padavan Law) the towns have no say about where the group homes may be located.

Further, there are instances when the events, circumstances occur at some group homes which create problems for the people living nearby, i.e., noise early in the morning or late at night, people wandering on adjacent property, many cars located at the home (those who work there). He did note that the group home operated by New Horizon was no problem, best kept and nicest.

Ms. Pollack noted the following:

- she has been with New Horizon about 27 years;
- New Horizon does have group homes in Dutchess County as well as Ulster County (has 5 there including some who live in apartments in New Paltz). She noted it has homes in Rosendale, High Falls, Clintondale;
- New Horizon does introduce itself wherever it considers the possibility of obtaining a house;
- it does try to establish good relations with the community;
- the residents in the group homes may have various intellectual and physical disabilities;
- more recently New Horizon has been working with children who are older (regular schools do not handle such beyond a certain age).

During general discussion various comments and observations were made:

- Rosendale Supervisor Walsh noted that the reason for the meeting was to evaluate the problem when a group home moves into a neighborhood that is quiet, has many cars, more than a family number living in the group home. These are all things that a planning board would look at. However, the law prohibits a planning board from approving or disapproving, but the suggestion was to at least have an informal meeting between the two groups.

Supervisor Chipman suggested that it would be helpful to have a process, a best practice procedure to engage in informally for the group home sponsor to follow with a local planning board; it would help to alleviate concerns and problems that might arise.

Other observations that were made:

- the groups located in the Hudson Valley know about doing business upstate and the problems that need to be considered in selecting a house, i.e. water and sewer problems, transportation... These are concerns that groups who come from the downstate, city area apparently would not think about given the differences in the way things are handled downstate;
- as a courtesy any group seeking to locate in Ulster County should talk with the town clerk or town supervisor and ask what the town might do to help it.

Supervisor Chipman suggested that a list of concerns be made and from that he would develop a best practices process that could then be sent to any/all of the organizations which would be involved in establishing group homes.

Throughout the discussion, a major point, suggestion made was that any organization involved in establishing a group home should communicate its intentions with the local community authorities.

The next item that the supervisors talked about was garbage...the various concerns, problems that the town were facing due to the positions taken by the Resource Recovery Agency (RRA).

There was extensive discussion about fees, what is picked up, how it is packed, and the contract provisions.

There will be a meeting of the RRA group August 26 at 5:30. All those present were urged to attend this meeting. The topic to be addressed is to the contract between the towns and the RRA.

Note: As there was no quorum at vote on the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report will be delayed until September meeting.

Lee Cane, Observer Corp

Watch for the "Blood Moon" on September 27th

