

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Minutes –December 7, 2011

The Ulster County Planning Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. – Surrogate Courtroom, 3rd Floor
County Office Building

The Executive Committee met at 6:45 PM

Mr. Wilkin, Ms. Elwell (excused), Mr. Watkins, Ms. Hokanson, Ms. Pecora & Mr. Budziak

Mr Wilkin called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Leibowitz to read the roll call.

1. ROLL CALL - Present: R. Pecora, J. Katz, P. Hakim, J. Konior, T. Marion, K. Lovelett, T. Hokanson, H. Grant, T. Wilkin, F. Greitzer, P. Economos, K. Holmquist, M. Watkins, R. Budziak, A. Yuran, R. Kinnin, S. Finkle, D. Doyle, R. Leibowitz, B. Samuelson **Absent:** G. Matichuk, E. Hooper **Excused:** L. Biggin, M. Baden, R. Elwell, M. Maclary

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – Correction: Mr. Baden asked via e-mail about the answer to Mr. Greitzer's question in the November Community Report on how his local board should take action after receiving "Staff Comments" due to lack of quorum. He stated it should be the local board can act on a project after 30 days with a majority vote. The Director verified that majority plus one is not necessary.

Mr. Katz made a motion to approve the November minutes, seconded by Mr. Konior. All were in favor.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT - 2011

Mr. Doyle stated that the 2012 Budget was approved by the Legislature meeting last night and now needs final approval from the County Executive.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

5. COMMUNITY REPORT

Ms. Hokanson stated she had visited with Ms. Elwell this morning and she is doing well. She added that Ruth is staying with a friend and hopes to be at our January meeting. Mr. Wilkin cleared up the confusion of the 2011 attendance list by informing the board that initials were used when alternates attended meetings.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

The Kingston City Schools coordination request was questioned. Mr. Doyle explained that a lead agency coordination form was sent out by the City. Schools are exempt from local approval and our review so this was for notification purposes only.

7. Zoning Referrals – See Separate Zoning Minutes

8. OLD BUSINESS

a. Charter Review Committee Update

Mr. Doyle stated as reported last month he gave a testimony to the Charter Review Committee at the Committee's request last month. The Board came up with a set of comments and changes relative to what was discussed by the committee at Supervisor Hokanson's office. A handout is included in the Agenda folder of proposed changes to the charter. Mr. Doyle read aloud from the handout. There is one change to the makeup of the County Planning Board regarding members who serve ex-officio. We propose to eliminate the County Commissioner of Finance and add representatives from the Department of Environment, IDA and UCDC. Mr. Doyle stated that additional powers and duties are the same except for Capital Improvement Program and guidelines; where the Board still has a responsibility to review the program, but recommendations would no longer be required although upon the board's initiative written recommendations can be submitted. The Board has a to review the County's Comprehensive Plan, but it is not the Board's responsibility to have it be prepared.

KEY: (f) = handout will be in folder at meeting
(m) = handout included in the mailing

Mr. Doyle stated we have discussed having staff review zoning referrals without the board's involvement. The Board has the powers and duties to review referrals under section 293-b of general municipal law, but also has the ability to delegate certain powers to the Director.

Ms. Pecora stated that County Attorney, Bea Havranek, asked to have the specific language put together for her approval. Mr. Doyle stated the Legislature can decide to remove any member for any just cause by resolution – including not meeting the minimum requirements for training and/or attendance requirements. Mr. Doyle extended his thanks to the Committee for working on this. He added that the next step is to provide a letter to the County Attorney and Charter Commission Chair explaining these considerations and requesting they be considered. Mr. Doyle stated he would prepare a letter for Mr. Wilkin's signature.

Ms. Pecora made a motion to send our comments for consideration to the County Attorney and Chair of the Charter Review Commission which was seconded by Mr. Watkins. All were in favor

One member asked if there was a red-line document showing the changes. Ms. Pecora affirmed that there was one.

b. Seminar on Climate Sustainability

Mr. Doyle stated he reached out to Rick Alfandre who has presented this topic in Orange County and added that we'd also like to include climate change people from DEC. Mr. Doyle stated that we will try to do a seminar sometime in January or February at SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge.

c. Wawarsing Flooding Buyout Program

Mr. Doyle stated we have a final application from the state and are moving forward to submit. We have an agreement between Ulster County and NYC and we have received 69 applications. The committee ranking the applications includes – Virginia Craft from our office, and representatives from: Health Dept, Safety Dept, Emergency Management, etc. We should be able to implement property rankings shortly then moving on to do appraisal work, and submit a not-to-exceed contract for funding. Mr. Doyle stated there would be an approximate loss of \$4 to 5 million of tax revenue (full value assessment \$27 per thousand). \$3.8 million will come from NYS and \$3.7 million has been pledged from DEP. Ulster County will be the fiscal agent. Qualifications include: income, primary residence and no more than a 2-family dwelling. There is a preference for homes under \$150,000. The qualifications could be waived for the DEP money, but applicants would have to sign a waiver that they would not sue NYC. Once complete, the county has a responsibility to demolish the homes and keep the land as open space.

d. New Agricultural and Community Recovery Program

Mr. Doyle stated we received notice from the state of available funding for farmers with respect to the flooding caused by Irene. We submitted the application last Thursday and submitted a late resolution authorizing signature for a contract with the state. The money must be drawn down by the end of the year. The funding is for \$60,000 – the state won't tell us which farms are eligible until we submit the application, with dollar amounts for each farm. Mr. Doyle stated he anticipates an upcoming program for Main Streets for eligible businesses affected by Irene. The County must apply but we will move to a non-profit to implement. Mark Project & RUPCO have approached us.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Membership** – Resignation from Board: Mr. Finkle – City of Kingston & Ms. Biggin – Town of Marlborough. Mr. Katz stated he will also be resigning. Mr. Greitzer stated he will return as the alternate and it is anticipated that Jere Brown will be recommended as the regular member. Mr. Konior stated a letter has been sent for his reappointment. Ms. Pecora stated her alternate resigned.

Mr. Finkle stated that he has been on the board for 25 years and he figured it would be time to retire. He added that serving on the board has been a terrific experience. Mr. Finkle said he enjoyed his time on the board and thanked Mr. Doyle and the staff for helping him on his jobs with

City of Kingston, Stewart Airport and his time with UCDC. Mr. Finkle added that he will also be retiring from the City and will be doing consulting work. The Board gave Mr. Finkle a round of applause and Chairman Wilkin thanked him for his service.

b. **Report of Nominating Committee & Election of Officers**

Ms. Hokanson, speaking on behalf of the Nominating Committee, made a motion to nominate Mr. Watkins for Chairman, Ms. Pecora as Vice Chair and Mr. Budziak as Secretary. Mr. Konior seconded the motion. All were in favor.

c. **Committee Assignments**

Chairman Elect Watkins stated members who don't volunteer will be assigned, as he sees this as a good way of the board coming together. Times and dates for meetings will be set once Committees are established.

- **Greenway Committee**-To advise the Board and Staff with respect to Greenway work, Outreach and act as ambassadors to get the Greenway Compact adopted.

Volunteers - Toni Hokanson, Renno Budziak, Mark Watkins

- **By Laws Committee**- Update the ByLaws that were adopted before the Charter

Volunteers - Tom Wilkin, Roxanne Pecora, John Konior

- d. **Training** – Mr. Wilkin stated that an issue has come to our attention regarding members who do not serve on local boards, but are required by our Board to complete 4 hours training. He stated that it would be logical to be reimbursed for mileage for required trainings. Mr. Wilkin added that we have not budgeted for this in the past. If our members serve on a local board and are required by their local municipality to complete training, the County is not responsible for a community's training requirements, and if the local government is paying the county will not pay. We will now need odometer readings. Mr. Watkins stated the Comptroller has given us permission to use Mapquest for our regular monthly meetings in the past because that amount was fixed. Since trainings are not at a fixed location we would need to use odometer readings for trainings and regular meeting mileage to keep the forms uniform. Mr. Doyle stated we have a standard mileage voucher that many folks handed in. If you have additional mileage for training purposes please fill out the form and include odometer readings or a Mapquest printout and proof of attending the trainings. Mr. Doyle added that as we move into 2012 we will need a policy for claiming mileage for training purposes. He stated that we will only reimburse for the required 4 hours of training. We will have to follow the Comptroller's guidelines by submitting mileage reports quarterly – using odometer readings from beginning and end of trip and differential mileage (actual cost). If you are in Kingston on business then you use Kingston as a starting point. Mr. Wilkin added that trip meter readings will not be accepted.

- e. Environmental Notice Bulletin & Grant Opportunities– *No Member Comment*

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.