

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, EFFICIENCY & SAVINGS

Tuesday, January 26, 2010, 11:30 am

MEETING MINUTES

GOES Committee Members Present: Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chair; Legislators Alfreda Williams, Lyndon Williams, Judy Myers, Bill Burton, Bernice Spreckman, Ken Jenkins.

Legislator John Nonna was on speaker phone.

In Attendance: BOL: T. Bernard, C. Giliberti, M. Montalto, B. Dodds, S. Bass; CEO: G. Oros, K. Delgado; OTHERS: G. McKinstry (Journal News), C. Yandou (Eifer, French & Ketchum); C. Meehan.

With a quorum present, the GOES Committee was called to order at 11:40 am.

- **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ITEMS:**

Chair Kaplowitz welcomed everyone and thanked Board Chairman Ken Jenkins for creating this new and “times-appropriate” committee, and for appointing him as committee chair.

As the first item of business for this organizational meeting, a quorum was set to meet and to vote. On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Spreckman, a quorum to meet of three (3), and a quorum to vote of four (4) was approved 6-0.

Chair Kaplowitz advised the committee that Committee Coordinator Tara Bernard would prepare a “blueprint” for the committee outlining goals and objectives for the members to review.

- **INITIAL DISCUSSION OF 2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

Chair Kaplowitz advised the committee members that Board Chair Ken Jenkins has assigned the 2010 NYS Legislative Package to the GOES Committee this year (usually handled through the Legislation Committee). He suggested an ‘A/B’ type package, where we could present a small, ‘budget priority package’ almost immediately, then one or two subsequent parts of the overall package. The committee members, as well as County Executive Chief of Staff George Oros, agreed.

- **HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following items were submitted (as one package) by the County Executive and referred to this Committee at the January 19, 2010 Board of Legislators Meeting:

1 a). Health Insurance Contribution - PH Res: Resolution to set a Public Hearing on a Local Law to require all non-represented/managerial employees serving a fixed term of office to contribute fifteen percent (15%) of the overall cost of the premium rate of the basic county health insurance plan. **BA/GOES 1/19/10**

b). Health Insurance Contribution - Act: An Act to require all non-represented/managerial employees and retirees (including those at the Westchester Community College and the District

Attorney's Office) to contribute fifteen percent (15%) of the overall cost of the premium rate of the basic County health insurance plan. **BA/GOES 1/19/10**

c). Health Insurance Contribution - Local Law: A Local Law to require all non-represented/managerial employees serving a fixed term of office to contribute fifteen percent (15%) of the overall cost of the premium rate of the basic County health insurance plan.

BA/GOES 1/19/10

These items were discussed as one package.

Chair Kaplowitz introduced a guest: Mr. Chris Yandou, a consultant with Eifer, French & Ketchum – a firm that deals with insurance for private industry companies, usually consisting of between 10 and 100 employees. Mr. Yandou stated that most private company employees contribute on average about 25% towards their healthcare coverage. He also stated that they normally have a four-tier contribution plan: 1) single; 2) single with child; 3) couple; 4) family plan.

George Oros commented that congressional staffers contribute 24% of towards their healthcare.

Chair Kaplowitz and Legislator Lyndon Williams requested that Mr. Oros find out whether or not healthcare contributions made by the employees could be on a pre-tax basis. Mr. Oros agreed to obtain that information and provide it to the Committee as soon as possible.

There was no further business before the Committee.

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Spreckman, the GOES Committee adjourned at 1:00 pm.