

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON RULES
MINUTES OF MEETING: JANUARY 19, 2010**

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Legislators Thomas Abinanti, Chair; Kenneth Jenkins, Lyndon Williams and James Maisano

Staff: Joanne Sold, Phil Pepe

County Attorney's Office: Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Deputy County Attorney; Linda Trentacoste

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Chair Abinanti.

The Committee discussed the proposed resolution granting the Chair of the County Board of Legislators the power to appoint necessary Board employees, other than the Clerk of the Board, within available appropriations and the power to perform administrative duties relating to Board personnel for the 2010/11 term, only after consultation with the Rules Committee in accordance with Rule Six.

The Committee consulted with the County Attorney's Office concerning the power of the Board to delegate its authority to hire and discharge employees to the Chair. The opinions issued by the County Attorney's Office dated January 27, 2004 and January 26, 1996 were discussed. Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz confirmed that the opinion of January 27, 2004 concluded that the Board of Legislators may during the term delegate the power to hire staff employees to the Chair of the County Board.

Revisions to the resolution were discussed and a motion to approve the resolution as amended was moved by Legislator Williams and seconded by Legislator Maisano. Motion was approved 4-0.

Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel was moved by Legislator Williams at 1:20 p.m. and seconded by Legislator Maisano. Motion was approved 4-0

Motion to return to Public Session was moved by Legislator Williams at 1:45 p.m. and seconded by Legislator Maisano. Motion was approved 4-0.

Motion to approve Staffing Guidelines as amended was moved by Legislator Williams and seconded by Legislator Maisano. Motion was approved 4-0.

Legislator Maisano requested that the Committee consider an amendment to the Rules to allow legislators to attend and participate in committee meetings by conference call. It was agreed that the Chair would ask for an opinion from the County Attorney's Office on this matter and that it would be placed on a future agenda for further discussion.

There being no other business before the Committee, on motion of Legislator Maisano and seconded by Legislator Williams, Legislator Abinanti adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.