

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

[joint with COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION]

MINUTES: May 27, 2008

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Harckham, Kaplowitz, Myers, Nonna, Rogowsky

MEMBERS (LEG): Chair: Burton; Legislators: Abinanti, Bronz, Harckham, Myers, Nonna, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane, K. Delgado, R. Pezzullo, ; GUESTS: S. Gerry (CEO); T. Lauro (WCDEF); G. D'Agrosa (WCDP); M. Gleeson (Law); C. Wilson (Guardian)

Legislation Committee meeting called to order at 3:10 pm.

Environment & Energy Committee meeting called to order at 3:15 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Septage Pumpout/Inspection Reimbursement Legislation**

Chair Burton initiated committee review of various items. Upon the motion of Leg. Harckham, seconded by Leg. Bronz, the Legislation Committee approved the minutes of April 28, May 12, and May 19 (all in favor).

Appointments Committee Chair Bronz moved the appointment of George Mottarella, P.E., P.L.S., to the Professional Prequalifications Board, which was seconded by Leg. Rogowsky. The term date for Mr. Mottarella's appointment required clarification, and upon the motion of Leg. Rogowsky, seconded by Leg. Bronz, the Leg. Committee voted to table the consideration of this appointment (all in favor). The ending term date was clarified by Board staff to be 2009. Upon the motion of Leg. Nonna, seconded by Leg. Rogowsky, the Legislation Committee approved the appointment of Mr. Mottarella, as amended to conclude on Dec. 31, 2009 (all in favor).

Chair Bronz moved the appointment of Joseph Olenick to the Westchester County Fire Advisory Board, which was seconded by Leg. Rogowsky. Leg. Abinanti inquired whether Mr. Olenick's appointment is a re-appointment or a replacement and

whom Mr. Olenick is replacing on the Board because a balance should exist on the Board among paid and volunteer firefighters. Chair Bronz stated that Mr. Olenick is replacing Mr. Williamson on this board. Chair Burton noted that further evaluation should occur, and he held over this item.

Chair Abinanti initiated consideration of proposed legislation to establish a reimbursement program for owners of septic systems within county sewer districts. He noted that a public hearing on the legislation had already occurred. Leg. Myers moved approval of the septage reimbursement legislation for the Environment & Energy Committee, seconded by Leg. Nonna.

Ms. Gerry and Mr. Lauro described the legislation to committee members and responded to questions. Leg. Rogowsky inquired about the proposed effective date for the program (90 days), as residents pumping out a septic system before the effective date would not be eligible for reimbursement. Ms. Gerry noted that 90 days is anticipated to be amount of time for the DEF commissioner to promulgate regulations. Leg. Kaplowitz inquired about the increase to the various sewer districts to fund the reimbursement program. Commissioner Lauro said this varied by assessed value in each of the districts and over time.

Upon the motion of Leg. Myers, seconded by Leg. Nonna (moved on behalf of both committees), the Legislation Committee and Environment & Energy Committee approved the legislation for a vote by the full Board (all in favor).

Upon the motion of Leg. Nonna, seconded by Leg. Harckham, the Environment & Energy Committee approved the minutes of Mar. 17, 2008 (all in favor). Upon the motion of Leg. Rogowsky, seconded by Leg. Nonna, the Environment & Energy Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor).

Chair Bronz noted that William Richardson is considered a "paid" firefighter on the Fire Advisory Board, whose term had expired, according to information provided by the Administration. His attendance on the Advisory Board was noted to be low. She clarified that Mr. Olenick is a volunteer firefighter. Upon further discussion, committee members agreed that Mr. Richardson was paid for fire services (fire inspector) but not as a paid firefighter.

Upon the motion of Leg. Abinanti, seconded by Leg. Nonna, the Legislation Committee voted to take Mr. Olenick's appointment off the table (all in favor). Upon the motion of Leg. Rogowsky, seconded by Leg. Abinanti, the Legislation Committee approved the appointment of Mr. Olenick to the Fire Advisory Board. Upon the motion of Leg. Harckham, seconded by Leg. Myers, the Legislation Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor). The meeting concluded at approximately 3:45 pm.

[audio recording of meeting is on file]