

WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

MINUTES: August 4, 2008

MEMBERS (E&E): Chair: Abinanti; Legislators: Maisano, Myers, Nonna, Oros

IN ATTENDANCE: STAFF: C. Crane, B. Boland, S. Schecter; GUESTS: A. Neuman, B. Randolph (CEO); Comm'r. P. Redd Zeman (WCDHR); S. Glass (Law); T. Geiger (COWPUSA)

Environment & Energy Committee meeting called to order at 3:40 pm.

Item(s) Discussed: **Executive Director, Public Utility Service Agency (COWPUSA)**

Chair Abinanti commenced the meeting with a review of a proposed county pay plan amendment to create a position of Executive Director for the County of Westchester Public Utility Service Agency (COWPUSA). Commissioner Redd Zeman briefly described the need for the Executive Director position in light of interest and concern on emerging energy issues.

Upon query by Leg. Nonna, Commissioner Redd Zeman clarified that there must be a civil service classification for this position, even though the county statutes COWPUSA states the Executive Director serves at the pleasure of the COWPUSA board. Commissioner Redd Zeman stated that the County would likely seek non-competitive status for the (title) position from the NYS Civil Service Commission.

Leg. Myers inquired whether monies are presently available in the county budget to compensate the new position. In reply Mr. Boland described budget data for COWPUSA. Commissioner Redd Zeman stated that the annual salary is \$130,230 plus benefits. Mr. Boland noted that present expenditures for outside counsel (e.g., Epstein Becker), if recurring, may require a budget increase to compensate for the new position. Mr. Geiger described the budget and revenues of COWPUSA. He noted that COWPUSA expenditures for consultants should not be as high once an Executive Director is hired, thus freeing up budget funds. In addition, 'chargebacks' from the Law Department in the COWPUSA budget should decrease because the Executive Director will perform some of these tasks. After further discussion, Chair Abinanti requested a

further breakdown of the budget to pay for the Executive Director position. He suggested that COWPUSA create by-laws that define the functions of the agency and the Executive Director.

Upon the motion of Leg. Nonna, seconded by Leg. Myers, the Committee voted to adjourn (all in favor). The meeting concluded at approximately 5:05 pm.

[An audio recording of this meeting is on file]