

# ***Westchester County Board of Legislators***

## **COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY**

MINUTES: NOVEMBER 27, 2006

**COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY:** Chair: Abinanti – Legislators: Kaplowitz, Rogowsky, LaMotte, Myers, Maisano, Stewart-Cousins

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **BOL STAFF:** Tara Bernard; **CEO:** Andrew Neuman, Bill Randolph; **LAW:** Martin Gleeson, MaryLynn Nicolas-Brewster; **DOH:** Greg Carmichael, Paul Kutzy; **PLN:** Gina D'Agrosa; **Guests:** **FCWC:** Cesare Manfredi, Oreon Sandler; **New Castle LWV:** Roberta Wiernik, Joanne Knight, Polly Kuhn; **U.S. EPA:** Donna Sohboonlakana

### **DISCUSSION:**

Chair Abinanti called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

On the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Myers, the minutes of the Nov. 20, 2006 meeting were approved; 6-0.

Chair Abinanti suggested that a reduction in the Committee's quorums to meet and vote should be formalized being that Legislator Alvarado was no longer a member of the Committee. On the motion of Legislator Kaplowitz, seconded by Legislator LaMotte, the Committee approved (6-0) the following revised quorums: three to meet, four to vote.

The two items before the Committee for discussion were:

- 1) Item #63 – A proposed Local Law to add a new Chapter 707 of the Laws of Westchester County to require the testing of private well-water systems upon the sale of property and for leased properties within the County of Westchester; and
- 2) Item #64 – A proposed Local Law amending the Laws of Westchester County to require purchasers or transferees of real property served by a separate sewage disposal system to file a notice of an on-site sewage system operation and maintenance requirements form.

A recap of the proposed local laws, as well as the existing laws, was given by the County Attorney's Office and the County's Departments of Health and Planning. A discussion ensued with the Committee members and the members of the New Castle League of Women Voters (NCLWV).

Joanne Knight of the NCLWV suggested that inspections of septic systems should be done at the time of sale and forms should be kept in a database by the County's Department of Health.

Legislator Rogowsky requested that the County Attorney's Office obtain a list a requirements to sell a home.

Legislator Kaplowitz recommended that another meeting be held on these topics and that real estate attorneys, realtors, homeowners with septic systems and northern Westchester municipal officials be invited to comment.

NCLWV members inquired about the County Planning Department's "2000 Septic Management Plan". Gina D'Agrosa of the Planning Department stated that some of that plan has been implemented and some has not.

Legislator Rogowsky suggested the creation of a "Consolidated Septic District" for the purposes of inspecting, fixing and maintaining septic systems in Westchester County.

Chair Abinanti agreed that further discussions needed to be held, so no vote was taken on either of these items.

At 4:55pm, Legislator Rogowsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Legislator Myers, all in favor – aye.