

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MINUTES OF MEETING: JANUARY 22, 2008, 1:30 PM**

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Legislators Kenneth Jenkins, Chair; Lois Bronz, Gordon Burrows, William Burton, Peter Harckham, Judy Myers, Vito Pinto, Martin Rogowsky and Bernice Spreckman.

Committee Coordinators: Barbara Arrington Dodds and Sally Schecter.

Item for Discussion: Organization of Committee

Chairman Ken Jenkins opened the meeting at 1:45 pm.

With 10 members on the committee, a quorum was set at four members for purposes of discussion and five members for voting purposes. Moved by Leg. Pinto, seconded by Leg. Myers. Leg. Burrows abstained because he was unsure he could remain on the committee. Approved 8-0.

It was decided that regular meetings will be held on Tuesdays from 1 to about 2:30 pm. Because of the complexity of the committee, work will be divided into Public Works, Transportation, Parks issues coordinated by Sally Schecter, alternating with Housing, Planning and Government Operations items coordinated by Barbara Dodds.

The Committee reviewed minutes from 12/17/07 meeting of the former Public Works, Transportation, Labor and Parks Committee (PWTLP). Leg. Burrows questioned whether minutes from the last legislative session can be approved by a new committee. Leg. Pinto said, for record-keeping purposes, we have traditionally approved minutes left over from the last session as a courtesy to the previous committee so that minutes can be legally recorded. Five members of the committee were members of the former PWTLP: Leg. Jenkins, Pinto, Myers, Burrows, and Burton. Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Leg. Pinto and seconded by Leg. Myers. approved 7-0, with the exception of Leg. Burrows.

Leg. Jenkins recommended that Leg. Bronz be elected vice-chair. Motion moved by Leg. Jenkins and seconded by Legislator Myers. Approved 9-0. Citizen Members from the former Housing, Planning & Government Operations Committee (HPGO) will be contacted by the chair to discuss their continuing service as advisory members of the Committee. Leg. Harckham said that Tom McGrath said he would like to continue to serve. Other advisory members from HPGO were Marsha Gordon, Dennis McDermott and Albert Annunziata.

Discussion ensued regarding future scheduled meetings. Leg. Jenkins announced that at the next meeting, Jan. 29th, Jack McPhilips, president of CSEA will give his perspective on how contract negotiations were going.

Leg. Bronz shared a list of important topics left over from HPGO: a county-wide policy on affordable housing, the Westchester Housing Trust, source of income discrimination in housing, Suffolk County Workforce Housing initiative, NYS proposals to aid affordable housing.

Discussion on creating subcommittees for housing & parks & recreation. Lois Bronz to head housing; Leg. Pinto to head parks & rec. Legislators Harckham, Spreckman and Burton volunteered to serve on Housing Subcommittee with Legislator Bronz; Legislator Myers volunteered to serve with Legislator Pinto on Parks and Recreation.

Government Operations has oversight over all agencies, departments and commissions under the County Executive's Office. Eg. Consumer Affairs, Taxi & Limousine. There was discussion on problems of bundling issues in joint meetings. With the subcommittee on capital projects

restarted, Leg. Burton suggested trying to constrain the discussion that goes on in the Budget and Appropriations Committee (B&A) to the financial matters of topics rather than have a rehash of the substantive discussions that had been held in committees. Presentations should be in the primary committee rather than in B&A. Leg. Bronz said that both public works and housing items got tangled last term in B&A. Leg. Spreckman suggested that legislators who have an interest in particular items should attend committee meetings when those items are being reviewed. Leg. Jenkins said he would discuss this with B&A chair, Leg. Jose Alvarado.

Leg. Pinto commented that it is very beneficial when meetings on certain issues are held in the district so that the public can attend and see what is going on.

With no other business, Legislator Jenkins adjourned the meeting, moved by Leg. Pinto and seconded by Leg. Spreckman.