

# The Legislature of Rockland County



PHILIP SOSKIN  
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 7  
CHAIR, MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES  
**MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2013  
**6:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR  
LEG. J. HOOD, JR., VICE-CHAIR  
LEG. A. PAUL  
LEG. D. JOBSON  
LEG. J. MEYERS (arrived 6:24 P.M.)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

LEG. T. EARL, 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE-CHAIR  
LEG. P. MORONEY

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

LEG. M. GRANT  
LEG. E. DAY  
S. SHERWOOD  
R. MCKAY, ESQ.  
H. GOLDIN  
J. SHYERS  
LEG. N. LOW-HOGAN  
B. ATKINS  
J. DONNELLAN  
P.T. THOMAS  
J. HONEY

CHAIR SOSKIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:07 PM

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 5/13/13 MEETING

**MOTION TO ADOPT:**

**JOBSON/PAUL**

**UNAN**

1. REF. #9341 - PROCLAIMING ROCKLAND COUNTY AS A PURPLE HEART COUNTY – HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF OUR NATION’S MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM WOUNDED OR KILLED BY THE ENEMY WHILE SERVING TO PROTECT THE FREEDOMS ENJOYED BY ALL AMERICANS  
**(E. DAY, LEGISLATOR, COUNTY LEGISLATURE)**

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., PAUL, JOBSON**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:**

**SOSKIN/ALL**

**UNAN**

Leg. Day said he wanted to publicly proclaim Rockland County a Purple Heart County by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. H. Goldin, County Commander, Order of the Purple Heart, stated that George Washington founded them in 1782 and Rockland County will be the fourth county designated a Purple Heart County in NYS. There are about 200 members in Rockland County and they assist men and women in the county and at West Point. They are trying to get NYS to be the first state in the nation to be a Purple Heart State. Leg. Hood, Jr. said he wholeheartedly supports this and maybe they could do a sign in the future. Chair Soskin welcomed the other veterans in attendance and thanked them for their service. He urged people to give veterans jobs.

2. REF. #7099 - ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,975 RECEIVED TO HELP OFFSET COST OF THE 2012 CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY LUNCHEON [COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS] (\$3,975)  
**(R. NAGUBANDI, COMMISSIONER, COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS)**

**ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, HOOD, JR., PAUL, JOBSON**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:**

**SOSKIN/JOBSON, PAUL**

**TRANSFERRED TO B & F**

**UNAN**

3. REF. #9481 - DISCUSSION ITEM- DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONAL REVIEW DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (DSS)  
(P. SOSKIN, LEGISLATOR, COUNTY LEGISLATURE)

**DISCUSSED**

**ACTION: Commissioner DeGroat will provide the status of monies owed to the county on administrative reimbursements for Medicaid.**

Commissioner Sherwood stated that about 90,000 residents receive DSS services. More clients are receiving services with 23% fewer employees. Information Rockland receives about 1000 calls per month and they provide information to the public about the services available. Calls can be anonymous. Chair Soskin asked how many employees have chosen to take the Early Retirement Incentive offered by the county? Commissioner Sherwood said that fourteen employees put in papers of intent to retire or resign through the incentive, but she declined all, because they can't make do with the positions unfilled. 7 of the 14 were all in one unit, Child Protective Services. She recommended to the County Executive to not abolish the positions. Chair Soskin asked if the employees decided to leave anyway, without receiving the Early Retirement Incentive, would we have people who could fill the positions? Commissioner Sherwood said these are very senior positions and there would have to be internal promotions, except for one audit position. She said as the state takes over Medicare, they have been able to downsize without layoffs, due to the Affordable Healthcare Act (AHA), otherwise called Obamacare. If someone doesn't qualify for Medicaid, because they make a little too much, it is the job of DSS to steer them towards health exchanges in the AHA. DSS staff will need a little training in health exchanges, but they don't need to be experts. Staff will have to guide clients to where they can get help. She spoke about needing more Spanish speaking employees. They have 60 employees that speak other languages, but some positions require specific training and client privacy, so more than translation ability is needed. Leg. Paul asked if they could use the phone translation service that the hospital uses, which could translate any language? Commissioner Sherwood said they use the phone translation service for Info Rockland and maybe the use could be expanded. PT Thomas, CSEA, stated that the phone translation service is good, but for case management, DSS has a great responsibility to translate for its clients accurately. He said we need more skilled employees that speak foreign languages rather than a phone translating system.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: (6:55 PM)  
SOSKIN/HOOD, JR., JOBSON**

**UNAN**

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