

The Legislature of Rockland County



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

MINUTES
MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015
6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR
LEG. A. PAUL, 2ND VICE CHAIR
LEG. I. SCHOENBERGER
LEG. A. WIEDER
LEG. HOFSTEIN
LEG. P. MORONEY

MEMBERS ABSENT:

LEG. T. EARL, VICE CHAIR

OTHERS PRESENT:

LEG. A. WOLFE
LEG. C. CAREY
LEG. D. JOBSON
LEG. N. LOW-HOGAN
J. BIRNBAUM, ESQ
S. POWERS
J. DONNELLAN
DR. RUPPERT
J. HUNDERFUND
DR. FREED
P. BRENNAN
S. SALMI

CHAIR SOSKIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:34 PM.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2015 MEETING.

MOTION TO ADOPT:

MORONEY/PAUL

UNAN

1. REF.# 8142

CONVEYING THE ROCKLAND COUNTY LEGISLATURE'S INTENT TO EXPRESS
CONDOLENCES TO, AND SUPPORT FOR, THE FAMILY OF PAULA BOHOVESK
WHO WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO, AS PAULA'S
FAMILY ASK THE NEW YORK STATE PAROLE BOARD NOT TO RELEASE HER
KILLERS
(HON. JOHN A. MURPHY LEGISLATURE)

MOTION TO APPROVE:

SOSKIN/MORONEY, PAUL

UNAN

**ADDED CO-SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN, MORONEY,
JOBSON**

Chair Soskin explained that this resolution is brought to the Legislature every two years or when Paula Bohovesky's murderers seek parole. Leg. Murphy, who is absent today and who usually brings this resolution to the Committee, knew Paula Bohovesky, went to school with her, knew her family and still recalls this brutal murder that occurred 35 years ago. Chair Soskin asked the board to vote to approve this resolution supporting Paula's family in their fight of asking the New York State Parole Board to not grant parole to the killers.

2. REF # 8850 APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,026 FROM THE NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION DISCRETIONARY FUND FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2014 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2015 AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK] (\$39,026)
(HON. PAUL PIPERATO COUNTY CLERK, OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK)
DL#: 2015-00778

MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/MORONEY, PAUL

TRANSFERRED TO B&F 3/31/15
UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN, MORONEY, JOBSON

Mr. Steve Salmi explained that this is part of a multiphase project of scanning court records dated from 1914 to 1950. This Grant will enable the County Clerks Office to microfilm records of the Supreme and County Court from 1930 to 1937. Mr. Salmi added that this is a preservation project that will ensure that the records are kept intact as they are only stored in hardcopy at this time.

Chair Soskin asked from what year to the present are scanned records saved in the County Archivist Office?

Mr. Salmi answered that they have completed scanning records from 1914 to 1929. They still have a gap between 1930 and 1950.

3. REF.# 8873 APPROVING AMENDMENTS TO AND EXTENSIONS OF AGREEMENTS WHICH, WHEN COMBINED, ARE IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH PRECISION HEALTH, INC. TO PROVIDE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES FOR INMATES OF THE CORRECTIONAL HEALTH FACILITY/JAIL AS WELL AS PATIENTS AND RESIDENTS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF HOSPITALS AND HEALTH UNDER RFP-RC-2012-001 IN A TOTAL COMBINED AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,139 FOR THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 1, 2015 THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2016 AND IN A TOTAL COMBINED AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$153,794 FOR THE FULL PERIOD FROM MARCH 1, 2012 THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2016 AND AUTHORIZING THEIR EXECUTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE [DEPARTMENT OF HOSPITALS] (\$153,794)
(DAVID H. FREED ACTING COMMISSIONER OF HOSPITALS) DL#:2015-0041

MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/PAUL, MORONEY

TRANSFERRED TO B&F 3/31/15
UNAN

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN, MORONEY, JOBSON CAREY

Dr. Freed stated that the Department of Hospital is asking approval to continue a contract with Precision Health, Inc to provide diagnostic services for inmates of the Correctional Health facility as well as for residents of the hospital nursing home. He explained that he has submitted to the Committee the anticipated expenditures for the year as well as the history. He also noted that one thing that surely will catch the attention of the Board is that the estimated amount has greatly increased due to the fact that the Department of Hospital Radiology Department terminated services on January 30, 2015.

Chair Soskin showed concerned about two employees that were let go, he asked if they could be kept elsewhere in the hospital system?

Dr. Freed answered unfortunately they were not able to find placement for them.

4. REF.# 9142

APPROVING AN AGREEMENT IN EXCESS OF \$100,000 WITH ROCKLAND INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER, INC. TO PROVIDE VETERAN'S PEER TO PEER COUNSELING SERVICES PURSUANT TO A GRANT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$124,998 [NCTD] FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 15, 2015 THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 2015 AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT [VETERAN'S SERVICE AGENCY] (\$124,998)
(JERRY DONNELLAN DIRECTOR VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY) DL#:2015-00909

**MOTION TO APPROVE:
SOSKIN/PAUL, WIEDER**

**TRANSFERRED TO B&F 3/31/15
UNAN**

ADDED SPONSORS: LEGS. SOSKIN, PAUL, SCHOENBERGER, WIEDER, HOFSTEIN, MORONEY, JOBSON

Mr. Jerry Donnellan Director of Veterans Affairs stated that his office will be working with Rockland Independent Living Center who has done that type of work in the past and has helped veterans transition back into society. He explained that their connection with veterans have been more efficient, nevertheless they still have the younger veterans who do not want any dealings with government. Using the younger veterans to speak to their peers will also be a way to send out messages and prevent suicide among this age group. He stated the numbers are as high as 22 suicides per day without the unreported numbers.

Chair Soskin asked if this is a new grant?

Mr. Donnellan explained that it is relatively a new grant that they received from the New York State Office of Mental Health in 2013. Hopefully next year they expect to receive another grant through the offices of Senator David Carlucci.

5. REF. # 8757

DISCUSSION- REVIEW OF ENFORCEMENT OF THE ROCKLAND COUNTY MULTIPLE DWELLING SMOKING POLICY ACT (CHAPTER 349-17 - LAWS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY)
(HONS. ALDEN H. WOLFE, NANCY LOW-HOGAN LEGISLATURE)

DISCUSSED

Dr. Patricia Ruppert, Commissioner of Health Department, explained that since of the passage of this law in September of 2011 they have had 119 smoking policies that were submitted to the Department of Health by the owners of multiple dwellings. Most of the policies that were submitted occurred during the first year. The Local Law was amended in October of 2012 to exclude condominiums and townhouses, which the original law had included. At this time it is a complaint-based program and they have had no major issues with getting compliance at this time.

Leg. Wolfe thanked Dr. Ruppert and Mrs. Hunderfund for their presentation. They questioned the fact that there is no way of identifying multiple dwellings. Leg. Wolfe added that he would imagine with the towns and villages having all this information available based on their assessment rules it should be fairly easy to get the information needed.

Mrs. Hunderfund explained that they can look up particular parcels in the towns and village, but for the most part it is not an easy task. As they get complaints they go out and address them. It is really a complaint-based program at this point as opposed to a hunting them down program.

Leg. Wolfe stated that there is a difference between "it's difficult and it's impossible" since information is retrievable if sorted by property classification.

Mrs. Hunderfund explained that it is harder to get contact information than location address.

Leg. Wolfe asked to describe the nature of the complaints that have been received.

Mrs. Hunderfund explained that most of the complaints received are regarding people smoking in the hallway or on their deck. Maybe once every other year would they get a complaint about smoking from a neighbor's apartment into another.

Leg. Wolfe reinforced that the purpose of this law wasn't to impose smoking regulations, but it has to do with the communication of information to the tenants.

Leg Wolfe expressed his thanks to Dr. Ruppert and Mrs. Hunderfund and explained that his main concern is improving the quality of life of tenants who are essentially at the will of their landlords and neighbors. The goal was to encourage people to have the ability to make an informed decision of where they are going to live, because of the smoking policies.

Leg Wolfe stated that the Legislature appreciates open dialogue about environmental issues and asked Dr. Ruppert when it comes time for the budget to feel free to ask for whatever her department would need to get job.

Chair Soskin made a terminology correction by stating that the better wording for illegal housing should be illicit illegal housing as this issue concerns the whole County not only specific areas like Haverstraw and Spring Valley.

Leg. Low-Hogan explained that a resident contacted her in her district who is a landlord of a multi unit dwelling, who was upset about the fact that he had to provide the recycling plan. Leg. Low-Hogan also recalled speaking with Dr. Ruppert on that matter, who assured her that with the new emerging technologies, the County was actually getting better at identifying where the multiple dwellings were.

Leg. Low-Hogan said she wanted to make sure that they are all clear on that fact and that they should be able to cross-reference and identify where the multiple dwellings in the County are located.

Dr. Ruppert explained that it's only been a year since they have been working on putting the data together.

Leg. Low-Hogan suggested they enforce this law by having the Health Department conduct an outreach to those properties about the multiple dwelling smoking requirement law.

Mrs. Hunderfund agreed to that and said that this would be an attainable goal with additional staff.

Leg. Low-Hogan asked that Mrs. Hunderfund to explain what the smoking law require of owners?

Mrs. Hunderfund explained that the smoking law requires that an owner complete a smoking plan, submit it to the Health Department, post it in the building in a common area and provided it to all tenants and perspective tenants.

Chair Soskin asked if a multi family is classified as a building that has more than 3 families in it?

Mrs. Hunderfund answered 3 units.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:06 PM.
MORONEY/WIEDER**

UNAN

Respectfully, Submitted

Lesly Senatus, Committee Clerk