

The Legislature of Rockland County



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

MINUTES
MULTI-SERVICES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY MAY 13, 2014
6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:
LEG. P. SOSKIN, CHAIR
LEG. T. EARL, VICE CHAIR
LEG. A. PAUL, 2ND VICE CHAIR
LEG. B. KANTROWITZ
LEG. A. WIEDER
LEG. D. JOBSON

MEMBERS ABSENT:
LEG. P. MORONEY

OTHERS PRESENT
E. YEGER, ESQ
LEG. M. GRANT
S. POWERS
R. NAGUBANDI
G. DONNELLAN
J. MOLOF

CHAIR SOSKIN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:06 PM

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2014 AND APRIL 29, 2014 MEETING.

MOTION TO ADOPT: MARCH 25, 2014
EARL/JOBSON

UNAN.

MOTION TO ADOPT: APRIL 29, 2014
EARL/ KANTROWITZ

UNAN

1. REF.# 6091

APPROVING RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT LOCAL LAW NO. 3 OF 2013 AMENDING LOCAL LAW NO. 10 OF 1980, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY LOCAL LAW NO. 6 OF 1981, LOCAL LAW 17 OF 1983, LOCAL LAW 9 OF 1990, AND LOCAL LAW NO. 5 OF 1999 [CHAPTER 340 OF THE LAWS OF ROCKLAND COUNTY] PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL AND REGULATION OF SECOND HAND PRECIOUS METAL OR GEM DEALERS IN THE COUNTY OF ROCKLAND [OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION]
(TERRY GROSSELFINGER DIRECTOR CONSUMER PROTECTION)
DL#: 2013-01605

MOTION TO APPROVE
SOSKIN/KANTROWITZ

UNAN.

ADDED SPONSORS: SOSKIN, EARL, PAUL, KANTROWITZ, WIEDER, JOBSON

Chair Soskin had a conversation with Mr. Grosselfinger some time ago, where several dealers were in favor of regulation of some sort. There was a small license fee and they were guaranteed that there would be no increase in the fee, but he understands from this item there is an increase in the licensing fee, at this time

2. REF.# 9495

**DISCUSSION ITEM:- OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT (S)
FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS (OFFICE OF THE AGING)
(HON. PHILIP SOSKIN LEGISLATURE)**

ACTION: Chair Soskin asked Department of Public Transportation to provide information how the \$43.00 cost of Trips bus ride is broken down.

DISCUSSED

Commissioner Molof, Department of Aging will be going over details on new services being offered at this time. Chair Soskin asked how Obamacare was working out? Mrs. Molof explained that the seniors have Medicare.

Chair Soskin questioned taxi vouchers. Mrs. Molof said money for the taxi vouchers are from the State Transportation Program. The seniors get \$7.00 voucher each way towards their taxi fair if they are using a taxi to go to their medical appointments.

Leg. Kantrowitz said that recently he read about the individual Trips bus ride bus that cost \$43.00 a ride. Would it be a lot cheaper to give vouchers for taxi. Mrs. Molof said that it depends on how you do the cost allocation.

Chair Soskin said that you have about 11 employees, including yourself, and budget relief lines. Mrs. Molof said that is the Employment Program where they get money from the Federal and State government. People with low income, who are 55 and over, are given various job throughout the County not for profits.

Leg. Jobson said he didn't have any questions, but wanted to let Mrs. Molof know that she doing a good job representing her office.

Leg. Paul thanked her for all the good work she does

Leg. Soskin thanked her for coming and her presentation.
(See the attached)

3. REF # 9495

**DISCUSSION ITEM:- OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT (S)
FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS (VETERANS)
(HON. PHILIP SOSKIN LEGISLATURE)**

ACTION: Chair Soskin asked the Department of Finance provide some information regarding exactly how the 2014 expenses are covered, where does all the revenue come from?

DISCUSSED

Gerald Donnellan, Director of County Veteran's office, said that he noticed that the committee had the memorandum that lays out a lot of what his office provides in terms of services. One major issue is that they are dealing with a younger generation of veterans and more in December when the war in Afghanistan is going to come to an end. That is indeed a good thing, however, the veterans are going to drop from the headlines and it is going to be extremely difficult to get benefits for them. Being a Vietnam Veteran is worse now because, when we came home at least there were jobs. We've reached out and received a grant from the State of NY in the amount of \$185,000. It is what they call a Peer- to -Peer grant, which is a support initiative for veterans. If you have a disability due to injury from combat services are provided by the VA clinic.

Chair Soskin said that he noticed the VA has service people getting benefits as they are getting jobs. with the agency. Mr. Donnellan answered that preference is given to veterans, but that's no guarantee.

Chair Soskin asked if there are any suggestions on how they can help, maybe memorializing resolutions they can send to Congress? Mr. Donnellan said right now they are bringing back around \$42,000,000.00 million/year not into the general fund, but into the Veterans pockets and into health care.

Chair Soskin showed his concern when looking at the budget that shows the VA's 2014 was \$213,355.00 and their expenses \$512,000.00. How do you make up the difference ? Mr. Donnellan said that he will need to get back to the committee on this matter.

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Leg. Earl thanked Mr. Donnellan for all his great work having his own brother who is also a Veteran.

Leg. Paul thanked Mr. Donnellan for his wonderful job standing up for Veterans.

Leg. Wieder said he can't thank a Veteran enough for the services that they have done for this great nation.

Chair Soskin thanked Mr. Donnellan for his services, asked him to keep in touch to see what they can do in getting this to Washington.

4. REF.# 9495

**DISCUSSION ITEM:- OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT (S)
FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS (HUMAN RIGHTS)
(HON. PHILIP SOSKIN LEGISLATURE)**

DISCUSSED

Commissioner Nagubandi said that he receives and investigates cases of discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation. They just completed testing on how real estate agents discriminate against people. They are now starting a new program to investigate how banks discriminate against people of color for mortgages, in Rockland County. This was based on individuals with the same income level who applied for a mortgage got denied. Results found that 2.1% of African Americans were denied and 2.2% of Latinos were denied. Only people that were white or of Asian American descent seemed to get better mortgages than anyone else.

Chair Soskin asked how they investigate? Nagubandi send people to the banks to apply for mortgages.

Chair Soskin asked if there were problems getting the information from the banks? He answered, it is public information.

Leg. Earl asked when facing such issues what is the procedure? He explained that they do the investigation, they file a complaint and go back to the bank and go over what needs to be changed.

Leg. Paul congratulated him on doing a great job.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 7:05 PM
JOBSON/EARL**

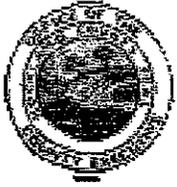
UNAN.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Lesly Senatus
Committee Clerk**

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MS. Minutes 5/13/14, LS



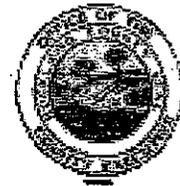
DEPARTMENTS OPERATIONS BRIEFING

OFFICE FOR THE AGING



List your most important accomplishment - 1st QTR

- Sponsored an informational session called Money Smart where seniors learned important points to consider in planning for a more secure financial future, including how to guard against identity theft and other forms of financial exploitation, how to prepare financially for unexpected life events, and what to have ready in case disaster strikes.
- Our office is now on Facebook.
- Our home care program started out with 106 people on the wait list. We added 23 new clients and took off 20 people so the wait now is 110 people.



OFFICE FOR THE AGING

List significant events for the 2nd Qtr

- The Office for the Aging cosponsors with Rockland Community College a half day program which provides workshops for seniors as well as presentations to awardees of Senior of the Year and Outstanding Contribution by a Senior. The County Executive is the keynote speaker this year.
- We took the recipients of the above awards to Albany for Senior Day where the State Office for the Aging presents the awards to the winners in all the counties in the State.

OFFICE FOR THE AGING



How can we continue to improve our service to the people of this county?

- We continue to meet our placement goals for the seniors on our employment program to get unsubsidized jobs.
- We are planning to hold a conference for caregivers in the fall.
- We are increasing our outreach to the community by sending staff to various programs such as the Collaboratives in each town.
- We also make presentations to various senior community groups.