



# The Legislature of Rockland County

**ANEY PAUL**  
LEGISLATOR – DISTRICT 14

CHAIR, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**MINUTES**  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2014**  
**5:30 PM**

**MEMBERS**

**LEG. A. PAUL, CHAIR**  
**LEG. M. GRANT, VICE**  
**LEG. N. LOW-HOGAN**  
**LEG. A. WIEDER**  
**LEG. J. MURPHY**

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**LEG. T. EARL**  
**LEG. P. MORONEY**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**LEG. D. JOBSON**  
**LEG. C. CAREY**  
**E. YEGER, ESQ.**  
**S. POWERS**  
**T. GROSSELFINGER**  
**T. HUMBACH**  
**R. NAGUBANDI**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2014 MEETING**

**UNAN**

**MOTION TO ADOPT:**  
**GRANT/WIEDER**

1. REF. # 8735                      **REQUESTING THAT THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY PASS BILL A.6988 AND THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE PASS BILL S.4815 ESTABLISHING AN ENTERPRISE FRAUD PROGRAM OFFICE (HON. BARRY S. KANTROWITZ, LEGISLATURE)**

**ADDED CO SPONSORS: LEGS. PAUL, GRANT, WIEDER, LOW-HOGAN, MURPHY, JOBSON**

**MOTION TO APPROVE:**  
**GRANT/WIEDER**

**UNAN**

2. REF. # 9495                      **DISCUSSION ITEM: OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT(S)FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS**  
**• DEPARTMENT OF LAW**  
**(HON. ANEY PAUL, LEGISLATURE)**

**DISCUSSED**

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TOM HUMBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MR. HUMBACH'S PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE:  
**DISCUSSION:** TOM HUMBACH COUNTY ATTORNEY, SUBMITTED A MEMORANDUM OUTLINING A DETAILED  
SUMMARY OF CURRENT OUTSIDE COUNSEL MATTERS  
A LIST OF THE ATTORNEYS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW

AN ASSIGNMENT LIST DESCRIBING EACH ATTORNEY'S PRESENT ASSIGNMENTS TO THE COUNTY'S VARIOUS  
DEPARTMENTS AND BOARDS

A MEMORANDUM DESCRIBING THE CURRENT OUTSIDE COUNSEL ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE COUNTY'S VARIOUS  
DEPARTMENTS

A COPY OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

SECTIONS OF THE COUNTY CHARTER AND CODE CONCERNING THE QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND  
POWERS OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

TOM HUMBACH, COUNTY ATTORNEY WHO IS THE CHIEF LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE COUNTY  
THE DEPARTMENT HAS INITIATED CERTAIN POLICY CHANGES THIS YEAR:

- INCREASING THE IN-HOUSE CASE COUNT FOR LITIGATION AND COLLECTION
- ASSIGNMENTS. PERSONNEL MATTERS HAVE BEEN MOVED OUT OF THE LAW DEPARTMENT

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CHAIR PAUL QUESTIONED WHAT EFFECT HAS THE CLOSURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH HAD UPON  
THE LAW DEPARTMENT. MR. HUMBACH STATED THAT THIS HAS REDUCE THEIR CASE LOAD.

LEG GRANT QUESTIONED HOW ARE THE COUNTY EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS BEING NEGOTIATED. MR. HUMBACH  
INDICATED THAT MR. FORTUNATO WAS IN CHARGE OF HANDLING CONTRACTS. MS.J. SILVESTRI,  
COMMISSIONER OF PERSONNEL WOULD KNOW THE STATUS.

MR. HUMBACH STATED THAT WITH BRINGING WORK BACK INTO THE COUNTY ATTORNEYS OFFICE WOULD NOT  
PRESENT A PROBLEM. IF A PROBLEM SHOULD ARISE, OUTSIDE COUNSEL WOULD BE RETAINED.

CHAIR PAUL INQUIRED ABOUT THE CONSOLIDATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES/JOBS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. MR.  
HUMBACH INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS MATTER.  
THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO VACANT POSITIONS IN DEPARTMENT

SALARIES AND BENEFITS ACCOUNT FOR 83% OF THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT.  
REMAINDER OF THE BUDGET IS MOSTLY COMPRISED OF GENERAL AND CENTRAL SERVICE  
ALLOCATIONS.

THESE ALLOCATIONS ARE CHARGED TO EACH AND EVERY DEPARTMENT IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

3. REF. # 9495

DISCUSSION ITEM: OPERATIONAL REVIEW OF COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT(S) FUNCTIONS AND PROGRAMS

- CONSUMER PROTECTION/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES  
(HON. ANEY PAUL, LEGISLATURE)

**DISCUSSED**

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMED INFORMATION PROVIDED BY TERRY GROSSELFINGER, DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER PROTECTION/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**DISCUSSION: CONSUMER PROTECTION**

TERRY GROSSELFINGER, DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER PROTECTION/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES EXPLAINED THAT THE PURPOSE IS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS AS PRESCIBED BY LOCAL LAW.

OTHER DUTIES:

- RECIEVE AND INVESTIGATE CONSUMER COMPLAINTS REGARDING FRAUD OR UNFAIR DEALINGS
- EDUCATE CONSUMERS ON ROCKLAND COUNTY PROGRAMS
- ASSIST IN DEVELOPMENT OF LAWS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE INTEREST OF THE ROCKLAND COUNTY CONSUMER PUBLIC
- KEEP ABREAST OF CONSUMER FRAUD, SCAMS, AND PROBLEMS AND TAKE ANY AND ALL APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO CORRECT THEM

CHAIR PAUL INQUIRED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF CONSUMER FRAUD CASES THAT HAVE BEEN REPORTED. MR. GROSSELFINGER STATED THAT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 225 CASES REPORTED AT THIS TIME..

**DISCUSSION: WEIGHTS/MEASURES**

THIS DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAWS

SOME DUTIES PERFORMED ARE:

- ANNUAL SCALE INSPECTIONS
- GAS STATION INSPECTIONS
- OCTANE SAMPLINGS
- PACKAGE CHECKING

THE STATE OF NEW YORK MANDATES REQUIREMENTS FOR GAS PUMPS SINCE 1986 NEW YORK STATE HAS NOT RAISED THE RATES

REVENUE IS KEPT THAT IS GENERATED

RECOVER TAX DOLLARS FOR HOMEOWNERS

MODIFIED ELECTRICAL LAW LAST YEAR  
REGULATE TAXIS AND LIMOSINES

MAXIMIZE EFFORTS TO MINNIMIZE COST TO TAX PAYERS  
KEEPING A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE BUDGET

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**GOVT OPS MINUTES**  
**MAY 28, 2014**

**CONSOLIDATION:**

THE DEPARTMENT COULD USE MORE INSPECTORS

THE EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN CROSS TRAINED

THE DEPARTMENT IS ON TARGET FOR REVENUE LINES AND WILL MEET THEIR TARGET

THREE NEW TRUCKS HAVE PURCHASED WHICH HAS RAISED THE DEPARTMENTS MORAL

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 6:15 PM**

**GRANT/WIEDER**

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