

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2008
RELATIVE TO “PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE
OSWEGO COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN”**

Chairman Barry Leemann opened the public hearing at 2:06 p.m. County Attorney, Richard Mitchell read the Public Hearing Notice relative to “Proposed Changes to the Oswego County Comprehensive Plan”. Chairman Leemann offered the floor to anyone wishing to be heard. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was declared closed at 2:07 p.m.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OSWEGO COUNTY
LEGISLATURE HELD FEBRUARY 14, 2008.**

Chairman Leemann called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Roll call was taken with all legislators present except Leg. Beckwith and a vacancy in District 17. A moment of silence was observed for Sgt. Timothy Van Orman of Phoenix, NY, who recently lost his life in Iraq. The invocation was given by Clerk of the Legislature, Ted Jerrett, followed by the salute to the flag.

MINUTES:

Clerk Jerrett noted that in compliance with the legislatures request for the minutes to reflect the reason for any “abstain” votes, the January 3, 2008 minutes would be amended to note that Legislator Santore’s abstention on Resolution #6 was due to a family connection. There being no other comments, the minutes of January 3, 2008 stand approved as amended.

PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATION AND NOTICES: None.

PROCLAMATIONS AND COMMENDATIONS:

Chairman Leemann invited Leg. Santore and members of the Public Safety and Emergency Services Committee forward as well as Senior Telecommunicator Carl Wells, and E-911 Director Mike Allen. Mr. Wells, who is retiring, was recognized for his 33 years of outstanding service to the County. Mr. Allen commented that Mr. Wells has been instrumental in a number of changes at E-911 and has trained every current employee in the E-911 center. Mr. Wells thanked the Legislature for its support over the years.

Chairman Leemann invited Leg. Proud and the members of the Health and Human Services Committee forward as well as Employment Specialist Silvia Langdon and Commissioner of Social Services Frances Lanigan. Ms. Langdon was recognized for her 25 years of dedicated service to the County. Commissioner Lanigan offered a few comments.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS ON RESOLUTIONS OF THE DAY:

Sue Pringle, Oswego, NY, urged the Legislature to fill the existing vacancy in Legislative District 17.

Lyn Lawson, Martville, NY, urged the Legislature not to delay filling the vacancy in Legislative District 17 and urged caution on Resolution No. 24 regarding the necessity of purchasing more road equipment.

Reuel Todd of Minetto spoke regarding the vacancy in District 17, saying that former Legislator Len Ponzi expressed interest in having his sister, Mary Flett follow him as Legislator in District 17.

REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS:

Chairman Leemann announced that Associate Public Health Sanitarian Natalie Roy of the Oswego County Health Department was recently named to the Health Department Honor Roll by the New York State

Association of County Health Officials for her outstanding work in protecting the health and safety of the public. Chairman Leemann congratulated Ms. Roy on this notable achievement and she was given a round of applause. Ms. Roy thanked the Legislature for the recognition. She said it was an honor to be nominated for this award and credited her staff at the Health Department.

Chairman Leemann then recognized Legislator Shawn Doyle for recently graduating from the Dennis Pelletier County Government Institute, sponsored by the NYS Association of Counties.

Chairman Leemann presented the 2008 State of the County Address. (A complete copy is attached.)

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Leg. Brown gave a brief report on the January NYSAC Conference and provided the Clerk with several copies of NYSAC resolutions for consideration by our own committees. Administrator Phil Church commented on several concerns regarding Governor Spitzer's budget proposals and the increased burden they would place on county taxpayers. Leg. Doyle noted that several other counties expressed the same concerns at the Conference.

Leg. Santore announced that the sex offender registry was up and running with the assistance of Sheriff Todd, Sgt. Dunsmore, and Assemblyman Barclay.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Leg. Malone asked that the veterans and senior citizens be made aware of the need to file a tax return to receive the tax rebate from the federal government. He also commented on the new seating arrangement.

RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS:

Leg. Ospelt offered Resolution No. 18, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING AN INDIVIDUAL TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNTY LEGISLATOR IN AND FOR THE 17TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT. The Strategic Planning and Government Committee forwarded the names of Daniel Hoefler and Mary Flett for consideration to fill the vacancy in District 17. After a lengthy discussion, Leg. Seager called the question, seconded by Leg. Santore. A roll call vote was requested.

Motion to call the question passed, with a roll call vote.
YES: 17 NO: 6 ABSENT: 1 VACANT: 1

YES: KASTLER, POTTER, DOYLE, LEEMANN, PROUD, BROWN, BEARDSLEY, SEAGER, LOCKWOOD OSPELT, GARDNER, OLDENBURG, SANTORE, CHALIFOUX, SORBELLO, BREWER, LECLAIR.

NO: BRYANT, GEARSBECK, WALKER, KUNZWILER, MALONE, VASHO.

ABSENT: BECKWITH.

VACANT: DISTRICT 17.

Leg. Kunzwiler asked to have the resolution amended to have both Daniel Hoefler and Mary Flett considered simultaneously and equally to fill the vacancy. At 3:11, Chairman Leemann called for a 5-minute recess. There were no objections The meeting reconvened at 3:17 pm. Leg. Seager moved to rescind the vote to call the question, seconded by Leg. Kunzwiler. Motion passed with a voice vote. . Leg. Bryant expressed that both names have been presented, as was the intent of the committee. Leg.

Kunzwiler moved to amend the resolution to remove Mary Flett's name in the resolve and to put both Daniel Hoefler and Mary Flett in the resolution as candidates for consideration. County Attorney Mitchell restated that the amendment was to remove Mary Flett's name in the last paragraph of the resolve and when the vote is cast each person would indicate either Hoefler or Flett. The motion was seconded by Leg. Vasho, and passed with a voice vote, Leg. Santore in opposition. A roll call vote was taken.

Resolution passed, with a roll call vote
FLETT: 17 HOEFER: 6 ABSENT: 1 VACANT: 1

FLETT: KASTLER, POTTER, LEEMANN, BRYANT, PROUD, BROWN, BEARDSLEY, SEAGER, LOCKWOOD, OSPELT, GARDNER, OLDENBURG, SANTORE, CHALIFOUX, SORBELLO, BREWER, LECLAIR.

HOEFER: DOYLE, GEARSBECK, WALKER, KUNZWILER, MALONE, VASHO.

ABSENT: BECKWITH.

VACANT: DISTRICT 17.

Mary Flett, was sworn in by The Honorable James McCarthy, J.S.C.

Legs. Beardsley and Proud offered Resolution No. 19, entitled, RESOLUTION AWARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT "ANALYTICAL LAB TESTING SERVICES" DEPARTMENT OF SOLID WASTE AND HEALTH. This resolution awards the professional service contract for Analytical Lab Testing services to Upstate Laboratories Inc. in the sum not to exceed \$572,571.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 20, entitled, RESOLUTION DETERMINING THAT THE MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING STRUCTURE AT THE BRISTOL HILL LANDFILL TO A HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 21, entitled, RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CAPITAL PROJECT #163 - FERROUS RECOVERY SYSTEM - ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY. This resolution established Capital Project #163 - Ferrous Recovery System - energy Recovery Facility with a maximum authorization of \$50,000.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 22, entitled, RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE INVESTMENT IN EQUIPMENT AND INSTALLATION IN THE LANDFILL GAS COLLECTION AND DESTRUCTION PROJECT AT THE BRISTOL HILL LANDFILL IN THE TOWN OF VOLNEY. Leg. Gearsbeck asked if any grants were available for this project County Administrator

Philip Church explained that any grant money the county would receive would go back into the reserves.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Beardsley asked that Leg. Proud introduce Resolution No. 23, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE FROM CAPITAL RESERVE NO. 16 - BRIDGES. Leg. Kunzwiler called a point of order. He pointed out that the rules state that the Chair or Vice-Chair introduces the resolution from the corresponding committee. Leg. Beardsley explained that this is an important project for the Village of Mexico and that Leg. Proud was instrumental in advancing it. Leg. Beardsley said he had meant no offense to the Legislature's rules, only intending to offer what he felt was a well deserved courtesy to Leg. Proud. Leg. Bryant asked if this would be a proper resolution if someone other than the Committee Chairman introduced it. County Attorney stated that the resolution had not been amended and would read the same, therefore, it would be a proper resolution. Leg. Walker asked who owned the bridge. Supervisor Ospelt explained that it was a county bridge located on a town road.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 24, entitled RESOLUTION AMENDING CAPITAL PROJECT NO. 148 - ROAD EQUIPMENT PURCHASE. This resolution amended the Capital Project No. 148 to include six Dickey John salt spreader controls and two underbody scrapers on the list of equipment to be purchased. After a brief discussion, Leg. Malone called the question, seconded by Leg. Brown.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
Leg. Gearsbeck opposed
YES: 23 NO: 1 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Beardsley offered Resolution No. 25, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF SNOW AND ICE CONTRACT PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. This resolution extended the contract as modified and updated, for one year periods from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
Leg. Gearsbeck opposed
YES: 23 NO: 1 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Santore offered Resolution No. 26, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - ACCEPTING FUNDS FROM GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE. Leg. Santore moved to amend the resolution due to the increase in cost of the radar unit to be purchased, seconded by Leg. Seager. The motion to amend passed.

Resolution passed as amended with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Santore offered Resolution No. 27, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE OSWEGO COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD FOR 2008. Leg. Kunzwiler asked why there were vacancies in District IV. Fire Coordinator, John Hinds, explained that the people who previously held those positions had left.

Resolution passed with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Santore offered Resolution No. 28, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO THE NEW YORK STATE DIVISION OF PROBATION AND CORRECTIONAL ALTERNATIVE FOR ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FUNDING.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Santore offered Resolution No. 29, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION PROBATION DEPARTMENT 2008 JUVENILE-RISK INTERVENTION COORDINATION SERVICES.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Santore offered Resolution No. 30, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURE FROM CAPITAL RESERVE NO. 146- HIGHWAY & AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT. Leg. Malone suggested the County standardize the vehicles for the departments. After a brief discussion, the resolution passed.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Ospelt offered Resolution No. 31, 2ntitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING A MEMBER TO THE COUNTY OF OSWEGO JURY BOARD. (Leg. Beardsley) After discussion a roll call vote was called.

Resolution passed, with a roll call vote
YES: 17 NO: 7 ABSENT: 1

YES: KASTLER, POTTER, DOYLE, LEEMANN, PROUD, BROWN, BEARDSLEY, SEAGER, LOCKWOOD, OSPELT, GARDNER, OLDENBURG, SANTORE, FLETT, SORBELLO, BREWER, LECLAIR.

NO: BRYANT, GEARSBECK, WALKER, KUNZWILER, CHALIFOUX, MALONE, VASHO.

ABSENT: BECKWITH.

Leg. Gardner offered Resolution No. 32, entitled, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TREASURER TO CANCEL OR REDUCE INTEREST, PENALTIES, OR OTHER CHARGES REGARDING A PARCEL IN THE TOWN OF AMBOY.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Gardner offered Resolution No. 33, entitled, RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GRANT MONIES BY THE OSWEGO COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGARDING HHS VOTING ACCESS FOR

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES POLLING PLACE ACCESS IMPROVEMENT.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Gardner offered Resolution No. 34, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION BOARD OF ELECTIONS - HAVA COMPLIANCE.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Gardner offered Resolution No. 35, entitled, RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CAPITAL PROJECT #162 HAVA COMPLIANCE - BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Doyle offered Resolution No. 36, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND PLANNING TO PARTNER WITH OSWEGO COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES ON AN APPLICATION FOR SECTION 5311 ANNUAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE GRANT.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Doyle offered Resolution No. 37, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE OSWEGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Clerk of the Legislature, Ted Jerrett, explained that a corrected resolution had been placed on the desks of the legislators which includes the name of Jeff Richards as Grange Representative and corrects the term expiration of Cal Dorn to 12/31/08. Upon motion by Leg. Doyle and seconded by Leg. Ospelt, the resolution was amended by voice vote without objection to reflect the changes noted by the Clerk..

Resolution passed, as amended, with a voice vote
Linda Lockwood abstained as a member of the board
YES: 23 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 1

Leg. Proud offered Resolution No. 38 entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT - 2008 BONUS FOOD STAMP ALLOCATION.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Proud offered Resolution No. 39, entitled, RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE OSWEGO COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD. (Joseph Osetek and Elizabeth Vaught).

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Proud offered Resolution No. 40, entitled, RESOLUTION AWARDING PROFESSIONAL

SERVICES CONTRACT "COST ALLOCATION SERVICES: DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Proud offered Resolution No. 41 entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION YOUTH BUREAU - REALITY CHECK STATE AID.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Proud, offered Resolution No. 42, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGETARY MODIFICATION YOUTH BUREAU - A PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH GRANT.

Resolution passed, with a voice vote
YES: 24 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1

Leg. Kunzwiler offered Resolution No. 43, entitled, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CSEA OFFICE PERSONNEL UNIT. Leg. Kunzwiler moved to amend the resolution to indicate that, due to the snowstorm, the union ratification was delayed, but that the Legislature is desirous of implementing the contract as soon as possible upon ratification of the union membership. Motion to amend the resolution passed, with a show of hands. Legs. Seager and Oldenburg abstained due to family ties to the union.

Resolution passed, as amended, with a voice vote
Legs. Seager and Oldenburg abstained due to family connections to the union.
YES: 22 NO: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 2

Leg. Kunzwiler moved to waive the rules to consider an additional resolution regarding the acceptance of the use of credit cards for payments to the County. County Treasurer John Kruk, stated that he had sent out a survey to the towns, and that the response had not been favorable. Leg. Kunzwiler withdrew his motion and the issue was directed back to the committee for further review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Leg. Seager and Leg. Kunzwiler responded to Leg. Malone's previous comment regarding the new seating arrangement.

Leg. Gearsbeck expressed his concern for the cost for individuals to attend the recent NYSAC meeting. Leg. Doyle expressed his view that the money was well invested in better educating the legislature and advancing the issues of County residents at the State level.

At 4:38 PM, upon motion by Leg. Walker and seconded by Leg. Kunzwiler, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING COUNTY ISSUES:

There was no one wishing to speak.

**State of the County Address
Legislature Chairman Barry Leemann
February 14, 2008**

Let me begin by thanking this Legislature for the support you've shown me, and for the confidence you've placed in me. I'm honored to serve as your Chairman. This is a job I do not take lightly. I will do my best for your, and for all the people of the County.

I am enthusiastic and optimistic about the year ahead. 2008 will be a year of opportunity and challenge for Oswego County.

It is a year of opportunity because, after rebuilding this County's financial stability, we now have the ability to move ahead and enhance public services where needed, and make internal operating improvements where necessary, to meet the current and future needs of our citizens.

This is a year of challenge because there are outside factors, some we can influence and some we cannot, which will stretch our local finances and resources. These factors include an uncertain national economy and a proposed State budget that seeks to shift many of the State's costs onto counties.

Like all counties in New York State, we will face logistical and economic challenges as we continue to work on complying with the federal Help America Vote Act. On the positive side, our Board of Elections has settled into into new office space on East Seneca Street, where there is plenty of room to store the new voting machines that are required.

We all bring ideas and goals to this Legislature. We each have a vision of what needs to be done. In this environment of opportunities and challenges, our task is to work together to prioritize these goals and develop realistic plans for achieving them. Legislators, administration, department heads and employees all share in this responsibility.

Many of these goals are already underway. Our government is moving forward on several projects that enhance our quality of life and affect Oswego County residents in positive ways. We developed a low-cost prescription drug program that can help all county residents save on their prescription medicines.

2008 will be a big year for public safety. With a grant from former Senator James Wright, we are beginning renovations to the fire school. We expect to have classrooms ready this spring and the fire simulation facilities operational this summer. Government, volunteer, and all interested emergency personnel will be able to train and receive certification at the school. These first responders, brave men and women, deserve safe, first-rate training without having to travel halfway across the state to get it. Our fire services and first responders will finally have a local training facility.

Last year Oswego County E-911 obtained an Internet-based reverse 911 system to alert the public of emergency and non-emergency situations. This communications system allows officials to send a recorded phone message to targeted households.

This year, we begin the long process of replacing our emergency radio communication system. The system we have now is becoming obsolete. There are many areas of the County where coverage is unreliable. This is going to be a multi-year project that will begin this year with careful planning and research. Our goal should be nothing less than a modern system in which coverage is reliable and complete...all year round...and in every single part of the County.

We are looking forward to a very “green” year for Oswego County. We have started several projects that are good for our environment. First, the highway department is using low-sulfur diesel fuel in our trucks and equipment, reducing the unhealthy emissions we exhaust into our atmosphere.

Thanks to a grant from former Senator Wright, Oswego County will open a permanent household hazardous waste facility. The facility will provide a safe and acceptable way for residents to dispose of dangerous household materials that can pollute our environment. Much of this material can be recycled.

Our agenda today contains two environmental improvements. We are looking into a ferrous metal recovery system for the ERF. This will retrieve metal from the incinerator’s ash, keeping it from the landfill. The recovered metal will be sold to generate revenue that will help pay for our solid waste system. We are also applying for “carbon credits” which will bring in revenue to pay for the maintenance of the landfill’s gas destruction system.

I propose to set up an ad hoc work group this year to research and make recommendations about how County government can become more environmentally responsible in the way it operates. This group will look at buildings’ environmental controls and lighting, “green” purchasing, alternative fuels, environmentally friendly vehicles, and other energy and cost saving initiatives.

Renewable energy and less dependence on oil is the key to this nation’s prosperity. Oswego County is well-positioned to be a prosperous part of that new future. We are already a leader in renewable energy, and with the addition of Northeast Bio-fuels and the possibility of a fourth nuclear plant, we can only grow stronger. We will be working with the Workforce Development Board to support their efforts to establish career tracks for local people in the energy industry and other fields. By having a local workforce trained to excel in the energy industry and other growing occupations, we will be able to improve our local economy and provide more opportunities for our residents.

The people we represent expect and deserve the best from us. We must find ways to improve local government and develop more economical and efficient methods to provide public services. For this reason, I will direct our administrator to coordinate another local municipal summit, like the one we had four years ago. This will bring the leadership of the county, schools, cities, towns, and villages together in one room to discuss and plan shared services, inter-municipal agreements, and solutions to common issues such as GASB-45 and workers’ compensation costs.

There are many other opportunities and challenges we’ll face this year, too many to mention and fully discuss today: issues facing agriculture, tourism, human services, the Health industry and many others. They are all important and deserve our full attention and best efforts.

Fellow legislators, we have a lot of work to do. We should do this work guided by honor, morality, dignity, and respect for one another. I believe that by working together, listening to each other, respecting our differences, and focusing on the common good, that this Legislature will make 2008 a very successful year!