

October 1, 2009

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 11

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR MARINELLI PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:

- a. INTRO 8-16 (2008)
IANNELLO & KONST: “Resolution to Reform the Erie County Charter by Limiting the Term of Office that an Elected County Legislator Can Hold and Changing the Term to Four Years with a Limit of Twelve Consecutive Years”
(6-0)
- b. COMM. 17E-6 (2009)
COMPTROLLER: “Salary Increase for Deputy County Executive”
(6-0)
- c. COMM. 17D-6 (2009)
COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE: “Copy of Review of Time and Attendance Data for Employees Within the EC Dept. of Personnel for 1/1/07 - 12/31/08”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.
- d. COMM. 17D-16 (2009)
COMMISSIONER OF PERSONNEL: “Salary Increment for Deputy County Executive”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.
- e. COMM. 17D-25 (2009)
COMMISSIONER OF PERSONNEL: “Response to Copy of Review of Time and Attendance Data for Employees within the EC Dept. of Personnel for 1/1/07 - 12/31/08”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.
- f. COMM. 17M-8 (2009)
SENATOR THOMPSON: “Copy of Letter to Governor Paterson Re: Proposed Sale of Southtowns Connector by NFTA”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.

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- g. COMM. 17M-29 (2009)
ALDEN HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: “Letter Concerning the Price of Salt”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.
- h. COMM. 18D-4 (2009)
COUNTY ATTORNEY: “Transmittal of New Claims Against Erie County”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.
- i. COMM. 18D-5 (2009)
COUNTY ATTORNEY: “Transmittal of New Claim Against Erie County”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.
- j. COMM. 18M-2 (2009)
NIAGARA COUNTY LEGISLATURE: “Copy of Resolution Calling Upon the NYS Legislature to Override Governor Paterson’s Veto of - Establishes the NYS War of 1812, 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.
- k. COMM. 18M-10 (2009)
NYS BOARD OF REAL PROPERTY SERVICES: “Copy of Certificate of County Equalization Rates for 2009 Assessment Rolls for Municipalities in EC”
(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.
2. INTRO 18-4 (2009)
**REYNOLDS, MARINELLI, WHYTE,
MILLER-WILLIAMS & TERRANOVA AS AMENDED**
WHEREAS, NYSEG (New York State Electric and Gas) has requested permission from the PSC (Public Service Commission) to increase its rates for the delivery of electricity and natural gas; and
- WHEREAS, the requested rate increases are excessive by any measure, to wit, 18.6% in the rate charged for the delivery of electricity and 17.4% in the rate charged for the delivery of natural gas; and
- WHEREAS, data made available from the federal government clearly demonstrate that costs for electrical and natural gas transmissions have actually fallen during the past year; and
- WHEREAS, it is unconscionable for NYSEG to seek a rate increase when its costs have decreased; and
- WHEREAS, under ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act), \$4.5 billion is available for the Enhancement of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability; and

WHEREAS, a component of ARRA funding is the Smart Grid Matching Grant Program which was authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007; and

WHEREAS, under the Smart Grid program, a 20% subsidy will be made available to utility companies for costs associated with upgrading and improving the efficiency of facilities engaged in electrical transmission; and

WHEREAS, no reasonable justification or supporting data exist for the Public Service Commission to grant a rate increase to NYSEG in this current environment of both deflation of costs and availability of federal subsidies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature go on record expressing its vehement opposition to the increase in rates for the delivery of electricity and natural gas that has been requested by New York State Electric and Gas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body encourage utility consumers to convey their opposition to the Public Service Commission regarding these excessive, unjustified rate increases; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be conveyed to the New York State Public Service Commission, United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillebrand, the Western New York Congressional Delegation, the WNY Delegation to the State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.

(5-0) Legislator Kozub absent for vote.

BARBARA MILLER-WILLIAMS
CHAIR