

SPECIAL PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

March 17, 2014

Committee Chairperson Hitchcock called the meeting to order at _____ p.m.

Public Works Committee Members: Chairperson Hitchcock; Legislators Martinez, Lawrence, Hatton, H. Lennon and Kozloski.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Proposed Resolution "Authorizing Greene County To Lease A Section Of The Cairo Office Building To Mental Health Association Of Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc. (MHA)."
2. Proposed Resolution "Resolution Opposing The New Capacity Zone."

March 19, 2014

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RESOLUTION NO.

AUTHORIZING GREENE COUNTY TO LEASE
A SECTION OF THE CAIRO OFFICE BUILDING
TO MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF
COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES, INC. (MHA)

Legislator offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc. (MHA) aims to reduce trauma, provide medical care and enhance collaboration among organizations in the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse; and

WHEREAS, currently the closest MHA that serves Greene County residents is located in Hudson, New York; and

WHEREAS, the MHA would like to open a satellite office in Greene County to conduct interviews of Greene County children and residents, which would alleviate the need for our residents to travel to Columbia County during this stressful time; and

WHEREAS, there is currently vacant office space located in the Greene County Office Building in Cairo, New York; and

WHEREAS, The Greene County Legislature recognizes the importance of having a MHA satellite office located in Greene County and has determined that the lease of a section of this premises to the MHA would be in the best interest of these victims, making it easier to interview children in Greene County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Greene is authorized to enter into a lease with the MHA for certain office space located in the County Office Building in Cairo, New York, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney, under the following terms:

1. The term of the Agreement shall be for one year, from April 1, 2014 through March 30, 2015, renewable by consent of the parties and may be terminated by either party upon sixty (60) days written notice, at an annual rent of One (\$1.00) Dollar; and
2. MHA is responsible for the payment of their own telephone, cable, internet access and office cleaning; and
3. MHA will provide their own office equipment, furniture and supplies; and
4. Any signage must be approved by the County; and

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5. MHA will have their own access to their office and security will not be provided;
6. MHA will indemnify and hold harmless the County and shall maintain and provide Greene County with proof of a One Million Dollar (\$1,000,000.00) insurance policy with Greene County as a named insured; and
7. And such other terms and conditions as are deemed advisable by the County Attorney.

Seconded by Legislator

Ayes Noes Absent

CARRIED.

Approved by Public Works Comm.:

Approved by Finance Comm.:

March 19, 2014

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE NEW CAPACITY ZONE

Legislator offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), in an order issued on August 13, 2013, accepted the tariff revisions proposed by the New York Independent System Operator to create a New Capacity Zone (NCZ) that groups the mid-Hudson Valley (electricity load zone G) in the same capacity zone as Westchester and New York City (Zone H, I and J); and

WHEREAS, this order is scheduled to go into effect on May 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the NCZ is to address existing transmission constraints by altering the price signals in wholesale energy markets to attract investors in new plants whose Installed Capacity (ICAP) will be sufficient to meet electricity needs in times of peak demand; and

WHEREAS, the Public Service Commission (PSC) opposes the creation of the NCZ, stating that the order ignores PSC proceedings underway to address transmission constraints by upgrading transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, these transmission upgrades were recommended by the Governor's New York State Energy Highway Blueprint, which seeks to increase the capacity of transmission lines to carry 1,000 MW of additional lower-cost power from the north and west to meet downstate needs, eliminating bottlenecks in transmission; and

WHEREAS, the PSC is currently reviewing four proposals to accomplish the task of upgrading transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, the PSC further stated on September 12, 2013, that the NCZ will result in unjust and unreasonable electricity rates, possibly increasing rates by as much as 25%, costing rate-payers in the new zone over half a billion dollars in a three-year period; and

WHEREAS, Central Hudson-Fortis, a utility serving rate-payers in Zone G, also opposes the creation of the NCZ, estimating that it will increase prices by at least 6% for residential and 11% for industrial rate-payers; and

WHEREAS, the NCZ will hurt many small to medium-sized industries, including the dairy industry for whom electrical power makes up a large percentage of its costs; and

WHEREAS, the NCZ will cause disproportionate harm to low- and fixed income rate-payers, particularly in light of the Public Service Commission's report that the percentage of customers in the Central Hudson service area whose electricity has been shut off for not paying their bills has risen from 1.89% to 5.99% in 2012; and

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WHEREAS, the creation of the NCZ will unfairly burden rate-payers in upstate counties, whose "peak" energy needs are much lower than those in Westchester and New York City; and

WHEREAS, the express purpose of the NCZ is to create new "peaking" capacity, which favors increased use of fossil fuel-based generation; and

WHEREAS, increasing fossil fuel generation contradicts and in no way addresses New York State's Renewable Portfolio Standard goal of at least 30% renewable electricity by 2015; and

WHEREAS, the FERC has failed to adequately consider these proposed transmission upgrades, which make the NCZ unnecessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greene County Legislature, on behalf of all the county residents and businesses, does hereby demand that our region be removed from the arbitrary capacity zone recently demarcated by FERC as there is no basis for including Greene County and the upstate Hudson Valley region in said capacity zone, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Greene County Legislature calls upon the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to postpone indefinitely its order issued August 13, 2013, which conflicts with State efforts currently underway to address the same problem of transmission constraints; and further calls on New York State Governor Cuomo, U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, and U.S. Congressman Gibson to intervene on our behalf to halt the creation of the NCZ; and that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Cuomo, the FERC, the PSC, Central Hudson-Fortis, Federal and State Elected Representatives, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the Public Utility Law Project of NY (PULP), and the Business Council of the State of New York.

Seconded by Legislator

Ayes Noes Absent CARRIED.

Approved by Public Works Comm.: