

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE
SULLIVAN COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

January 11, 2012 at 11:00AM

The Oath of Office was administered by the Honorable Frank J. LaBuda, County Court Judge and Surrogate Judge to the following legislators in the lobby of the Sullivan County Government Center:

**Scott B. Samuelson, District 1 Legislator
Kathleen LaBuda, District 2 Legislator
Kitty M. Vetter, District 3 Legislator
Jonathan Rouis, District 4 Legislator
Cindy Kurpil Gieger, District 5 Legislator
Cora A. Edwards, District 6 Legislator
Gene L. Benson, District 7 Legislator
Ira M. Steingart, District 8 Legislator
Alan J. Sorensen, District 9 Legislators**

Following the Oath of Office, the Liberty High School Honors Chorus led by Tim Hamblin performed.

The Organizational Meeting of the County Legislature was called to order by the Clerk at 11:54AM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated all Legislators present.

The Clerk read the notice of meeting which read as follows:

On Wednesday, January 11, 2012 the Swearing in Ceremony of the Sullivan County Legislature will take place at 11:00AM in the lobby (first floor) of the Government Center which will be conducted by the Honorable Frank J. LaBuda. The Liberty High School Honors Chorus led by Tim Hamblin will be performing at the ceremony. Refreshments will be served immediately following the ceremony.

The Sullivan County Legislature will then meet and organize at **11:45AM** in the Legislative Chambers (second floor) of the Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701.

The 2012 Standing Committees and their memberships will be announced and distributed at the end of this organizational meeting.

The 2012 Meeting Schedule will be distributed at the January 26, 2012 Full Board Meeting.

The January 2012 Meeting Schedule will be as follows:

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

9:15AM Personnel
9:45AM Community and Economic Development
10:45AM Health and Family Services Committee
1:00PM Public Safety Committee
1:30PM Sustainability Policy Committee

Thursday, January 19, 2012

9:15 AM Management and Budget Committee
10:15AM Public Works Committee
11:00AM Planning and Environmental Management Committee
1:30PM Government Services Committee
2:00PM Executive Committee

Thursday, January 26, 2012 –
2:00PM Monthly Legislative Meeting

Cc: David P. Fanslau, County Manager
Sam Yasgur, County Attorney
News Media/Bulletin Boards
Switchboard/Security/Buildings

The Clerk called for nominations for the Chairman. Mrs. LaBuda nominated Scott Samuelson. Mr. Samuelson has been a resident of Sullivan County for 30 years. He has been a small business owner for 25 years which he created with hard work and perseverance, seconded by Mr. Steingart. Mrs. LaBuda moved that the nominations be closed seconded by Mr. Steingart. There being no other nominations, the nomination was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

Scott B. Samuelson was declared **Chairman** of the County Legislature. He was administered another oath by the Hon. Frank LaBuda and assumed the Chair. He then read the attached.

Chairman Samuelson proceeded to call for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Legislature as follows:

Vice Chairman of the Legislature:

Mrs. Gieger nominated **Gene Benson**, seconded by Mrs. Edwards. Mrs. Gieger moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Mrs. Edwards. The nomination of Mr. Benson as Vice Chairman was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

Majority Leader (Democrats):

The Clerk indicated that the majority of the Sullivan County Legislature has designated **Kathleen M. LaBuda** as Majority Leader.

Minority Leader (Republicans):

The Clerk indicated that the minority of the Sullivan County Legislature has designated **Alan J. Sorensen** as Minority Leader.

Designation of *Sullivan County Democrat* as the official newspaper by Democrat members of the Legislature:

Concurrent Resolutions of the Legislature required by law to be published for the year 2012: *Sullivan County Democrat*

Local Laws, Notices and other matters required by law to be published as provided by subdivision 2 of Section 214 of the County Law: *Sullivan County Democrat*

Election notices issued by Secretary of State and the Official Canvass as provided by subdivision 1 of Section 214 of the County Law: *Sullivan County Democrat*

Designation of *The River Reporter* as the official newspaper by Republican members of the Legislature

Concurrent Resolutions of the Legislature required by law to be published for the year 2012: *The River Reporter*

Local Laws, Notices and other matters required by law to be published as provided by subdivision 2 of Section 214 of the County Law: *The River Reporter*

Election notices issued by Secretary of State and the Official Canvass as provided by subdivision 1 of Section 214 of the County Law: *The River Reporter*

Chairman Samuelson indicated at this time we need to make an appointment of a Parliamentarian. Tom Cawley of the County Attorney's Office will serve as the Parliamentarian.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 01-12 INTRODUCED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT THE RULES OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 153 of the County Law, the Sullivan County Legislature and its committees shall conduct their meetings in accordance with the Rules of the Legislature, and

WHEREAS, these Rules shall be interpreted by the Executive Committee, with amendments and additional rules to be adopted in accordance with the provisions of Rule 65 after consideration by said committee, and

WHEREAS, in absence of a rule or order not covered by these Rules, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature hereby adopts the Rules of the Legislature.

Moved by Ms. Vetter, seconded by Mr. Benson, put to a vote and unanimously carried and declared duly adopted on motion January 11, 2012.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-12 INTRODUCED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO APPOINT THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 4.00 of the Charter, there shall be a Department of Law, headed by the County Attorney, appointed by the County Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the term of office of the County Attorney shall be that term for which the then members of the appointing County Legislature were elected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Samuel S. Yasgur be and he hereby is appointed to the position of County Attorney.

Moved by Mrs. LaBuda, seconded by Mr. Rouis, put to a vote and unanimously carried and declared duly adopted on motion January 11, 2012.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-12 INTRODUCED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO APPOINT THE CLERK TO THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 2.05 of the Charter, on January first of the even numbered year next following the election of a County Legislature, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the Legislature shall appoint a Clerk who shall serve at the pleasure of the Legislature and until a successor is appointed and has qualified

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AnnMarie Martin be and she hereby is appointed to the position of Clerk to the County Legislature.

Moved by Mrs. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Samuelson, put to a vote and unanimously carried and declared duly adopted on motion January 11, 2012.

RESOLUTION NO. 4-12 INTRODUCED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO APPOINT THE DIRECTOR OF VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

WHEREAS, in accordance to Section A5-6 of the Administrative Code of the Sullivan County Code, the Director of the Veterans Services Agency shall be a veteran and shall be appointed by and may be removed at the pleasure of the Chairman of the Legislature with the approval of the Legislature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that John Crotty be and he hereby is appointed to the position of Director of Veterans Service Agency.

Moved by Mr. Benson, seconded by Mrs. LaBuda, put to a vote and unanimously carried and declared duly adopted on motion January 11, 2012.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-12 INTRODUCED BY SCOTT SAMUELSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEGISLATURE REQUESTING NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION TO WITHDRAW THE SEPTEMBER 2011 REVISED DRAFT “SGEIS” ON THE OIL, GAS AND SOLUTION MINING REGULATORY PROGRAM, COVERING HORIZONTAL DRILLING AND HIGH-VOLUME HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE MARCELLUS SHALE AND OTHER LOW-PERMAIBILITY GAS RESERVOIRS

WHEREAS, a large portion of the land area in the County of Sullivan is located within the Marcellus Shale Field Basin and therefore may be the location of natural gas exploration and development projects; and

WHEREAS, the County of Sullivan and several of its constituent municipalities have in the past voiced concerns to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and to the New York State Legislature regarding issues of environmental safety and potential impacts resulting from natural gas development and related activities within the County, including, for example, noise, dust, integrity of nearby water wells, and the possibility of contamination resulting from storage and transport of fracking fluids; and

WHEREAS, DEC Division of Mineral Resources issued a Revised Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (the “RD-SGEIS”) on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (the “Regulatory Program”) dated September 7, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the County intends to submit substantive comments to the DEC by the deadline of January 11, 2012, citing concerns about the RD-SGEIS and the proposed Regulatory Program with regard to the following categories of concern:

- Municipal infrastructure, in particular protecting County and Town/Village roads;
- Coordination between DEC Mineral Resources and municipalities on permitting;
- Protection of groundwater aquifers from contamination by natural gas development;
- Impacts from natural gas development in flood-prone areas;
- Handling, storage and transport of toxic materials related to natural gas development;
- Cumulative impacts from pipelines, compressors and ancillary construction;
- Health of surface-water bodies, natural ecosystems and agricultural lands;
- Overall socioeconomic impacts on communities and existing economic sectors;
- Public health impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, given the scope of additional research, documentation and analysis that is needed to address the aforementioned concerns and other legitimate concerns raised by members of the public, and to conduct a complete assessment of the potential environmental impacts from the proposed development, it is the County’s view that the proceeding towards a Final SGEIS at this time would be inappropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Sullivan hereby requests that the current RD-SGEIS be withdrawn, revised and reissued for full public review and comment, in the spirit of New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), prior to proceeding with a Final SGEIS.

Moved by Mrs. Geiger, seconded by Mr. Steingart, put to a vote and unanimously carried and declared duly adopted on motion January 11, 2012.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-12 INTRODUCED BY SCOTT SAMUELSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE

LEGISLATURE, AUTHORIZING LUIZ C. ARAGON, COMMISSIONER OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, TO SUBMIT COMMENTS TO THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (DEC) ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY REGARDING THE REVISED DRAFT “SGEIS” ON THE OIL, GAS AND SOLUTION MINING REGULATORY PROGRAM, COVERING HORIZONTAL DRILLING AND HIGH-VOLUME HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE MARCELLUS SHALE AND OTHER LOW-PERMAIBILITY GAS RESERVOIRS

WHEREAS, a large portion of the land area in the County of Sullivan is located within the Marcellus Shale Field Basin and therefore may be the location of natural gas exploration and development projects; and

WHEREAS, the County of Sullivan and several of its constituent municipalities have in the past voiced concerns to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (the “DEC”) and to the New York State Legislature regarding issues of environmental safety and potential impacts resulting from natural gas development and related activities within the County, including, for example, noise, dust, integrity of nearby water wells, and the possibility of contamination resulting from storage and transport of fracking fluids; and

WHEREAS, the DEC Division of Mineral Resources issued a Revised Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (the “RD-SGEIS”) on the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program (the “Regulatory Program”) dated September 7, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the County intends to submit substantive comments to the DEC by the deadline of January 11, 2012, which ends the public comment period as allowed under New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR); and

WHEREAS, the County intends to cite concerns about the RD-SGEIS and draft Regulatory Program in the following areas:

- Municipal infrastructure, in particular protecting County and Town/Village roads;
- Coordination between DEC Mineral Resources and municipalities on permitting;
- Protection of groundwater aquifers from contamination by natural gas development;
- Impacts from natural gas development in flood-prone areas;
- Handling, storage and transport of toxic materials related to natural gas development;
- Cumulative impacts from pipelines, compressors and ancillary construction;
- Health of surface-water bodies, natural ecosystems and agricultural lands;
- Overall socioeconomic impacts on communities and existing economic sectors;
- Public health impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioner of Planning and Environmental Management, Luiz C. Aragon, is hereby authorized to execute a letter to the DEC presenting comments and recommendations on behalf of the County.

Moved by Mrs. Geiger, seconded by Mrs. Edwards, put to a vote and unanimously carried and declared duly adopted on motion January 11, 2012.

Chairman Samuelson stated he has no specific comments but once again thanked everyone for their support.

Mrs. LaBuda stated it is a very exciting year for her. If you look around this room we have some new businessmen that will be a part of this body. She knows good things are going to happen and she wanted to say good luck to all of you.

Ms. Vetter thanked everyone for their support and feels there will be a great “moving forward” of Sullivan County.

Mr. Rouis echoed Mrs. LaBuda’s comments. He thinks it is going to be a good year as we have a lot of challenges.

Mrs. Gieger stated she wanted to thank everyone for their support and she is looking forward to working with everyone. There are a lot of challenges and she would like to challenge everyone to get involved in your communities and attend your town board meetings. She wants to rebuild our community.

Mrs. Edward thanked everyone for their participation. We are a democracy and it is very important that we need to participate, maybe in ways that we never thought we would and she really feels that we will be as

good as the level of citizen participation in our local democracy. Everyone can meet us at almost anytime.

Mr. Benson thanked everyone for their support and for being here today. It just shows that everyone is willing to get involved. The election is over now regardless of party affiliation. We all have to work together to make the county a better place for all of us to live in.

Mr. Steingart stated it is exciting times. It is a change for him being in business for over 30 years. It is great to see that every legislator has Sullivan County in their heart and they are here to improve Sullivan County and is looking forward to working with everyone of them.

Mr. Sorensen thanked all of his constituents in District 9. For him serving on the legislature is public service. He wants to make Sullivan County a better place. He thinks there is great opportunity for us to move things forward in a manner where we can revitalize the economy.

The Clerk indicated that there will be no committee meetings tomorrow.

Upon motion by Mrs. LaBuda, seconded by Mr. Benson, the Legislature adjourned their first meeting of the year at 12:16PM, subject to the call of the Chairman.

ANNMARIE MARTIN, Clerk to the Legislature

It is with great honor and humility that I accept the privilege to be named chairman of this legislative body. Over the last several weeks I have had the distinct pleasure of meeting with my fellow legislators on many occasions and am so impressed with each and every one. The voters of Sullivan County made some awesome choices. I can assure you that we bring to the table an intelligent, thoughtful, diversified, and extremely motivated group of individuals whose only goal is to do their very best for the good of Sullivan County. I am sure my colleagues Jonathan Rouis, Kathy LaBuda and Alan Sorensen who are returning to carry on what they began a number of years ago and newly elected Cindy Kurpil-Geiger, Cora Edwards, Kitty Vetter, Ira Steingart and Gene Benson are as eager as I am to take on these tasks. We are committed to working together with respect and consideration in a bi partisan manner to bring about the change that the voters of Sullivan County mandated in this past election.

Let me just say that it has been a long road from November 8th to today and the road ahead is even longer. There is much to do to regain the trust and respect of the citizenry of this great community. We understand and accept the challenge wholeheartedly. There will be a new way of doing business in Sullivan County, one of open communication, transparency, cooperation, trust and respect.

This is a very difficult period not only for our county but for the state, the nation and in fact the world. I had the distinct pleasure of listening to our dynamic Governor, Andrew Cuomo's State of the State address as it was replayed on the radio as I drove home from New York City this past Saturday. I was very inspired by what he had to say and it confirmed to me that we all are faced with very challenging issues but now is the time to step up and make the changes necessary to move forward. It is time to think out of the box and look at every alternative. We may not always be left with ideal choices but if we focus on doing only what is best for this community I know we can make the difference and improve the quality of life for each and every resident. We must do this by working cooperatively with our federal, state, town and regional officials to address unfunded state mandates, help secure economic development alternatives, and reduce our costs through consolidating services such as group purchasing.

There is much for us to learn and much that needs to be addressed. This is only the beginning. There will not be a department or any facet of this government that we will not review and make the necessary changes to see that this institution operates at the highest level of efficiency and productivity. I know that we will be able to rely on the support of the amazing staff and management here to help bring about these changes. One of the things that we have learned over the

last two months is that there is an extraordinarily dedicated assemblage of workers across the board, inside this building and out, who only want to see the best thing happen for Sullivan County. This is our home, this is their home. We intend to capitalize on their knowledge and expertise to help to get us where we need to go.

We understand that it is our obligation to protect the needs of all of our residents especially our senior citizens, children, veterans, disabled, and most vulnerable. We understand that it is our obligation to jumpstart our struggling economy and enhance our economic development opportunities. We understand that it is our obligation to see that there are opportunities for all who are able and seek employment. We understand that it is our obligation to see that all existing businesses in our community have every opportunity to remain in business and thrive. We understand that we must do all that we can to maintain and preserve our natural resources and protect our environment. We understand that it is our obligation to do everything in our power to maintain and hold taxes to a reasonable level and to find ways to offset these taxes through alternative funding options.

There is so much to be done. But through cooperation and creative thinking we will get there. We promise to set political

differences aside and work together to deliver the positive, productive changes Sullivan County so richly deserves.