

**RULES, ENACTMENTS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**(REMOTELY)**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021**  
**3:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Thomas J. Faggione, Chairman  
Michael Amo, Katie Bonelli, Barry J. Cheney, Kevin W. Hines, James M. Kulisek,  
Michael D. Paduch, John S. Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Paul Ruskiewicz, Legislator  
Kathy Stegenga, Legislator  
Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator  
Betsy N. Abraham, Legislative Counsel  
Damian J. Brady, Chief Assistant County Attorney  
Alan Sorensen, ACIP, Commissioner of Planning  
Liz Delaney, Budget Analyst

Mr. Faggione opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. and requested everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All members were present.

Mr. Amo moved resolution appointing Benjamin Ostrer to the Board of Directors of the Catskill Region Off-Track Betting Corporation, pursuant to Section 502 of the Racing, Part-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law, seconded by Mr. Vero.

Ms. Stegenga explained that the Economic and Development Gaming Committee discussed and reviewed his resume and credentials and voted unanimously to move his name forward to the Rules, Enactments and Intergovernmental Relations committee for the appointment of Benjamin Ostrer to replace former member James Townsend who passed away.

Mr. Amo stated that he supports this appointment, and he will be a great addition to the Board of Directors of the Catskill Region Off-Track Betting Corporation. The Catskill Region Off-Track Betting Corporation has been floundering for a few years and not a benefit to Orange County and they need to get to the bottom of that issue and to determine what could help them to be more effective and to receive more of a reward as per the way it was setup. He has checked with other Off-Track Betting Corporations and was advised by the Capital Off-Track Betting Corporation management staff that each county would receive \$3 million for 2020/2021. However, they know that for the last two years Orange County has received nothing. In his opinion, it is time for a change and Mr. Ostrer is the right replacement.

Ms. Bonelli recognized and thanked former board member James Townsend who served as a member of the Catskill Region Off-Track Betting Corporation from 2002 until his untimely death. She fully supports this appointment and there is no better way of recognizing that legacy than with someone of Mr. Ostrer's caliber.

Chairman Brescia thanked Economic and Development Gaming Committee Chairwoman Stegenga, Ms. Bonelli and Mr. Amo for bringing this forward as Mr. Ostrer is a good choice to express the concerns expounded by Mr. Amo. He also echoed the sentiments expressed by Ms. Bonelli on James Townsend.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Amo moved request to create two (2) Associate Account Clerk II positions. One position will be grant funded and will be abolished upon cancellation of such grant funding. The other position will replace the vacant Fiscal Manager position, seconded by Mr. Faggione.

Mr. Brady explained that the grant funded position is for indigent legal services for the management of the Hurrell-Haring grant which over five years totals approximately \$23.8 million. In addition, there are several distribution grants and state funding that is received and distributed in combination with the Legal Aid Society and the 18b Panel for funding. The position would be created strictly out of the third year of the Hurrell-Haring funding with funding for 2021 at \$4.7 million. The second position would be a change from a Fiscal Manager position to an Associate Account Clerk II position and would generate a cost savings going forward. The Fiscal Manager position was originally budgeted for \$82,961.00 plus benefits with this new position starting at \$44,317.54 plus benefits.

Mr. Kulisek asked if the Fiscal Manager position would be abolished. Mr. Brady replied no, it would remain vacant and unfunded in the event an upgrade would be needed.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved Local Law to designate Orange County As an "Eligible Area" pursuant to Section 11-0935 of the Environmental Conservation Law in relation to a Deer Hunting Pilot Program, seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Brady explained that New York State was the only state that did not allow 12- and 13-year-olds to hunt deer. Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-0935 is a temporary measure, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has announced that it will pilot and lower the age to 12- and 13-year-olds through 2023 and it includes the following provisions: allows 12- and 13-year-old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloading firearm in areas these firearms may be used during hunting season; allows 12- and 13- year-old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a crossbow during the times when other hunters may use crossbows; requires that these youth hunters be supervised by experienced and licensed adult hunters at all times and requires the youth hunter and adult mentor wear fluorescent orange or pink clothing and to remain at ground level while hunting deer with a crossbow, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader. Per the requirement counties are required to "opt-in" and the measure will expire absent further state legislation in 2023.

Mr. Ruskiewicz added that this is an expansion of the existing youth hunting program for 14- and 15-year-olds. New York is the last state to not allow 12- and 13-year-olds to hunt big game with firearms. As an avid hunter and someone with a now 16-year-old hunter who participated in the youth program and it is a great way to get young hunters interested in hunting.

Mr. Faggione commented that many legislators have received letters supporting this local law and he has spoken to his local hunting club the Tri-State Rod and Gun Club for which he is a member and they fully support this program. He fully supports this program and in New York State more than 550,000 New Yorkers and visitors enjoy the sport of hunting each year with hunting being a very important part of their upstate New York culture and conservation with 2020 seeing a large increase in hunting license sales. From 2019 to 2020 hunting licenses increased 11%, bow hunting increased 14% and junior hunting licenses increased 26%.

Mr. Cheney added that this is a win/win for not only the hunters but the safety of all as it adds two years to the tutelage these youths will receive under the direction of an adult on how to hunt and how to hunt safety and something that is long overdue in New York State.

Motion carried. All in favor.

Mr. Cheney moved request authorization to submit an application to Hudson River Greenway for the amount of \$25,000.00. The Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Planning Grant will be used to update the County Open Space Plan, seconded by Mr. Kulisek.

Mr. Sorensen addressed the committee stating that this was actually submitted last year prior to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, New York State withdrew the funding. The funding is now available, and they are resubmitting their application. In the interim they have embarked on pursuing the update on the County Open Space Plan and utilizing their in-house resources and they will continue to do so. The Hudson River Greenway grants require a 50/50 match, their match would be their in-kind contribution and utilizing their existing staff resources. If the application is successful, they would work with the Orange County Land Trust as they have some very specific expertise that they would like to bring to the table in the open space update.

Motion carried. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.