

News Release

February 26, 2007

The Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature, David B. Donaldson announced the formation of a seven member Transition Team to prepare a plan to transition the County toward operation under the new charter.

The public passed the charter referendum last November. The transition will most likely bring the creation of certain departments, the elimination of others and the restructuring of some in order to best serve the public.

“We wanted the best possible people to work on this critical aspect of moving toward a County Executive form of government. A great deal needs to be done prior to the election of our first Comptroller and County Executive. A clearly defined structure needs to be in place so the transition is as smooth as possible.” said Chairman Donaldson.

Legislator Gary Bischoff, Chairman of the County’s Efficiency and Reform Committee, will chair the Transition Team. Bischoff worked with the well-acclaimed Charter Commission through the spring and summer of last year and was instrumental in moving the charter through the legislature and on the ballot.

Chairman Donaldson expressed his delight with the fact that three members from the Charter Commission, Dr. Gerald Benjamin from SUNY New Paltz, Mary Ann Collins of SUNY Ulster and Attorney Louis Klein have agreed to serve on the team.

Gary Bischoff noted, “It is exciting to be apart of this team and I am looking forward to the challenge of getting the county ready for this historical change. The goal is to accomplish the transition in the most cost efficient and effective way. The fact that I will have the opportunity to again work with members of the Charter Commission is certainly an added pleasure.”

Other legislative members of the Transition Team include Minority Whip, Legislator Robert Parete, (D) from Olive, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Legislator Phil Terperning (D) from Rosendale, and minority member Legislator Wayne Harris (R) from Marlboro. Deputy County Administrator, Arthur Smith will serve as a resource to the team as well as others county personnel as needed.

Legislator Bischoff assured that all meetings will be announced in advance and open to the public. He further added that he looks forward to any suggestions from the public, employees and other interested parties.

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