

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BROOME COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2016

A Committee of the Whole Broome County Legislature met on Thursday, February 18, 2016 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: D. Reynolds, S. Flagg, S. Baker, K. Wildoner, K. Myers, G. Baldwin, M. Pasquale, J. Shaw, R. Keibel, R. Heebner, K. Bernhardsen, M. Kaminsky, M. Whalen

Members Absent: None

Others Present: J. Bernardo, D. Preston, County Exec's Office; M. Kalka, J. Knebel, OMB; D. Schofield, DPW; G. Kilmer, P. Schiraldi, D. Wisner, B. Cappalette, D. Thorp, Transit; J. Roby, Press & Sun-Bulletin, N. Mone, Legislative Intern; A. Martin, C. Dziedzic, Legislature

Chairman Reynolds called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. for a presentation by Greg Kilmer, Commissioner of Public Transportation, regarding Broome County Transit Service Adjustments. It covered a timeline, methodology and goal recommendations. The presentation outlined customer and employee survey feedback and gave route performances and summaries, including route profiles, suggested actions and impacts. (A copy of the presentation is on file with the minutes).

Following the presentation Legislators had an opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns.

Responding to a question from Mr. Whalen, Mr. Kilmer stated that a Public Hearing is not required because the change in service is not greater than 10%.

Responding to a question from Mr. Shaw, Mr. Kilmer stated that there will be a mail and media campaign to inform the public as well as officials of local municipalities of the route changes.

Responding to a question from Mr. Keibel, Mr. Kilmer stated that it usually takes riders several weeks to adjust to the new schedules and they will follow up with rider surveys two times this year.

Responding to a comment from Mrs. Myers, Mr. Kilmer stated that they have been reaching out to educational institutions and businesses to inform them of the changes.

Responding to a question from Mr. Schofield, Mr. Kilmer stated if riders have questions they should contact the call center.

Responding to a question from Mr. Flagg, Mr. Kilmer stated that there won't be a big impact on drivers because there will still be crews out but there will be a 8% reduction in fleet which will reflect savings in the capital plan.

Responding to comments from Mr. Whalen, Mr. Kilmer stated that they will have people collecting sampling data on ridership.

Responding to a comment by Mr. Baker, Mr. Kilmer stated that there are separate rural bus services provided to areas outside the urban core.

Responding to concerns from Mrs. Kaminsky about routes in her district, Mr. Kilmer stated they are still going to all the same places but will be providing more service by covering stops on Court Street which previously were not serviced.

Responding to a question from Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Kilmer stated that to avoid confusion there needs to be a balance of not too soon and not soon enough for bus route changes. Ten to fourteen days is an average notification time frame. The drivers will act as ambassadors in notifying the riders of changes. Representatives will also be available at the Intermodal Center to answer specific questions from riders.

Mrs. Myers suggested they reach out to SUNY Binghamton and Broome to send out text alerts to the students of the route changes.

Mrs. Kaminsky and Mr. Whalen expressed further concerns in support of holding a Public Hearing. Mr. Kilmer stated they would take in under consideration.

Mr. Reynolds requested an update of the results of the survey when they are available.

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Keibel. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.