



Copyright © 2011 Mid-Hudson News Network, a division of Statewide News Network, Inc.

**This story may not be reproduced in any form, by any media, without express written consent.**

This includes rewriting, broadcasting and/or printing of material from MidHudsonNews.com, by radio and television stations, newspapers or other media.

## Orange lawmakers start the process to sell Valley View

GOSHEN – The Orange County Legislature's Health and Mental Health Committee wasted no time Tuesday in proposing a resolution to, by way of the county



'For Sale' sign about to go up?

executive, hire a consultant to create a request for proposals that would allow them to sell or lease the Valley View nursing home. The motion won in a 4-3 vote.

This comes a day after the legislature approved a budget amendment that, in theory, will fund the facility for all of 2012, which still must be passed with the rest of the budget on December 1.

The decision to begin working on an RFP immediately came from the chairs of the committee, Michael Amo, and the legislature, Michael Pillmeier.

The proposal must be consistent with a Center for Governmental Research (CGR) report the county commissioned to determine the costs of running Valley View.

As with all other meetings involving the facility, talks became divisive as a contingent of committee members believed this act would diminish their input and have a negative impact on union morale.

Democrat Christopher Eachus said in the meeting that he was unwilling to "release any more power to an outside source," and that he wanted the "committee to select a consultant," rather than the county executive. He said consultants and costs ought to be examined before putting out an RFP.

Eachus and Legislator Myrna Kemnitz thought it put the workers in an unfair position, as they've yet to even sit down to decide how to meet the \$3 million in concessions required in the 2012 budget amendment, but to Amo and Pillmeier, this was just a way of keeping other options on the table.

Wednesday  
November 16, 2011

HOME

[Weather Forecast](#)



"This legislature should be on a dual-track," said Pillmeier.

"What we voted on yesterday may not work; there's a big question mark about that. So I want the other option sitting right alongside of me if I have to make a decision," he said.

The resolution needs 11 votes to pass on December 1, and with four already in the bag, Pillmeier is confident that it will move through.

"I could appreciate Mr. Eachus' questions, but this'll be my third RFP. I'm not an expert, but with the help of my staff and the county attorney, I don't think we're going to leave out what we really want to do," Pillmeier said.

CSEA President William Oliphant was not as happy about the implications of it.

"If it really is to support a sale of Valley View, what does that do in fact for the establishment of a labor management committee that would hope to reduce costs and implement a long-term plan to keep Valley View county owned and operated?"

Oliphant said the message that it sends "really is very negative."

---

HEAR today's news on [MidHudsonRadio.com](http://MidHudsonRadio.com), the Hudson Valley's *only* Internet radio news report.

[HOME](#)