

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: February 2, 2023 – 5:15PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Chelsea, Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano, Uchitelle,
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Phil Erner; District Attorney Dave Clegg, Sheriff Juan Figueroa, Acting Probation Director Valerie Naccarato, Emergency Services Director Everett Erichsen, Rebecca Rojer – County Executive’s Office, Legislative Counsel Chris Ragucci

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 5:15PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the December 8, 2022 Meeting of the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee**

Motion by: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded by: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None. Hearing none, Chair Walter called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None.
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the February 14, 2023 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 6: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2023, A Local Law To Allow Enrolled Volunteer Firefighters And Volunteer Ambulance Workers To Be Eligible For A Real Property Tax Exemption Under Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) § 466-a, To Be Held On Tuesday, March 14, 2023 At 7:10 PM

Resolution Summary: Sets a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2023, which expands eligibility of volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers for a 10% real property tax exemption.

Motion No. 2: **Moved for DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: Legislator Uchitelle expressed support for volunteer first responders, and stated that more support for volunteers is needed. Legislator Fabiano expressed support for the resolution and stated that adoption could attract younger people's membership, as many local organizations are struggling with that. Chair Walter recognized Director Erichsen to provide more information on the adoption of §466 by local municipalities to be enacted. Chair Walter inquired about what steps are taken to inform local municipalities about the state law and what the existing exemption is at local levels. Director Erichsen explained that the Fire Association of the State of New York has been sharing this information with local fire departments that have been sharing it with their respective taxing districts. Legislator Hansut explained the required choice between a state income tax credit or a local property tax exemption and supported local municipalities' adoption of the law to offer the exemption more broadly. Chair Walter requested a list of local municipal bodies that have already adopted the law, and more information on local impacts. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Walter called the question.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes In Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 45: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$28,287.61, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – NDI Technologies Inc – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: \$28,287.61 contract amendment extending term an additional year for license plate reader support/maintenance. 100% county funded.

Motion No. 3: **Motion for DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: Legislator Uchitelle inquired about the type of cameras the resolution covers. Sheriff Figueroa explained that these are fixed license plate readers with records that are kept for 3 years and can only be accessed by law enforcement for criminal investigations. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Walter called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 46: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$28,290.48, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Motorola Solutions Inc. – Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: \$28,290.48 contract amendment extending term through June 2023 for repair and support of 911 system. 100% county funded.

Motion No. 4: **Moved for DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: None. Hearing none Chair Walter called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 47: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement And Any Amendments Thereto, With The New York State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Services For Domestic Terrorism Prevention Grant – Department Of Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: Agreement with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the State Homeland Security Program Domestic Terrorism Prevention, in the amount of \$172,413.00. Program will support operation threat assessment and management teams. 100% state.

Motion No. 5: **Moved for DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: Chair Walter recognized Director Erichsen to provide background on this state grant, including the state’s intention to increase local preparation for and proactivity against domestic terrorism. Chair Walter inquired about how protections of undocumented immigrants are affected by this agreement. Director Erichsen indicated that this funding will inform school districts and religious facilities about measures to prevent a mass tragedy. Legislator Hewitt made a point to discuss the focusing of the definition of “domestic terrorists” to people who cause harm and violence to individuals and communities, not activists. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Walter called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 48: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services Funding Of A Gun Violence Grant And Amending the 2023 Ulster County Budget – District Attorney

Resolution Summary: Resolution to accept grant award of \$50,000 from State Division of Criminal Justice Services. Will be used to provide therapeutic intervention/support to those subject to, engaging in or susceptible to gun violence in our community as well as afterschool youth programs for at risk students. 100% state.

Motion No. 6: **Moved for DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Hewitt

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None. Hearing none, Chair Walter called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 49: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – National Network For Safe Communities – District Attorney

Resolution Summary: \$100,000 contract with The National Network for Safe Communities to provide ongoing guidance and technical support to the implementation of the Initiate Partner Violence Intervention program. 100% federally funded.

Motion No. 7: **Moved for DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: Legislator Uchitelle inquired about what guidance National Network for Safe Communities performs within this contract. District Attorney Clegg explained that this organization provides trainings and expertise in “focused deterrence” and monitoring of intimate partner violence statistics. Legislator Uchitelle requested a summary of what focused deterrence involves to better understand what the engagement points are with the community. Chair Walter inquired about what percentage of the federal funding is provided to the National Network and what percentage the county keeps. DA Clegg explained that 70% of the funding goes to local law enforcement for the services provided, and to eventually hire a trauma-informed individual to work with the program. Hearing no further discussion, the Chair called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 50: Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Revise Compensation Of A Current Part-Time Investigator Position To A Full-Time Investigator Position – District Attorney

Resolution Summary: Salary adjustment to reclassify from PT to FTE investigator. \$29,231 to \$56,839.00 (with benefits) to accommodate increased hours.

Motion No. 8: **Moved for DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: Legislator Uchitelle requested more information on this request and inquired about the workload of the proposed full-time investigator. DA Clegg explained that the new location of his office requires additional security, and that the position would have an adequate workload. Chair Walter asked if a security officer would be enough to meet security needs, to which DA Clegg responded that a full-time investigator is more cost-effective. Chair Walter requested a security assessment of the existing DA office to determine how security needs are best met. Legislator Fabiano asked what is being done about security in the meantime. At the request of Chair Walter, Sheriff Figueroa provided that security guards must be licensed by the state, do a safety assessment, review camera footage and check IDs. Legislators Fabiano and Hansut stated their support for the full-time investigator position. Legislator Hewitt requested a comparison between a security officer and an investigator to do the best for the office of the District Attorney. Legislator Uchitelle stated his support for the office of the DA to be moved to a better-suited space. Chair Walter stated her concern about a full-time investigator also working on security, and the need to discuss this with a Deputy Executive. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Walter called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle
Voting Against: Legislator Walter
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 51: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract Amendment With The New York State Office Of Indigent Legal Services For Distribution #10 – Public Defender’s Office

Resolution Summary: Extension of NYS OILS Distribution No. 10 through 12/31/23. Originally expired 12/31/22. \$440,544 State dollars.

Motion No. 9: **Motion for DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: Chair Walter requested that this resolution be sent to Deputy Executive Kelly to identify what cap costs could be covered. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Walter called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. 74: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 11 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending Chapter 166 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster Providing For The Administration And Enforcement Of The New York State Uniform Fire Prevention And Building Code

Resolution Summary: Adopts Proposed Local Law No. 11 of 2022.

Motion No. 10: **Motion for DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: Legislator Uchitelle expressed gratitude to Legislator Corcoran for his assistance in crafting this resolution. Hearing no further discussion, Chair Walter called the question.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Fabiano Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Chair Walter discussed visions for the committee for the next year, including a refined restorative justice plan, food preparation training and outdoor preparation for incarcerated people, an active re-entry program, an EMS efficiency study, and the operation of CAP court as her own. Deputy Chair Hansut expressed interest in working on Veterans Court. Legislator Uchitelle expressed interest in an active space for agencies to meet and train, outdoor space for the jail, updates of EMS and ambulatory services, and concern for Life Support Services billing practices. Legislator Fabiano expressed concern about the District Attorney's office space. Legislator Hewitt expressed concern for increasing gardening and outdoor opportunities for incarcerated persons.

Chair Walter requested updates by department heads on mentioned priorities where appropriate.

Sheriff Figueroa provided an update on current events, and expressed that in the position he holds, it is not proper to comment on local active judicial cases. DA Clegg explained what legal proceedings took place in recent local current events. The Sheriff explained that he has attended meetings with other law enforcement officials to prepare for possible civil unrest.

DA Clegg stated that Veterans Court is in process, to which Chair Walter requested confirmation.

Director Erichsen stated that EMS has a contract to do an efficiency study before June, and that he has a plan to provide a monthly report to the Chair.

Chair Walter asked the members if there was any other business. Hearing none:

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:18PM

Respectfully Submitted: Chelsea Villalba, Legislative Employee
Approved: March 2, 2023