

**Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: September 7, 2023 – 3:00 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst, Lizvett Bost, Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Deputy Chair Hansut, Legislators Levine (came in at 3:03PM, was not here to approve the minutes) and Stewart
ABSENT: Legislator Maloney
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Bowen, Erner, Petit and Roberts, Legislative Counsel Gordon – Ulster County Legislature, Deputy County Executives LaValle – Ulster County Executive’s Office, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA), Ted Griese – Kingston Land Trust & Ulster County Environmental Management Counsel, Timothy Degraff (UCRRA), Executive Director Melissa Everett – Sustainable Hudson Valley, Ulster County Department of Environment, Deputy Director Europa McGovern – Ulster County Department Of Environment, Chair Andrew Ghiorse – Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA)

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM

Motion No. 1: **Motion to APPROVE the Minutes of the August 3, 2023 Regular and August 29, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Chair Greene, Legislators Hansut and Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 3

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **MINUTES APPROVED**

Resolutions for the September 19, 2023 Legislative Session:

Resolution No. 386 – Requesting Enactment Of A Senate Bill And Assembly Bill In The New York State Legislature To Amend Membership Of The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

Resolution Summary: This Resolution requests an enactment of a Senate and Assembly Bill to amend the membership of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

Motion No. 2: **Moved Resolution No. 386 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: None

Motion No. 3: **Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 386**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels was not in attendance, so it was agreed to postpone Resolution No. 386

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine & Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 433 – Urging The Governments Of The State Of New York And The United States Of America To Establish Fossil-Fuel-Free State And Federal Public Transportation Services

Resolution Summary: This is a memorializing resolution which urges the governments of New York State and the United States of America to establish fossil-fuel-free state and federal public transportation services upon all state and federal roads.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 433 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: Chair Greene recognized Legislator Erner, sponsor of the resolution, to discuss the last minute changes on this resolution. The first phase was objections to the fossil fuel-free aspect of the resolution to the second set of changes are mostly changes in the resolved version. Legislator Hansut thought it would be a lot to go over it at this meeting and suggested postponement to have time to review and go through all the changes and discuss again at next meeting.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 433**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine & Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 526 – Approving the Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$31,094.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Livingston Energy Group, LLC – Department of Environment

Resolution Summary: The Ulster County Legislature has reviewed and granted approval for a contract amendment. The amendment will be accepted in its original form as submitted to the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature or with potential modifications endorsed by the County Attorney and Legislative Counsel.

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 526 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Levine

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: Director McGovern stated they have a contract with Livingston Energy Services, to install electric vehicle charging stations at the restorative justice center at the end of Broadway. This contract amendment increases the number of chargers that will be installed at that site. This is also including the installation of chargers at behind Development Court.

Chair Greene asked what was the relationship between Livingston Energy Group and Charge Point, Director McGovern said it's a complicated network of different charging station vendors and host networks. Charge Point is an existing Network in the County & Livingston is a newer network in the County that is separate of equipment. Cloud base systems require that little RFID card you have on your hearing or an app on your phone, so Livingston app is a Charge Point app and their not compatible.

Legislator Stewart asked which networks is it compatible with, Director McGovern said that is was compatible with EV Connect, which is another network equivalent of Charge Point, these are the two largest network.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 527 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$317,949.00 Entered Into By The County – GRNE-Nelnet, LLC D/B/A GRNE Solar – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Resolution Summary: The Ulster County Legislature has examined the contract, and hereby approves the contract in the form as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature or as modified with the approval of the County Attorney and Legislative Counsel

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 527 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: Speaker explained this resolution will fund the installation of about 180 Kilowatt rooftop PV solar array on the Hall of Records, some of the initial work that was done to identify roofs that were suitable in the most efficient uses of space for solar identified Hall of Records. This is the construction of that facility.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine & Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 548 – Requesting The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (RRA) Terminate Further Landfill Feasibility Studies

Resolution Summary: The Ulster County Legislature request that the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board of Directors terminate all landfill feasibility studies immediately and cease from doing any studies in the future.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 548 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: Legislator Roberts said when the request report came out and there was a debate on the Plattekill Landfill, There was talk about getting a stake holders involved and that was including County Executive, the Town Supervisor , the town boards and neighboring counties to do something on a joint venture regional effect. Legislator Roberts also stated that they also have to look ahead to 2025 where the contract renews and doesn't know what that contract will look like. Legislator Stewart agreed with Legislator Roberts on that more input is needed from other groups and sources.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut
Voting Against: Legislators, Greene, Levine, Stewart
Votes in Favor: 1
Votes Against: 3
Disposition: **RESOLUTION DEFEATED**

Resolution No. 549 - Establishing the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) Reform Committee

Resolution Summary: That the Legislature establishes a special committee, known as the UCRRA Reform Committee, to investigate circumstances surrounding UCRRA operations and policies and recommend reform measures to the Legislature.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 549 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: Counsel Gordon answered questions from the Committee.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Levine & Stewart

Voting Against: Legislator Greene

Votes in Favor: 3

Votes Against: 1

Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 550 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes Agreement With Professional Commercial Group, LLC For Solar Energy Systems Pursuant To Real Property Tax Law Section 487

Resolution Summary: This resolution grants authorization to the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Agreement with Professional Commercial Group, LLC for Solar Energy Systems in accordance with Real Property Tax Law Section 487.

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 550 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Levine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: Chair Greene mentioned that there is a payment in lieu of taxes arrangement concerning solar energy, which operates contrary to our common understanding. This can be viewed as a reverse pilot program. In this setup, when an incentive is provided, it reduces the taxes for the recipients, who are contributing to the community by providing jobs and other benefits. Essentially, this approach ensures that companies, which are already tax-exempt, contribute their fair share towards taxes.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Levine & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 552 – Establishing A Policy To Replace Conventional Toilets With Composting Toilets At County Facilities

Resolution Summary: Develop a plan for the replacement of conventional toilets with composting toilets. This initiative will start with outdoor public facilities and prioritize their conversion.

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 552 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: Legislator Erner requested a postponement of Resolution No. 552 due to having a few other meetings with Public Works Commissioner, Environment Department and Health and others.

Legislator Stewart still would like to discuss the Resolution even if it will be postponed. Legislator Stewart certainly see this as being super valuable at places where there is currently portal potties type situation set up. This would actually replace actual flooded toilets in parks and elsewhere. Discussion ensued.

MOTION NO. 12: **MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION NO. 552**

Motion By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

DISCUSSION: NONE

VOTING IN FAVOR: LEGISLATORS GREENE, HANSUT, LEVINE & STEWART

VOTING AGAINST: NONE

VOTES IN FAVOR: 4

VOTES AGAINST: 0

DISPOSITION: RESOLUTION POSTPONED

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:10 PM

Respectfully submitted: Lizvett Bost

Minutes Approved: October 5, 2023