

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: November 3, 2020 – 5:15pm
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom / Dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 960 0699 2266
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman James Delaune
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw
PRESENT: Deputy Chair Thomas Corcoran, Legislators Peter Criswell, John Parete, Mary Wawro* [*arrived 5:22pm], Chairman David Donaldson* [arrived 5:43pm]
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Dr. Alan Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster
Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster
Mark Cozzupoli, Director, Ulster County Veteran Services Agency

Chairman Delaune called the meeting to order at 5:15pm

Motion No 1: Moved to Approve the Minutes of the October 6, 2020 Meeting

Motion By: Deputy Chair Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Minutes Approved

Motion No. 1 Moved to approved the meeting minutes of October 6, 2020

SUNY Ulster Update : **Dr. Alan Roberts, President**
SUNY Ulster
Refer to annexed transcript

SUNY Ulster Administrative Update: **Jamie Capuano,**
Vice President for Administrative Services,
SUNY Ulster
Refer to annexed transcript

2021 Budget Review:

**Ulster County Veteran Services Agency by
Mark Cozzupoli, Director**
Refer to annexed transcript

[Mark Cozzupoli departs meeting / 5:30pm]

Resolutions for November 3, 2020 Session:

Resolution No. 382 – Authorizing An Intermunicipal Agreement For Consulting Services For Procurement Of Goods And Services Between The County Of Ulster And The SUNY Ulster – SUNY Ulster

Resolution Summary: This is a shared service contract between the college and the county for purchasing services.

Motion By: Deputy Chair Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Motion No. 2 **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 382**

[President Roberts and VP Capuano depart meeting / 5:34pm]

Resolution No. 426 – Amending The Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations – Ulster County Legislature

Motion for Discussion By: Legislator Wawro
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Motion No. 3 **Moved to discuss Resolution No. 426**
Refer to annexed transcript

Motion to Take No Action By: Legislator Criswell

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Parete

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: No Action Taken on Resolution No. 426

Motion No. 4 **Moved to Take No Action on Resolution No. 426**
Refer to annexed transcript

New Business

None

Chairman Delaune asked if there was any old business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion By: Legislator Parete

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell

Voting in Favor: Legislators Delaune, Corcoran, Criswell, Parete, Wawro

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Motion approved

Motion No. 5 **Moved to Adjourn**

[Adjourned / 6:00pm]

Respectfully submitted: Jerry Sheehan, Assistant to VP for Academic Affairs & VP for Enrollment Management, SUNY Ulster

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee
Transcript**

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ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Dr. Alan Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster
Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster
Mark Cozzupoli, Director, Ulster County Veteran Services Agency

Chairman Delaune:

And so, welcome, everyone. Thanks for being here on Election Night. Jerry, would you like to the attendance, please?

Jerry Sheehan:

Sure. Chairman Delaune?

Chairman Delaune:

Here.

Jerry Sheehan:

Deputy Chair Corcoran?

Deputy Chair Corcoran:

Here.

Jerry Sheehan:

Legislator Criswell?

Legislator Criswell:

Here.

Jerry Sheehan:
Legislator Parete?

Legislator Parete:
Here.

Jerry Sheehan:
Legislator Wawro? (Not present at time of roll call)

Chairman Delaune:
All right. Can I have a motion to approve the minutes and transcripts of the October 6 meeting?

Deputy Chair Corcoran:
I'll make that motion; Corcoran.

Legislator Criswell:
I'll second it.

Chairman Delaune:
Thank you. All in favor?

Committee Members:
Aye.

Chairman Delaune:
All right. Dr. Roberts, you're on.

Dr. Alan Roberts:
Well, I hope everyone's doing well. We opened our registration on the 26th. It's coming in steadily. And we were down 8% for the fall semester, which we anticipated. We know there'd be challenges. But we're looking, we're getting better at what we're doing. And we got a pretty good system designed for delivery. We've got eight different modalities that I think Jerry [Sheehan] knows very well; he's worked with Kevin [Kevin R. Stoner, VP for Academic Affairs, SUNY Ulster] in putting these together. And it's a.. where a student, now the registers is going to understand what the delivery method will be, to the very specific, if they'd have to come to class, whether it's going to be video, synchronous, asynchronous. So, we spent a lot of time in the fall getting this right. But we're hoping things turn around in the spring. One good note, though, we were recognized as the Business of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce, but really was a surprise. And that was a nice event. We did that via Zoom. And, you know, it was nice to be recognized in that way. We have

a... Jamie will cover some things tonight as far as testing. Testing is probably been the most challenging, because SUNY system has changed the requirements. Relatively, on a daily basis. You know, we got one Monday, then this morning, we got another one, another update. And we have to test everyone who comes on campus every other week. And it's pretty painless. You know, they do pool testing, which means 12, people get tested in one test. And if the pool comes out negative, or positive, they then have the individual swabs and they can test each one individually to find out who was positive or if a couple were. So, we've gone through a couple rounds of that and everything's come out fine, those they've all been negative. But we expect as the fall semester continues to get more challenging. So, we're going to keep that up. And I'll turn it over to Jamie and she'll give you a little more details in regard to the testing and some of the other challenges and some finances... a black screen, but you're going to see... you won't see her.

Jamie Capuano:

Yeah, I'm sorry, my camera suddenly stopped working. So, we'll work with IT on that front. But as Dr. Roberts said, we are doing the pooled COVID testing. So far, we've done about 200 to 250 tests for the pool testing. What's really unique and pretty amazing about the pool testing approach, As Dr. Al said, it's 10 to 12 individuals in the pool. That pool is then run by SUNY Upstate Medical. And then SUNY Upstate Medical takes the individual swabs and will rerun those in the event of a positive pool. That dramatically reduces the downtime between a positive pool identified and an individual diagnostic test. And that's really important for us, and for our campus community, as we look at our students, we don't want them to be unnecessarily quarantined, if they are not the individual positive within that pool. So, that will impact obviously their work impact school. So, it was really important for us to work with Upstate Medical and make sure that that turnaround is very quick. Upstate Medical is turning the test around to us within 24 to 48 hours. So, they're keeping up with the test, you know, logistics, as they outlined, which has been fantastic. We are required to do 100% of our on-site student population the week before Thanksgiving. And then we will be doing it again the week before the December holidays. This is really to make sure that our on-site student population aren't bringing COVID out to other communities, to other family members who they may be visiting.

This feels more like a four-year college model where the students are in dorms and then they're all going back home. But we also have to recognize and be cognizant that our students are traveling, our students may be going to visit friends and family afar, or maybe having friends and family come to visit them. So, it is a really good approach, we were in support of making sure that all of our students get tested during those time periods. We are also going to be deploying re-entry testing. So this will be testing for students as they come back on site for spring. Again, we're looking at a model. And I know Kevin [Kevin R. Stoner, VP for Academic Affairs, SUNY Ulster] and Jerry [Sheehan] are running lots of numbers determine our on-site population potentials for spring. But students who are coming on site for any face to face components, such as lab components, clinical components, those students would be required to be tested within three to five days of reentry to campus. So, we'll be gearing up for another testing round as we start back

up in spring. And again, this is really important as we look at what's happening in our county and our country to make sure that we're staying on top of the testing, and that we make sure our students are safe on site.

Dr. Alan Roberts:

Needless to say, it's been a very overwhelming endeavor for us to jump into something this without having the resources. And I want to give kudos to Jamie. Jamie spends probably 14 hours a day ensuring it is done properly. So, she did an outstanding job.

Jamie Capuano:

A quick update on finance side. We are still in a pause situation. The state has not announced if they will, if they will... sorry, if they will provide the 20% from the fourth quarter from the prior year yet.. And they still have not announced if there will be an official state aid reduction for the for this fiscal year. Again, everything is very contingent on what happens tonight and this week. And we're all in a pause pattern awaiting hopefully some guidance from the state. And obviously, depending on what happens in the federal election, if there will be a state bailout package. So, all of that is contingent upon the state and the division of budget has not yet announced their production plan.

Chairman Delaune:

Okay. Well, welcome Mary (Legislator Mary Wawro arrives / 5:22pm).

Legislator Wawro:

Hi.

Chairman Delaune:

And, you'll have to turn down your volume down on the phone, I think.

Legislator Wawro:

I need to turn the other phone off.

Chairman Delaune:

Thank you, Jamie.

Jamie Capuano:

Absolutely.

Chairman Delaune:

Any questions? [None]. If you two [Dr. Roberts and Jamie Capuano] wouldn't mind...hang out for a bit. You can comment upon resolution 382 for us.

Jamie Capuano:

Sure.

Chairman Delaune:

So, great. So, I'll move over to Veteran Services Agency Director Mark Cozzupoli.

Mark Cozzupoli:

Yes.

Chairman Delaune:

Welcome, Mark.

Mark Cozzupoli:

Thank you. Hello, everybody.

Chairman Delaune:

So, you're here to speak to us with respect to, I guess, your review?

Mark Cozzupoli:

Yes. So, you see what that 2021 Executive recommendation is. And, you know, that's the budget, we're requesting to continue performing all the services that we provide for our veterans. Everything from helping them with simple benefits and paperwork, to dealing with veterans in crisis to present either with in home... presents homelessness, or present with addictions, and things of that nature. So, we cover pretty much the full gamut, and as much as possible, to ensure that we can get the veterans to the best and safest place possible. And we're conduit to get those veterans connected to the resources that can truly help them and, and make sure that they're in a safe space. So, this is the first year that I'm doing this. I'm not sure exactly what else you would request of me. I'm here to answer any of your questions on the budget.

Chairman Delaune:

Does anyone have a question, by the way?

Legislator Parete:

Yeah, you know, just a thought the Veterans home on Broadway. What kind of attendance do you have or the population?

Mark Cozzupoli:

We average about... weekly, we average about four veterans. You can you can have up to eight there. And we do have a house manager on site that's provided by Soldier On. Currently, we have three right now. But we're expecting two more to go in very shortly.

Legislator Parete:

Thank you.

Mark Cozzupoli:

We're never over... we're never continuously riding with eight, which is, is really good. It is positive, obviously, but it's also good that we always have space available for those last second needs, you know that maybe present on Friday, five o'clock.

Legislator Parete:

Good. Thank you.

Mark Cozzupoli:

You're welcome.

Legislator Criswell:

I have a quick question.

Mark Cozzupoli:

Sure.

Legislator Criswell:

Has there been any uptick in services with COVID?

Mark Cozzupoli:

Not necessarily the COVID. No. The ramifications of COVID, I think affects veterans the same way as it does the rest of our citizens. You know, with just with work, paying bills, and things of that nature. I think there is certainly an uptick there, but nothing that's more at a higher percentage per se, then your average citizen.

Chairman Delaune:

Okay, I believe it was at the last meeting, there was a question with respect to the Veterans Home and why it was... it was only for males. And we're just wondering what, what happens in the event that there's a female veteran in crisis?

Mark Cozzupoli:

I did... I read that in the minutes. So, I was going to bring that up myself. But thank you. So yeah, that the Patriot house project there it is for males only because it is a community living environment. And it's not a safe place, potentially for a female veteran. Because even though we're doing background checks, and we're doing our best to ensure that these are veterans that have that are on the uptick, or turned the corner, or need to transitional home. It's not in the contract, it's not something Soldier On would want to manage, and it's not something we would be comfortable with. However, with female veterans, which we've had a couple, even recently, we have other organizations that we have as resources to help place all veterans. And we do male and female, West COP is one of them. And Soldier On is the other. So, if a female veteran comes to the office, we do their background check, we see what their eligibility is as a veteran. And then we can contact one of those organizations, because they're both granted, granted through the state SSVF fund. And then they can place them for up to 30 days. And then we can get it continued on after the 30 days if necessary. But, so we have an immediate emergency housing for any veteran. It's just, you know, females not in the Patriot House.

Chairman Delaune:

Mark, are the females placed in Ulster County?

Mark Cozzupoli:

When we can get them in Ulster, yes. Sometimes they end up in Newburgh or some places in Orange, but also in Saugerties; the Winton Inn has been one of them, and the Super 8. But we try to keep them as close to Kingston as possible. Because, you know, we want them to be able to get to us, and us to get to them, you know, for to help them with additional resources. That's just the start. Once we get them in the place to stay, then we you know, we try to take it from there to get them back on their feet.

Chairman Delaune:

Thank you. Any other questions? [None]. All right. Well, Mark, I appreciate your stopping by and filling us in.

Mark Cozzupoli:

Thank you. Appreciate everybody's time. Have a good evening.

Chairman Delaune:

You too.

Nettie Tomshaw:

Thanks Mark. (Mark Cozzupoli dearts meeting / 5:30pm)

Chairman Delaune:

All right, we'll move on to resolutions. Resolution Number 382: Authorizing An Intermunicipal Agreement For Consulting Services For Procurement Of Goods And Services Between The County Of Ulster And The SUNY Ulster – SUNY Ulster. Jamie, you want to handle this?

Jamie Capuano:

Absolutely. So, this is a shared service contract with between the college and the county. This is for purchasing services. So, this is something that I spoke about through my budget presentation. And our board is very excited to enter into this agreement with the county. This will really work... through this we'll be working with the county on all procurement. The county, as you know has an amazing purchasing department run by Ed Jordon. We'll be working with Ed on procurement. This will also enable us to do more bid pricing and to include some of our bid specs into the county's bid specs to reduce the cost of items on a per unit basis. Again, we're mostly purchasing the same thing paper pen supplies. The county goes out for bid for those items and has a whole list of items that are just on the commodity bid pricing market. So we'll be working with Purchasing Department to take advantage of some of that. And also working with Ed and his team for their expertise in purchasing. We had a vacancy in our purchasing director, who resigned a couple... about a year ago. And that created the opportunity for us to really rethink how we're doing purchasing. And really think about strategic and unique ways that we can get purchasing done. And it made sense to start conversations with the county at that point.

SUNY is very excited by this proposal. They're really working with all of the community colleges on shared services, and really starting all of the community colleges to think through what opportunities are out there. So SUNY is very excited to see how this works out with us with purchasing. We are I think, the only Community College at this point who has entered into a shared service agreement with their county for purchasing.

Dr. Alan Roberts:

It'd be a great savings for us. We're really excited about it. It just makes so much.

Chairman Delaune:

Great. Well, do I have a motion? Any questions?

Legislator Parete:

Do you do that for insurance? Doctor?

Dr. Alan Roberts:

We don't. But that's we're looking at everything. Right now. We're looking at technology. We're looking at insurance. We're looking at even, you know, plowing the roads. We're duplicating so much for no reason at all. But Jamie, this is our first step, our toe in the water. And it looks like it's going to go well. So, there'll be more coming down the line, on the line.

Legislator Criswell:

I just had a quick question. On one thing, I probably could have seen it in the contract. But is it a calendar year contract? Or is it on your fiscal year? Or what's the what's the terms in that?

Jamie Capuano:

So, this is going to start on the calendar basis. We are currently working with the county already on some of this. So, there might be a little bit of an overlap. But we're aiming for the calendar year approach.

Legislator Criswell:

Great. And it's renewable annually.

Jamie Capuano:

Yep. So we worked with Ed a bit on that at this point, since we're, we're diving in kind of sight unseen, we don't know exactly how much time the county is going to need to put towards us, to assist us in purchasing, and how much we're going to need them. So, we base this on an approximation of hours, and obviously, on the salaries of the staff within the department. And then we're going to reevaluate this as we get up to the renewal cycle to see kind of how is it going? Is it more time than we thought it would be? Is it less time than we thought it would be? To kind of have that open dialogue.

Legislator Criswell:

So we'll see this again next year?

Jamie Capuano:

You will, yeah. (Laughter).

Legislator Criswell:

Thank you.

Chairman Delaune:

That's very exciting.

Jamie Capuano:

Yeah.

Legislator Delaune:

Yeah. All right. So, do I have a motion?

Deputy Chair Corcoran:

I'll make that motion; Corcoran.

Legislator Criswell:

I'll second that.

Chairman Delaune:

Very good. All in favor?

Committee Members:

Aye.

Chairman Delaune:

Great. Well, thank you both. Enjoy your evening.

Jamie Capuano:

Thank you. You too.

Deputy Chair Corcoran:

Thank you.

Jamie Capuano:

Bye everyone.

Chairman Delaune:

Bye now. (Dr. Roberts and Jamie Capuano depart meeting / 5:34pm) Resolution Number 426: Amending The Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations – Ulster County Legislature. Get a motion on this.

Legislator Wawro:

I'll move it.

Chairman Delaune:

A second?

Legislator Criswell:

I'll second it.

Chairman Delaune:

Any discussion?

Legislator Criswell:

I had a question. I brought something up. This has been cooking now for a little while. Right? I remember I brought something up regarding, specifically the language in this says that these non-county entities have to be nonprofit organizations. I don't know if you guys remember, but I brought up the idea that there are social benefit companies that are not necessarily nonprofit organizations. And I was wondering how that kind of would play into this conversation. Remember, I talked about B corporations. And there's actually several legal entities that are kind of hybrids now of the nonprofit model. So, they're not they're not technically 501(c)3s, but they still are... the mission is the same, they are social benefit. There's just a different structure. Do you remember me bringing this up when this came up, initially?

Chairman Delaune:

Be honest with you, I don't. I would guess an entity like that would be referred, according to this language, right to Ways and Means. That this resolution only speaks to these few organization under our purview.

Legislator Criswell:

Okay.

Legislator Parete:

Well, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Delaune:

Please.

Legislator Parete:

Explain it to me a little bit, under your purview, because this appears to be a change that these contract agencies, or program agencies, will no longer come to you, except for the few that are mentioned in the resolution. Is that correct?

Legislator Delaune:

That's how it appears. Yes. And I think these specific ones, as a result of a previous resolution, which we somehow all discussed and voted upon...

Legislator Parete:

Well, I didn't know it was permanent. I know I voted no. But it...., Mr. Chairman. I mean, because they're, you're kind of eviscerating this committee. And I understand that the Ways and Means get the brightest and the best of us, I know that. But I mean, I'm looking at the list. And what happens if the Shadowland in Ellenville wants something? Or Frost Valley (YMCA) up in the mountains? Or the Shandaken Theatrical Society in Mount Tremper Arts? The Marbletown Historic? They all

go right to Ways and Means and they don't come to be vetted by this committee anymore? I mean, I can I can go on and list the Kerhonkson Rescue Squad, the Boys and Girls Club of Kingston, right? They will no... So in other words, the Ways and Means will be taking over. Why don't they just take everything over then?

Chairman Delaune:

I mean, I think they did, John. And we're at least getting these back.

Legislator Parete:

See... to see the...

Chairman Delaune:

Maybe that's a fight for the future.

Legislator Parete:

Well, the resolution where they moved it was theoretically because of the pandemic, even though they never did a thing toward, for instance, in the highlighted contract for the, for the college. The purpose of disagreeing with the...the Department or the County. Well, the legislators are a branch. Are they using due diligence? There are 1,700, or there about, not for profits in Ulster County? Are they going out and finding which ones could offer the best services for what they're doing? I haven't seen anything like that. Some folks seem like they come back year after year, because they're friends of friends. I mean, I will vote... I guess you're telling me that the vote the last year, in March or whatever it was, to transfer it over, was a permanent thing, not just for this year?

Chairman Delaune:

Yes. And I don't think it was last year. I think it was more recent than that. It might have been...

Legislator Parete:

Well, last year, but you know, listen, March was last year already. Okay? (Laughter)

Chairman Delaune:

Yeah....

Legislator Parete:

I mean, what they... I did not know, I was under the assumption, I guess, I didn't read it accurately enough that because of the pandemic and what to do, and that... they would bring it to them. So why don't we just seed it all to them? I mean, that's one part of the business that the committee could close down. I'm asking it rhetorically, because I don't have enough information on this to vote "Yes." Why would we want only, you know, the Arts, Bardavon, Cornell Cooperative, Dispute Resolution Center, and not Shadowland from Ellenville, not Frost Valley? Let's say the

Olive First Aid or Rescue Squad or the Fire Department need a new vehicle because people fall down on the rail trail and break their leg and they don't have the cash for it? That would not go to us anymore. That goes only... So, why keep these then? I don't understand the rationale behind why we would want these? Just let them do it.

Chairman Delaune:

I don't disagree with you, John. It is disappointing.

Legislator Parete:

Well, I think we should fight it then if you're disappointed, and I'll stick with you.

Chairman Delaune:

All right....Mary?

Legislator Wawro:

Well, I feel that was Ways and Means all of these... all these different organizations are only you're allowed, like, five minutes to present. And we, basically, have a history, and a good background on how the programs are. So I..

Chairman Delaune:

You're right. You're right.

Legislator Parete:

Yeah, but to do it right, there's a 990 form. You got to know where their funding stream is coming from. How much do they pay in taxes? Do are they are they totally tax exempt? What's the benefit? The basic strength of it? What if some of them have some taxable entity? They're there in other words, they're getting paid by taxes. You're getting their funding. And I don't, I mean, I guess it doesn't matter to me, but it certainly seems like something's wrong when they don't include, and nobody, in the years I've been around, have gone out and solicited for youths. For anybody else than this little group that comes out. And you get it again, I'll go back Shadowland Theater, a Frost Valley where they have 50 to 75 employees and bring youth and young people and others from around Ulster County and around the state. And I could, I could go on and list a whole bunch of people now. Again, I'll repeat it the best and the brightest, I guess they're on the Ways and Means and maybe the rest of us don't have a... we can't process it out. But I just I don't understand the purpose behind them. Let me read the resolution. Jim, I'm sorry, I missed..No, that's okay.

Chairman Delaune:

I'd like to hear Peter.

Legislator Criswell:

I have to agree with John on this. I feel like this committee has a very long name. And we should encompass all the different components that this name holds. And so, why limited to a handful of programs? I don't really understand that.

Chairman Delaune:

All right.

Nettie Tomshaw:

The Chairman just joined us. (Chairman David Donaldson enters meeting / 5:43pm)

Chairman Delaune:

What's that?

Nettie Tomshaw:

Chairman Donaldson is here.

Chairman Delaune:

Oh, good. Dave.

Chairman Donaldson:

Yes.

Legislator Delaune:

Thanks for stopping by. There's been discussion with respect to this resolution regarding Legislative Programs and why the programs under our purview are now limited to just these few. When, in fact, there are many organizations out there. And we would then be limited in any kind of action. So, just like to hear from you why it's just these few.

Chairman Donaldson:

What the few that are on there. What are they again?

Chairman Delaune:

They are Community Services Committee, Arts Mid-Hudson, Ulster County Action, Dispute Resolution Center and Family of Woodstock.

Chairman Donaldson:

Yeah, it should'nt be all the ones that we had previously.

Chairman Delaune:

I would agree with that. And I think John, Legislator Parete brought up, you know, an important point in that is that there are others out there, there's something like 1,600 nonprofits in Ulster County, that, you know, from time to time we might want to engage with, or to put out RFPs for. So, this resolution would, you know, restrict us from doing that.

Chairman Donaldson:

Well, right now, there is absolutely nothing going to the committee, isn't there? Right now, all the things went over the Ways and Means.

Chairman Delaune:

Correct.

Chairman Donaldson:

And so, the resolution was attempting to do, and maybe when I drew it up, I wasn't thinking that part of it out. But I drew it up to bring back the things back to Legislative Programs. And one of the problems I had was I got calls from a number of them, you know, the agencies that we deal with. And their concern was that they got five minutes to talk in Ways and Means and, you know, sort of in their concern that judgments are being made on that five minutes. When in fact, as you know, you've been on this committee for a while. And I've always served on that committee, you know, when I wasn't the Chairman, I've always served on a committee. And, you know, we will always, as you know, we have visited to various sites. Now, of course, this year for the newer members, they don't realize that because, you know, because of the COVID. But, you know, if it wasn't COVID, you would have probably had three or four visits already in various sites. Cornell Cooperative, I think, you know, over the last four years, I think we've visited maybe seven or eight times and actually probably six different programs. And we visited them you know, remember having a meeting at Community Action, having me know and those types of things that. So, we in this committee actually knows the ins and outs of what they're talking about. Whereas, and nothing against Ways and Means; they don't. And I believe it got past us the last time when it's was voted on. And they got sent over, which always means where's the ones that become the ones that oversee these agencies. And that was the which I, I got caught up, as you did, Jim, we didn't realize when they would put it in that that's what was added, you know, so we kind of thought that, Oh, sure. We love oversight. But then we didn't realize that what ended up happening is it basically gutted this committee, which, you know, like I said, this is the committee then really dwells into it, knows what they do. So, it should be the ones that recommends one way or the other.

Chairman Delaune:

I want to say, Legislator, Donaldson, that I appreciate, you're doing this on behalf of the committee. And at least, you know, attempting to get some of this back. But, you know, there are some holes in this that we're concerned about. So, maybe could you amend the current the resolution?

Chairman Donaldson:

You can amend it any way you wish. I would, I would agree with the amendment.

Legislator Parete:

May I?

Chairman Delaune:

Please.

Legislator Parete:

Dave, you know.... Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. I acknowledged that maybe I didn't read the resolution that it was a permanent thing. I believe I voted no, to transfer it over. But before you were here, and I won't go through the litany of good, non for profits. No, let's say they're all good. And to eviscerate this committee, where it's just absolutely incorrect. And I don't know, I don't know what the purpose was. The purpose. And, and in my own experience on this, I understand, but it seemed like it was snuck through, when maybe this little committee, as we sit here, had a disagreement about a couple of the non for profits to fund and I get that. But I don't know what the purpose was. So, if we're going to eviscerate the committee, do it all the way. Or, let's fight to get it back. And I say that with all respect to you, and to Chairman Jim, and the rest of the committee, if in fact, that's what they want to do. I mean, it's pretty tough to... I don't know how to vote on this.

Chairman Donaldson:

I think, I think if Jim, I mean, if you guys have amendments to it, I'm good with the amendments. My mindset was, I wanted to make sure this ended up getting back in this committee, so those items could be back into this committee. So, this committee could then, you know, gauge those by, you know, various agencies. And you know, what they do. And I think this is the committee that should do that. As you know, while you know, Legislator Corcoran, or Legislator Criswell has not been, you know, privy to the all the times, and we've gone to these various places. In fact, Mary Wawro served on Cornell Cooperative's, you know, on their Board. And we've always had a, you know, pretty intimate relationship with these various agencies. And we've, you know, we've cut them sometimes and added to them at points. But we're the ones that understand it. And, you know, for instance, with the arts, where the, you know, the people don't realize how we got to where we are with the arts, and now we got to where we are with the libraries. We got to where those were at... one time, when I first started serving get Dan Alfonzo. At the idea, he said that he wanted \$1 invested for every human being in Ulster County into libraries. So, that would have been a better honor and \$180,000. And we were at that point, and then you know, all hell let loose, you know, after the jail fiasco, with economy dropping, and all kinds of things, and we ended up cutting. But then we used to give to the libraries individually, each library got a certain amount.

And people didn't like that. But what we ended up doing is contracting with the Library Association. So, now all those programs at the Library Association puts online, anybody with a library card in Ulster County, can access those programs. Which individually the libraries would not be able to afford. For instance, I have a mechanic that fixes my.... well, I don't have the truck anymore, but at 1999 Mazda truck and he would go online and use the... what is it Chiltons? I think it's Chiltons.

Chairman Delaune:

Chilton's. Yeah.

Chairman Donaldson:

Well, the Association was a member of that. So he could actually use his library card and figure out what was wrong with my truck, which I thought was pretty cool. And then with the arts, we did a similar thing. And what we do is we have we have artists get together. They're the ones that decide who gets these various small grants, they're like, \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,000. And it's done by a library, I mean, an artists panel. And we put that together. That was back because these were done back in the, you know, mid 2000s, of 2007-2008. And we've always kept that because it really worked very well. Yes. Because before that we were, you know, Legislator would put in for let's give a little money here, a little money there. And it wasn't really working well, because, you know, the guy was a little more power was able to get his things funded, but then somebody new wouldn't be able to get any funding. So, this actually works for everybody. But we know that and I have to explain that every time when I deal with finance, because they don't follow it. They're not going to those places. You have... well, everybody except the two newer people, but they will let me once this thing breaks. This is actually is my favorite committee. Just so you know. I mean, I always enjoyed that serving on this committee, because it's, you know, no real controversy, we do good things. And it's just a nice committee to be a member of.

Chairman Delaune:

I agree with you. It's the it's the most bipartisan committee that you know, any of us I think serves on. But before I go to Peter, David, you were supposed to tell me about that pickup truck before you sold it. (Laughter). Peter?

Legislator Criswell:

Yes, I just I was going to say maybe we could just take no action on this for tonight. And then we could regroup and have a real conversation about this document and find out... because I totally agree with what John Parete is saying, Legislator Parete, I completely agree that it feels like we're being gutted. And that just doesn't seem right. I mean, we have a name, where it's Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services. Those are three major things that happen here in this county, and all of a sudden, poof, it's gone. So, I really think that we need to come back to

this, think about what's the mission of this of this committee? And what are we trying to do? And, and take back what, you know, not in an aggressive way. But in a A way we are charged to do. And so therefore, we should be doing it. So I'd like to suggest that we take no action on this. If that's an appropriate measure, Chairman?

Chairman Delaune:

I'm fine with that.

Legislator Parete:

I'll second that. I'll second that motion.

Chairman Delaune:

I guess the other thing we could do is to put subsitute language in here, that is more open ended.

Legislator Criswell:

I haven't read it through these eyes. And I would really like the time to sit and really think about it and actually talk with other legislators on this committee and actually, if we're going to do this. I don't feel like I'm prepared to do this right now.

Chairman Delaune:

Okay, I'm fine with that. And I appreciate the, the discussion. So, yeah...

Deputy Chair Corcoran:

Just one question. Does it affect the funding of these organizations moving forward at this point, since we're so late in the year?

Chairman Donaldson:

No.

Deputy Chair Corcoran:

No?

Chairman Donaldson:

It's still in Ways and Means. But my concern is, you know, in the past, we still had to go through Ways and Means but as Jim would tell you, you know, we always put together a... the Executive actually throws in a pot of money, we don't make those decisions. He just throws a pot of money in there. And then what we would do is discuss these various items and then put an amendment together. And over the past, I don't how many years, I usually was the one that would put the amendment in. Because prior to this, I you know, typically chaired this committee or was always

on the committee. Anyway, so in and I, you know, as you know, you know, the little lip seal, the Ulster County seal. I've been here for so long, I was the one that modeled for that. (Laughter). But anyway, that so, I agree with Peter. I think, you know, I threw this back in because it ended up all those things went over directly to Ways and Means which it shouldn't have. But it got put in. I don't think it was anything malice... it wasn't malice in thought. It was the idea that they thought about the idea of better oversight. Okay, well, you know, we're all good with better oversight, I guess. but on the other hand...

Legislator Parete:

What's the better oversight?

Chairman Donaldson:

Yeah, what is the better oversight? That's a good point, John. I mean, on the other hand, you know, where the oversight, this committee is the oversight. And we know, we have to be cognizant of the idea that, you know, maybe we don't have the money. So, at the end, it always goes to Ways and Means, but the point is, typically, if it came from this committee, as a whole, and if this committee voted on it, particularly if it was unanimous, Ways and Means, you know, they would accept it. You know, they wouldn't argue the case. I mean, in the end, they're the ones that are supposed to be watching the purse all the time and the closest.

Chairman Delaune:

And I would be fine with working closer with Ways and Means, you know, on these various groups. But yeah, to take it all the way and then to give these organizations five minutes to make a presentation doesn't seem reasonable. So, we will take no action on this, Peter. I'd appreciate if you reach out, we'll have some more conversations. All of you please. You know, let me know what you think about this. And we'll prepare something for next month.

Chairman Donaldson:

And let's have a conversation with, you know, Vicky. I mean, I asked Vicky to put together the resolution to bring this back in, to bring all the items back into this committee. So, you know, probably, you know, and, you know, I read through it once. So, I may have missed things. But the point was, I wanted to get this out, and I wanted to get this discussion happening in this committee. They do want to make sure that that this can put back in here. I don't like the idea of this committee being gutted in that manner. And that's, and I said that to a number of other legislators that I was very upset with this the way this went down. Because like I said, I have... this committee is the one I've always served from the day, I walked through the door of the legislative body. Even as the committee has made different changes and what actually reported it's been larger, it's been a little [inaudible], but it's been basically very similar. You know, all along.

Chairman Delaune:

Well, you know, thanks for looking out for us. And we'll take no action on this resolution. I think, unless someone has anything else to add, I'll move on to new business. None? Any old business? All right. Nettie, I'm going to, as I told you, stop by tomorrow. And for all of you. I'll stop in and talk to Vicky. See what we can get going here. Again, I appreciate your input on this. And I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Parete:

So moved.

Chairman Delaune:

Second?

Legislator Criswell:

Yep.

Chairman Delaune:

Very good. Well, enjoy your evening, everyone. I know it's going to be a late one.

Legislator Parete:

Thanks.

Deputy Chair Corcoran:

Thank you.

Nettie Tomshaw:

Thanks everyone.

Deputy Chair Corcoran:

Thank you.

Chairman Delaune:

Bye now.

[END 6:00pm]