

Ulster County Legislature



UC RRA Reform Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2024 at 9:00 AM

KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

Committee Members:

Mike Baden, Chair

Representative, Ulster County Association of Town Supervisors and Mayors

Tracey Bartels, Vice-Chair

Legislative Chair Designee

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

Energy, Environment & Sustainability Representative

Laura Petit

Minority Designee

Comptroller March Gallagher

Ulster County Comptroller

Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle

Ulster County Executive Designee

Jim Gordon, Vice-Chair

UCRRA Board of Directors

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Baden

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Michael Tierney, Legislative Support Specialist

PRESENT: Chair Baden, Vice-Chair Bartels, Legislator Greene, Comptroller Gallagher, Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle (Arrived 10:09 AM), Laura Pettit, Jim Gordon, Vice-Chair UCRRA Board of Directors

ABSENT: None

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: UCRRA Executive Director Marc Rider

Call Meeting to Order: 9:08 AM

Approval of the May 10, May 17, May 23 & May 30 Meeting Minutes -were postponed till next committee meeting, Thursday June 13.

Comptroller Gallagher took issue with the wording of the April 18, 2024 Minutes. Former Chair Bartels stated she did not have the opportunity to review previous minutes and requested approval be put off until the next meeting.

Members of the Committee began discussing the net service fee, which started a larger conversation of the Agency’s existing fiscal calendar and possible changes to ensure greater oversight from the Legislature and Executive.

UCRRA Vice Chair Gordon and Executive Director Rider explained the existing process and highlighted concerns about moving the calendar forward as their second quarter invoices from their vendors are not received until July. Further they explained that the currently the RRA board meets in mid-August for budget workshops to approve the proposed budget. The Executive Director then brings this proposed budget to the Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee for the assent of the Committee and Legislature.

Comptroller Gallagher proposed an updated fiscal calendar, where the net service estimate is completed by August 1, the proposed budget is approved by the RRA Board on August 30, and the Legislature approves September 30th. Former Chair Bartels inquired if that could be moved up to accommodate the Legislative calendar. Comptroller Gallagher stated she would be reticent to recommend any estimate that would happen before Second Quarter expenses were enumerated. Executive Director Rider agreed and stated that some of the largest cost estimates such as Health insurance and increased usage during the summer would not be fully estimated any earlier. Former Chair Bartels suggested a slightly expedited approval process on the part of the RRA board to present to the Legislature no later than September 15. Legislator Greene stated that a special joint meeting of the Energy & Environment Committee and the Ways & Means Committee to approve the budget before the actual meeting rather than the assent model currently being used to approve the budget. Comptroller Gallagher cited concerns about a limited time for the Executive to weigh in on the budget.

Members discussed the next meeting dates and if the Committee requires more time to issue their report to the Legislature. The Committee agreed to proceed as if its work will be completed by the end of June, and to revisit this as the end of the month gets closer.

Comptroller Gallagher requested that the Net Service Fee discussion be added to the next meeting agenda.

Next Meetings: Thursday, June 13, 2024 @ 9:00 AM
Thursday, June 20, 2024 @ 3:00 PM
Wednesday, June 26, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

Adjournment

Motion No. 1: MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion Made By: UCRRA Vice-Chair, Gordon
Motion Seconded By: Chair Baden

No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 10:37 AM

Respectfully submitted: Michael Tierney, Legislative Support Specialist
Minutes Approved: June 13, 2024