

Ways & Means Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: December 4, 2017 – 4:00
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building,
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Richard Gerentine, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Amber Feaster
PRESENT: Legislators Thomas Briggs, Chris Allen, Tracey Bartels,
Carl Belfiglio, James F. Maloney, and Legislative Chairman
Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr.
ABSENT: Legislator Mary Beth Maio
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Manna Jo Greene and Hector Rodriguez; Ken
Crannell, Deputy County Executive; Burt Gulnick,
Commissioner of Finance; Deputy Budget Directors Jamie
Capuano and Kenneth Juras; Patricia Doxsey, Daily Freeman;
Fawn Tantillo, Confidential Secretary to the Chairman of the
Legislature; Admin. Lieutenant Perry Soule and Captain Vincent
Altieri, Sheriff's Department

- **Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM**

Budget Amendment Packet for December 4, 2017 is attached to the minutes.

Motion No. 1: To approve Budget Amendment No. 1 - Funding a Confidential Secretary Position within the Office of the Comptroller

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion: Legislator Belfiglio explained that since most department heads have secretaries, he feels it's fair to give this same benefit to the Comptroller. Additionally, Legislator Belfiglio argued that the cost of the position is less than the amount of money the Office of the Comptroller's budget was reduced by in 2017. Legislator Bartels stated opposition to the Amendment, saying that the Comptroller did not present a convincing argument and that she would have liked to of given a better sense of the impact the loss of the position has had on the department. Chairman Gerentine explained that in the 2017 County Budget, the County Executive cut the Office of the Comptroller's budget by \$200,000, that the Legislature reinstated roughly \$100,000, and that the Comptroller

took the County to Court over these adjustments. Further, it was explained that the County won in these proceedings and that the Comptroller asked the taxpayers to pay for his legal defenses. Chairman Gerentine stated that the Comptroller is supposed to be a protector of the taxpayers of Ulster County and that he does not feel that this was appropriate or in alignment with the Comptroller's duties.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Belfiglio
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Allen, Maloney, and Ronk
No. of Votes in Favor: 2
No. of Votes Against: 5
Disposition: Defeated

Motion No. 2: To approve Budget Amendment No. 2 - Funding a Confidential Secretary Position within the Office of the Comptroller

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion: Legislator Rodriguez explained that the intent of the Amendment was to give the Committee another option, providing the Comptroller with a Confidential Secretary at a lesser cost to the County.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Briggs, Belfiglio
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Allen, Maloney, and Ronk
No. of Votes in Favor: 2
No. of Votes Against: 5
Disposition: Defeated

Motion No. 3: To approve Budget Amendment No. 3 - Accounting for the Ulster County Staff Association (NYSUT) Contract Settlement

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4: To approve Budget Amendment No. 4 - Increasing Appropriation for Arts Mid-Hudson, offsetting Contingency

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: Chairman Gerentine explained that he had a discussion with sponsors Legislator Heppner and Legislator Donaldson and that all parties are in agreement that the amount of the Amendment will be \$6,000. Legislator Bartels said that she is happy to see that the percentage of money appropriated to the Organization from Ulster County goes towards Ulster County Organizations is greater than that which goes towards overhead, but that when you look at the Organization as a whole, just over 50% of all revenues raised go to overhead, which she hopes over time will change. Legislative Chairman Ronk explained that the history of the County's appropriations to the Organization shows substantial and frequent increases, that this appropriation has been increased \$32,000 since 2013, and that this is an issue that is of concern to him. Legislative Chairman Ronk encouraged the Committee members moving forward to consider accumulative increases and how these increases impact the County. Committee members were in agreement that each of the Organizations in discussion today does a great job. Committee members discussed the option to offset the increase from Safety Net (as proposed in Amendment No. 5) versus Contingency (as proposed in Amendment No. 4).

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Budget Amendment No. 5 - Increasing Appropriation for Arts Mid-Hudson, offsetting Safety Net

Disposition: Took No Action

Motion No. 5: To approve Budget Amendment No. 6 - Increasing Appropriation for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: Chairman Gerentine explained that he had a discussion with sponsor Legislator Donaldson who has agreed to a \$2,950 Amendment.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 6: To approve Budget Amendment No. 7 - Increasing Appropriation for the Mid-Hudson Library Association

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: Chairman Gerentine explained that he had a discussion with sponsor Legislator Donaldson who has agreed to a \$5,000 Amendment. Legislator Bartels expressed discomfort with the reduction in Safety Net and asked Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick, if he approved of the adjustment. Burt Gulnick explained that this was an expense account that was recommended to the Committee by the external Budget Analysts, that he is unsure of what will happen within Safety Net in the upcoming year, and that if expenses exceed the amount budgeted, he will need to come before the Legislature to request funds from another account. Legislator Bartels expressed desire to take the money from Contingency rather than from Safety Net. Committee members discussed the option, ultimately deciding not to alter the Amendment after a show of hands.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Budget Amendment No. 8 - Increasing Appropriation for the Ulster County Cooperative Extension

Discussion: Chairman Gerentine explained that he spoke with sponsor Legislator Donaldson and that Legislator Donaldson had not been contacted from the Organization to hear what amount was actually needed and that he was comfortable not pursuing the Amendment. Chairman Gerentine confirmed that Deputy County Executive, Ken Crannell, also had not heard from the Organization, suggesting that the Committee take no action at this point and reevaluate the proposal in the next year.

Disposition: Took No Action

Motion No. 7: To discuss Budget Amendment No. 9 - Reclassifying Funding of Specified Vacant Positions into Contingency

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion: Deputy County Executive, Ken Crannell, said that there has been an impression that there is a substantial number of positions that have been left vacant for an extended period of time, but that the work of the staff has shown there is only a handful of such positions and that he doesn't believe it was anyone's intention to create an Amendment which would result in layoffs. Further, Ken Crannell explained that there are five positions which were left open for an extended period, each of which was left open for a specific reason. Legislator Rodriguez, sponsor, said that his intention in bringing this Amendment forward was to have the discussion and to have the additional research performed on the budget consultant statements to find out just how many positions are actually vacant. Legislator Rodriguez said that Ken Crannell is correct in that there are a lot of positions within the County being filled all the time, but that the exercise of researching this was very helpful because it taught the Legislature about personnel related issues over time and it has given them a better appreciation of what is actually happening. Discussion pursued about vacancy lists and how to more accurately interpret these lists. Chairman Gerentine confirmed that the Legislature is to receive a vacancy list from the County Executive on a monthly basis moving forward. Legislative Chairman Ronk explained that he intends to sponsor this policy in the form of a Resolution in the upcoming months, stating that although the current County Executive is very cooperative and is willing to provide this information upon asking, there may be a

point in the future where a different County Executive is not as cooperative and the policy may be necessary. Legislative Chairman Ronk also stated that there is information missing within the current hire/separation list provided to the Legislature on a monthly basis which he intends to have corrected within the upcoming months as well.

Motion No. 8: To amend Budget Amendment No. 9 - Reclassifying Funding of Specified Vacant Positions into Contingency

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Legislative Chairman Ronk asked that the CEO II, position no. 51101701, be removed from the Amendment due to timing constraints for tree cutting in consideration of the ash borer crisis. Legislator Rodriguez, sponsor, consented to the Amendment. Discussion pursued on the positions remaining within the Amendment.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved, as Amended

Motion No. 9: To discuss Budget Amendment No. 10 - Reclassifying the Net Budgetary Findings into Contingency

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion: Legislator Rodriguez, sponsor, explained that the intent of this Amendment is to, at a minimum, discuss the adjustments identified by the external Budget Analysts, that he is not in any way pushing this Amendment, and that he does not agree or propose amendment to the sales tax estimate as he believes sales tax is too volatile of an account to risk overestimation. Legislator Bartels expressed interest in the Amendment as it places more value on the work the Budget Analysts perform. Legislative Chairman Ronk seconded interest in the Amendment, stating that adjustments will have to be made to the Amendment to compensate for previously approved Amendments affecting the Safety Net account. Legislative Chairman Ronk explained his perspective of what the budget analysts are there to do, saying that the primary reason the

Legislature hires a Budget Analyst annually is to make sure the Office of County Executive isn't doing anything inappropriate. Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick, suggested the Committee take the net adjustment, after inclusion of the aforementioned Amendments, so that a total of \$120,000 is reclassified from a single expense account, Safety Net, to Contingency. Legislator Rodriguez consented to this Amendment. Legislator Bartels expressed concern for Safety Net, considering unknown conditions and the unknown effects of recent events. Chairman Gerentine empathized with concern for the unknown, but stated comfort in the reclassification to Contingency because reclassification is possible in the future if needed.

Motion No. 10: To amend Budget Amendment No. 10 - Reclassifying the Net Budgetary Findings into Contingency

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved, as Amended

Motion No. 11: To approve Budget Amendment No. 11 - Increasing the ARC of Ulster Greene Contract to supply personnel for Records Management within the Board of Elections.

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Legislative Chairman Ronk confirmed that this Amendment is to contract from the Legislature's Budget, not from the Board of Election's Budget.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 12: To approve Budget Amendment No. 12 - Funding Promotion of Legal Secretary (Grade 10) to Administrative Assistant (Grade 12)

Motion Made By: Legislator Allen
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion: Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick confirmed that, civil service-wise, the individual does have the ability to move, explaining that the District Attorney’s office can ask for a desk audit to ensure that the individual is performing the duties of an Administrative Assistant, but that a desk audit is not required to be completed prior to funding the position within the budget. Chairman Gerentine expressed concern that the Committee cannot ensure that job duties are being performed accordingly, emphasizing the need for a desk audit. Committee members discussed whether an Administrative Assistant position already exists within the Department. Legislator Briggs expressed concern with the District Attorney’s presentation, saying that he did appear to do his due diligence and did not bring forth an adequate amount of information to present a well-researched, evidence-driven proposal to convince the committee that the individual deserves this adjustment. Legislator Briggs and Legislator Bartels were in agreement that the Committee should not set a precedent that every office has the ability to make similar personnel adjustments to upgrade positions to higher levels. Legislator Bartels reiterated that at some point management needs to ensure that employees live within the confines of both the budget and the duties of their position titles; otherwise everyone could adjust their duties and request a desk audit in order to raise their salaries. Legislator Belfiglio questioned why the adjustment is being proposed as a Budget Amendment. Burt Gulnick explained that the reason is because the individual has the ability to request the performance of a desk audit and the Department currently does not have the funds for the raise. Committee members were in agreement that the Amendment should not be approved.

Voting In Favor: None
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
No. of Votes in Favor: 0
No. of Votes Against: 7
Disposition: Defeated

Motion No. 13: To approve Resolution No. 452 - Authorizing Commissioner Of Finance To Make Transfers Of Funds And Budgetary Amendments

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Commissioner of Finance to make transfers of funds and budgetary Amendments as are required to properly close out the 2017 financial records of the County, and to file a list of said transfers and budgetary Amendments with the Ways & Means Committee as soon as possible thereafter.

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 14: To discuss Resolution No. 445 - Designating The Ulster County Department Of The Environment As The County's Water Quality Management Agency Pursuant To New York State County Law, Article 5 § 220-A

Resolution Summary: This Resolution designates the Ulster County Department of the Environment as the County's Water Quality Management Agency pursuant to New York State County Law Article 5 § 220-A.

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: Legislator Bartels asked that the Resolution be presented to the Energy & Environment Committee prior to appearance within Ways & Means. Committee members discussed the Resolution's impact on the budget and its ability to be postponed in order to go through the normal Committee process.

Motion No. 15: To refer Resolution No. 445 to the Energy & Environment Committee

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 16: To discuss Resolution No. 446 - Approving The Memorandum Of Agreement Between The County Of Ulster And The Ulster County Staff Association, Represented By NYSUT, For The Years 2017 And 2018

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the Memorandum of Agreement covering the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 between the County and the Ulster County Staff Employee's Association, authorizes the County Executive to execute a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Staff Association, in accordance with the executed Memorandum of Agreement, and authorizes the Commissioner of Finance to make any and all 2017 budget adjustments necessary to transfer and appropriate the necessary funds into the appropriate budget lines.

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: Committee members discussed the amount of the included raises.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 17: To approve Resolution No. 447 - Approving The Advancement Of Capital Projects For The Ulster County Community College – Ulster County Community College

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the advancement of disclosed anticipated Capital Projects for the Ulster County Community College.

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 18: To approve Resolution No. 448 - Ratification Of Tax Rolls

Resolution Summary: This Resolution ratifies and confirms the tax rolls of the several Towns of Ulster County as signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature, as well as directs the Collectors of said Towns to enforce the collection of taxes as required by law.

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 19: To approve Resolution No. 449 - Levy For Unpaid Sewer Rents

Resolution Summary: This Resolution certifies, levies, and assesses with penalty added to the properties liable the several amounts of unpaid sewer assessments in the several Sewer Districts in the Towns of Ulster County appearing on the returns by the Collectors pursuant to Articles 12, 13, and 15 of the Town Law, and resolutions duly adopted by the Town Boards of said respective districts.

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 20: To approve Resolution No. 450 - Levy For Unpaid Water Rents

Resolution Summary: This Resolution certifies, levies, and assesses together with ten percent of the amount in addition thereto, upon the properties liable the several amounts of unpaid water rents in the several Water Districts in the several Towns of the County of Ulster appearing on the returns by the Collectors of said respective districts pursuant to Articles 12, 13, and 15 of the Town Law, and resolutions duly adopted by the Town Boards of said respective districts.

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 21: To approve Resolution No. 451 - Approving Completed Tax Rolls And Directing The Execution Of Delivery Of Warrants

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves, and so completes, the tax rolls, and determines that the taxes so extended against each parcel of property upon the said rolls are to be the taxes due thereon as set forth therein; and, further annexes to each of said rolls, a tax warrant in the form prepared by the Clerk as provided by Section 904 of the Real Property Tax Law, in the respective amounts heretofore, and authorizes to be levied upon each of said rolls, under seal of the Board, that said rolls with said warrants annexed are to be forthwith delivered to the respective collectors of the several tax districts of the County on or before December 31, 2017,

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 22: To approve Resolution No. 453 - Adopting the Ulster County Budget For Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2018 And Making Appropriations For The Conduct Of County Government, as Amended

Resolution Summary: This Resolution, in accordance with Section 356, 358 and 360 of New York State's County Law, and pursuant to Article IV, Financial Procedures, Section C-38 of the Ulster County Charter and Section A4-8 of the Administrative Code, adopts the Tentative Budget, as on file with the Clerk of the Legislature, as changed, altered, revised and as hereinafter set forth, and appropriates the several amounts as set forth in the "ADOPTED" column of such budget for the objects and purpose specified effective January 1, 2018.

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved, as Amended

Motion No. 23: To approve Resolution No. 454 - Adopting Ulster County Capital Program For 2018 - 2023

Resolution Summary: This Resolution, in accordance with Sections 356 and 360 of New York State's County Law, and pursuant to Article IV, Financial Procedures, Section C- 37 of the Ulster County Charter and Sections A3-4(N) and A4-7 of the Administrative Code, adopts the Capital Program, as on file with the Clerk of the Legislature, as changed, altered and revised.

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maloney, and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Legislator Gerentine thanked the Legislative Fiscal Analyst for her work during the budget season. Chairman Gerentine asked if there was any other business or questions. There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

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

Time: 5:10 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster
Minutes Approved: December 12, 2017