

**Ways & Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: December 5, 2016 – 3:00 PM
LOCATION: COB, 6th Floor, Legislative Chambers
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Richard A. Gerentine
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Donald J. Quesnell, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
PRESENT: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen (@5:11), Bartels(@5:05), Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Rodriguez, Paul Brooks, Marie Shultis, Kevin Barrt, Ken Crannell, Laurel Andretta, Burt Gulnick, Ken Juras, Jamie Capuano, Elliott Auerbach, Evan Gallo, Alicia Demarco, Howard Bahl, Fawn Tantillo, Patricia Doxsey,

Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

Budget Amendment packet for December 5th is attached to the minutes.

Motion No. 1: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 1

Motion By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion:
None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Amendment approved

Motion No. 2: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 4

Motion By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion:

Legislator Gerentine stated the committee spoke to the District Attorney regarding the amendment and that he had reservations at this point. Legislator Ronk said some of his concerns are that he feels we should organize all of our resources in one spot.

Voting In Favor: Legislator Allen
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Votes in Favor: 1
Votes Against: 7
Disposition: Amendment defeated

Motion No. 3: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 6

Motion By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

None

Voting In Favor: None
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Votes in Favor: 0
Votes Against: 7
Disposition: Amendment defeated

Motion No. 4: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 5

Motion By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

Jay Mahler said her understanding was Legislator Parete spoke to Dennis Doyle and there was no current plan to update the study, but no discussion took place regarding the potential federal funding of a new plan. Donald Quesnell, and Burt Gulnick verified there is currently no federal funding available. Legislator Bartels asked about the dollar amount to be allocated for the study. It was explained this would not be reinventing the wheel so the stone consulting figure was applied. Legislator Ronk, stated the Legislature could go out to RFP later on since the funds would be coming out of contingency.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Belfiglio
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Votes in Favor: 2
Votes Against: 6
Disposition: Amendment defeated

Motion No. 5: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 3

Motion By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk stated he struggles to support this because it only covers a part of the county and if they did it in one town they would have to do it in all towns. Legislator Bartels, stated she would like to add that she is concerned about the process of how the body chooses what programs to fund. A discussion ensued on the selection process of the programs.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Allen, Belfiglio
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Maio, Maloney
Votes in Favor: 2
Votes Against: 5
Disposition: Amendment defeated

Motion No. 6: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 8

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion:

Legislator Belfiglio spoke regarding the program the amendment would be funding. Legislator Ronk stated he felt the program would only be covering one area of the county. Legislator Gerentine stated he felt the program did a great job in many different ways and no one is questioning what they do, but there should be a policy in place to determine what gets funded. Legislator Bartels stated she would like to have a representation in front of her in terms of what the executive is funding in the future.

Motion No. 7: Moved to reduce funding of Proposed Budget Amendment No. 8 to \$2,500

Motion By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Voting In Favor: Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Ronk
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Bartels, Maio, Maloney
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 5
Disposition: Amended reduction defeated

Voting In Favor: Legislator Belfiglio
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Votes in Favor: 1
Votes Against: 7

Disposition: Amendment defeated

Motion No. 8: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 7

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk stated he spoke to Gary Capella at Soil & Water and said there are some state funding issues regarding performance measures. He went on to say the county would be happy to help work with them to meet some of these measures. Additionally, the reduction to S&W he felt could be made up for in the associations fund balance. Legislator Ronk said the reduction of \$5,000 in Walker Valley Burn Panels would most likely be the last time we would fund the association due to the county funding a fire training facility. Legislator Bartels said she also spoke to Gary, and she believed we have full confidence they can bridge the gap for one year. She wanted to reiterate this reduction would be a onetime thing. Legislator Belfiglio, stated regarding the transfer of funds from Awareness, the committee asked the director to come answer questions for the committee. Marie Shultis gave a packet to the committee with the breakdown of communications between her and the county. Kevin Barry spoke regarding the current condition of the Awareness contract and what would be needed for it to be executed. He stated he is volunteering his time for Marie because she has helped a few of his clients. A discussion ensued on the topic of the condition of the contract.

Motion No. 9: Moved to amend Proposed Budget Amendment No. 7, to reduce funding to \$10,000 and alter the offsetting funding sources.

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Amendment reduction approved

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Amendment approved

Motion No. 10: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 9

Motion By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

A discussion ensued in the committee over the increases in funding last year. Legislator Belfiglio addressed the need of Arts Mid Hudson to the committee and the importance of this amendment. Legislator Briggs said no one can vouch for that more than him, but we can't fund everyone. A discussion ensued over the selection process of these appropriations.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 5
Disposition: Amendment defeated

Motion No. 11: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 10

Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion:

None

Voting In Favor: None
Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Votes in Favor: 0
Votes Against: 8
Disposition: Amendment defeated

Motion No. 12: Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 11

Motion By: Legislator Allen
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

Discussion:

Legislator Belfiglio stated he spoke to Mike Jubie and said he felt like he took a beating last week. Legislator Ronk spoke regarding a possibility of an amendment to allow for the funds to be used to be able to contract with an organization after a search is conducted. Ken Crannell explained how the executive office funds for education programs with the school systems to combat bullying. A discussion ensued.

Motion No. 13: Moved to amend Proposed Budget Amendment No. 11 to make funds not be designated to "Don't Be a Monster"

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Amendment alteration approved

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Amendment approved

Motion No. 14: **Moved to Approve Budget Amendment No. 12**

Motion By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk spoke regarding the Audit committee being involved in the selection process. Legislator Rodriguez stated that he felt this would appropriate enough money for the Legislature to do their job properly.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Amendment approved

Motion No. 15: **Moved to Approve Budget Amendment No. 13**

Motion By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion:

Legislator Gerentine gave a description of the amendment to the committee. A discussion ensued on the amendment and the adjustment of employee hours. Legislator Bartels spoke regarding the budget amendments authority and inquired if the Legislature has the authority to require what work the Comptroller will need to perform. Legislator Briggs said if we go down this route that it should be based on the response and not the result of the response. Legislator Rodriguez spoke regarding being frustrated with the office, but he has trouble with holding half a person's salary. Legislator Ronk stated C-57j in the charted stated the comptroller is required to perform other duties as

recommended by the executive or legislature. The committee voiced some concerns regarding the wording of the amendment.

Motion No. 16: **Moved to amend Proposed Budget Amendment No. 13 to strike the wording “and to the satisfaction of the Legislative Body”**

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion:

Howard Bahl spoke about how he felt for employees were being targeted for the Legislature not being happy with the comptroller. The committee insisted this was not the case. A discussion ensued. Comptroller Auerbach said all hour changed were done through an alternative work schedule approved by the executive, with funding approved by the Legislative body. He stated he felt like the body was asking the office to do more work while tying one of their hands behind their back. A discussion ensued between the Comptroller and the committee.

Disposition: Motion No. 16 was withdrawn.

Motion No. 17: **Moved to amend Proposed Budget Amendment No. 13 to refund position 13151006 to \$60,370**

Motion By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

None

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Amendment to position 13151006 approved

Discussion:

Legislator Belfiglio stated he felt we may be going down a slippery slope and it is not perfect but this is the best the body could do for the Comptroller’s office. Legislator Briggs stated it is still bothering him that the hours are dropping to 70 from 80.

Motion No. 18: **Moved to amend Proposed Budget Amendment No. 13 to refund adjust positions to a 75 hour work schedule and amended budgeted salaries accordingly.**

Motion By: Legislator Briggs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion:

The committee questioned what the financial impact would be on this amendment. Legislator Rodriguez asked what the dollar amount would be to Donald Quesnell. Donald Quesnell stated he would need a five minute recess to get the exact number.

Chairman Gerentine called for a five minute recess at 5:00.

Chairman Gerentine called the meeting back to order at 5:05.

Disposition: Motion No. 15 was withdrawn.

Motion No. 19: **Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 13 (as resubmitted)**

Motion By: Legislator Gerentine

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion:

The committee clarified the new proposed changes to the amendment. Comptroller Auerbach stated he felt this decision is arbitrary and capricious and a faulty document was originally submitted.

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Amendment approved

Motion No. 20: **Moved to Approve Proposed Budget Amendment No. 2**

Motion By: Legislator Briggs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion:

None

Voting In Favor: None

Voting Against: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk

Votes in Favor: 0

Votes Against: 8

Disposition: Amendment defeated

Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 483 Approving Completed Tax Rolls And Directing The Execution Of Delivery Of Warrants

Motion No. 24: **Moved to Adopt Resolution No. 483**

Motion By: Legislator Briggs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

None

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 484 Authorizing Commissioner Of Finance To Make Transfers Of Funds And Budgetary Amendments

Motion No. 25: **Moved to Adopt Resolution No. 484**

Motion By: Legislator Briggs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

None

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 485 Adopting the Ulster County Budget For Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2017 And Making Appropriations For The Conduct Of County Government

Motion No. 26: **Moved to Adopt Resolution No. 485**

Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Briggs

Discussion:

None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Resolution No. 486 Adopting Ulster County Capital Program For 2017 - 2022

Motion No. 27: **Moved to Adopt Resolution No. 486**

Motion By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney, Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution adopted

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio
No. of Votes in Favor: 8
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:17 PM

Respectfully submitted: Donald J. Quesnell, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Minutes Approved: February 7, 2017