

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 3, 2023 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Gina Hansut
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Bowen, Uchitelle
ABSENT: Legislators Fabiano, Hewitt
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Erner; Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly; Crime Victims Assistance Program Supervisor Higley; Probation Director Valerie Naccarato; Emergency Management Director Everett Erichsen; Undersheriff Eric Benjamin; Public Defender Elizabeth Corrado

Chair Hansut called the meeting to order at 5:22PM and asked those in attendance to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1 **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the July 6, 2023**

Motion Made By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bowen

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bowen, Hansut, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **MINUTES APPROVED**

Chair Hansut recognized Probation Director Naccarato and Crime Victims Assistance Program Supervisor Higley and advised the members that she invited them to make a brief presentation to the committee about the program. Supervisor Higley stated that there are 15 staff members plus one sexual assault nurse examiner and the program has been around since 1979. She briefly discussed the various funding sources of the program and the services provided including: crisis counseling and emotional support, rape crisis services, accompaniment to hospitals, police departments and DHS office courts, support groups, community education presentation in schools and to organizations, assistance navigating the legal system, and other victim centered support.

She advised the member that they served 1,937 individuals during the last grant cycle and were expecting to surpass that number for the next cycle. She added that more than half of their direct services cases are domestic violence. The program also works with intimate partner violence and human trafficking. She informed the members that there are three bi-lingual Spanish speaking staff members which is invaluable to increasing the programs reach.

Chair Hansut thanked Supervisor Higley for the thorough presentation and asked the members if they had any questions. The members thanked her for her time. Supervisor Higley encouraged the members to reach out with any questions.

Resolutions for the August 15, 2023 Session of the Legislature:

Resolution No. 299 Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget - Authorizing Payment Of Retroactive COVID Pay – Ulster County

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the payment of a one-time premium to 33 eligible employees who performed essential work during the COVID- public health emergency from March 15, 2020 to June 6, 2020, as per Resolution No. 604 of 2021, funded by the American Rescue Plan.

Chair Hansut stated that it was her understanding that the sponsors were reaching out to the Clerk to withdraw the resolution. She added that there was pending litigation that was settled, therefore the resolution was no longer needed. Deputy County Executive Kelly advised the members that Sheriff Figueroa would be signing the settlement as soon as he returned from vacation. He added that the amount would be paid out of vacancy savings.

Disposition: NO ACTION TAKEN

Resolution No. 309 Placing A Spending Cap Of \$XX,XXX,XXX.00 On All Costs Related To The Proposed Government Operations Center At Paradies Lane In New Paltz

Resolution Summary: This Resolution places a mandatory spending cap on the total amount of County funds expended for all costs related to the proposed Government Operations Center, including Capital Project 607, at \$XX,XXX,XXX.00..

Chair Hansut advised the members that she had not received any updates from the sponsor of the Resolution and recommended the committee take no action on the resolution. The members agreed.

Deputy County Executive Kelly advised the members that they are at about 60% of design complete and moving towards 90%. He stated that the target for completion of design in October-November and then they would be moving to construction documents. He added that if they stay on schedule bid documents would go out in December-January with contracts being sent to the Legislature for approval in February-March. He added that they have been working with Director Erichsen to pull down prices and take out non-essential items to lower costs. He added that the market and Project Labor Agreements will also significantly factor into the project cost.

Disposition: NO ACTION TAKEN

Resolution No. 364 Establishing A Restricted Capital Reserve Fund For The Government Operations Center Of The County Of Ulster Under Section 6-C Of The New York State General Municipal Law

Resolution Summary: This resolution allocates \$29,000,000 from the unassigned fund balance to establish a Restricted Capital Reserve Fund for Capital Project No. 607 – Government Operations Center.

Chair Hansut advised the members that she had not heard any updates from the sponsor of the Resolution and recommended the committee take no action. The members agreed.

Deputy County executive Kelly advised the members that the Executive supports creating a capital reserve because of the excess fund balance and the size of the project. He added that there are still discussing the amount.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Resolution No. 454 Amending The 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Program - Establishing Capital Project No. 675 – Jail Axon Body Camera Purchase - Amending The 2023 Capital Fund Budget - Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: The Resolution established Capital Project No. 675 in the amount of \$440,753 to upgrade the body camera equipment in the Jail due to the increase of use of Discovery and storage on the server

Discussion:

Chair Hansut advised the members that the Patrol Division has already replaced their body cameras with Axon and this Capital project would do the same for the Corrections Division. Under Sheriff Benjamin added that when the Patrol Division was upgraded they rotated their equipment to Corrections. He stated that the equipment is now aging out and needs replacing.

Legislator Bowen asked what the cost would be. Legislator Uchitelle pointed out the \$440,753 cost in the resolution. He stated that he recalled when the Legislature approved the replacement for the Patrol Division and thought the use of the old equipment by corrections would be for longer than a year. Under Sheriff Benjamin responded that the plan was for the equipment to last longer but is failing. He added that that Axon equipment has a number of features relating to automatic activation, intercommunication/compatibility between agencies and cloud based storage. Legislator Uchitelle questioned the relevance of the Axon features in a corrections setting as opposed to patrol. Under Sheriff Benjamin responded that there were a number of situations in the jail that the Axon features would be useful. The members briefly discussed circumstances when an automatic camera activation could be useful in the jail, as well as costs of upgrading the current system as opposed to replacing it with Axon.

Legislator Uchitelle asked if there were economies of scale for replacing the current system with Axon, and whether the replacement is the right equipment for the correction division. Under Sheriff Benjamin briefly spoke about the server maintenance requirements versus cloud storage abilities. Chair Hansut stated that it was her understanding that most agencies in the county were using Axon.

Motion No. 2 **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 454**
Motion Made By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bowen

Voting in Favor: Legislators Bowen, Hansut, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 456 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$8,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – New York Communications Company, Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends a contract with NYCOMCO in the amount of \$8,000 to lease four refurbished portable radio packages for the Sheriff's Criminal Division

Discussion:

Under Sheriff stated that the radios would be used by the UCERT and URGENT teams. He added that the current state of interoperable radio communications is unfortunate but being worked on at the state and county levels.

Motion No. 3 **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 456**

Motion Made By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bowen

Voting in Favor: Legislators Bowen, Hansut, Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 3

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 457 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$7,200.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Verify Polygraph & Forensic Consultants, LLC – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves a contract amendment in the amount of \$7,200 with Verify Polygraph & Forensic Consultants to include a charge for cancellations of confirmed polygraph test appointments.

Discussion:

Undersheriff Benjamin advised the members that they have not had any cancellations that resulted in the fee, but that legal stated the contract needed to be amended to provide for the charge if ever needed. Legislator Uchitelle questioned how the figure was arrived at. He added that since it was a not-to-exceed amount he was comfortable with approving the Resolution.

Motion No. 4 **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 457**

Motion Made By: Legislator Uchitelle

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bowen

Voting in Favor: Legislators Bowen, Hansut, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

New Business

Emergency Management Director Erichsen advised the members that he, Chair Hansut and County Executive Metzger recently toured the Orange County Operation Center and gave a comparison Center to the existing infrastructure in Ulster County. He stated that they house the Emergency operations Center and PSAP operations together. He added that it is a large facility that was built 15 years ago. He complimented how forward thinking they were when they developed it more than a decade ago. Chair Hansut highlighted the storage they provided for, adding it was integral during COVID for the PPP, tests, and other equipment. She stated that it was eye opening and made her excited for the completion of the Ulster GOC.

Deputy County Executive Kelly stated that he would continue to volunteer other county departments to update the members on county programs and operations.

Chair Hansut asked if there was any other new or any old business and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion No. 5: **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Motion Made By: Legislator Bowen
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:05 PM
Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: September 7, 2023