

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

**DATE & TIME:** October 5, 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, Lizvett Bost, Legislative Employee  
**PRESENT:** Deputy Chair Hewitt, Legislators Bowen, Legislator Uchitelle  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Fabiano  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** No

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Erner; Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly; Emergency Management Director Everett Erichsen; Deputy Director/Fire Coordinator, Mike Gaffney, Fire Training Coordinator, William Farrell; Ulster County Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff Juan Figueroa

---

Chair Hansut called the meeting to order at 5:24PM and asked those in attendance to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

---

**Motion No. 1**                      **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the September 7, 2023**

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Chair Hansut, Legislator Bowen, Legislator Uchitelle

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 4

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **MINUTES APPROVED**

---

Chair Hansut recognized the staff from Crime Victims that gave a quick presentation last month and thought it went very well.

Chair Hansut gave the floor to Director Erichsen and Deputy Director Gaffney from UC Department of Emergency Services to speak about Fire Coordinator Division of the Department also joining them was Fire Training Coordinator, Will Farrell.

Director Erichsen stated that Deputy Director, Mike Gaffney has been with the department for over 18 years and worked right up through the ranks as a Dispatcher, Dispatcher Supervisor, to Deputy Director overseeing 911 Emergency Communications and lateraled over to fill the Fire Coordinator Deputy Director position.

Training Coordinator, Will Farrell is a city Kingston fireman and has been instructor for 8 years now as a county Fire Instructor, and then recently took over coordinating all the training at their training center.

The Department of Emergency Services has grown over the past 8 plus years from Emergency Communications and Emergency Management to Emergency Medical Services and a Fire Investigation Unit.

Deputy Director/Fire Coordinator, Mike Gaffney explained his division, Division of Fire Services, which branches out into two different units, Training and then the Battalion Coordinators which respond to actual incidents. He went over the responsibilities of the Division. The Fire Coordinator Position oversees all of the training that the fire service and the volunteer firefighters get every year. He also has 6 Battalion Coordinators that are under him. The County is split into 6 fire battalions based off the geography, so each battalion has a battalion coordinator. Their job is to work with all their departments within their battalion and respond to major incidents.

The county mutual aid plan is updated every five years. The public safety training center is one of three fire training centers in New York.

There will be a Fire Training for elected officials which will be run again in November. You be put in firefighter turnout gear be able to go into some live fire and experience that.

Last year, in 2020, 53 state courses were taught, the longest being 179 hours of training, and 2900 students through the training center.

Rockland County is one of two counties in New York to run a summer program. They offer a multitude of different classes in a short period of time for students coming back from college or just graduating high school.

---

#### **Resolutions for the September 19, 2023 Session of the Legislature:**

**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 \$XX,XXX,XXX.00

**Discussion:** Chair Hansut advised the members that she has received no updates from Resolution sponsor Legislator Stewart and asked the members to take no action.

**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.

**Discussion:** Chair Hansut advised the members that she has received no updates from Resolution sponsor Chair Bartels and asked the members to take no action.

Deputy County Executive, Chris Kelly stated that at this point they are finalizing fund balance estimates with the auditors and finalizing the executive budget,

which will include those estimates. He said to stay tuned to the budget, the financial picture is changing. It may not be in the cards to establish a \$25 to \$30 million capital reserve with excess fund balance, but it is being worked on. Just recently \$15 million was appropriated from the excess fund balance for the Housing Action Fund.

**Disposition:** **NO ACTION TAKEN**

---

**Resolution No. 474** Authorizing Transfer Of Insurance Funds From Revenue To Expenditure, Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget - Ulster County Sheriff

**Resolution Summary:** The Resolution amends the 2023 Ulster County Budget as follows:

INCREASE	AMOUNT	
AA.3110.1811-2100.2140 (App.#)	Vehicle	\$ 43,358.00
AA.3110.1811.3270.2665 (Rev.#)	Compensation for Loss	\$ 43,358.00

**Discussion:** Sheriff Juan Figueroa said this is insurance money from a car that was involved in an accident and will be used to purchase another car. He believes the county has a \$5,000 deductible so that's why it's not the full value of the vehicle.

Legislator Uchitelle was surprised by the value of the payout (\$40,000 seems pretty high) for a 9 year old Ford expedition. He wanted to know how much the vehicle worth in mint condition. Sheriff Figueroa responds was that this was the insurance company quoted.

**Motion No. 2** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 474**  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Uchitelle  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Hewitt

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Bowen, Hansut, Hewitt, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 4  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 475** Authorizing Acceptance of Donation Of A Motor Vehicle – Ulster County Sheriff

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution for Capital Project No. 519 for UCLEC Energy Upgrades in the amount of \$175,000.00

The 2023 Capital Fund Budget is hereby Amended as follows:

Capital Project No. 519 - Construction Services - \$175,000.00  
Revenue - Serial Bonds - \$175,000.00

**Discussion:** Sheriff Figueroa stated that Romeo Ford of Kingston would like to donate a vehicle for canine training for the Correctional Division.

Legislator Hewitt asked what is in it for them, why would they donate a vehicle. Sheriff Figueroa responds was that sometimes people want to donate to either first responders or military, just as they donated the trailer for oracle. He thinks it is a good gesture.

**Motion No. 3** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 475**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bowen

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Bowen, Hansut, Hewitt, Uchitelle

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 4

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 476** Amending Capital Project No. 519 – Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades for Construction Services for Mechanical Refrigeration Project – Amending The 2023 Capital Fund Budget - Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends Capital Project No. 519 for UCLEC Energy Upgrades as follows:

INCREASE	AMOUNT
Capital Project No. 519	UCLEC Energy Upgrades \$175,000.00

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2023 Capital Fund Budget is hereby amended as follows:

INCREASE	AMOUNT
HH.1997.0519-2300.2550 (App. #)	Capital project No. 519 Construction Services \$175,000.00
HH.1997. 0519-3500.5710 (Rev. #)	Revenue- Serial Bonds \$175,000.00

**Discussion:** Sheriff Figueroa shared that one of the projects and buildings they are working on, deals with the condensers. The boilers they going to be upgraded to will be huge, starting in the spring of next year. The infrastructure is being upgraded.

**Motion No. 4**                      **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 476**

**Motion Made By:**                Legislator Hewitt  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Uchitelle

**Voting in Favor:**                Legislators Bowen, Hansut, Hewitt, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:**                None  
**Votes in Favor:**                 4  
**Votes Against:**                 0  
**Disposition:**                    **Resolution ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 478**                Authorizing the Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Kingston City School District To Provide A Deputy Sheriff As School Resource Officer – Ulster County Sheriff

**Resolution Summary:**        This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to sign an agreement with the Kingston City School District to provide a Deputy Sheriff to serve as a School Resource Officer for the term September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

**Discussion:**                      Sheriff Figueroa thanked the committee for taking this resolution because it was last minute request from the school. The Town of Ulster and most of the smaller agencies, including the sheriff's office, in some cases have issues and staffing levels. This year, the superintendent of schools reached out to him and ironically, he also put out a request to members of Legislature who were interested in participating in the school resource officer training that the Division of Criminal Justice Services and in New York State Sheriffs Association were conducting at his building. He thanked Legislator Erner, Chair Hansut and Legislator Petit for participating.

The school board is approving the SRO's Salary.

Chair Hansut was very impressed with the presentation specifically, on how to deal with the children in the special education program and that have different plans in place.

Extensive discussion continued regarding SRO's in schools between all the committee members.

**Motion No. 5**                      **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 478**

**Motion Made By:**                Legislator Uchitelle  
**Motion Seconded By:**        Legislator Hewitt

**Voting in Favor:**                Legislators Hansut, Hewitt, Uchitelle  
**Voting Against:**                Legislator Bowen  
**Votes in Favor:**                 3  
**Votes Against:**                 1

**Disposition:** Resolution ADOPTED

**New Business**

**Old Business**

Sheriff Figueroa talked about the start of the construction of the centralized arraignment part opening 9/8/23 @ 8:30am.

Legislator Erner shared a Resource Guide for those reentering society from Prison or jail.

**Adjournment**

**Motion No. 6**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Uchitelle

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Hewitt

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 6:14 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Lizvett Bost, Legislative Employee

**Minutes Approved:** October 5, 2023