

**American Rescue Plan Act  
Special Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** September 13, 2022 – 4:00  
**LOCATION:** KL Binder Library, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building,  
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Peter Criswell, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Amber Feaster  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Thomas Corcoran, Jr, Aaron J. Levine, Craig V.  
Lopez, and Megan Sperry; and Legislative Chair Tracey A.  
Bartels  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Kathy Nolan, and Eve Walter; Deputy County  
Executive Marc Rider; Director of ARP Administration  
Nate Litwin; ARP Administration Ashlee Long, and Molly  
Scott; Comptroller March Gallagher

- **Chairman Criswell called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM**
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**Motion No. 1: To approve Resolution No. 400** – Amending The 2022 Budget To Establish And Fund The Ulster County Agricultural Crisis Relief Program - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution establishes and funds the Ulster County Agricultural Crisis Relief Program in the amount of \$2,000,000.00, to be funded by American Rescue Plan Act funding.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Corcoran  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Lopez

**Discussion:** Chairman Criswell provided a brief history on the Resolution. Legislator Nolan commented that the Resolution contains some flexibility in how the program will be overseen and implemented. Legislative Chair Bartels expressed concerned that the value of direct aid is too small, stating that she supports the idea and feels the position being contracted is appropriate. Legislator Nolan answered that the intent is to make funding available as easily as possible for small farmers and that most will benefit in amounts greater than \$3,000. Chairman Criswell noted that additional funding may be available to add to the program later. Discussion pursued on the eligibility requirements, the list of farms in Ulster

County, and the process for finalizing the program. Legislative Chair Bartels noted there are many farms in the County that are not Ag Districts which may increase the dollar value available per farm, requesting confirmation that there is a willingness to changing the funding if necessary once applications are received. Further discussion pursued on the development of the evaluation criteria, the process currently proposed, and other screening criteria already in place.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and Legislative Chair Bartels  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 2: To discuss Resolution No. 450 -- Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$979,241.00 Entered Into By The County – LaSalle School – Department Of Mental Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with LaSalle School from October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 for behavioral health programming embedded within Ulster County School Districts in the amount of \$979,241.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Corcoran  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Lopez

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and Legislative Chair Bartels  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Discussion:** Chairman Criswell clarified that \$750,000.00 of this contractual agreement is being covered by ARPA funds and the remainder is being covered by Opioid Settlement funds. Legislator Walter noted that the Schedule A has been amended to clarify the elements of how many children will be served and at what capacity.

**Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 450 -- Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$979,241.00 Entered Into By The County – LaSalle School – Department Of Mental Health**

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with LaSalle School from October 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 for behavioral health programming embedded within Ulster County School Districts in the amount of \$979,241.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Corcoran  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Lopez

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and  
Legislative Chair Bartels

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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## **New Business:**

### **Legislator Walter – Eviction Services**

**Discussion:** Legislator Walter provided the Committee with a brief history of the discussion surrounding Eviction Services, explaining that a Request for Proposals (RFP) has been published which includes legal services, Lessor and Lessee educational services, and outreach services. Legislator Walter acknowledged that bids are expected at the end of the week and then a Resolution will be submitted to fund the contract with ARPA funds. Discussion pursued on the anticipated timeline for offering such services, the anticipated vendor quantity and geographical location, the anticipated cost of the program, and the current need within the County. Legislator Walter noted that there is flexibility within the quantity of services to reduce the price if needed. Legislative Chair Bartels stated support for the educational component, as this may prevent some evictions. Legislator Walter disclosed that a Special committee meeting will take place once the RFPs come in, inviting Committee members to attend and stating that the details of the educational outreach component will be discussed. Further discussion pursued on educational outreach to both landlords and renters and how this can act as a preventative measure to help people.

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## **Old Business:**

### **ARPA Financial Update**

**Discussion:** Chairman Criswell introduced Committee members to the ARPA Project Tracker, asking that everyone review the tracker and provide

feedback in preparation of the Committee's next phase, the review process.

Chairman Criswell reviewed the ARPA Financial Tracker and confirmed that the next quarterly filing with the U.S. Dept of Treasury is due in October. Director of Recovery & Resilience Litwin confirmed that the Department is actively updating and posting information on its website.

Legislator Walter emphasized the Legislature's approval to fund the Crisis Stabilization Center with ARPA funding, not the Community Wellness Hub, stressing why this approval is important and relevant to the tracking process. Chairman Criswell reiterated this importance.

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Chairman Criswell asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Corcoran

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Sperry

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Time:** 4:48 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Amber Feaster

**Minutes Approved:** October 12, 2022