

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

DATE & TIME: March 29, 2023 – 10:00 AM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Peter Criswell
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Michael Tierney
PRESENT: Legislators Corcoran, Levine (arrived at 10:08 AM) , Lopez (arrived at 10:07 AM), and Sperry; and Legislative Chair Bartels
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Erner, Stewart, and Petit; Director of ARP Administration Nate Litwin; ARP Administration Molly Scott, and Ashlee Long

Peter Criswell called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

Motion No. 1: **Moved to Approve Minutes of the March 8, 2023 Meeting**

Motion By: Legislator Corcoran

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Director Litwin explained that the ARP Division’s immediate priority is executing contracts for the ARPA Water & Sewer Program. Committee members discussed the communication process, requesting that the ARP Division communicate to all municipalities and businesses that funding has been approved and is pending. Further, Committee members requested communication on municipal project progress. Director Litwin reminded the Committee that the ARP Parks Program applications are out and are due back by April 14th. Additional discussion took place regarding the Mental Health in Schools Programs, the ARP Financial Tracker, and updates on the Crisis Stabilization Center. Legislative Chair Bartels asked Committee members to consider actions which the County cannot otherwise accomplish for the remaining ARPA funding.

Chair Criswell reviewed the ARP Project Tracker, describing the process and the terms utilized. Legislative Chair Bartels suggested considering if any previously approved projects could be funded by another revenue source.

Resolutions for the April 18, 2023 Session of the Legislature:

Resolution No. 78: Amending The 2023 - 2028 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project No. 659 - ARP Solar Infrastructure – Amending The 2023 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This resolution, as presented, establishes Capital Project No. 659 – ARP Solar Infrastructure in the amount of ~~\$3,000,000.00~~ \$2,500,000.00 to establish a program to match up to 50% of the total cost of a solar infrastructure project with a maximum match of ~~\$125,000.00~~ \$100,000.00 per project for local municipalities.

Motion No. 2: **Resolution No. 78 Moved for Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Legislator Corcoran explained the proposed amendments to the Resolution, emphasizing how far the funding can go when utilized with other available grants. Chair Criswell reviewed the Committee’s scores for the Program. Legislative Chair Bartels confirmed that municipalities will complete a competitive bid process, expressed concern that the County may end up funding a greater sum than a participating municipality, and inquired as to known projects. Further, Legislative Chair Bartels informed the Committee that some municipalities are discouraging homeowners from participating in solar, asking the Committee if it’s possible to request that municipalities change their local regulations to incentivize solar as a requirement to participate in the ARPA Solar Infrastructure Program.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Adopt Amendments as Presented and Further Amend the Resolution as follows:**

7th WHEREAS amended: WHEREAS, in furtherance of its goals, Ulster County wishes to partner with its municipalities to establish a program to match up to 50% of the ~~total~~ **net** cost of each solar infrastructure project, with a maximum match of ~~\$125,000.00~~ **\$100,000.00** per project; and

Motion By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Amendments Adopted**

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Further Amend the Resolution as follows:**

6th WHEREAS amended: WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature wishes to continue its stewardship by establishing this unique environmental initiative to aid in advancement of ~~various~~ **solar or EV charging** projects throughout Ulster County; and

7th WHEREAS amended: WHEREAS, in furtherance of its goals, Ulster County wishes to partner with its municipalities to establish a program to match up to 50% of the net cost of each solar infrastructure project **or EV charging project**, with a maximum match of \$100,000.00 per project; and

Project Title amended to add “And EV Charing”.

Motion By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Amendments Adopted**

Chair Criswell asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution, as Amended.

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Approved**

Resolution No. 88: Amending The 2023 Budget To Provide Hudson River Watershed Alliance With Funding For Administrative And Program Support Services To Assist Various Agencies In Ulster County - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2023 Ulster County Budget for the purpose of providing funding to the Hudson River Watershed Alliance in the amount of \$35,000.00 for a contract to be executed for administrative and programming support on behalf of the RCWA, the WRWA, and the Ulster County Water Quality Committee.

Motion No. 5: **Resolution No. 88 Moved for Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

Discussion:

Legislator Stewart provided the Committee with an overview of the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, explaining what the Organization does and the Communities they affect. Chair Criswell reviewed the ARPA Committee’s scores on the proposed project. Legislative Chair Bartels noted that a more appropriate source of funding would have been through the ARPA Non-for-Profit Recovery & Resilience program. Legislator Stewart acknowledged that the Organization missed the application deadline for this funding stream. Legislative Chair Bartels expressed concern for member-items that don’t contain a County-wide outreach and benefit.

Chair Criswell asked if there was any discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: None
Voting Against: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and Legislative Chair Bartels
Votes in Favor: 0
Votes Against: 6
Disposition: **Resolution Defeated**

Resolution No. 89: Amending The 2023 Budget To Provide Funding To The Ulster County Historical Society (UCHS) To Create A Job Training & Mentorship Program - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2023 Ulster County Budget for the purpose of providing funding to the Ulster County Historical Society in the amount of \$6,880.00 for a contract to be executed for a job training and mentorship pilot program for one (1) year.

Discussion:

Legislator Stewart announced that he has withdrawn the Resolution.

Resolution No. 131: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With The Town Of Ulster, As An ARPA-SLFRF Subrecipient, To Partially Fund Replacement Of A Municipal Water Storage Tank – Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an Inter Municipal Agreement with the Town of Ulster to partially fund the replacement of a water storage tank in the amount of \$500,000.00.

Motion No. 6: **Resolution No. 131 Moved For Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion:

Chair Criswell asked if there was any discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry; and Legislative Chair Bartels
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 132: Amending The 2023 - 2028 Capital Improvement Program - Establishing Capital Project No. 664 - ARPA Respite House Program- Amending 2023 Capital Fund Budget - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This Resolution establishes Capital Project No. 664 – ARPA Respite House Program and funds the Program in the amount of \$1,500,000.00.

Motion No. 7: **Resolution No. 132 Moved For Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Discussion:

Chair Criswell provided a brief history of the Respite House Policy and ARPA funding dedication. Legislative Chair Bartels confirmed that Legislator Walter is not a sponsor on the Resolution. Director Litwin described the Resolution as a “clarifying Resolution”. Legislative Chair Bartels expressed concern with funding the Project without any properties or programming that is known and ready for further action, emphasizing the amount of authority that is being bestowed within the Resolution. Legislator Sperry expressed interest in knowing that both of the required Respite Houses are included within the scope of the requested funding before proceeding forward. Further discussion pursued on the Project’s progress, the Legislative process, and Capital Project No. 598 – Crisis Stabilization Center, which was initially proposed in attachment with the Respite Houses.

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Postpone the Resolution**
Motion By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Levine

Voting In Favor: Legislators Criswell, Corcoran, Levine, Lopez, and Sperry
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Postponed**

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Legislator Sperry informed Committee members that Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County has an activist group for anti-racist solutions that is scheduled to visit the County on Tuesday, April 4th, inviting Committee members to meet the group and participate in the discussion.

Chair Criswell asked if there was further discussion, old or new business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Sperry
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 12:04 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk – Finance Feaster
Minutes Approved: April 26, 2023