

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DAVID B. DONALDSON, Chairman
TRACEY A. BARTELS, Vice Chair
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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MINUTES

DECEMBER 15, 2020

MEETING

vimeo livestream <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>



Public Comment via Call in Studio. Dial: 205-Ulster-0 (205-857-8370)

6:30 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: 6:34 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:

Led by Legislator Herbert Litts.

ROLL CALL: Present: 22 Absent: 1 (Legislator Maio)

BIRTHDAYS:

Legislator Herbert Litts, December 6th
Legislative Financial Analyst, Natalie Kelder, December 7th
Legislator Kevin Roberts, December 8th
Chairman David B. Donaldson, December 11th
Legislator Albert Bruno, December 21st
Legislator James Delaune, December 26th
Legislator John Parete, December 30th

MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Majority Leader Heppner motioned, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

State of New York, Department of State
Town of Rochester, Supervisor Michael Baden

Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella
Concerned Citizens

Family Services, CEO Brian Doyle
UC School Superintendents/UC Dept. of Health
County News

Drescher & Malecki LLP
UC Regional Chamber of Commerce

Lifeboats HV

UC Tourism Dept.
UC Planning Board

Town of Rochester, Supervisor Michael Baden

Catskill Watershed Corporation
Rhoda R. Mones

Local Law No. 8 2020, Filed 11/5/20
EM Order No. 31, 32, 35 & 36-2020
& State of Emergency Declaration
FOIL Request & Response
(5) Opposing Funding Program Cuts
(2) Kingstonian PILOT
(1) Opposing COVID-19 tracking or
forced vaccinations
Letter, Budget Levels
Letter, School COVID-19 Update
Vol. 52, No. 21 & 22 Nov. 16 & 23,
2020
Ulster County DSS CFR Report
Ribbon Cutting, Hamilton & Adams
11/30/20
Local Champions Pilot Grant
Program 11/23
Trending, December 2020
Minutes 11/4/2020, Agenda
12/2/2020
Emergency Order No. 33-34, 2020
& State of Emergency Declaration
Notice of Preliminary Decisions
Thank you note

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

Executive Order Nos. 55 -59 of 2020
Human Rights Commission appointment
State of Emergency Declaration
Press Release: Small Business Support
during COVID-19
Press Release: Economic Development
Alliance Support to Small Businesses

MEMORIALIZING LETTERS:

Support H.R. 6395 and S.4049 – FY 2021
National Defense Authorization Act
(NDAA)

ANNUAL REPORTS:

Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee

2020 State of the Trails Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DATE:

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing,
Planning & Transit
Energy & Environment
Law Enforcement and Public Safety
Laws and Rules, Governmental Services
Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services
Public Health and Social Services
Public Works and Capital Projects
Ways and Means

November 5, 2020
November 2, 2020
November 4, 2020
November 16, 2020
November 3, 2020
November 2, 2020
November 4, 2020
November 10, 2020,
November 17, 2020,
November 18, 2020,
November 19, 2020,
November 25, 2020

PRESENTATIONS:

Chairman David B. Donaldson called upon Legislators Brian Cahill, Chairman of Economic Development, Tourism, Housing Planning and Transit, Deputy Chair Herbert Litts, III, and District 21 Legislator Lynn Archer to present a Pride of Ulster County Award on behalf of the Ulster County Legislature to the Pine Ridge Dude Ranch of Kerhonkson, NY. The Ranch is being recognized for receiving the 2020 “Tourism Business of the Year” designation by the New York Small Business Development Center.

Joining us tonight was Mike Offner, Pine Ridge Dude Ranch Owner/Operator. Lisa Berger, Ulster County Tourism Director, was also in attendance.

MINUTES

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DECEMBER 15, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

**RESOLUTION NOS: 345, 426, 427, 436 - 470; 242, 300, 425, 428 – POSTPONED;
381 – DEFEATED**

Resolution No. 242 - Approving Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 300 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 of 2018, A Local Law Establishing An Ulster County Human Rights Law, To Be Held On Monday, January 11, 2021 At 6:00 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 381 - Declaring Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under SEQRA For Review Of The Zero Waste Implementation Plan
DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 425 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 15 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Article XXX Of The Ulster County Charter And Article XXX Of The Ulster County Administrative Code To Eliminate The Term Limit Imposed On Commissioners, To Be Held On Monday, January 11, 2021 At 6:05 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 428 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 16 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code By Deleting Article XXXIX From Each (Department Of Tourism), And Amending The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code With Respect To Article XVII (Department Of Economic Development), To Be Held On Monday, January 11, 2021 At 6:15 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk, to move Resolution Nos. 439, 455, 456, 469 and 470 out of the Non-Consent Agenda and into the Consent Agenda. All in favor.

Consent

- 345 Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) To Further Clarify Budget Modification after Adoption, To Be Held On Monday, January 11, 2021 At 6:10 PM**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 436 Calling Organizational Meeting Of 2021**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 437 Authorizing Distribution Of Mortgage Tax Receipts Pursuant To Section 261 Of The Tax Law**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 438 Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Environmental Management Council**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

455 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$106,365.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Youth Bureau

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

456 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$79,870.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Youth Bureau

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

457 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$140,400.00 Entered Into By The County – Resource Center For Accessible Living, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Lopez)
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

458 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$58,805.59 Entered Into By The County – R T B, Inc. D/B/A Continuum Systems – Information Services

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 463 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$213,500.76 Entered Into By The County – County Waste And Recycling Service, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 464 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$75,200.00 Entered Into By The County – Eastern Heating And Cooling, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 466 Adopting A Bank Reconciliation Procedure For The County Of Ulster**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 468 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services – GIVE Initiative – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 469 Establishing A Policy Mandating That All New York State Or Federal Notices Regarding Reductions Or Withholding Of Funding Be Provided To The Ulster County Legislature Within Five (5) Days Of Receipt**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0

427 Authorizing And Appropriating A One-Time Compensatory Time Payment To Certain Employees Of The Ulster County Board Of Elections

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 17 NOES: 4
(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Litts, Lopez, and Ronk)
(1 Abstention: Legislator Roberts)
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

439 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Resource Allocation Plan And Inter-Municipal Agreements With The Various Municipalities To Be Funded Under the Resource Allocation Plan – Youth Bureau

Moved to Consent

449 Amending Capital Project No. 519, Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades – Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 18 NOES: 3
(Noes: Legislators Bartels, Greene, and Petit)
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

450 BOND Authorizing Design And Planning Costs In Connection With The Construction Of Energy Upgrades To The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, Estimated And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$54,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$54,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 18 NOES: 3
(Noes: Legislators Bartels, Greene, and Petit)
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 453 BOND Authorizing Design And Planning Cost In Connection With The Reconstruction Of The McKinstry Bridge In The Town Of Gardiner, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$120,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$120,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 455 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$106,365.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Youth Bureau**

Moved to Consent

- 456 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$79,870.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Youth Bureau**

Moved to Consent

- 465 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Airbnb, Inc. – Department Of Finance**

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Litts, to refer the Resolution back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 10 NOES: 12
(Ayes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Donaldson, Fabiano, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 9

(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Fabiano,
Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 467 Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 14 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 17 Of 2007, A Local Law To Create The Department Of The Environment And The Office Of Coordinator Of The Department Of The Environment For The County of Ulster**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 18 NOES: 4
(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Litts, Roberts, and
Ronk)
(Absent: Legislator Maio)

- 469 Establishing A Policy Mandating That All New York State Or Federal Notices Regarding Reductions Or Withholding Of Funding Be Provided To The Ulster County Legislature Within Five (5) Days Of Receipt**

Moved to Consent

Late Resolution

- 470 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Accept The National Association Of County And City Health Officials Implementing Opioid Overdose Prevention Strategies At The Local Level Grant, And Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County Department Of Health**

Moved to Consent

MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF: Read by Legislator Gavaris.

Hon. Raymond Armater, Kingston, NY
Carolyn Wood Wolz, New Paltz, NY
Hedwig M. Byelick, Wallkill, NY
Lawrence Shelton, Kingston, NY
Audrey R. Haber, Kingston, NY
Sweetbryar Ludwig, Woodstock, NY
Harriett Straus, Gardiner, NY
Albert Joseph Buono, Saugerties, NY
Roy J. Gillerspy, Union, OH
John F. Crews, Port Ewen, NY
Suzanne Charlotte Festag Colp, Phoenicia, NY
John Muller, West Shokan, NY
Clifford Michel, Highland, NY
William "Coach" Ransom Freer, New Paltz, NY
James J. Grable, Cottekill, NY
Jerry Smith, Copperopolis, CA
Kathleen VanGaasbeek, Saugerties, NY
Edward Andreassen, So. Carolina
Shane Masterson, Orange County, NY

John F. Carney, Kingston, NY
Shirley L. Perpetua, Phoenicia, NY
Daniel T. Ellsworth, Saugerties, NY
George W. Peterson, Esopus, NY
Jean Lasher Gaede, Woodstock, NY
Joseph J. Benkert, Kingston, NY
Edward Stevens, West Shokan, NY
Joseph M. Sullivan, Highland, NY
Desmond J. Dutcher, Glasco, NY
Cassidy Flood, Kingston, NY
Ronald P. Ferraro, Kingston, NY
Arthur Thomas Daley, Jr., Hurley, NY
Phillip Dale Lesh, Gardiner, NY
Joseph F. Sauers, Jr., Accord, NY
John Dashtgoli, Pflugerville, TX
Walter Ebert, Saugerties, NY
Antonio Viviani, Saugerties, NY
Camillus Sasso, Glasco, NY

Motion by Legislator Litts, seconded by Majority Leader Heppner to adjourn Legislative Session.
All in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:07 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The Organizational Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Further Meeting details shall be forthcoming.

**Ulster County Legislature
Legislative Session**

Meeting Transcript

December 15, 2020

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty I'd like to call the meeting to order and we could all stand for the pledge and remain on for a moment of silence. But Legislator Litts would you lead us?

Legislator Litts

Yes, I will. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Legislator Fabiano

Thank you for standing Laurie. Nice of you.

Chairman Donaldson

Roll call.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Ho, Ho, Ho.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

No response - absent.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Present.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Here.

Clerk Fabella

And Wawro. Here. 22 present and one absent.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty. We have a lot of birthdays tonight. Herb Litts, December 6th. Happy Birthday Herb. Natalie Kelder our financial analyst, December 7th.

Legislator Fabiano

Happy birthday.

Chairman Donaldson

Kevin Roberts, December 8th, and yours truly December 11th.

Legislator Fabiano

Happy Birthday, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Yep 39. Legislator Al Bruno, December 21st.

Legislator Fabiano

Happy Birthday.

Legislator Cahill

Times two.

Chairman Donaldson

Correct. Legislator James Delaune, December 26th. Boy you really got robbed for Christmas. And Legislator John Parete, I think he's 41 now.

Legislator Fabiano

He's 39 Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

I swear he's at least two year's older than I am.

Legislator Parete

Forty-one on each.

Legislator Fabiano

There you go.

Legislator Bruno

With twenty year's experience.

Chairman Donaldson

I'd entertain a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes.

Legislator Ronk

So, moved.

Legislator Cahill

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

Various communications on file as well as a memorializing resolution and some annual reports along with the committee reports. And we'll start out with I'd like to recognize Legislator Lynn Archer of District 21 to kick off the presentation with the Pride of Ulster County for the Pine Ridge Dude Ranch.

Legislator Archer

Thank you, Chairman Donaldson, and thank you to our Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee Chairs, Brian Cahill and Deputy Chair Herb Litts for their support and recognizing the Pine Grove Pine Ridge this evening. The Pine Ridge dude ranch is a true tourist destination and Ulster County the Rondout Valley and is an invaluable asset to the town of Rochester. When the 40-year old Pine Grove ranch closed down after the unexpected demise of its previous owner, and went up for sale 80 plus jobs and 34 or 30 or so horses were left with nowhere to go. It was in real jeopardy of failing and to falling into ruin and becoming yet another borscht belt casualty. That's

when the previous barn manager Mike Offner, now the current owner and operator came up with a plan with the help of two private investors Mike and his dedicated team for their hearts, sweat, tears and more than a few dollars into renovating, updating and improving the property and creating a world class family resort. All their efforts are indeed worthy of their being designated the 2020 Tourism Business of the Year by the New York Small Business Development Center. Legislator's Cahill and Litts, did you want to say anything before I introduce Mr. Offner?

Legislator Cahill

Yes, thank you very much Legislator Archer. I just want to say that, you know, you folks did a tremendous job out there. And being recognized with this honor at a state level is something to be very, very proud of. New York State is a very high tourism state, and there was tremendous competition for small tourist destinations. One thing that I always like to recognize is that small businesses, like yours are the backbone of the economy in this country, especially in a rural area, like where you are in Rochester. Those are the jobs that keep the community going. The destination here, bring people to the area, they've stopped at our restaurants on their way they stop at our gas stations on the way out, they may fly through Kingston or Rosendale. And stop in those towns and visit while they're here. And being a destination like that, that just so many people is a crucial part of the economy in this area. And I will say as chairman of the Economic Development Committee, we absolutely depend on folks like you to continue putting in your hard work and dedicating your lives to making sure that places like that exists for the next the follow-on generations that have been here for a while. And thank you very much, and congratulations.

Legislator Litts

Yeah, well Mike, congratulations.

Mike Offner

Thank you. Thank you.

Legislator Litts

Um Legislator, Cahill must have read my notes. Because most of what iterated is what was in my notes. Small businesses are the backbone of not just our local economy, or our state economy, they're the backbone of our country. So, it's entrepreneur's like yourself that have kept the american dream alive. And congratulations, you've done an excellent job. And it's about time you got recognized for it.

Mike Offner

And thank you.

Legislator Archer

So, congratulations, Mike, if you want to just take a moment and to and share with the legislature a bit of your journey, and how you you got to where you're at today. That would be helpful.

Mike Offner

Sure yeah. I'll try and keep it brief because I could talk for a long time. But ultimately, I started the Pine Grove when I was literally 16 years old, sweeping up after the horses and just love, love the area loved

Ulster County, and went to school in New Paltz and just never wanted to leave. And ultimately, when I was the barn manager, and the place would close down, for me, it just felt like doing the next great thing, there wasn't some whole big plan to get investors on board and to buy the property, it was doing the right thing for the horses doing the right thing for the community that I was a part of, and just continuing to do everything I can do and figure out each challenge as we come across. So, you know, this award wouldn't be possible without my really dedicated crew of people that have been along this whole way with me, Sam Candell, provided a lot of excellent guidance. So, I'm thankful to everybody that's been a part of this. And the community really rallied behind us to be able to reopen the facility. And, you know, we literally took 40 yard dumpsters of garbage out of out of the property when we got it. So it was a labor of love. And while this award is really exciting, it's I guess, I'd say it feels like having your wedding on a cloudy day, because of all the challenges we're facing right now and in the business world. Especially and, you know, for us, it went from, you know, an amazing story to survival, just like everything else, right now. And we're looking at having the clothes for the entire winter, just so we're in a position to be able to open up in the spring. And you know, the uncertainty and everything is a little daunting. So it feels like it's a celebration, but on one hand, it doesn't feel like a celebration. So, it's no, no strange concept to us to have to reopen. Again, this is going to be the third reopening since I've had it as we reopened after COVID the first time and that's what we're gonna have to do again, so we're just gonna keep putting in work and staying positive and, and keep trying to make it happen. So, thank you for all the support and, you know, we're hoping more support for business comes down the pipeline and more support for the employees that we can afford to really keep on the payroll right now. And just keeping our fingers crossed the 2021 is a whole lot better than 2020.

Legislator Archer

So, thank you, Mike. Mr. Chairman, I want to take a moment to just read the text of the pride of Ulster County award. And Mike this will be sent to you in the mail after the holiday rush. The pride of Ulster County an award presented by the Ulster County legislature to the Pine Ridge Dude Ranch, Kerhonkson, New York in recognition and honor of your designation as the 2020 tourism Business of the Year by the New York Small Business Development Center sign this day 15th day of December 2020. David B. Donaldson, chairman of the Ulster County legislature, and we wish you and all of your staff and family healthy and happy holiday. Thank you.

Mike Offner

Great, thank you. It's amazing honor.

Chairman Donaldson

Out of the 1000s of choices they had they definitely picked the right one. So thank you for all you're doing and we really are behind you and your survival there.

Mike Offner

Yeah, thank you.

Legislator Cahill

Congratulations.

Chairman Donaldson

Did Jennifer want to speak too? Mike did Jennifer want to speak?

Mike Offner

Oh, Jennifer couldn't join us. She just wanted to thank everybody for the award. And,

Chairman Donaldson

Okay.

Mike Offner

She's she's one of the newer people that came on board. And, you know, being at the ranch, it feels like your family. And she's just really at a loss of words of what to say about all this and just really excited.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, what we would like to do at some point, when you open up, I'd like to add maybe Brian Cahill, have an economic development meeting at your, at your place. What do you think?

Mike Offner

Yeah, we'd love that.

Legislator Cahill

On horseback on horseback thought.

Mike Offner

I'll bring the horses somebody else has to bring the goats but we can do that.

Chairman Donaldson

The chairman of the committee did have those ideas at the beginning of the year. But of course, as you know, COVID changed that around a little bit. So we're hoping that at some point, we'll be able to have a meeting at your point, not all meeting but the economic development committee meeting. They like to travel a little bit and your place would be a great place to go to.

Mike Offner

Yeah, sounds great.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, Mike. All righty. We're ready for public comment. Of course, public comment is on any of the items on the agenda. And I would open it up if and if there's an item that is being discussed in committee, that would be a item that may be able to speak on also.

Clerk Fabella

For the first time in a while we have no speakers signed up.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. Does anybody else want to speak anyway? I don't know. All righty, well, let's get to the agenda. Alrighty, we're on the consent agenda. Is there any additions or subtractions?

Legislator Heppner

Yes, Mr. Chairman. As long as my colleague leader Ronk agrees, I believe we can move Resolutions 439, 455, 456, 469 and 470 from non-consent to consent.

Legislator Ronk

The minority caucus, unless any of my caucus members, you know, say different we've got no objection.

Chairman Donaldson

Seeing none, then they are moved and they will be moved into the consent agenda. On the consent agenda.

Legislator Heppner

On the consent agenda we are short, yes.

Legislator Ronk

I'm sure on the consent agenda we are short, yes but we have several abstentions and I failed to mark them on my sheet. So, Jay, if you could help me out.

Clerk Fabella

I actually know what they are.

Legislator Ronk

Thanks, Vicky.

Clerk Fabella

Ah, they are 464 is Legislator Litts is an abstention and 457 is Legislator Lopez. That's correct.

Legislator Ronk

Yeah, the Litts abstention is due to employment. The Lopez abstention is due to serving on a board.

Clerk Fabella

So the resolutions are adopted 22 to zero with the exception of resolution 464 which is adopted 21 to zero with one abstention Legislator Litts and resolution 457 is adopted 21 to zero with one abstention Legislator Lopez.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you. Alrighty now for the non-consent agenda.

Clerk Fabella

The first Resolution is 426, Amending the Policy for Funding Now Non County Organizations for the Ulster County Legislature.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Chriswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes, I have a very small amendment to this amendment. And it is to strike the word soul in the two places that appears in Section 5.2 point three...

Zoom Program Voice

We are sorry, but the show has ended goodbye.

Legislator Criswell

I haven't even finished yet.

Chairman Donaldson

Boy that had to be tough as a person who been a performer. That had be tough on God, Peter.

Legislator Criswell

He was upstaging me all the sudden, wait a minute.

Legislator Ronk

That was that was get the hook, get the hook.

Legislator Criswell

So replacing the word soul with the word original. I know, I just can't get through it now. Sorry, guys.

Chairman Donaldson

And second,

Legislator Ronk

I'll second that.

Chairman Donaldson

Already. Very good. On the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

We are short. Yes.

Legislator Ronk

We are short, yes on the amendment as well. The amendment is adopted 22 to zero.

Chairman Donaldson

On the resolution, Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. I'm gonna be supportive of this tonight, as I believe the rest of my caucus members are. I do want to say that I have pause about this particular amendment to the policy. You know, when, when I was as one of the sponsors move this into the Ways and Means Committee from Legislative Programs, it was because over the years, many of the organizations seemed to come, rubber stamp is a bad way to put it but seem to come, you know, absent any changes from what they had requested of the committee, it's my sincere hope that the Legislative Programs committee next year really does due diligence. And, you know, vets each organization thoroughly. Um, you know, I think that the Ways and Means Committee over the years has had to do that on the back end. You know, I hate to say this around Christmas, but almost seeming to be, you know, the Grinch that stole the funding. And, you know, I understand that there's a lot of organizations that are very deserving of county funding. Um, you know, I also believe that, you know, due caution should be exercised to whether or not the county is the sole source of funding and many other portions of this policy. So I'm trusting that Legislator, Criswell and others on the Legislative Programs committee are going to do that due diligence and make sure that when it comes to Ways and Means come budget time, 2021 that these organizations are well vetted. And for that reason, and my trust in in you, Mr. Chairman, as well as your Legislator, Criswell, and all the members of that committee, I'll be supporting this this evening.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright, anyone else? Alrighty, on the issue.

Legislator Heppner

We are short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We are also a short yes. The resolution is adopted as amended 22 to zero. The next resolution is 427 authorizing and appropriating a one time compensatory time payment to certain employees of the Ulster County Board of Elections.

Chairman Donaldson

On the resolution, Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Um, you know, this resolution disappoints me, um, I really feel like this is the wrong path for the legislature to take in this respect. I think that, you know, with the election being over, and with, you know, COVID, bearing back down on us and causing a reduction in office work for the county workforce. It provides a perfect opportunity for Board of Elections staff to burn down some of their comp time rather than have, you know, the taxpayers at any level understand is grant funded, but, you know, every amount of money that comes grant funding or otherwise is taxpayer money, rather than having that be used for, you know, payouts to eight members of a more than 160 member unit in the county government, um, you know, I feel like you know, it would be better used on equipment and other things that this grant money can be used for. And I just don't understand, you know, several

legislators who, you know, I believe in mere moments will be voting for this voted to reduce, all management confidential staff salaries by 2% voted to reduce salary increases in this unit. But now for the eight of them for eight of the 10, who have comp time in the Board of Elections, our political appointments, you know, friends that helped us get elected. These folks are now going to get, you know, and, again, an undetermined amount of money, because the financial impact on this is not yet to be determined, because we just don't know, until January 16th. You know, I just don't understand the reasoning behind it. I don't think this is the proper way to operate county government, and I'll be you know. Thank you.

Legislator Heppner

Believe you're on mute Mr. Chairman, but I can tell you that we're a short yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Sorry about that. Um, yeah, I don't see anyone I was looking for someone else but no one else. So on the issue?

Legislator Heppner

Short? Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Legislator Ronk

Mr. Chairman, we are a short yes with the following noes, any of these legislators can correct me if I'm wrong, Ronk, Corcoran, Litts and Lopez. I believe you might have an abstention on this one? I apologize and one abstention Legislator Roberts for the purposes of employment. The resolution is adopted 17 to four with one abstention, Legislator Roberts. The next Resolution is 449 Amending Capital Project No. 519. Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades Amending the 2020 Capital Fund Budget Department of Public Works Buildings and Grounds.

Chairman Donaldson

On the issue, no one? Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

I'm gonna cast my vote as a no tonight but my vote is really just a protest vote as it relates to continued reliance on fossil fuels. So, I just wanted to explain that vote.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else?

Legislator Heppner

I believe you have Legislator Greene?

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

I'm voting a reluctant yes on this. I'm very cautious. I mean, to me, they're layering money on top of money on top of money. Project and capital project number 519 has just continued to blow up from its original numbers. And I'm very cautious about this. But I also understand that it has to be done. It's one of those no win situation where we have to do it for a number of different reasons. I too. wish it could be done with different equipment along with Legislator Greene and Legislator Bartels as well. But unfortunately, I don't think we're in that position right now. Technologically to do that. So yes, with this as well.

Chairman Donaldson

I can call on Legislator Greene but since your picture - she is not there. I cannot really call on her.

Clerk Fabella

She's actually there two times. She's there twice.

Chairman Donaldson

Is her picture there? I don't see her.

Clerk Fabella

Yes, she is there.

Legislator Heppner

She's waving right next to you.

Legislator Greene

You know, you may not have the full screen.

Chairman Donaldson

I see you, I'm sorry Manna go ahead. I mean, if you're not on video, you know, you're technically not able to vote.

Legislator Heppner

It's her audio.

Chairman Donaldson

No, I see her down below by just a phone in but now I see you. Go ahead Manna. I'm sorry.

Chairwoman Greene

That's quite all right. I want to echo what Legislator Bartels said. And I want to just make a few comments. You know, I, I think we do at some point, each of us to draw a line in the sand and I think, you know, some of us have drawn that line. No more fossil fuel. But I also want to point out that something that's come to my attention is that in this particular case, because Central Hudson ran lines out to the law enforcement center. What we're actually doing is increasing what will ultimately be their stranded assets. Central Hudson has a lot of gas lines. And that's a system that we expect will be changing as we transition to renewable energy economy and beneficial electrification etc. I am keenly

aware of how much we've already invested and will be investing moving forward. And I think that that money moving forward, and I think there's a real commitment, one the part of the executive branch, not to further invest in fossil fuel infrastructure, and to a real commitment to move renewables into the economy

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else?

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Legislator Ronk

Mr. Chairman that would be, Legislator Ronk and Legislator Petit. Legislator Petit can go first.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit

Thank you, I agree with the previous speakers. I'm very well aware that we really need to start greening up the county even more so than we already have. And we've done quite a bit in Ulster County already. But I think that we're kind of giving in if we connect to the gas, you know, again, it was my understanding, we were gas there to the jail, because they were already tearing up the road to install it along 32. I also understand, you know, that the the boilers and the heaters are in pretty bad shape. So, we need to do something but I just I can't believe with all the technology that we cannot go ahead and put in something that's more climate friendly at this point. So, I'm going to be a no on this resolution.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman, through the chair to Legislator Bartels or Legislator Greene or Legislator Petit, what's, you know, what's our 2020, 2021 alternative? What, alternatives are you're bringing to the table that would, you know, replace the natural gas infrastructure that's going to keep our inmates who are in the county jail, warm during the winter, that's, my concern here is that I understand a protest vote and to know, based on the lack of green infrastructure that's involved in, you know, natural gas to our homes, but I would be willing to bet that any large percentage of the folks on on this zoom meeting right now, the 23 of us in the legislature, you know, heat our homes with either oil, natural gas or propane, because that's what's available right now in the mainstream. I'm not aware of any other options that are that are greener than natural gas, and available to heat a building as large as the Ulster County Jail at a price that the taxpayers can afford. So to any of you three, what's the alternative here?

Chairman Donaldson

And it's up to you if anybody wants their answer, but that's... I believe that Legislator Greene has her hand raised, Mr. Chairman. Legislator Greene.

Chairwoman Greene

Yeah, at the time, this assumes the recommendations for alternatives were either geothermal or air source heat pumps. And I, you know, I understand that the costs were greater, but that differential is gradually getting less and less as the cost for putting in this fossil fuel system. And I want to say fracked gas system, let's be real clear. And so there were alternatives, the differential was greater, and it is gradually getting less and less as the cost of this project increases, in a manner very parallel to how the cost of the law enforcement center increased over time.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes, I would just add to that, you know, I'm going to be supportive this resolution. It is again, with concern about the constant amount of money we continue to pour into the law enforcement center. And this is the gift that keeps on giving that we don't want. And again, this is a product of past history and past poor decisions and knows that history and politics I don't need to get into tonight. But let's, you know, remember why we are dealing with a situation right now. And that's because our heating system failed us. It was critical failure under half its lifespan, in which we purchased it at the time of building, which was a misguided jail. So, let's remember that while we're talking about this, this is not a situation we should be in right now that none of us want to be on. It just circumstantially happened that this was the best immediate recourse to ensure that the facility was accurately human. And that's why we're here right now. And, you know, I don't think it's fair to criticize folks for the concerns of why we're here, because we shouldn't be here. You know, and that's the reality. And, you know I'm gonna vote yes, but we'd love to lay. But I just want to make that clear.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

I want to absolutely echo Legislator Heppner's comments. And the reality of why we're here. I think he's spot on with that. I think, since law enforcement center was built to date, the system was prematurely destroyed for a number of reasons, whether it be poor design or poor maintenance, either way, somebody dropped the ball and now is laying in our lap. And I think, to tackle it, we have to do something, we have to do something now. And the technology at our hands at this point, doesn't allow us to do the alternative as much as I would love to see everything being done completely green, believe me, I would, it's not a real reality at this point, and to have heat and hot water available to that place. And in the time that we need it and the timeframe, we need that we have, you know, \$100,000 worth of maintenance in front of us as well, that we have to do just to keep this thing going. At some point. We're putting good money after bad. And I believe this is the time where we have to stop, and we just have to fix it.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, I just I want to be clear, I don't believe I was criticizing anybody for their decision. I was trying to find out if there was a unused option that was fiscally responsible that we were ignoring to, you know, go with fossil fuels. I'd like to echo, you know, both what Legislator Bruno said and partially what Legislator Heppner said, about needing to do something now, because there are critical systems failing at the jail. You know, I've done several tours of the jail, you know, the roof is failing, and needs to be fixed, and I believe is in the capital plan the next several years. You know, I agree that it is due to impart poor past planning, during the construction and planning of the jail. And I will say that, I believe, you know, in my rudimentary math, that right now, only one eighth of the legislative body was around during any time of the building of the jail. So, you know, while it's great to look back and say, you know, crap, bad things happened. You know, in the past, I think that it's incumbent upon the 23 of us to say that we need to fix those wrongs and ensure that our inmates and staff have heat and hot water, which is exactly what Legislator Bruno just alluded to that this is work that needs to be done. It needs to be done now, I'm not against revisiting this in the next several years to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. But this needs to happen and he has to happen now. And a no vote on this is to deny the inmates and the staff heat and hot water over the next several years. I protest vote or not.

Chairman Donaldson

Already, I don't I don't see anybody else with your hands up. So, call the question.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short yes with two noes, Legislators Bartels and Greene.

Legislator Ronk

And Petit.

Legislator Heppner

And Legislator Petit, sorry.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short Yes. With one abstention Legislator, Herb Litts for the purposes of employment.

Clerk Fabella

Before I announce the vote, I just need to check a couple things. Legislator Fabiano are you in the room but not on the screen?

Legislator Fabiano

Yes, I am in the room.

Clerk Fabella

Perfect. You need to be seen to vote. So, I was just checking. And then I lost Legislator Wawro who will try to get back on but she's not here right now. So, if that is the case, then the vote is the resolution passes 17 to three with one abstention, Legislator Litts. The next resolution is a bond resolution authorizing design and planning costs in connection with the construction of energy upgrades to the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center estimated and for the County of Ulster for a maximum estimated cost of \$54,000 and authorizing the issuance \$54,000 bonds of said county to pay the cost there of. Archer.

Legislator Archer

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

No.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno

Legislator Bruno

A reluctant yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

No, sorry.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Abstain.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

Yep.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

No.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Legislator Wawro

And is she back? Wawro is not back.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 17 to three with one abstention Legislator Litts. The next resolution is also a bond resolution, resolution 453 authorizing design and planning costs in connection with the reconstruction of the McKinstry bridge in the town of Gardner in for the county of Ulster, New York at a maximum estimated cost of \$120,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$120,000 bonds of said county to pay the cost there of. Archer

Legislator Archer

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

Yep.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And we have Legislator Wawro back. Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 22 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

The next resolution is Resolution 465 Approving the Execution of a Contract Anticipated to Exceed \$50,000 Entered into by the County for Airbnb Inc, Department of Finance.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think several things on this contract. You know, I, I have some concerns over several portions of the contract. You know, including the fact that Airbnb can actually have a, you know, hosts remit the payment to the county instead of Airbnb under this contract. It may restrict our ability to, it may restrict our ability to use the third-party vendor that we've been able to use today to data mine all of these sites in order to share information with the town's and quite frankly, it's opposed by our Ulster County lodging coalition, a conglomeration of all of the tourist attractions and, you know, bed and breakfasts and hotels, because it doesn't put them on the same playing field. It doesn't put them on the same level as those organizations. At this time, I would like to make a motion to refer this back to Ways and Means. I've got several questions for the county attorney's office on not only, you know, some of the portions of the contract itself and how they were negotiated, but also, their impact on our ability to continue to share with our towns for code enforcement and other reasons. So, for that, with that, I'd like to make a motion to refer this back to Ways and Means committee.

Chairman Donaldson

A second.

Legislator Litts

I'll second the motion.

Chairman Donaldson

On the referral. Anyone wishing to speak on the referral?

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, at this point, we are a short no on the referral with one yes, yourself.

Chairman Donaldson

Yeah, I want to do... I think the minority leader has a point that we, since this resolution, in my opinion, does not have to come to the legislature because we already approved a resolution requesting him to do that. And such as, you know, other counties have done that, and the executive was the one that carried it out. But due to the fact that it's coming back the legislative body, I think the legislative body needs that certain things that are somewhat clearer here. So, I will support the referral.

Legislator Ronk

On the referral we're a short, yes.

Clerk Fabella

Motion to refer is defeated by a vote of 10 to 12.

Chairman Donaldson

On the resolution, Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say, in the you know, since my time on the legislature, I feel very strongly and I'm sure that there's going to be some disagreement on this. But I feel very strongly that if Legislator Bartels or Legislator Archer or Legislator Walter, or Legislator Gavaris, or many other members of the Democratic caucus had serious questions...

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman according to the rules of the Legislature, unless he's asking a question question directly to legislators to personally attack legislators on the floor.

Chairman Donaldson

I don't think he was personally attacking anyone he was. He was talking about referrals. So he didn't say anything negative about anyone. I mean, I don't know.

Legislator Ronk

I, I would challenge Legislator, minority Majority Leader Heppner to come up with what parts what portion of the rules I'm violating.

Legislator Heppner

You're directly addressing a legislature without a question.

Legislator Ronk

All right. What portion of the rules is that violate Majority Leader Heppner?

Legislator Heppner

I do not have that in front of me.

Legislator Ronk

I guess you're just trying to shut me down then.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright. Okay, I ruled on that. Go ahead Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I believe strongly that if one of the legislators I mentioned or, you know, insert, you know, Democratic caucus legislator here, if that makes everyone feel a little bit more comfortable, um, had serious concerns and serious questions for the county attorney on this, it would be postponed. I've seen posts, I've seen resolutions and contracts and local laws postpone for multiple years through multiple terms of the legislature. And here I have some serious concerns about a resolution that's going to have serious financial impacts, and possibly serious logistical impacts on the county's ability to know where these Airbnb are and on our towns, the towns that were supposedly supposed to represent, are gonna yell, it's gonna cause logistical problems for them with code enforcement and other things. And here, we are just rushing on through, because we think that there's an easy pay day at the other end of the rainbow. You know, I have I have very serious concerns about this. And I'm just I'm discouraged. I'm disappointed at the level of partisanship that has been exhibited this year on behalf of the Democratic Caucus, when members of the minority caucus have brought up concerns. You know, it's a level of partisanship that I've never personally, you know, uh, you know, adhered to when I was chairman when I was majority leader when I was minority leader. If there were serious questions, serious, substantial questions, I would support a referral back to committee. I have supported referrals back to committee, even when I supported the original question. So I'm very discouraged. I'm very dismayed. I really wish that the referral could have happened. But here we are, we're going to we're going to vote for something that I don't think that any of us are really about, you know, certain portions of it. And, you know, even you know, the majority leader decided to try to shut me down when I was just mentioning that I, I feel strongly that if it were a member of the other caucus, you know, this would not be going this way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Already, Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

I'll let Legislator Walter go first.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Thank you, as one of the new legislators, I would just clarify that if I had issues with it, I would have brought it up at one or the other Ways and Means meeting that this could have been addressed. And rather than now, I think that the executive's office took a long time and worked very hard on this agreement. And I think that we had substantial time to bring up any issues or concerns. And I really appreciate that we have this agreement now in front of us, I don't feel it's rushed in any way. Again, we had Ways and Means meetings that we could have brought this up and addressed any of these

concerns, and they were not. I don't know, what this, what if there are other things that motivate this, this effort, but I think that we should recognize that this was a long process that was worked out with the executive's office and Airbnb, and I really appreciate it. And I'm strongly supportive of this resolution.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Thank you. Again, I think Legislator Walter had a key point there. Yesterday at Laws and Rules, who was brought up a concern that amendment was brought up too late. We were attacked. And then, you know, despite the fact that, you know, we spent how long during the budget vote because of little last second amendments. And today, I found out about this amendment later in the day, or this effort to refer back to committee, no concern, to, at least from what I know, any member besides Chairman Donaldson, of this caucus, you know, we can throw these you know, it's, it's disappointing, actually, that I even had to bring this up. You know we're being accused of bipartisan ships and attacks. I mean, all I know is that this has been a very challenging year, we're trying to get through this. And I've sat here like the rest of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I can go to sleep at night with my head on the pillow, knowing that we have handled ourselves with professionalism. And I can exactly tell you were the most partisan attacks and constant efforts to cause disruption and last minute chaos has come from. So again, you know, I'm, you know, I'm sorry, I wasn't trying to shut you down. I believe that's long-standing rule in the legislature. If I'm incorrect, then I apologize. But again, this concern all of a sudden, again, this was a concern that's been talked about this contract itself has been talked about for months and months, going over years. So now, last minute, there's an effort to refer back. I don't know who you contacted Chairman Ronk in terms of our caucus to refer this back to committee. You know, that's a question to the chair to you, if you want to answer that, how I believe the rules of the legislature dictates how we should address legislators, which I was referring to before, you obviously have a disagreement on that rule. But again, I hope we can get through this meeting. And, you know, the accusations can fly, but the record proves itself.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would love to answer, leader Heppner's question, and then I've got some other comments to make. I did not call individual members of your caucus, I feel that, you know, the time to make your arguments is, you know, on the floor of the legislature or in committee, with respect to Legislator Walters, comment to that I should have brought this up at either the first or the second Ways and Means Committee meeting, I will tell you that I was derelict. I missed the first Ways and Means Committee meeting because I had another commitment. And I believe that it was passed in that committee with very little discussion or debate. It was not postponed, like many controversial items have been the second Ways and Means Committee meeting. Of course, I couldn't have I couldn't have made that motion to postpone into the second committee meeting, because I wasn't there. So thank you for bringing that up. I was not at the first committee meeting when it was passed. And at the second

meeting, I would have no standing to bring up my concerns or an attempt to refer it back to committee or to postpone it pending more conversation with the county attorney's office because it was not on the agenda because it had already passed. So to say that I didn't bring it up or at the first to the second Ways and Means Committee meeting is only half true. I did not bring it up the first meeting when it was voted on because I was not there. You know, and and to Legislator Heppner's comment about this being a last minute concern, I will tell you that I've been dealing with this issue and fighting for our hard working hotel, motel workers and hotel motel owners and Ulster County against, against resolutions like this since long before many of the people have been on this legislature. And actually, back when, you know, Mr. Parete, was chairman of the county legislature back in in 2015. So, I can tell you that I've been I've been fighting this issue for the better part of five years, it hasn't substantially changed. My my concerns that I've brought up many times, not just last minute Leader Heppner have not been addressed. And again, all I'm asking for some time, you know, to discuss it with the county attorney's office. If everybody's fine signing our life away to Airbnb, that's perfectly fine. I'm just not.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. Are we...

Legislator Parete

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Parete.

Legislator Parete

Yeah you know, this has been kicking around as Legislator Ronk said since around 2015, 2016. The fact is that Airbnb have been sharing in our economy, and not necessarily supporting it. As the the stationary hotels and motels have. Now they want to help support it. I think this is long overdue. I feel it is some unfinished business in terms of the allocations of the money. But that can wait for a different day. I think that, there probably will always be things that some folks are concerned with. But I think that we have to move forward with this. And I'll happily voted yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

So, I haven't been around as long as this process has been going on. But I can tell you as active local code enforcement, we do have problems with this, but the communications that will cease to exist to help us do our jobs. So, my communication with my fellow code enforcement officers, is that this is not a good thing for us. So, I'll be voting no tonight.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I just want to acknowledge one point Leader Ronk made, we have to remember this is this tax currently is exists. This is just the collection part, it has no bearing on the actual attacks. Also, just his concerns before I refer to page 15, of the Rules of the Legislature, Section G. Part 3; any legislator who engages in personal attacks on another member of the legislature shall yield the floor at the chair person's order. I made a point of order asked you to consider that, you made your ruling and we went on. So, any, you know, further comment and trying to oppress his comments is simply not true. I was going by the rules of this legislature.

Chairman Donaldson

Right... [inaudible]

Legislator Ronk

Point of order Mr. Chairman. What exactly, point of order?

Chairman Donaldson

All right, let me speak very quickly on this. He, I did not see him as attacking anyone he mentioned names. And he talked about postponements and how they were. He did not say disparaging items towards them. So, as a result, I mean, he and I didn't see that. So, I try...

Legislator Heppner

Again, I appeal to you.

Chairman Donaldson

I try to error on the side of free speech. But at the same time, I, you know, we always have to watch what we say. All right, Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Thank you. Um, I think it's important. It's very important to me that it's not represented that for myself, and I would imagine for other people who support this that we are - have anything against or want to harm the hotels and motels in our community at all. I think that similar to what was mentioned, by Legislator Heppner and Parete, this is a tax that already exists that Airbnb is not paying their fair share. As somebody as the person who put forth the resolution initially, I spent a lot of time talking to the hotel motels. And I know very clearly what their concerns are. They honestly were concerned that Airbnb would have to, would require contract to pay this, they did not have an issue with them paying it, they weren't having an issue with the fact that there had to be a contract for it. And they didn't like that there wasn't as full of an auditing of Airbnb as they felt they were audited. But that said, that it's not it does level the playing field, there are aspects of auditing that it is in this contract. And it is not true that we will lose the capacity to really know where these sites are, if this is a very important thing for the legislature and for the executive's office that we can still maintain a capacity to identify where these properties are. And so, I just want to make sure it's clear that my support for this is an absolute support for hotels and motels, and tourism in our community.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts

Thank you. I have also heard from the hotel and motel constituent to my district, and feel that they feel that this is not a very good resolution. Airbnb will be collecting our tax for us. They will tell us how much tax is due to us. And we're not allowed to audit them, except once every four years, they'll open their books. Um, I would much rather have a more-clear system where we can audit them. And they tell us who paid what tax and how much we're getting. But that's not the way it's set up. They're just going to cut a check every whatever it is, and say, Oh, we owe you this much. And they're not telling us where it's coming from who paid it. Therefore, like my colleague from Marlborough, said, it's very difficult for the towns and villages to track who is actually an Airbnb for the purposes of complying with the zoning and ordinance codes and ordinances to be an Airbnb or a multi-family. So, I'll be voting a no, because it seems like Airbnb is, is getting the lion's share of what they want, and not complying with what we need.

Legislator Parete

A Mr. Chairman, if I might.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Parete.

Legislator Parete

I just like to look at the ledger sheet and over the last five years, I'm seeing how much they've contributed through revenue taxes to our balance sheet, I don't think there's anything there. Yes, there can be plenty of nitpicking that can be possibly changes. But some accountability is long overdue. And contributing to our community directly. Is just a requirement at this point. Thank you.

Chairman Donaldson

All right, before we go on, Legislator Ronk I'm giving you a lot of lee-way here. You've been speaking like they I'm not sure how many times but...

Legislator Ronk

It's the third-time Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright. I think it's a little more than that, but that's okay.

Legislator Ronk

Well, I spoke on the amendment but that's fine. We can agree to disagree, Mr. Chairman, thanks. Just to Legislator Parete's point. Um, you know, we don't have a way to look at the ledger or the balance sheet because occupancy tax is a similar to a trade secret. You know, Burt Gulnick, our Commissioner of Finance is the only one allowed to know who pays occupancy tax and how much when they legally pay occupancy tax. It is not allowed to be divulged. He can go to prison if he divulges it. The County Executive is not allowed to know how much occupancy tax is paid and who pays it. The concern that I have here is that right now, we've been we've been very successful in signing up individual hosts to pay

the occupancy tax that they owe. I'm not sure that this is a better option. We may net a few more dollars here or there. And if that's everybody's goal, then you're succeeding, congratulations. But to Legislator Corcoran's point, you know, we we are really endangering our town's ability to do code enforcement here, which I think is more important. One issue that I've brought up over the years just you know, to Legislator Heppner's point that I'm bringing up issues last minute, I've brought this issue up several times since he's been a legislator, you know, in Rockland County they've got a huge problem with illegal apartments and those illegal apartments kill firefighters. Because they wall up apartments they'll turn a five-bedroom house into a 15-apartment house. And there have been several fires in Rockland County due to these illegal apartments that have killed firefighters. Firefighters have lost their lives. I see the same thing happening in communities around here with Airbnb's. You can turn a two-family house into ten Airbnb's, you can wall off rooms, you can have rooms without a window with no ingress or egress except for one door. And you're gonna have our hardworking firefighters, first responders and volunteers put themselves in precarious positions, which is why people like Legislator, Corcoran, as a code enforcement officer are so important, and why the ability to continue to use our third-party vendor to be able to get the information is so important. What people don't understand is that if we get information from Airbnb about about hosts, which we're not going to get because the contract says they're not going to give us any information. But let's just say we did. If we got information from Airbnb, about where the hosts are, we couldn't share it. Because under this contract, they're paying us occupancy tax, what we get when we use when we use our third-party vendor that goes and data mines, these sites, we are able to share with the town's. We've signed intermunicipal agreements with multiple towns, many of our towns, which allow this information to be shared with the code enforcement officers. And I think that that information is much more valuable than whatever small pot of money, we're going to be able to to gain by doing this and potentially lose the ability to use our third-party vendor to gain this information for the town's. That's one of the things that I want to better understand because I can tell you that my minority counsel and I discussed this after both going through the contract several times. And we're not sure that we can still use the organization to data mine or Airbnb under this contract, it could be considered a breach of contract. You know, if that's what everyone's comfortable with God bless. I'm just saying I'm not. And I want it on record, that I think that, you know, our ability to do code enforcement and to help out these towns is much more valuable than whatever small pot of money we're going to be able to gain by signing this contract.

Chairman Donaldson

Already, can I call the question? Legislator Corcoran. I'm sorry.

Legislator Corcoran

That's okay. I just want to thank Legislator Ronk for for his words, because again, as code enforcement, our main objective here is the protection of human life. And and if we're trading off the protection of human life for an extra few dollars, that we have a problem with that. And again, that is our main goal as code enforcement is the protection of human life. And that's what I see as trading here today. So, thank you, Legislator, Ronk for that.

Legislator Parete

Mr. Chairman, I just got to say that code enforcement right now is very difficult or near impossible on this issue. We have to start to move forward to try to find some revenue for code enforcement, or whatever other what if I's - what if's that we can come up with.

Legislator Corcoran

Code enforcement is much easier when I know where I'm going and who's doing what inside these houses. Because one and two family houses, I have zero jurisdiction in but once they become commercialized, or or bed and breakfast, then I have the authority to go into these homes and inspect fire extinguishers, carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors and protection of human life. But the knowledge of not being able to get to these spots, is the again the problem of the protection of human life. If I don't have that knowledge, there's no way for me to do it. And again, one and two family houses I have zero jurisdiction in and I'm not allowed in. So yes, code enforcement is difficult enough, this will make it more difficult.

Chairman Donaldson

All right, just for a point of information Legislator Parete and Corcoran. This is not a discussion between the two of you. You have to wait for me to call on you.

Legislator Parete

I apologize.

Chairman Donaldson

No problem.

Legislator Corcoran

So, do I.

Chairman Donaldson

No problem, I let it go. I mean, I I try to error...

Legislator Parete

You're a benevolent despot. You're a benevolent despot.

Chairman Donaldson

Well okay very nice. Anybody? Can I call this question now or, Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts

Mr. Chairman. I am going to request a long roll please.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty. Very good. Long roll it will be.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

No.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

No.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

My understanding is that we are still going to use the registration process, so I'll be a yes on this.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson

Chairman Donaldson

Well I originally supported the postponement only because it was a couple legal questions that I think could have been answered. But having said that, this has been around for many years as far back as 2015, actually, even before that. So, I do believe that, you know, after this discussion, I think we need to take a look at the way the money is being spent. And we need to make sure that inspections can be done and maybe get money into those towns that have to do these types of inspections. So, I will be a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

I'm going to be a no, because I think what's going to happen here, because I think it can happen very easily. A lot of Airbnb's at a small level, can kind of go underground and be operated by word of mouth. I see it already. So, I will be a No.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Pass.

Clerk Fabella

Green.

Legislator Greene

I'm going to be yes. I just want to say that I generally like to be sure the legislation is the way we'll want it. But if far outstanding issues, I think it's too late to address them. And I think they absolutely should be addressed. So, but I'm going to stay as a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

No.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Um, so I will be a yes on this. Starting from the fact that I represent the first municipality in the county that entered into municipal a contract with the county in terms of information sharing that helped us craft those zoning laws, and my confidence that that progress will be able to continue. Also for the progress in the sake that now we join a large number of upstate counties who have already done this some, you know, years past, and you know, this is progress going forward. I know I've had many

conversations with legislators on both sides of the aisle here, about when the time is appropriate for us to discuss how we allocate the funding that will be raised through this revenue, which is a conversation we cannot forget to have, which is crucial. But at this point I'm comfortable about Yes. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes. Like Legislator Greene said, if we had more time to vet some of these issues out, she would better understand it. It's probably the reason why we asked for postponement so we could have a clear. We don't need this to go the way of some other legislation that we've had and how to go back and like the dog law and those things have to take steps back because we step too quickly. My fear is Airbnb is now going to be in control. They'll tell us what tax we're going to collect. And it will be confidential information. So, people like Legislator Corcoran will not be able to get the information to be able to go in and inspect these Airbnb's. And unfortunately, hopefully no one loses their life because of that or a firefighter or an EMT person. But I just want everybody to remember how they vote today. I am a no.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

No.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

We we've been trying to get a contract past for years. And, you know, I understand and I agreed with the Health and Human safety concerns. That's why I did verify we will still be using our data mining. We have contracts with multiple municipalities who will be getting the information, and several of them are using that information so they can rewrite the laws and make sure that these places are safe. I still think there's money out there that just isn't being collected and it should be and that puts the short-term rentals on a level playing field with our hotels and motels so I am a yes on this resolution.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts

Legislator Roberts

I'll be voting no.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Pass.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

I look forward to upcoming conversations about how these revenues or revenues in general coming from this area are spent. I think supporting, supporting affordable housing and supporting our traditional hotel you know, economy is should be at the top of our priorities, and I'm going to be a yes on this.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

I'm going to be a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

No.

Legislator Gavaris

So, I'm going to be a yes. There is other ways to get the information for who has Airbnb's and other short term rentals. Our neighboring counties are doing it. One I've been told is actually offering incentives to the neighbors to report and if they find and they actually are proven to have a rental going on, they share in the fines. So, there's other ways to get that information. I'm now confident that we can still use our existing service. So, I'm going to be a yes.

Clerk Fabella

And last, we have Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you to explain my vote. First, I'd like to thank Legislator Corcoran for sharing with this body his experience and expertise in code enforcement. You know, a great deal of my no vote on this tonight is due to the fact that code enforcement is I think the most important part of Airbnb's in Ulster County and why I've supported county is a former County Executive Hine, you know, and until now, County Executive Ryan's plan to use our third-party vendor in order to locate these facilities and ensure that they're properly paying the tax. And then you know, being able to use that information and leverage it to

the town's for free, in order to allow for code enforcement to keep our residents and volunteers safe. I've heard a lot of things, you know, in this debate, and then in these vote explanations, including it's my understanding that we will continue to use, you know, the third-party organization. My attorneys telling me that we're not going to be able to do that under the contract, otherwise, we would be in breach of contract. So, while we may have every intention to continue to use it, I don't think that we'll be able to, and that would be a question that that were the postponement or referral been able to have the support of the body since there are serious questions on our side of the aisle, you know, we possibly have them answered by the county attorney who is the sole legal authority who's going to defend us in that manner. I've heard many times over the last five years from, you know, legislators going back to I think, you know, former Chairman Parete, who was the first person I think, to introduce a voluntary collection agreement or a change to our bed tax there that were there's there's a accusation or assertion that we're leaving lots of money on the table. I want everyone to remember that because next year, when we balanced the books, we're going to see exactly how much money is left on the table. And I think it's significantly less than many of you believe it to be because of the hard work of Burt Gulnick, our Commissioner of Finance and the finance office, in locating the organization, locating these organizations and getting them to pay the tax that they all owe. Anyway, um, you know, so again, I believe that those who voted no this evening are choosing public safety and the safety of our residents and the safety of our first responders and our building departments over what could be just a couple of bucks, so I'll be a no. The resolution is adopted 13 to nine. The final resolution tonight is 467, Adopting Proposed Local...

Legislator Heppner

I believe Legislator Wawro had her hand raised.

Clerk Fabella

Oh, that's for Chairman Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

We have a resolution before it's good, what's going on?

Legislator Wawro

It can wait.

Clerk Fabella

Mary Wawro had her hand raised.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright, Mary did you want to speak?

Legislator Wawro

I lost video for the vote on 449 and 450 and I just wanted to cast my yes votes.

Clerk Fabella

The record is corrected to reflect Legislator Wawro's vote on resolution 449 and 450. They are now adopted 18 to three with one abstention Legislator Litt's. And no problem. And our final resolution tonight is Resolution 467, Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 14 of 2020, A Local law Amending Local Law No. 17 of 2007, A Local Law to Create the Department of the Environment and the Office of the Coordinator of the Department of the Environment for the County of Ulster.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thanks, I'm gonna be very brief. I think that the current coordinator of the department environment, who I believe is going to become the director of the Department of the Environment, does a great job in her current position will continue to do a great job in her position when she becomes director. I'm going to be a no because I feel as if this resolution is dishonest. It was introduced during a time when the County Executive's proposed budget included a raise for the position. And it you know, that was removed during our budget process. But I believe that in the future, the position will be increased. I do not believe that saying that there is no financial impact is honest to the taxpayers and residents of the county. I believe that we should put a reasonable financial impact or as in the Board of Elections resolution, a possible financial impact. So, for those reasons, I'm going to be a no. If this were just a simple title change, and nobody's salaries were eventually going to increase as a result of it I would be yes, but that's not what I see happening. But I want to make sure because apparently, you know, from my from my discussions with members of my caucus who received some phone calls today, that was not the impression that folks had about my belief in the great job that the current coordinator- future Director of the Department of the Environment is doing. So, I want to make sure on the record that everybody hears that I think that she is doing a fantastic job. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

I mean, I see no one else on the question.

Legislator Heppner

We are short Yes.

Legislator Ronk

By my estimation, we have a short yes with 4 nos. Ronk, Roberts, Litts and Corcoran unless that changes and unless that changed. That was my recollection from caucus. Hearing none, that's our vote.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. Okay.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution is adopted 18 to four.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty and that was the last resolution. Madam Clerk.

Clerk Fabella

Yes, it was.

Chairman Donaldson

I would like to ask Legislator Gavaris to please read the names of the meeting being adjourned in memory of.

Legislator Gavaris

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to adjourn the meeting in memory of Honorable Raymond Armater from Kingston, New York, John F. Carney from Kingston, New York, Carolyn Wood Wolz from New Paltz, New York, Shirley L. Perpetua from Phoenicia, New York, Hedwig M. Byelick from Wallkill in New York, Daniel T. Ellsworth from Saugerties New York, Lawrence Shelton from Kingston, New York, George W. Peterson from the Esopus New York, Audrey R. Haber from Kingston, New York, Jean Lasher Gaede from Woodstock, New York, Sweetbryar Ludwig from Woodstock, New York, Joseph J. Benkert from Kingston, New York, Harriet Strauss from Gardiner, New York, Edward Stevens from West Shokan New York, Albert J. Bruno from Saugerties, New York, Joseph M. Sullivan from Highland New York, Roy J. Gillespie, from Union City Ohio, Desmond J. Dutcher from Glasco New York, John F. Crews from Port Ewen New York, Cassidy Flood from Kingston, New York, Suzanne Charlotte Festag Colp from Phoenicia New York, Ronald J. Ferrara from Kingston New York, John Mueller West Shokan New York, Arthur Thomas Daley, Jr. from Hurley New York, Clifford Mitchell from Highland New York, Philip Dale Lash from Gardner New York, William the Coach Ransom Frier from New Paltz, New York, Joseph F. Sours Jr. from Accord New York, John Dashtgoli from Pflugerville, Texas, Jerry Smith, Cooperopolis from California, Walter Ebert, Saugerties New York, Kathleen Van Gaasbeck from Saugerties New York, Antonio Viviani from Saugerties, New York, and last night take it out of order, James J. Grable, also known as Jim, from Cottekill, and also formerly from Ellenville. Jim was a resident of Ellenville for a long time. He was an Ellenville PD officer. He was a volunteer member of the Ellenville Fire District. He was a member of the Ellenville first rescue squad. And while we haven't seen him in a while, because he moved, he's going to be missed. I'm sure so, thank you.

Chairman Donaldson

Do we have any additions? You could call it. Legislator Ronk. You're on mute.

Legislator Ronk

Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I was trying to do two things at once. You know, I would like to add the name of Shane Masterson. Um, you know, Shane is actually from Orange County, but he's the cousin of a constituent and good friend of mine from Wallkill. He passed away after a long battle with terminal brain cancer. And, you know, he was involved in many trials and put up a really good fight, and he was very young. Um, so I'd like to add him as well please.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else? Legislator Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Hey, I'd like to add the name of Ed Andreassen of South Carolina is originally from Saugerties, New York, the brother of Paul Andreassen, former Councilman in Saugerties. The Andreassen family is well known and respected throughout Saugerties. And he's a big loss to the family and everybody who knew him.

Chairman Donaldson

Anybody else just speak up.

Legislator Litts

Dean has his hand up.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to add the name of Camillus Sasso, a Glasco resident has been a good friend of mine for many, many years. He ran, owned and operated a mechanic shop here in Glasco for many years, called the Grecco Brothers Motors. He was the wholesale tire- he must have sold tires across the whole Hudson Valley for many years. And he had passed away I think it was either early this morning or late last night. And I've been good friends with him and his family for many, many years. I'm going to miss Camillus he was a good friend and a good guy.

Chairman Donaldson

I do not see any other hands up. If you can indulge me I'd like to say a few words before we close out tonight. Of course, the beginning of this year, started out with a lot of promise. And it quickly changed into some serious despair in the way of 100-year pandemic. That is all but destroyed our routines, our sense of stability, changing our lives in ways that we could not have dreamed. Zoom has become a staple of our lives, which in turn takes away from much in the personal relationship building and the human interaction that we really do need. So that's Friday was my 70th birthday. And I reflected back on the past, decade milestones. My wife threw me a party for the 40th and the 50th. My daughter, threw me one for the 60th. In each case, many people were there and they were somewhat of a surprise some people. The mayor in the City of Kingston was there and each one of them. So was the Assemblyman that Brian Cahill knows him. And my favorite New York supreme court justice was there - same guy that married me. Well, my 70th birthday was different. My wife and I met a couple of friends for dinner at the Boiceville Inn. We had a total of five of us counting John Parete. And it made for such a wonderful stress free personal interaction birthday that in many ways, was the best birthday I've had. It was a silver lining. If we learn anything from this pandemic, it's the value of those personal re-interactions. Those personal relationships value those friends and family. And during this fine year silver lining, as we close out this year's calendar and go into the holidays, there's a new sense about vaccinations are happening that renew that promise, of some resemblance of what we were. I long for going across the street after a meeting for an impromptu chat with members of the legislature, or members of our staff or even members of the executive staff we used to do. Sometimes, the person I end up having a drink with was the person I wanted to scream at 15 minutes ago at the meeting. But

that is what else brings those personal relationships and you allow to leave that animosity on the floor. I long for that. Well, this is a simple nostalgic wish others which are some sense of financial stabilities. They wish for some type of food security. They wish for some sense of housing security, or some sense of healthcare security. Too many struggle with these insecurities before the pandemic. And now there are many more struggling and more will be added to the growing population. Local and nonprofit are struggling to meet client's needs. The virus has continued to force layoffs, closures, as well as the cancellation of fundraising events. Food banks and pantries can't meet the demand. They need money, they need volunteers, and they need goods. I've instructed the Clerk to list links for the nonprofit's that help out our constituents in their time of need in an effort to make an easier for those to get connected, but also easier for people to understand and find places that they can donate. Because that's very important. And I asked for your suggestions to keep the list current and local. I also wanted to set it up so it has local. Local because for instance, maybe one in Shawangunk or Ellenville. That should be on that list. And that's where they're supporting. So, I need your help in that. You make a call, make sure that these groups that you think are important to be listed are listed for links. They need to have links. And then later on once done, share the page in your social media accounts to encourage the donations. Although there there is a light at the end of the tunnel, many still don't see it. So, we need your help. Normally, we would close this meeting and go to the holiday party. But for obvious reasons, that's not going to happen. Now I'm going to propose a June Christmas for our party this year. So, I think that'd be the way to go. And I wish everybody to have a happy, healthy New Year. Because and remember your friends and family.

Legislator Ronk

Mr. Chairman may I be heard before we adjourn?

Chairman Donaldson

Yes.

Legislator Ronk

On behalf of the minority caucus, I just want to thank you for your leadership over the past 12 months. You know, understanding the concerns and the hardships of leading the legislature I can say that I'm not sure that anybody's ever had a you know, in the history of the county legislature, the strife and the things that you've had to work through, you know, be it the zoom meetings or the fact that zoom meetings allow us to have way more meetings than we used to have because they're all at home and close by? You know, I just I think that you've been fair, you've been honorable. And I think that you've helped to guide our county through a really unprecedented time, and you've done so desiring a partnership with both caucuses. And I just I want to say that I look forward to working with you over the next over the next 12 months, hopefully guiding us through the other end of the pandemic. And I sincerely hope that you consider running for Chairman again, because I think you've done a fantastic job this year.

Chairman Donaldson

I thank you. I really do appreciate that. Legislator Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to wish you and your wife a Happy Christmas, Happy New Year. And I definitely, definitely want to echo with Minority Leader Ronk has just said about you, I am in total agreement. You've done an awesome job through everything this year. And I appreciate your hard work. And all the time that you put in.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, Legislator Fabiano. I don't want you guys make me cry here.

Legislator Parete

Oh, don't cry, don't cry.

Chairman Donaldson

Oh I won't, I really do appreciate that. It really means a lot. And I know, I served as chairman in the past. And I remember, I think it was the second time that I ran. It was Dean Fabiano that nominated me on the floor.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes, it was.

Chairman Donaldson

And that was something to me, because I felt that was a was a bipartisan thing. And I hope that I am fair. And I just I hope that I, I tried to be that and I try to be fair for all of us. As you know, I'm a progressive democrat. And that's the way I look at things. But that doesn't mean that I don't listen to others. So,

Legislator Ronk

Mr. Chairman, I do want to say that in the words of Foghorn Leghorn, you know, when when discussing, you know, folks that you'd go across the street and have a drink with after you want to scream out, I say I say my friend, I resemble that comment.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, you definitely do Mr. Ronk. Legislator Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah, I can only echo what Legislator Fabiano and Minority Leader Ronk said. But I also want to add that as the first term legislator, I want to thank you, not only for dealing with what you've had to deal with through zoom learning zoom, and the COVID be shut down. But also, what you've taught me. And as a as a new legislator, I've learned a lot from you. And I want to thank you for your guidance and for your understanding of my naivete. I guess the word naive. Whatever word is. Never get that right. But Thank you, and good luck in the future years.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you. Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts

Dave, I just want to say good job and I'll see you at Santa Fe.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty. Legislator Parete.

Legislator Parete

You know, echoing your sober words. And your leadership. That's why I did. I did not take offense to, to Legislator Ronk using my name with a raised voice inflection before. [laughter] Happy New Year and Happy Holidays to everybody.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, I like ending our meetings on a happy note. So, I entertain a motion to adjourn. Legislator Litts...

Legislator Litts

Mr. Chairman, I'll will make a motion to adjourn. Happy Holidays to all.

Legislator Parete

And good health.

Legislator Litts

See you soon.

Chairman Donaldson

And seconded by Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Criswell

Happy Holidays, everyone.

Chairman Donaldson

All righty. Very good. Everybody...

Legislator Cahill

Merry Christmas.

Legislator Bruno

Merry Christmas, everybody. Thanks for the happy birthday.

Legislator Litts

Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Happy Holidays.

Legislator Parete

Yep. Good health.