

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 8, 2020

PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL SESSION: BUDGET

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



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

6:15 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: 6:23 PM

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

Led by Legislator Herbert Litts.

ROLL CALL: Present: 23 Absent: 0

6:15 PM - CALL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK: On 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

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

Motion by Legislator Litts, second by Legislator Bruno to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 6:26 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were two speakers signed up for public comment. (see attached transcript)

1. Elias Kassirer, Gardiner:
2. Brian Doyle:

RESOLUTION NOS: 299, 429 – 435

A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk to Block Resolution Nos. 429, 430, 431, 432 and 433. All in favor.

**299 Authorizing The Use Of The Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund For
 COVID-19 Related Expenses**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 16 NOES: 7
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Fabiano,
Gavaris, Greene, Heppner, and Walter)

429 Ratification Of Tax Rolls

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

430 Levy For Unpaid Sewer Rents

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

431 Levy For Unpaid Water Rents

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

432 Approving Completed Tax Rolls And Directing The Execution Of Delivery Of Warrants

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

433 Authorizing Commissioner Of Finance To Make Transfers Of Funds And Budgetary Amendments

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

434 Adopting the Ulster County Budget For Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2021 And Making Appropriations For The Conduct Of County Government

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 1 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 10
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Fabiano, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Parete, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 2 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 10
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Fabiano, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Parete, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 3 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Maio, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 4.1 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 9 NOES: 14
(Ayes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Bruno, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 4.2 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 11 NOES: 12
(Ayes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Fabiano, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Parete, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 4 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 10
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Parete, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend Amendment No. 5 to strike all CSEA positions from the amendment as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 5 as amended and presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING
VOTE:

AYES: 11 NOES: 12
(Ayes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Bruno, Criswell,
Delaune, Fabiano, Gavaris, Greene, Heppner, Walter,
and Wawro)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment Nos. 6 through 15 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 16 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 12 NOES: 11
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Fabiano, Haynes,
Litts, Lopez, Maio, Parete, Roberts, Ronk, and
Wawro)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 17 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 10
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Fabiano, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment Nos. 18 through 20 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 21 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 10 NOES: 13
(Ayes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Cahill, Criswell, Delaune, Gavaris, Greene, Heppner, Uchitelle, and Walter)

Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend Amendment No. 22 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 10
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Haynes, Litts,
Lopez, Maio, Parete, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Litts, to further amend Amendment No. 22 to include positions in the County Clerk's Office as reflected in the attached exhibit as Amendment No. 22.1.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 17 NOES: 6
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Heppner,
Parete, and Walter)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 22.1 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Parete)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 23 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 2 NOES: 21
(Ayes: Legislators Archer and Bartels)

Legislator Parete motioned, seconded by Legislator Gavaris, to amend Amendment No. 24 as presented in the attached exhibit to equally split \$12,500.00 between the following organizations: Shadowland Theater, Woodstock Playhouse, Shandaken Theatrical Society, Rosendale Theatre, Ashokan Center, Orpheum Theatre, and Ulster Performing Arts Center.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 7 NOES: 16
(Ayes: Legislators Gavaris, Litts, Parete, Petit, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 24 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20 NOES: 3
(Noes: Legislators Fabiano, Gavaris, and Parete)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 25 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 10
(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Fabiano, Gavaris, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Roberts, Ronk, and Walter)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 26 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 3 NOES: 20
(Ayes: Legislators Cahill, Donaldson and Petit)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 27 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 17 NOES: 6
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Delaune, Gavaris, Greene, and Walter)

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2021 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 28 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

435 Adopting Ulster County Capital Program For 2021 – 2026

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the Proposed 2021 – 2026 Ulster County Capital Program to include Amendment Nos. 1 through 5 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Motion by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Fabiano to adjourn Special Legislative Session.
All in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:03 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held next **Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:30 PM** powered by Zoom Meeting and available via *vimeo* livestream at <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>. Public Comment via Call In Studio by dialing: 205-Ulster-0 (205-857-8370).

Ulster County Legislature
Legislative Budget Session

Meeting Transcript
December 8, 2020

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, let's call a public hearing to order and we'll lead with the Pledge of Allegiance. Legislator Litts could you please lead us with the pledge and remain standing for a moment of silence.

Legislator Litts

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.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay, be seated. Roll Call.

Clerk Fabella

Roll Call

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Here.

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

Preesent.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Here.

.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes

Legislator Hayne

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Here.

Clerk Fabella

No Maio.

Legislator Maio

Yep, I'm Here.

Clerk Fabella

Oh, there you are.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Chairman Donaldson

He's there.

Legislator Litts

You just got it on mute.

Parete

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Yes, you know how to do it.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Here.

Clerk Fabella

And Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Here.

Clerk Fabella

23 present and zero absent.

Clerk Fabella

Tonight we have a public hearing on 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.

Clerk Fabella

I don't believe we have anybody signed up.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, no one's out there that wish to speak on this creation of the department rather than just a coordinator of environment.

Legislator Litts

Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion to close the public hearing.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty.

Legislator Bruno

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, Legislator Bruno. All those in favor.

Legislative Body

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

Adjourned for the public hearing. Now we can go right into session. The special session.

Clerk Fabella

We do have one speaker signed up for public comment.

Chairman Donaldson

Right for public comment for the special session for the budget. You have one person signed up.

Clerk Fabella

We do we have one speaker signed up Eli Kassirer.

Chairman Donaldson.

Alright.

Clerk Fabella

Eli can you hear us?

Legislator Litts

Star six to unmute.

Clerk Fabella

We're just going to have Fawn speak to this person and double check. Okay, let's try again. Can you hear us Eli?

Chairman Donaldson

Well, we could a, if Eli pops back in some way or form, maybe we can allow him to speak - allow the meeting to move on. What do you think, Madam Clerk?

Clerk Fabella

I agree. I mean, technically we just got another speaker signed up, if you want to just move on to that one, and then if Eli doesn't...

Chairman Donaldson

Sure.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, so the speaker we have is Brian Doyle.

Chairman Donaldson

Brian are you on mute? Well, the drum work was pretty good.

Clerk Fabella

Well, we can't figure out any technical issues on our end. So, it's up to you, if you want to go back to it.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, the call-in I see that they are on mute - whoever is in the call-in right now. I mean we can reserve the right for them to speak later if they wish, I guess.

Clerk Fabella

We can do that. That, that mute option is actually our call-in studio. It's Ellenbogen, so that's Jeremy.

Chairman Donaldson

Oh okay. Well I don't see anybody else in here. One on studio. All right, well, let's see we have a number of resolutions and we're going to probably have a rather long night. So, let us get moving and we'll get ready to rumble as they say.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, so if we're moving to resolutions, the first Resolution is 299 Authorizing the Use of the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund for COVID-19 Related Expenses.

Chairman Donaldson

I think this is going to be a long roll. On the issue.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Ronk

Based on?

Legislator Heppner

Yes, I'll call it for a long roll. I don't have a total count.

Clerk Fabella

Okay.

Chairman Donaldson

I'm trying to see who had their hand up, anyone wish to speak or just what did you speak on the long roll? I don't know. I don't see...

Legislator Ronk

Might as well speak on the long roll since we have to have one.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty. No, I don't see anybody with their hands up. If they do speak out. It's a little tough trying to find them on the screen. Okay, well, then we'll start the long roll.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

No.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

No.

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. You're on mute Legislator Fabiano.

Chairman Donaldson

Dean, you want to take yourself off mute.

Clerk Fabella

I can go back to him.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, please do.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

No.

Clerk Fabella

Greene. .

Chairman Donaldson

Manna.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Greene?

Legislator Greene

I'm sorry, no.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

No.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez.

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

Yes.

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

No.

Clerk Fabella

And Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is...

Chairman Donaldson

Oh, we have...

Clerk Fabella

Oh, wait Fabiano.

Chairman Donaldson

Dean, take yourself off mute. Can he do a yes?

Legislator Fabiano

Can you hear me? Can you hear me now? Okay, I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, The resolution is adopted by a vote of a 16 to seven.

Clerk Fabella

Now, we do have our caller back. So, it's up to you before we go into the next set of resolutions.

Chairman Donaldson

Oh yes, let him speak, yep.

Clerk Fabella

All right we have Eli back.

Chairman Donaldson

Go ahead Eli.

Elias Kassirer

Yes, Eli Kassirer from Gardiner, New York. I'm with Liberate New York, Ulster County. And the global lockdown and the restrictions imposed by governments have ruined jobs, lives, communities, small businesses and entire economies.

This unnecessary shutdown has caused social isolation, disruption, desperation and death. Tragically all unnecessary. Yes. COVID-19 has killed people, mostly elderly and the chronically ill the same as every flu. The CDC 40% of their budget buys vaccines, the World Health Organization financed by pharmaceutical giants and Bill Gates and pharmaceutical corporations.

Chairman Donaldson

Eli, could you please, this is a...

Elias Kassirer

Yes, I'm here.

Chairman Donaldson

We're calling this is a meeting on the budget and we're voting on that budget, those type of items. And we typically reserve comments for what we're voting on this evening.

Elias Kassirer

Okay, this this will relate to the budget because it relates to the budget of the sheriff's department and also the health department so just a few seconds. I will, I will get to that. Yes. So, this endless fear mongering lies, deceptions and scare tactics of muffled our voices clouded our thinking and masked our faces. And sadly, this is all preparing us for the mandatory vaccinations. But this vaccination will not be safe or effective. However, it will be different Moderna the leading contender never made a vaccine or medication will be injecting you with a genetically modified organism MRNA that will induce your cells to replicate the virus. If you don't believe me, you can check Robert F Kennedy Jr's website children's health defense.org. The implications of this forced vaccination program are simply terrifying. Lastly, and emphatically, I do not want any of my tax dollars to be spent by either the health department or the sheriff's department to track or trace or administer mandatory COVID vaccinations. If and when a vaccine becomes available, it must be completely voluntary. It is a gross human rights violation upheld by the Nuremberg trials to force an individual to be subjected to any invasive medical intervention without their informed consent. I appreciate your listening to my comments. And again, thank you for letting me do this.

Chairman Donaldson

All right, do you have the other one?

Clerk Fabella

We do we have Mr. Doyle back as well.

Chairman Donaldson

Go ahead, Brian.

Clerk Fabella

Mr. Doyle if you can hit star six.

Brian Doyle

Hello, this is Brian Doyle. I'm the Chief Executive Officer for Family Services. And I'm asking that the legislature, in fact, restore what was proposed as a 50% cut in the work that we are doing to save families and keep families together.

Clerk Fabella

And that was the only speakers we had.

Legislator Litts

Dave, you're on mute.

Chairman Donaldson

We'll close the public hearing part of it. Even though we went ahead a little unprecedented but that's okay. We're in unprecedented times.

Legislator Litts

I'll make a motion to close the public hearing.

Legislator Ronk

We don't need that this is just public comment.

Chairman Donaldson

We don't need that. We just got to go on to back to the resolutions.

Clerk Fabella

Yes, absolutely. Resolution 429 ratification of tax rolls.

Legislator Heppner

Chairman Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes.

Legislator Heppner

I will make a motion to block 429 to 433, which I believe if my colleague Legislator leader Ronk agrees we can block these.

Legislator Ronk

No objection.

Chairman Donaldson

Yep. Very good. The as the resolution as blocked?

Legislator Heppner

We're a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes.

Clerk Fabella

The Resolutions are adopted 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution No. 434 Adopting the Ulster County Budget for Fiscal Year Commencing January 2021 and Making Appropriations for the Conduct of County Government.

Legislator Heppner

I make a motion for Amendment One as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second it for discussion.

Legislator Heppnerth

On the amendment. We are a short yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, we have a discussion, does anybody wish to discuss it first? Don't see anyone with their hand up? No discussion? All right on the amendment?

Legislator Heppner

We are a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We are a short no with one yes, Legislator Heidi Haynes.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is adopted 13 to 10.

Legislator Heppner

Chairman Donaldson, I move Amendment No. 2 as presented.

Legislator Ronk

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

Good. On the discussion on Amendment 2, I see no hands. Call for the vote.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We are a short no with one yes, Legislator Haynes.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is adopted 13 to 10.

Legislator Heppner

I move Resolution No. 3, Mr. Chairman as presented.

Legislator Ronk

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

On the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

We're a short yes.

Chairman Donaldson

First, the discussion, no discussion. All right now a call for the vote go ahead.

Legislator Heppner

Short yes.

Legislator Ronk

Short yes.

Chairman Donaldson

All right very good.

Chairman Donaldson

Amendment 4.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, I move Amendment 4 as presented.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second it as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty. On the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes.

Legislator Ronk

Um, I would like to amend the resolution to remove several of the lines that has been presented to everybody in the packet.

Chairman Donaldson

Already on that amendment to remove the lines.

Legislator Heppner

Point of order Mr. Chairman. I believe you need a second.

Chairman Donaldson

You're right, exactly correct. I need second. It seconded by Legislator Maio.

Legislator Ronk

Haynes.

Chairman Donaldson

I saw Maio first so.

Legislator Ronk

Haynes [inaudible].

Chairman Donaldson

And on the amendment Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Can I just ask for clarification because in our packet on the One Drive, I don't see the amendment, it came email and there are multiple amendments for proposed amendments.

Legislator Ronk

Standby. I have to get to it because yeah. This amendment removes, sorry, I'm getting there. They're not in the right order sorry. The Public Defender Hurl Herring, the Public Health Healing Communities, the County Clerk. That's what I have somebody can correct me if I'm wrong. Chairman, Legislator Bartels has her hand up.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Thanks. So, I can just clarify, that's the third. You submitted via email three separate amendments to Amendment 4. And this looks to be the third one in that amendment. Just to confirm.

Legislator Ronk

The third one in the email. It's not that it wasn't intended to come in that order, I'm sure it's just how it got attached.

Legislator Bartels

Okay. Yeah, that's fine. I'm just looking for clarity.

Chairman Donaldson

Yeah, the way we have it is he, what he was saying was an amendment that's before us.

Legislator Ronk

But I also listed out the three, you know, the three sets of positions that were being taken out of the amendment.

Legislator Bartels

Okay, but, and just to clarify through to the clerk, this is an email, not on the one drive. These are two separate things. Just so everyone's looking at them both.

Clerk Fabella

It's in both. It's in both.

Legislator Ronk

Yeah, It's in both.

Legislator Bartels

Okay

Legislator Heppner

Is there a discussion?

Chairman Donaldson

Dean you should mute yourself Dean. Ready a Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thanks, this amendment is supported by the majority of our caucus. The reason for this is the public defender's positions are grant funded, the healing communities position is grant funded. So, it's not actually a positive impact on the 2021 Ulster County budget to remove these salary increases. And in addition to that, you know, the county clerk came and made a very compelling argument based on multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings in her office based on retirements and those positions not being filled. These people are doing more work than they were previous to that, and the decreases in the decreases in salaries more than I mean, just far and above, you know, what the increases are to these two employees in the clerk's office. So that's my reasoning.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else yes Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes. Well, I respect my colleague's comments, and especially respect the work that individual organizations and entities mentioned do, especially our clerk who has done an incredible job during COVID. The unfortunate reality is this has been such a hard time that so many of different departments and agencies and workers and county government have had to step up to an extraordinary task. The issue that we have had is one when we begin to pick and choose where with salary increases occur during such a tough economic in uncertain economic time and future, as well as the fact that that grant funding will not be lost - while won't go to salary increases, it can go to other programmatic purposes within those organizations. So, I just wanted to make those comments heard.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else.

Legislator Litts

Ken Ronk has his hand up. Albert Bruno has his hand up.

Chairman Donaldson

A Legislator Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yes, to reiterate what Legislator Ronk said, in addition to what the county clerk saved us, their revenue generation was also far and above what anybody would have anticipated in not only regular times, but in times of COVID as well. Where they actually generated more income than they would have. So not only are we saving money, but we also gained money through that department and I think that offsets that cost dramatically.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, anyone else? All right on the amendment to the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short no.

Legislator Ronk

We are a short yes with one no Legislator Fabiano.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is defeated nine to 14. Legislator Parete is also a no.

Chairman Donaldson

On the, is there your any other amendments to this amendment? Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. I'd like to move an amendment that's in your packet and on the one drive. It's actually the first one in the email that was sent out that Legislator Bartels referenced which removes the positions in the clerk's office only, from this resolution. And that's also based on the fact that based on both what Legislator Bruno said, with the revenue the clerk's been able to bring in during the COVID pandemic, as well as the savings that the clerk's office has given back far and exceed and have caused workloads to increase among employees.

Chairman Donaldson

Do I have a second for that amendment? Legislative Bruno?

Legislator Bruno

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

On the amendment, Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Again, in respect to leader Ronks comments and to the amendment and to the work that the clerk's office does. You know, again, you know, in discussions with the Democratic Caucus, again, there's, you know, positions in this amendment for pay increases. For example, the environmental coordinator. That office has brought in the tunes of millions and grants to Ulster County well, making us an environmental leader. I know for many people here, it's very difficult, that address that pay increase at the moment, but again, and the for the purpose of, you know, fiscal responsibility. And, you know, treading lightly in these uncertain economic times. You know, we continue to believe it's not a fair and or the right time to pick and choose at the moment.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thanks. I just find it comical that leader Heppner is talking about how in these, you know, in these tough times, we shouldn't be, you know, you know, picking and choosing who gets raises and who doesn't. In the last budget cycle, a year ago, and I know that circumstances were slightly different than but, you know, the Democratic caucus stood idly by while multiple raises two and three times of this level were doled out, and you know, and I was, you know, one of the only ones to speak up against them and I was tarred and feathered for it. I just, you know, it's entertaining, I guess. If not, you know, one of those if you don't laugh, you'll cry moments.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes, I mean, I can also point to a budget amendment that was made last year, that included a 2% salary increase for all non-union management positions that my colleague leader Ronk sponsored. If you want to throw mud back and forth, that's fine. Again, and I apologize to leader Ronk that I did that I did not predict a global pandemic in December of 2019. I wish I could have not that I know if it would have done much good. But again, just for you know, the simple reasons that I believe I laid out and again, no disrespect to anyone, you know, affected by

this resolution, and to continue, you know, thank you for the work they do. That's all I have to say on that.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright on the...Legislator Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah, I just one thing I'd like to add the Legislator Heppner, your example of energy environment where they brought in more grants, I just like to remind him that while grants are great, there are still taxpayer funded, revenue streams being brought into the county are not taxpayer funded. They are coming -they're actually revenues or people spent money. It's a little different than a grant where they take tax dollars from the state and give it back to us. These are not tax dollars.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else on the issue? I see none. Call for the vote on the amendment on the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

On the second amendment, we are a short no.

Legislator Ronk

We are a short yes on that amendment.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is defeated 11 to 12. Legislator Parete was also a yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, now on the amendment itself.

Legislator Ronk

I actually have a third amendment, but I'm just gonna let it go. Might as well just vote on the amendment.

Chairman Donaldson

All right on the amendment. Does anyone wish to speak on this amendment?
Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

I think that if this amendment that was, you know, supported by the entire democratic caucus was really about reducing salary increases that were over and above what would or should be acceptable, then you'll be putting several other positions in there. Unfortunately, those positions were increased last year,

some to the tune of \$19,000. And those folks are going to continue to see, you know, that salary for years to come, you know, as Legislator Bartels, so amply showed us all it's not out of the realm of possibility to claw-back things that were given the last year's budget legislator happy out, you know, to Legislator, Heppner's point, um, you know, with her amendment to to remove the 2% increases from all of the nonunion management staff. So now, we're going to have, you know, folks told Well, it's a really bad economy. So, you know, you're not going to get this salary increase, even though your job duties may have changed or whatnot. But you know, folks who received, you know, multiple double-digit increases last year, are still going to see them. So, if this was really about making sure that people aren't given those type of salary increases while the pandemic is going on, or while our finances are low, then you'd think that you'd be working to find all the ones that you approved last year, but that's not what we're doing here. So, it is what it is. Yeah, for those reasons, and others I'll be now.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else on this amendment? Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

I just wanted to say something that I mentioned the other night, you know, if we see a turn in the economy, we always have the option of going back and revisiting salaries in the future. So, this is not a locked deal for forever. So, I want to remind everybody, we do have that option.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else? Well, before I call for the vote, I'd like to say something myself. I mean, this is an amendment that I am, I'm torn about because I feel that these people deserve these raises. They have been working differently and they've been putting in a great deal more time. And that's the mindset of that. So, it really bothers me in many ways, voting this amendment. But I also, on the other hand, understand that we have to draw some lines and we have to make sure that we have the money in the budget to continue on and possibly give those raises in the future. But I mean, I've been torn on this particular one, but I will be voting for the amendment, but it it's a very difficult vote. So, our call for the vote.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution on the amended amendment for we are a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're short no with one yes, Legislator Fabiano.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is adopted 13 to 10. Legislator Parete is a no.

Chairman Donaldson

Amendment No. 5 Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

I move, Mr. Chairman, Amendment No. 5 as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

These are the title changes, Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Do I need to make an amendment to amend the amendment as presented?

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Legislator Bartels

Yes. So, I'd like to make an amendment to amend the amendment as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

That is right...

Legislator Bartels

On the one drive.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes...

Legislator Bartels

Which is striking all the CSEA positions.

Legislator Ronk

All but one position in the in the amendment, yes.

Legislator Bartels

Yeah, all CSEA positions.

Chairman Donaldson

All but one position.

Legislator Bartels

Which I can speak to if my amendment is seconded.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second the amendment for discussion.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright, somebody needs to put themselves on mute. All right. All right on the amendment, a Legislator Bartels the amendment to the amendment.

Legislator Bartels

Okay, I might have some background noise and I apologize. So, the CSEA positions, this amendment I'm proposing removing them. I spoke to a representative from CSEA. I also spoke to two department heads that reached out and spoke about their particular positions. In all of the CSEA cases they were the result of job class questionnaires, grievances or desk audits. With one exception which was a change to a title that's vacant - that was vacant, prior to the listing. So that's the explanation for the amendment.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, anybody wishing to speak on amending the amendment. It's taking all the CSEA positions out and leaving one position left that is not as CSEA position. I see no one else wishing to speak. All right on amending the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

We are short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes on amending the amendment.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is amended 23 to zero.

Chairman Donaldson

All right now as amended with the one position left, Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. You know, I struggle with this, with this particular amendment. I am not going to support it. You know, I'm glad that the hard-working CSEA members have been removed from this. That's been something I've been advocating for the you know, the whole time. I don't think that they belonged in this resolution. I understand the purpose. I didn't want to you know, I believe that, you know, there was a desire to not look like we were singling anybody out and now here's the resolution removing one person's salary increase. But you know, what I would like to say is in this very department, is the position that I was talking about that received almost a 20% salary increase outside of the budget last year, and then inside the budget after it was approved. You know that salary increase had absolutely no consolidation or cost savings. This is somebody who has different

job responsibilities due to a you know, consolidation and position elimination that is going to save the county \$80,000 when you include salary and benefits. So, to me if you're going to remove this salary increase without the - removing the salary increase it was given last year, in the same department with no savings whatsoever, you're being dishonest to yourself and you're being dishonest to your constituents.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else wish to speak? I see none. Already vote on the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

On the amendment we are a short yes with the following nose legislators Cahill, Donaldson and Petit.

Legislator Ronk

We are a short no with three yeses Legislators Bruno, Wawro and Fabiano.

Chairman Donaldson

Madam Clerk. And the vote?

Clerk Fabella

Um, the, I'm sorry. I have a lot of notes all over the place. Can you just do one more time, read that vote call because it's different than both of you had told me.

Chairman Donaldson

Yeah, Jonathan.

Legislator Heppner

Ours is a short yes with the following noes, Legislator's Cahill, Donaldson and Petit.

Legislator Uchitelle

Hold on, Jonathan, Leader Heppner, I'm gonna change to a no.

Clerk Fabella

Do you want to, can we do a long roll then because its..

Chairman Donaldson

Well, he was a no, yeah, he was a no last night, I thought.

Clerk Fabella

Yeah.

Legislator Heppner

No, he just said he changed it.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, well if we're doing a long roll, yeah.

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, we can do a long roll.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, if you want a long roll, will you do a long roll?

Legislator Heppner

Yep. Let's I think it'll be easier for staff as well.

Clerk Fabella

Yeah, definitely will.

Chairman Donaldson

Go ahead long roll.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, Archer.

Legislator Archer

Yes, I support this.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill

Legislator Cahill

Nope.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran

Legislator Corcoran

No.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

I'm sorry, Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

No.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Litts

Unmute Dean.

Clerk Fabella

So bad right now.

Chairman Donaldson

Move on come back.

Legislator Fabiano

I'm good.

Chairman Donaldson

There he goes.

Legislator Fabiano

No. Get my vote.

Chairman Donaldson

Yep. We got you.

Clerk Fabella

Know what I'm actually calling it all again because I have a - my sheet is all screwed up. So, one more time I'm sorry.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

No.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

No.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

No.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

I'm sorry Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Thank you so much. Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Legislator Litts

Why does he keep going to unmute?

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Chairman Donaldson

Put you back on mute.

Legislator Greene

Greene is a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

No.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner. Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

No.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

No.

Clerk Fabella

Maio

Legislator Maio

No.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

No.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

No.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

No.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

No.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

No.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Wawro.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is defeated 11 yeses, 12 noes. And thank you for your patience on that one.

Legislator Parete

Good for you kiddo.

Chairman Donaldson

We have Amendment 6.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, if Leader Ronk concurs, I'd like to move to block Amendments 6 through 15.

Legislator Ronk

No objection.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty. Blocking amendments 6 through 15. Anyone wish to speak on any one of those amendments?

Chairman Donaldson

None? Legislator Ronk, you do, oh you're good because you're going to be voting in a second. Legislator Delaune you are not on mute by the way just in case, so you know. All right. I'll call for the vote.

Legislator Heppner

We're a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

The amendments are adopted 23 to zero.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, I moved to amend - I move Amendment 16 as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

Now let me get this clear as that is presented. It is to designate funding equal to the 2020 contractual value for the contract to be reduced or terminated.

Legislator Ronk

That's not what was presented.

Chairman Donaldson

I had a discussion with the/our attorney and although we felt it was something not needed, but our caucus feels that we want to send a message, but I'm concerned with the false security.

Legislator Heppner

It still hasn't - It still needs a second still.

Legislator Ronk

Well we're doing, are we doing it as presented or are we doing this a different way? Because I feel like the chairman started talking about the different...

Chairman Donaldson

It doesn't have Airbnb, or any of that in that - actually any revenue for it.

Clerk Fabella

It's in the packet, all marked up the way Legislator Walter expected it to be.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright, Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yeah, I just want to say that, you know, there's been a lot of back and forth on this. And I think that, as Chairman Donaldson was saying that this is an optics situation. I think that a yes vote on this is going to show that we are committed to this funding in full for the year and Legislator Walter if you want to jump in and explain that further.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Thank you, yes. You know, as it was pointed out the money is allocated in DSS. And as an organization that needs to make a plan for an entire year in terms of staffing and what kinds of need's they're going to have to fill, rather than just trust. Granted when the contract comes to us, you do have to make a decision on the amount and at that point we can and will put full force the full amount if it's not put forth in the contract. But as Legislator Criswell was saying, by that, that will happen. That can happen weeks, months from now, and at this point, this organization desperately needs to understand what kinds of services it should prepare for. And this is an extremely important organization not only without COVID, but particularly with COVID serving many, many families in need. So, this creates that safety that that sense that we do support this organization, and the council has supported this amendment, the amendment of the amendment.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Just for procedures sake, can I move the amendment to the amendment?

Chairman Donaldson

Sure.

Legislator Ronk

I'm not even sure that the regular amendments been moved in seconded properly but.

Legislator Heppner

I've been seconded.

Legislator Bartels

Ok, so I'll second the amendment and then I'd like to move the...

Chairman Donaldson

So, you could amend the amendment to read there's no money involved, there's actually no financing changes, no budget changes whatsoever here.

Legislator Bartels

Just as reflected in the pack packet yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay. It was seconded. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. I mean, due respect to the legislators involved here and due respect to Legislator Criswell question, comments and Legislator Walters follow up comments. You know, this isn't a statement plan for 2021. This is the budgetary plan for 2021. We're not changing any budgetary numbers not changing any contract. And quite frankly, we might be, you know, lolling the, you know, Family Services into a false sense of security that they're going to definitely get a contract for the full value. You know, the full value is budgeted for which was tried to make clear to the sponsors of this several times during the, you know, nine hours- worth of ways and means meetings we had. This is just the totally wrong way to do this. This is not in any way a budget amendment. You know, this is almost a memorializing resolution that is being shoehorned into an amendment to the 2021 Ulster County budget. I can't support it for that reason. I do however you know, oddly enough support fully funding Family Services contract, which is something that we can do as a body without doing this amendment. Without, you know, without going through what I feel is a charade. Absolutely, positively not a budget amendment and in any way, shape or form. Budget amendments have dollars and cents attached to them. And as both legislators have spoken, this does not.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit

Thank you. I guess I'm looking for more clarification, you know, of course, I support Family Services and other mental health associations. But this summary said that we're increasing the hotel and occupancy tax. I've said it [inaudible]

Chairman Donaldson

That was moved – point of information, that was struck. That was part of the amendment to the amendment that was struck. Honestly, I was confused within myself. So yes, that was struck.

Legislator Petit

Okay, thank you for clarifying that.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Thank you. Um, I would like to disagree that this is any kind of song and dance the this is at this budget time, it is important to allocate how money will be utilized. And while these monies are available at DSS, I think this is absolutely the time to recognize us towards this very, very important program. And I think that while it may feel not necessary to any members of the legislative body, perhaps it feels extremely necessary to this organization and their employees. And so, if there is no concern, and there is support for Family Services and providing them this their full amount, then I would see no reason not to support this amendment.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. A through you, Mr. Chairman to Legislator Walter, exactly how does this ensure anything? What legally, what legally binds us by this amendment to fully funding the contract?

Chairman Donaldson

Do you choose to answer that question Legislator Walter?

Legislator Walter

I would say similar to any capital project, nothing we can have something in a capital plan and then choose to vote it down in resolution. This provides, that said it does show a universal support by the legislature for this organization.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

I'd also like to note that it's not one organization we're talking about. We're talking about four organizations here.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else? Alrighty. I'd like to comment slightly on this do, after talking to our counsel, I was advised technically, this is not enforceable in any way. But if we

can, it's a message, I guess that some members want to send. I do have some concerns that it may create a false security because what ends up happening in the end, it really depends on when the contracts are signed. And in reality, if the county executive does not pursue this, it could have a, like I said a false security. But I mean, that's what I have on this. I will support it, but I really do feel that this is not necessarily the best way to [inaudible]. Alright I'll call for the vote, Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

I believe Legislator Bruno had his hand raised if I could say.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bruno. I'm sorry.

Legislator Bruno

Yeah, I'm going to be honest, that's the only way I know how to be. I'm a little confused. While I think most of us here do support all those organizations. I don't see where, again I'm siding here with Minority Leader Legislator Ken Ronk here. I don't see where this is doing anything other than wasting our time. I think every one of us at any given time can support every one of these organizations. But the budget hearing at this point is not the place to do that. And so whichever way the vote is because I know yes means no and a no means yes. I support them, but not at this time.

Chairman Donaldson

But is that a definite maybe?

Legislator Bruno

It's exactly what this - honestly that's the way this was written as a, as a ambiguous um... [inaudible]

Legislator Ronk

Snaps for Al.

Legislator Heppner

Point of order Mr. Chairman – decorum.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay, well, Legislator Heppner you can call for the vote, I guess.

Legislator Heppner

On this amendment, we're a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short no.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Parete is also a no. The amendment is adopted 12 to 11.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, Legislator Heppner you want to go to Amendment 17?

Legislator Heppner

Yes, Mr. Chairman, I move Amendment No. 17 as presented.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second it for discussion.

Chairman Donaldson

For the discussion. Oh, let me look around here um, Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Thank you, sorry I was still recovering from the last one. Um, so just very briefly, because we have plenty in front of us, just want to reiterate that having the same counsel program at the office of indigent legal services expects every county to have. This is fully funded by the Office of indigent legal services. What's not mentioned on here is their funding will also support office space computer software. This is extremely an important and valuable aspect of the criminal justice system to ensure that all indigent people do get the, get high level counseling, even if they cannot afford it. And just reiterating again, that this is fully state funded.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else on the issue? Anybody want to call it out, I don't hear anyone?

Legislator Heppner

On the issue, we're a short yes.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. Well, I did want to say something. I think this is a fully funded budget. These positions are something that is long overdue to create this. And I think in the end it will help our criminal justice system in many ways. And it's so nice that it's going to be paid for, and not by us. The vote?

Legislator Heppner

I said like I said, we were a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

In caucus, we were a short no. I don't know if anybody who wasn't there wants to say something different. But hearing if I don't hear anywhere a short no.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Parete is also a yes on this. The amendment is adopted 13 to 10.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, I would move with the agreement of Leader Ronk, Resolutions 18 through 20.

Legislator Ronk

No objection.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty with no objections.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Yeah, Go ahead on those amendments.

Legislator Ronk

Oh, sorry. I thought you were waiting for Legislator Heppner again. We're short yes, as well.

Clerk Fabella

The amendments are adopted 23 to zero.

Legislator Heppner

I will move Amendment 21 as presented.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second it for discussion.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty on the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short yes with one no Chairman Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bartels wanted to speak. I'm sorry.

Legislator Bartels

Thank you, Chairman. I just wanted to clarify for anyone who wasn't aware that this position is currently unfilled. The position salary was changed prior to the budget process last year and then was confirmed in the budget process, but currently the positions unfilled so the proposal is to put it back to the pre-increased salary, which still puts it \$10,000 above the next highest paid assistant in the county attorney's office and gives latitude to hire. We have excellent people in the county attorney's office working for \$10,000 less than what's proposed in this position. So, I just wanted to provide that explanation.

Chairman Donaldson

For clarification, is going to be the first assistant?

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay.

Legislator Bartels

That's not an official title but that's the...

Chairman Donaldson

Still first assistant. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Bartels

It would still be \$10,000 over for clarification.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. Thank you, um, you know, just to refresh all the legislator's memory. I know, I brought this up a couple of times, in Ways and Means, but not all of my colleagues were there. Um, you know, this position you know, again, it's one of the only attorney centric offices that doesn't have a deputy written down as Legislative Bartels said this, nowhere is it written down that that there is a first assistant county attorney, but there's also no deputy county attorney. You know, you've got a chief assistant district attorney, you've got a deputy public defender, both of which make far and above, you know, what this position makes. I spoke

to the county attorney himself earlier today who informed me that he's having trouble hiring for this position, because it's difficult to hire a supervising attorney with the kind of background and experience you'd need in this position at the salary it's currently at before we reduce it. Um, so you know, I mean, this attorney needs to have a wide range of specialties, one of which is defending all of us and making sure that we don't go to the clink for what we do. You know, in these in these meetings that we hold. You know, they're also there to defend the Board of Elections against election lawsuits. They're there to defend the Sheriff's department. They're there to defend our DA's office themselves. They're there to defend each and every one of us and each and every county employee. They also do in *[inaudible]*. They also prosecute juvenile offenses. You know, there is such a wide range of, you know, legal specialties there. You know, you're really looking for somebody with a lot of depth of knowledge and experience. And I think that it's foolish to, reduce the ability for us to hire the best and the brightest for our first assistant county attorney.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else wish to speak?

Legislator Walter

I do.

Legislator Heppner

Legislator Walker has her hand up.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, Legislator Walter I'm sorry.

Legislator Walter

Thanks. Um, you know, while I appreciate the importance of being able to have a salary in order to hire the best and the brightest. I guess, I'm feeling like I, I, this position was held by Lauren Sheely who was put forth for us for the public defenders, who we chose not to appoint the public defender and then she left the position. So, I have trouble *[inaudible]* that they've had that much time that they can't fill it because it wasn't that long ago, that she left the position. And so, I'm not compelled to believe that it has, and she was at that previous salary. And so, I'm not compelled at this point. I could see it if it was really like a year, a day or even long, or, you know, many months, but it wasn't that long ago that she left. And so, I think it can stay at that current salary, which she was, I think fine with and let's give it some more time before we're raising the salary of this position that's not currently filled.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else wish to speak?

Legislator Hepper

Chairman? Chairman, Leader Ronk has his hand up.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, Leader Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Um, you know, through the chair to Legislator Walter just appointed information. This is not increasing the salary from what the previous first assistant county attorney was making. This is reducing the salary from what the former first assistant county attorney was making to what it was before she was hired. So, this is not increasing the salary of the first assistant county attorney position. This is decreasing it.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, I don't see anyone else wishing to speak on this. As I've said legislator, Leader Heppner alluding to I I'm leaning- voting no on this amendment. I do believe this attorney as a great deal of work to do and they need to have somebody that they need to attract a good person and somebody that's going to actually included supervising other attorneys. And that's the point of that. So. I will be a no on this. For the vote, Leader Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short yes. With the following those Legislators Donaldson and Petit.

Legislator Ronk

We are a short no.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is defeated 10 to 13. Legislator Parete is also a no.

Legislator Heppner

Chairman Donaldson I would like to move Amendment No. 22 as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second that.

Chairman Donaldson

On the amendment as presented. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Thank you, I would like to propose an amendment to the amendment which, for some reason, I don't see it on my OneDrive, although I'm assured it's there. But it's definitely it was in the emails that were received today. And what the amendment of the amendment proposes to do is that rather than take the money, remove all the increases for the standard work hours and put it into contingency. It proposes to take the increases for the standard work hours and put them into departmental budgets. Thereby giving, the department heads the ability to utilize as needed, and if not needed to conserve. I have confidence in the department heads. I have spoken to the Commissioner of Finance, to the Clerk of the Legislature, to the Comptroller, and informed them that I was doing this and would be giving if it passes, it would give them the latitude to work within their budgets.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second it for discussion.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty seconded for discussion.

Legislator Heppner

I think he also wanted to speak.

Legislator Ronk

Yeah, I do want to speak.

Chairman Donaldson

Go ahead.

Legislator Ronk

I'm waiting my turn.

Legislator Ronk

I, you know, I understand where the idea behind this amendment comes right? Um, I, don't support it. And here's why. You know, this does give the department heads that are involved more latitude. But it also abdicates our responsibility as legislators. You know the way the amendment is written is to take away specific positions, because we budget for specific positions in the budget, we don't only budget in the aggregate. So, you know, we're actually approving these positions, getting an increase in hours, which thereby results in an increase in pay. I believe if you spoke to the individual department heads, I've spoken to one of the

individual department heads that were referenced by Legislator Bartels. They're going to give all of the money that is going to be put into these budgets for these positions to the position that it has been delineated for in the budget. Um, you know, so all we're doing here is allowing department heads to, you know, do what they want, rather than what we are appropriating. Um, I understand that the purpose of it is that, you know, if it's a one-year issue, then it would not be in theory carried into the next year's budget. Um, we can do that anyway. We can increase, decrease as we've seen in this budget. There's been an attempt, you know, by legislators to decrease the 2% that was given to everybody to decrease the position in the county attorney's office.

Legislator Ronk

I will speak about the position in our office just for a moment. You know, I know that it has been said a couple of times, it's only COVID related because of the zoom meetings that the employees being given, you know, an increase in the work hours, but it's not, it's also due to a change in positions in the legislative offices, where the former secretary to the chair had been doing deputy clerk responsibilities since the time when my good friend Legislator John Parete, was the chairman. Um, you know, and then that transferred on when I was chairman and transferred on to Legislator Bartels was chairman. Since there was a new person hired for that position that position is no longer a team member in the office as a whole and is solely working for the chairman. So that person no longer participates in deputy clerk responsibilities. So, there were other responsibilities that had to be accomplished by the one deputy clerk that we have. And that thereby went to an-hours increase. So, again, they're not all of these positions are not just because of increased responsibilities due to COVID. Um, I did want to point that out, because I know that many legislators have been making that point. Um, I just, I think that it's better for us to budget for these, you know, positions by position and not in the aggregate in the regular pay line so that departments can do whatever they want.

Chairman Donaldson

I'm sorry, I muted myself Legislator Archer.

Legislator Archer

Thank you, Chairman. Just for point of a clarification. The assistant that is working for the chairman today still does clerk duties. And if we're not for that person, would have put additional responsibilities on other clerks as it relates to the transcriptions that occur for every meeting. So, I do think let's be fair, let's, let's be fair.

Chairman Donaldson

You muted yourself Legislator Archer.

Legislator Archer

I didn't, somehow it went by itself so.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay.

Legislator Archer

So, all I'm saying is just for point of clarification, let's be fair.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Thank you. And I don't want to jump it ahead. But I'm going to use it as a point of reference, you know, in, in a, amendment that's going to come up where we're going to talk about the 2%. Claw-back to the management raises in Ways and Means one of the arguments against that proposal was that I was proposing to take money out of people's pockets, and that people make plans based on that. And that wasn't the right thing to do. Part of the impetus in making this change, rather than taking it away, because I hear the concerns of the department heads that I spoke to, which is the three that I enumerated, is giving those department heads the latitude to make the changes that they need, but not making the change permanent. And I fully understand that nothing in a budget is permanent. Obviously, I've made proposals. But the reality is, these increases in hours represent more than a 2% increase in pay. I appreciate that they're increases in hours. But I also suspect that it'll be very hard to undo that later. It'll be taking money out of people's pockets. It'll be taking money out of people's pockets that they're planning on. And so, when we make the change this way, and we allow the department heads the latitude to work within their budget, the money will be within their budget line. So, they can apply the alternative work schedule, as needed. And they may not need it for the entire time. The three department heads that I spoke to acknowledge that that was a possibility. So, I think it's the right thing to do I have confidence in our department heads that they'll make the decisions that they need to effectively manage their departments. And I and I think it's a, it's a good and fair compromise that doesn't send a message that this is a permanent change.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Cahill. I think you had your hand up.

Legislator Cahill

I did. A through the Chair to Legislator Bartels. A Legislator Bartels, did any of these lines in this amendment are civil service employee jobs?

Legislator Bartels

Yes.

Legislator Cahill

Okay. So, with that, with that, knowing that, my concern with this amendment, and I'm going to support the compromised amendment of giving the supervisors the money. But I do have a concern. And it's that we're now selecting which civil service employees are going to be getting salary increases, which civil service employees are going to be getting, you know, job changes through desk audits and other grievances and other things like that. But the, the majority of these are, the majority of CSEA employees are not going to get anything, right. So, we have all of our labor contracts coming due, most of them are expired, the next one will be expired next month. And then we are now selecting or given the department heads the ability to select who they want to give a salary increase to without any regard to the other employees of the other civil service employees. So, I have a little problem with that. However, in the spirit of compromise, I'll support this because I wasn't going to support it the other way. But in this way, I will. Thanks.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you just briefly through the Chair to the Clerk. You know, it was my understanding that the current secretary to the chair was not doing deputy clerk duties. Legislator Archer seems to have different information. So, I just wanted to check with you and see.

Clerk Fabella

Am I allowed to answer that, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Donaldson

Do you wish to answer it? I mean, I know that she does, because she does a number of minutes for a number of different committees. I know those...

Legislator Ronk

They aren't deputy clerk duties Mr. Chairman, due respect, those are just legislative employee duties.

Clerk Fabella

They are not they are not deputy clerk duties. They are however duties that need to be performed as a function of this office.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Archer.

Legislator Archer

Yes so, it's a function of the fact that we're zooming meetings, and it's a responsibility that is if that is greater than what was done previously. Am I wrong in that statement?

Clerk Fabella

So right, transcription is a new responsibility because of COVID.

Legislator Archer

And right so it...

Clerk Fabella

It's a new because of COVID. And obviously, when we go back, it'll be un-done. Also, in addition to it, some of the clerks have started doing these transcripts themselves, because again, it's an office function that has to be done, it has to be done. And I don't care who does it, or what their title is as long as it's done.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, anyone else wish to speak on this amending the amendment? Which is putting basically putting the money into the budget of the various departments I guess to dole out as they wish?

Legislator Heppner

Are you calling the vote Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Donaldson

I guess I don't think anybody's hands up. So yes, I'll call the vote.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short yes on the amendment to the amendment.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk, Leader Ronk?

Legislator Ronk

Sorry, we're a short no on the amendment to the amendment.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is adopted 12 to 11. Legislator Parete is also a no.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty we're going into resolution, I mean um...

Legislator Ronk

Oh no, we still have an amendment itself. So plus, I've got another amendment.

Chairman Donaldson

You get an amendment to that particular amendment?

Legislator Ronk

I do. And this time, I'd like to offer the third amendment that was attached to your email for the Clerk's office, which increases the two deputy clerks, um, you know, to 37.5 hours. I thought that this would be a more proper amendment to offer.

Chairman Donaldson

I'm a little confused. This is on 22 right?

Legislator Ronk

Yes, this is the increases to standard work hours. And, you know, I'm informed that these clerks are working more than 35 hours a week. And so, I'm offering a, you know, amendment to increase the two deputy clerks, so the amendment is in your it's on the one drive and your email. It's the third one that was attached as part of the backup to Amendment 4.

Chairman Donaldson

All right, let me, I just want to clear this up, because it is on Amendment 22 that we just voted on to give the...

Legislator Ronk.

We didn't vote on the amendment Mr. Chairman. We voted on the amendment to the amendment.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, which passed.

Legislator Ronk.

Correct.

Chairman Donaldson

And now we have to vote on the other one, which is to move that money into their each of the respective department's budgets. And they can then, you know, allow the, the alternative or standard, you know, change their standard work hours. Is that correct?

Legislator Ronk.

A this, this would be for these positions, this wouldn't be into the budget. I was, I had my hand up when Legislative Bartels did, but I was unable to get my amendment in before that.

Chairman Donaldson

Are you not, I mean, I just kind of have to clear this up. So, you don't think that the Clerk in the Legislature will actually give these to...

Legislator Ronk

This is the County Clerk.

Chairman Donaldson

What's that?

Legislator Ronk

County Clerk.

Legislator Heppner

So, the point is just for your clarity, I guess what my understanding is that for some reason this amendment is titled under an amendment number four from today's email?

Legislator Ronk

It came it came in the same email for amendment number four. It's titled for number four, but as we've been discussing it, I feel like it's more fitting to amend this amend this resolution with it. But it is, if someone has a problem with it, we don't have to. It's fine.

Chairman Donaldson

Oh, so what you're trying to do is change that - add the clerk's...

Legislator Ronk

To this resolution correct.

Chairman Donaldson

Let them create alternative work schedule, correct?

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Legislator Heppner

I believe Legislator Fabiano and Bartels have...

Chairman Donaldson

I'm sorry Legislator Fabiano you may speak, sorry. But you have to unmute yourself first.

Legislator Ronk

Should probably see if there's a second to the amendment first.

Chairman Donaldson

Go ahead Dean.

Legislator Fabiano

Going back to the last amendment vote before this one, I am a yes not a no.

Chairman Donaldson

You are a yes on the amendment to the amendment to allow the departments to make those decisions.

Legislator Ronk

You know, Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my amendment. Apparently, this is causing too much confusion. It's fine.

Chairman Donaldson

No, no, no, no, no, you I understand. You're looking at Amendment 4. That's what the confusion was. But you're using something from Amendment 4 to put into Amendment 22.

Legislator Ronk

Correct.

Chairman Donaldson

Now, I understand you. I was confused and I think a few of us were a little confused with that. Is that correct?

Legislator Ronk

Yes, that's correct.

Chairman Donaldson

Now Legislator Bartels you're shaking your head no. Would you like to a...

Legislator Uchitelle

Point of order does he have a second on that?

Legislator Litts

Yes, he does.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Chairman Donaldson

There you go.

Legislator Bartels

So, can I speak now?

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bartels go ahead.

Legislator Bartels

So, I'm just confused with adding this to this resolution now, because it doesn't actually, this actually, if I'm reading it right, it doesn't take the money and put it into unassigned. This actually does what we just un-did with the amendment to the amendment and just changes the work hours.

Legislator Ronk

Right. I again, I had my hand up when you had your hand up, and I was unable to get my amendment in before your amendment passed. And then if you really want to talk about confusion, I could have tried to amend your amendment with this amendment, and then everyone's head would have exploded.

Chairman Donaldson

All right, well, you know, my, I'm...

Legislator Bartels

Can these be may be handled differently. I mean I'm sorry, but it's just it is very confusing to me that now we have another one in.

Chairman Donaldson

[inaudible]

Legislator Ronk

If you want to, you know, if you'd like if you're comfortable with it, I would be comfortable even though I voted on the amendment, and I don't support it, I would be comfortable with, you know, changing my amendment that I'm currently offering to go into their unassigned personnel line just for consistency sake in the clerk's office. I'm fine with that. And our, you know, our budget folks can clean that up. It's just going into a different line. If that makes you more comfortable Legislator Bartels, I'd be happy to, you know, invite that as a friendly amendment.

Legislator Fabiano

Really confused now.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Yeah, I mean, I'm just, I mean, I, I don't know. I'm struggling a little bit because one, the head of the department didn't come to ask us for additional hours. You know, I realized that the head of the department asked for raises for these people that they didn't realize. And so now, there's an attempt instead of the raises to give additional hours. But I haven't even, I mean, I haven't even looked into that. I didn't see that as a as a possibility. So, I would definitely have a problem with the hours being treated differently. But the department head to my knowledge didn't come to our caucus and ask for additional hours.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

I believe Legislator Cahill who hasn't spoken yet has had his hand up.

Chairman Donaldson

I know Legislator Walter wanted to speak to and we'll go ahead Legislator Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Thank you very much. So, I'm just want to make sure I understand this. I thought we voted on Amendment No. 4 already. So, I have in my packet three amendments titled Amendment No. 4. And which one of those is the Amendment No. 4 that we're talking? I know which one it is, but my confusion is, is that we've already voted on Amendment No. 4. And are we going to continue to vote on Amendment No. 4? I mean, this has to have a different number something as far as I could tell, no, Clerk?

Chairman Donaldson

No, he's attempting to amend 22 with things from 4 but that's, Legislator Walter.

Legislator Cahill

There is actually a separate amendment as a Minority Leader Ronk pointed out that does just strike the clerk's office there. But I thought we voted on that?

Legislator Ronk

Can I, can I provide some clarification Mr. Chairman. Point of clarification. Is that comfortable with everybody?

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, go ahead go ahead.

Legislator Ronk

So, when I received these amendments from our fiscal staff, it was originally my intent to add this to the standard workday change's resolution. They all came across with Amendment No. 4. I should have asked to have them changed at that point, but I did not. So that's that's on me. I intended to have the third amendment on there added to the standard workday resolution. It wouldn't have belonged in Resolution No. 4, because resolution Amendment No. 4, because Amendment No. 4 was about raises that had nothing to do with title changes or changes in standard work hours. To Legislator Bartels point the, you know, the clerk did come to our caucus, and say that these two employees were working in excess of their 35 hour work week. And currently, they're on an alternate work schedule for 40 hours, not even 37.5.

Chairman Donaldson

All right, first, I want to thank Legislator Gavaris for you know, helping us understand what's going on. I would like to do is um - the guy that wanted to speak (public comment). A Legislator Bartels, no, Legislator Petit speak first because she has not.

Legislator Petit

Thank you. I am in favor of adding the county clerk's personnel into this particular amendment. I did get a call from her. It was late in the running, but you know, yeah, I mean, I just got this packet at three o'clock this afternoon. So, I mean, the clerk's office has been running pretty much without a hitch through the whole COVID pandemic. People have been dropping off information in boxes and her staff has been picking it up. So, I'm in favor of the amendment. As long as it's not changing the standard work week, it's funds going into the contingency in the county clerk's personnel line.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Chairman Donaldson, I just want to say this might be the wrong time to bring this up. But I think in the years to come ahead, we should have a timeframe that these amendments can be made. Not two hours or three hours before the session. Because I think like tonight now with these amendments, is becoming a total embarrassment to the county of Ulster and the taxpayers. And it's just like getting to be, excuse my language, a shit show. So, this, this these things, and I don't care about the amendments personally. Everybody has a right to make an amendment. But we should do it in a timeframe that when we get to the legislative session, we're ready to go. And that's what I wanted to say on that.

Chairman Donaldson

We understand your concern but in reality democracy is a messy thing.

Legislator Fabiano

I guess it is.

Chairman Donaldson

A, anyway.

Legislator Fabiano

I hope, I hope I didn't interrupt you Chairman Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

No, no, I have a great deal of respect...

Legislator Fabiano

I apologize if I did.

Chairman Donaldson

I have great deal of respect for you Legislator Fabiano, but you should put yourself on mute now. And the the, you know let's face reality, democracy is messy. But it's a terrible form of government, which still better than all the rest. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Walter

I had my hand up.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Walter, I'm sorry she had her hand up. I didn't, I'm sorry.

Legislator Walter

I guess I'm going to agree with Legislator Fabiano and others that at this, I'm getting I'm very confused. I know that we voted to approve the amendment on the amendment. And I guess I'd feel more comfortable just finishing that process of what we had in front of us. I know personally, I hadn't really had any time to think about the other amendment. Although I guess if I just go with how we voted for number four would be the same. But I just wondering if we could just finish off the amendment on the amendment, and then...

Chairman Donaldson

Right. The problem with that is, there has been a motion and a second to add this to there. So, I really can't turn around and disallow that.

Legislator Walter

Then do we have to vote on that third amendment of the amendment?

Chairman Donaldson

Yes.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Legislator Walter

You got it.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Thank you, Chairman. So, through the Chair to Legislator Minority Leader Ronk. So, I went back and looked at 4, I'll call it 4.1, the first one in the packet. And it, that one doesn't specifically talk about hour changes. It talks about out and out salary increases as far as I can see. I don't see an amendment that is talking about hour changes as this amendment that we're trying to amend is. That one was talking about changing hours, for specific positions giving the department has the ability to apply that, that that money as needed. But I don't see an amendment that's actually changing hours but more so just changing salaries. And if someone could clear that up.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

4.2, Legislator Cahill 4.2. Um, it says summary to remove all nonunion rate increases, for two county clerk positions from 35 hours a week to 37 and a half hours a week? It's Amendment No. 2 on there.

Chairman Donaldson

And that's the amendment that you're putting in on this.

Legislator Ronk

On 22. Correct.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Okay, for clarity sake so, a couple couple questions. So, one, I just want to confirm for clarity sake, that they are currently on a 35 hour work week. That's what they're budgeted for a 35 hour work week?

Legislator Ronk

Their current their current standard work hours are 35 hours. Correct.

Legislator Bartels

And did I hear earlier that they're currently working an alternative work schedule?

Legislator Ronk

For 40 hours. Correct.

Legislator Bartels

Okay. And where are we at with this being an hour's change versus moving into a contingent? I don't I don't know where we ended up. I can't recall where we ended up with that.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, we passed the amendment that said they're going to we're going to move that into their individual budgets.

Legislator Bartels

But in this case, it's proposed as actually hour changes.

Chairman Donaldson

In this case, he wants to add these two to that amendment to do the same thing.

Legislator Bartels

No. In this case, he's proposing putting them in as an hour's change correct, from 35 to 37.5.

Legislator Ronk

That was what the amendment was, but I had said that I was amenable to changing it to the, you know, into the unassigned personnel lines If that was going to make folks more comfortable. That was what I had said. That was where he had landed was I was willing to accept that as a friendly amendment, and then we got off on tangents.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, I thought that was actually exactly what you said. Alright, well, is that what your amendment is then.

Legislator Ronk

I will change my amendment to that, so everyone is on the same page. So, these will not go into the, you know, 37.5 hours, but will go - the dollars and cents of 37.5 hours, which by the way, is lower than the amounts that were proposed in Amendment 4. And it will go into the unassigned personnel lines, the same as Legislator Bartels amendment moved the rest of them into.

Chairman Donaldson

And Legislator Litts also seconded that again? Okay Legislator Litts seconded it.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Legislator Ronk

Legislator Cahill had his hand up.

Legislator Cahill

I'm good. You can go to Legislator Bruno. Thank you.

Chairman Donaldson

Oh, yes Legislator Bruno. I didn't see you over there in the corner.

Legislator Bruno

Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all respect to everybody who waited on this. If I could ask the Clerk to before we vote on this, to explain exactly the yes and no vote, what we're voting on. Because be honest with you this has been very confusing back and forth. This amendment to that amendment to the original amendment to what we're voting on. And I apologize, but it's - I've been trying to follow along as closely as I can. But I would really like to be positive when I vote yes, or when I vote no, exactly where I'm voting if that can be cleared up before.

Chairman Donaldson

Go ahead Clerk.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, so I think the easiest way to do this is take the amendment, Amendment 22, that you just all agree to amend, and it's all marked up for you. You're going to take that one, and you're going to amend it further to include those three positions from the county clerk's office and have them at the 2020 salary that they had, so that their salary doesn't increase. Take the increase amount that the county clerk was asking for, put it into an account just like you're going to do for me. You're going to put it into account for the County Clerk and she's going to use it to give an alternate work schedule to her people.

Chairman Donaldson

That is that amendment. Go ahead Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

Sorry but again, I'm sorry, I just want to triple clarify. It's not to put the increase that she requested. It's to put the change from 35 to 37.5 hours.

Legislator Ronk

Correct.

Chairman Donaldson

Correct.

Clerk Fabella

Yes, that is correct. So, it's actually less of an increase than the clerk had asked for.

Chairman Donaldson

And um.

Legislator Bartels

Except for one position. For one position it's an increase over what she asked for. Yeah.

Legislator Ronk

For the one position is not included in this. If you look in that this was only for the two positions. This wasn't because the third position was a negligible increase, which would have gone up to \$4500.

Clerk Fabella

So, Legislator Bruno, if you vote yes for this amendment, you are agreeing to give the County Clerk some money in her budget to then give an alternate work schedule to who she chooses.

Legislator Bruno

Thank you.

Legislative Walter

I have a question.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Archer.

Legislative Archer

And what is the dollar amount of this unassigned fund? Because we have three people that were in the previous one but now saying only two and so can we get a dollar amount that goes into this, like the other one?

Chairman Donaldson

Um, our budget people can work on that while we're um.

Clerk Fabella

Amber is actually- been working on it and she may already have an answer. We're just not in the same room.

Amber Feaster

I do have an answer. Okay, so the value is \$15,129.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you. A Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Again, a question on how this works. So, if we vote, if it if it ends up being more people saying no, then yes, then we go and vote on Legislator Bartels amendment to her amendment.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Legislator Walter

Okay. I just want to clarify, thank you.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes. If it's a yes, then we still vote on the - her amendment. But the amendment was her amendment was amended with this change. Alright, so does anybody else want to talk about the amendment to the amendment to the amendment?

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chair, I'm gonna have to ask for a long roll on this one [inaudible].

Chairman Donaldson

A, boy oh boy.

Legislator Parete

Hey, you know, Mr. Chairman I gotta, I gotta tell you that I've always supported your enlightenment, despotic leadership. But I think you've reached the limits of frivolity. You're doing a good job pal.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, it's a little confusing here for me, buddy. So, let's move on. And thank you John. And I guess it will have to be a long roll on this. It's an amendment to the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

What do you mean we don't have to be a long roll on this? I don't know how this is a totally - this amendment is not even for the proper amendment that it was originally sent to caucus members to.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, here we go so let's call the roll.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, so to clarify, if you are a yes, you will be giving the county clerk the authority to take \$15,000 roughly, put it into account and issue alternate work schedules.

Chairman Donaldson

Similar to what the other one was.

Legislator Ronk

Correct.

Clerk Fabella

Yes. So, Archer.

Legislator Archer

I'm going to pass right now.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels

Legislator Bartels

No.

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

No.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Chairman Donaldson

Unmute yourself Manna. Stick your thumb up or down. How's that?

Legislator Greene

I got it. Sorry. Um, I'm gonna pass.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

In all fairness, I am a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner

Legislator Heppner

Pass.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Mayo.

Legislator Maio

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

Madam, Madam Clerk. Are we talking about No. 22, Amendment 22?

Legislator Litts

Amendment to the amendment.

Clerk Fabella

We are.

Legislator Parete

Amendment to the amendment on 22.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, it's was the one...

Legislator Parete

For the sake of clarity, I'm gonna vote no at this point.

Chairman Donaldson

It's the move the Clerk the money for the Clerk...

Legislator Parete

I get it. I get it. I get it. This is nonsensical. I'm gonna vote no at this point.

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

No.

Clerk Fabella

Wawro

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

No.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Ah, yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

No.

Clerk Fabella

The motion is adopted 17 to 6. So, it is now been amended a second time and now you need to vote on the final amendment as amended.

Chairman Donaldson

New amendment. Well, I guess we're all for not going to be doing any more amendments, to the amendment to the amendment. So, since we're not, very good. On Amendment 22 as adopted. This is where money goes into the various departments rather than giving the okay, directly from us. They wouldn't get it from the department head. And so, on that amendment.

Legislator Heppner

I believe...

Chairman Donaldson

Do we have a vote on that Leader Heppner?

Legislator Heppner

Yes, I believe with the last-minute amendment to the amendment, I believe we are a short yes unless anyone wants to register a no vote. Please say so now from the Democratic Caucus.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty Leader Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank God, we got through that.

Clerk Fabella

Well, let's just double check because Legislator Parete was a very emphatic no, before. So now it's unanimously adopted with one no, Parete. Are we going with that? Or is Legislator Parete a yes.

Legislator Parete

No, we'll go with that because this has become nonsensical. So, go with it.

Clerk Fabella

So, the Amendment is adopted as amended. 22 to 1.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, are we having fun yet? Okay.

Legislator Parete

Yeah, I'm having fun.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, I'll move Resolution No. 23 as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

Amendment, amemdment.

Legislator Heppner

Yes. Sorry, Amendment 23.

Legislator Ronk

I'll Second it.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty that's on the performing arts. Okay. On the resolution does anybody wish to talk. To do not see anyone with their hand up.

Legislator Bartels

It's not on the performing arts, though.

Legislator Litts

Yeah 23, is on the claw back, not the performing arts.

Chairman Donaldson

Sorry. Oh, yes that's the 2% claw back. On that 2% claw back on um. Does anyone wish to speak? I don't see anyone speaking. Alrighty then I'll call for the vote.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short no with the following yeses, Legislators Archer and Bartels.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short no.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you for correcting, thank you for correcting me Legislator Litts.

Clerk Fabella

The Amendment is defeated 2 to 21.

Legislator Heppner

Chairman Donaldson, I'll move Amendment No. 24 as presented.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second it as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

On the amendment. I don't see anyone to speak. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thanks. Is this just a question of clarification? Is this as presented at \$12,500 or \$25,000?

Chairman Donaldson

\$12,500.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. I just wanted to because it was originally presented at higher, so I wanted to just confirm.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes. \$12,500 as per an agreement. Alrighty on the...

Legislator Parete

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, Legislator Parete.

Legislator Parete

I would like to amend this. I would like to amend it to include in the recipient of this reward. I'd like to include some other organizations in Ulster County that had been shut down. Shadowland, Woodstock Playhouse in Phoenicia, the Shandaken Theatrical Society, Rosendale Theater, the Ashokan Center, the Orpheum in Saugerties, I would like them to be included as an amendment to the UPAC. Because they've been shut down the same way. They just don't have the lobbyists to come to the Ulster County legislature and ask for some, for a handout.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, if you don't mind, you could actually add them as a totally separate amendment.

Legislator Parete

Mr. Chairman, I don't care how you do it. [inaudible] But these folks have not had the opportunity to come through and tell them as UPAC people did, that they're starving to death. And they've been shut down. And they're asking for \$12,500 bucks. And these folks, don't run with the big dogs, and have anybody's talking for them. So, I'm talking for them. I like those names be placed, equaling in consideration with UPAC people on Broadway in Kingston. And I move for adoption.

Legislator Gavaris

Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Um, somebody called?

Legislator Gavaris

Legislator Gavaris.

Chairman Donaldson

Yes, Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes. Can I just ask Legislator Parete are you motioning to have them receive the same amount of \$12,500 or have all those groups split the \$12,500?

Legislator Parete

At this point, in this pandemic split it.

Legislator Gavaris

Okay. I will second his motion.

Chairman Donaldson

And you, boy, oh, boy. Could you please tell me what the amendment actually is? I don't know what it is. I don't know the dollar amount. And what and how it changes this amendment. Are you changing this amendment from \$12,500 to \$25,000? And the other \$12,500 is being split?

Legislator Parete

No sir it's \$12,500.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay, so your thing is to split that amongst every one of the ones that he named.

Legislator Parete

That is correct, because they've been all shut down. And if you believe one, you believe them all, starving to death. You know what, Mr. Chairman, I gotta say something. You know, over the years, we've done little things with the arts here in Boiceville. And in January, I contracted with Over the Rally in through the Woods, to have some plays here. We've been shut down. We paid for it. People paid for it. These folks are hurting. And I think they should be included in it and share it.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. Well, Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Hey, um, I, I I truly appreciate, truly, truly appreciate the sentiment of this proposal. Absolutely. My several concerns, but one of the big ones is that, um, but didn't mention every single theater. And so, I'm just concerned that you know, there are some there's other movie theaters that weren't mentioned, there are play groups, the theater, live theater groups. And so, I guess I just get worried. While the sentiment is so important, and I think it's important to identify a way to support all of them or give them all an equal chance to get the support. I worry that this proposal does not actually do what you're suggesting and include everyone. But it is worth exploring how to make sure going forward everyone has that equal voice. But I'm just concerned about it still being cherry picked in a way because it's the ones that you're aware of, but there are other ones as well.

Legislator Parete

Mr. Chairman I might respond to that because I can appreciate that. Because I don't know all the groups but in particular none of them were mentioned before I just brought it up. Did I lose my voice?

Legislator Cahill

The Chairman is muted.

Legislator Litts

Dave is muted.

Legislator Parete

He muted me. Well, that's probably the right thing to do.

Chairman Donaldson

No, no you're not muted. I was muted Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts

No, I just wanted to say that you know UPAC is before us because probably the legislator from that district brought that to the legislature many years ago and that's how they got in. Legislator Parete just brought in some other people. And I don't know whether it's inclusive or not, I'm sure it's not. But it's incumbent upon the legislator from the district to lobby for their theatres and whatever. So, if there are other ones to be included, it's up to that legislator to do that. It I mean, that's what you represent from your district. So, if they're not in there, it's nobody fault but your own legislator from that district not that has not been included.

Chairman Donaldson

There has been some inclusion in the past for certain amounts of money for various other groups. The reason UPAC is in there is it's called the ulster county performing arts. And what they do is the arts and they perform is something that is county wide and it is the only theater of this size and puts on shows of this type of the various types. And they do various things with other communities, like for instance the Catskill ballet. They bring in students from all over the county that go to see that ballet. Students that normally would not see a ballet. That's the idea. And I agree that probably should be what we should be saying that we are actually funding them for is specific things of that nature. I think it makes things a little easier to swallow. I mean, that's, you know, I'm just giving you my information. I've been there for 28 years and the UPAC has always received that because, received money. But Shadowland has actually received money at some points in various times when they were talking about capacity building and things of that nature.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bruno

Legislator Bruno

Yeah, first of all, Legislator Parete I want to thank you. I think he is onto something here. At the same time Legislator Litts is spot on as well. I think he opened up a conversation that we need to have if we're going to support the arts we need to support all the arts in Ulster county. Not just one. UPAC does an

incredible job with incredible shows. I mean, I've worked with them in the past since I was a kid, with the Mid-Hudson ballet, the Catskills ballet, Mid-Hudson Theatre, but Shadowland, the Woodstock Playhouse, the Bearsville Theater, they all do. And I think we need to make a separate line item for the arts specifically that deals with the performing arts. And then it could be maybe more equally divided. At this point in our budget process, though I don't think this is the time to try to try to do that to pull that off. As much as I appreciate it, and I and I would be happy to work on it with you, Legislator Parete. I think that this is probably not the time to try to pull this one off.

Chairman Donaldso

Legislator Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Thank you. I first like to say I would have loved to have seen a Legislator Bruno in the ballet. I know you weren't talking about yourself, but that would have been pretty good. All kidding aside. You know, I do appreciate what Legislator Parete said. My daughter growing up, participated in a lot of different art groups throughout the county, not just in Kingston, but in Woodstock and Shandaken the one, one of the ones that Legislator Parete mentioned, also across the river, not that we care about that. But there are small art places around this whole county. The one thing that I'll say in defense of UPAC's request is that, like all the other people that put in requests, they came to the legislature, they pled their case, they gave us their facts and figures on what they were going to do with the money. And we made conscious decisions on who we were going to supply that money to and who we weren't. So, I think it's not quite fair to the group that the groups that we made come with the tin cup in their hand and a sheet of how they're going to spend that money. And then at the last minute here, throw other groups in there who had - didn't have to do any of that. And I don't disagree that they deserve it. I'm just saying that the rules, shouldn't move the rules at the end of the game here for folks who did not participate in this, you know. I know I, I got one coming up next that we're going to have a good laugh with. But, you know, I solicited that right. And I think that we as Legislator Litts said, we do have to do that if we want to support our communities, we have to go out there and knock on the doors and say, Hey, this is what's coming. And we should all be doing that. I do wish that we did have a general art fund. I think it's something we should explore. And then let folks come in and we'll see what we can do something with that. Thank you.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, we sort of do have a general...

Legislator Parete

Chairman, I would like to answer because not everybody understands and doesn't they don't necessarily run with the big dogs that have lobbyists and have

people working for them to come out and ask. They're, they're out in the hinterland as you might say. And yes, so they're reluctant to come. They don't know enough to come. Maybe they're not smart enough to come and talk to us. But every one of the places I mentioned have been shut down. And for what I understand the UPAC people came and said that they were in treacherous problems because of their electric, electric bills, heating bills. Every one of these other places are. So, I think they should all share in it. I don't want to get an argument, you went one another, they're all in trouble. Why should we pick one versus another? And pretend well, you didn't come to me ahead of time. I'm coming now. Maybe they contacted me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

So, I think you all know I'm a huge supporter of the arts. I've worked in theater all my life. And, you know, if we could fund it all, I'd say we fund at all. What I would like to suggest and maybe this is not possible, is there a way that we could raise the money back up to the original amount, take half of it, give it to UPAC, take half of it and put it in a contingency fund of some sort, that then the Legislative Programs committee looks at and takes Legislator Parete's suggestions of some of these other theaters to fund. We put them through an actual process of some sort of application, what their needs are, you know, some of the things that we did when we were reassigning, reassessing the funding for some of the other programs, where they asked him, What are you doing during this time? Are you doing anything regarding COVID relief? You know, maybe there's some way that we can actually help both of these situations.

Chairman Donaldson

I believe there are ways of doing that. But I don't think this is the time to do that. I don't think we can pull that off at this meeting. We do have a process that people could apply, and anybody can really apply and actually Shadowland has applied and Shandaken as applied. And in the past, they haven't applied recently, but I know money is going to those various spots. And there's a slight difference with UPAC is, of course that they add, you know, a huge building, and it's a different setup. But I agree that they as anybody that's been on this legislature for any length of time knows I'm the one person that's constantly tried to get more and more money into the arts. And I've been I think I've when I think I called you up Peter to say thank you because I felt I added I finally had an ally. But I, you know, and I agree with that. I think you know the arts are significant. And they're one of the best economic development engineers you could add.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyway, Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Mr. Chairman, you keep referencing the Shadowland. But as we've talked about during budget meetings in Ways and Means, we're looking for money to be spent to be leveraged for future fundraising for the organization. That's what the Shadowland came there for to improve their heating and cooling system to extend the season, which extended ticket sales, which extended tax revenue from sales tax. They leverage that money. Every year UPAC is coming back, they've not leveraged the money, or at least it doesn't appear that they have. And my supporting Legislator Parete's motion here is just to show the absurdity of what we're doing. We've got other groups that are shut down as well. I don't believe the numbers that they put out there. \$75,000 for utilities for a shutdown building. Legislator Bruno probably can speak better than I can at this. It does not sound right. It sounds like a farce.

Chairman Donaldson

But they leverage the money through various donations from others. But I mean, I'm not I don't really want to get into all that, but it's not my job to be debating here. Um, so what I'm trying to figure out how to go about dealing with this issue at this point, because you're putting in an amendment. I don't quite understand what the amendment is. And I needed to understand that so we could put that in writing.

Legislator Ronk

I'll clarify the amendment. Mr. Parete, Legislator Parete is asking that the \$12,500 be split between UPAC and the organizations that he mentioned.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay, then there's the amendment. On the amendment. We're gonna have to have a long roll on this. Because I don't think there's any way in hell I know where it's gonna go.

Legislator Ronk

Honest.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

I'm sorry. Can we, can we just get this clarified? We're voting on the amendment to the amendment?

Clerk Fabella

Yes, you're voting to take \$12,500 and split it among, I think we wrote down here five total organizations.

Chairman Donaldson

What is [inaudible]

Legislator Archer

Is that excluding UPAC or not? That's what I'm not clear.

Clerk Fabella

It's with UPAC. It is, UPAC, he said UPAC, Shadowland, Phoenicia festival, Woodstock Playhouse, Bearsville theater.

Chairman Donaldson

What is the Phoenicia festival?

Legislator Ronk

It's the festival of the voice Chairman.

Chairman Donaldson

They [inaudible]

Legislator Archer

They should all get a portion of the \$12,500?

Clerk Fabella

And it would be split up \$12,500 equally amongst those organizations.

Legislator Bartels

He also said Rosendale theatre and I believe something in Shandaken.

Legislator Parete

Correct, correct.

Legislator Archer

Shadowland and Shandaken and yeah no. This is crazy. If I if I may, on this vote, the fact of the matter is when this new policy and I know it's been controversial once it's been enacted and people saw how it played out. The new policy, everybody got an email saying if you have programs or initiatives that you want to bring forward, now's the time. So, I think going back to what Legislator Cahill said. We've already gone put people through a process. And now to throw this in at the 11th hour. I agree with Legislator Parete, that this has to be looked at, and we need to address it. I don't think this is the way to do it. And this is the time to do it. So, on this amendment to the amendment, I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

I also agree with Legislator Parete that there has to be a better way to do this. I agree with Legislator Archer, that this isn't the way, but I agree and acknowledge that all the organizations that he stated are excellent organizations who are probably suffering very deeply. I'm concerned about the way we go about this. I don't think that the answer is to send 23 legislators back to their district to come back with suggestions for funding. I just don't, I don't really see that as our job, which is why I haven't I haven't brought funding items from my district. But I do think that we should look to find a way to collectively fund the arts in a way that creates a process similar to the one that's happening currently through Arts Mid-Hudson. But I personally would support the idea of Arts Ulster County, the idea of an Ulster County organization that was highlighting the need in order to leverage funds. We know that these organizations bring in a lot of money. I can't support this amendment right now off the cuff, but I definitely support the idea to change moving forward. I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Bruno.

Legislator Bruno

I, I got a, actually almost parrot with Legislative Bartels. I support the arts 100%. I think most of us here do. I don't think this is the time or the place to be doing this. Like you said the 11th hour. This is something for the future. Not at this time. And I think there's a lot a lot of a whole other world that we can go into. We're in COVID. We're in a, we can't be adding to it on stuff like this right now. I think it's something we can look at in the future. Maybe next year we can maybe I'm sure this is this is public, so that I'm sure other people are listening besides just us in this room. So, I'm gonna be a no right now. But I would definitely support a line item to fund the performing arts in Ulster County across Ulster County, not just limited to UPAC. So, I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Thank you. I appreciate Legislator Parete bringing this discrepancy up to the forefront and I pledged to work with him next budget cycle to see if we can come up with a better solution for this. In the meantime, I will be a no on this amendment. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

No.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

I agree with everything that Legislator Bartels and Legislator Bruno and Legislator Cahill just said. I'm a huge supporter of the arts. I want to see us fund them as much as we possibly can. I think they're a huge economic engine for our county. They help our youth, they help our population in general. Let's fund the arts as much as we can. But I think that we have to do it in a smart well thought out systematic way. And I don't think that this amendment does that. So, I'm going to be a no.

Clerk Fabella

Delaune.

Legislator Delaune

I too would like to support the arts and try and figure out a way to do it. I don't think tonight's method is the way to do it. And if I was going to include another theater in this, I would say the Denizen Theatre in New Paltz.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

Well, despite what some people are saying, we do have a method of doing it. And it's an unbelievably good method of doing it. But we have not funded that method of doing it. We've cut that method of doing it. And that method of doing it is through the Arts Mid-Hudson. You could call it Arts Ulster County, whatever you want to call it. In reality Arts Mid-Hudson works because, the people that oversee it have a little bit of money that they get from Dutchess County, and they also allocate that money to Dutchess County. And what they do is they are, they fund the arts, by artists. It's the artists that bring up the various performances. They could be, in fact, they're the ones that funded the Festival, Festival of the Voice, that first time. And it's basically more capacity building, they tried to do that. But some are reiterated, reiterated. You know, because what they're doing for specific groups. But in this case, like UPAC, you do that separately, it's totally outside that. But I haven't had no problem with doubling the amount of money that the Mid-Hudson Arts Association gets and actually be able to increase these. But we haven't done that. We talk kind of talk out of two sides of our mouth all the time. Say we're going to toward the arts, but then you cut the damn money from it. So, I will be a no on this. Because I don't think this is the method to do it. And we do have a method of whichever works. If you bring people in and let them know that you know we have funding. And we keep on taking that funding, we

keep on trying to make changes to it that make no sense. So, I'll be a no on this. But I appreciate what Legislator Parete is pointing out. And I think you know bring those people in. What they ought do is make their case. So, I'll be no.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes, at this time, I'm going to be a no for a number of reasons. I don't want to get into every reason why I feel that way. But over the years, in the 15 years that I've been a legislator, and I'm going to use UPAC as an example. When things are going well, I've attended events at UPAC, where I spent is anywhere from \$50 a ticket to go to an event to \$150 for a ticket to go to an event. These outside agencies that we look forward to we look to help, we help them to get off the ground, but after a while they should be self-sustaining. Now if I go to a thing with my wife, and it cost me \$150 to go to a thing and that place is packed, I don't understand why we need support for the from the legislature. Um, there might be other arts out here in a county that doesn't do as well. But movie theaters when they're in full operation they do well. And that's my feeling on that. So, I'm a no at this time.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

I am going to be a no. I want to appreciate the mention of the Rosendale Theatre. I do think we need a process to re-evaluate our support for the arts. Specifically, because of how much they've been hurt by the COVID pandemic. But and I don't think we need to wait till next year's budget. But I do think it should be referred to a committee and the appropriate committee and see where what we can come up with. But I'll be in no on this amendment.

Clerk Fabella

Haynes.

Legislator Haynes

Well, what I can say is I 100% support the sentiment of Legislator Parete in bringing this up. And you know, I happen to agree with him. But as for my vote,

I'm going to stand with Chairman Donaldson and I'm going to be a no vote on this as well.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

There's been a lot of great thoughts made as well, especially looking to the future. Many of you who have served with me have heard me push amendments along with Chairman Donaldson to increase arts funding in the past. And the key phrase I always use is that especially while we're lucky that we build our economies that the arts is an economic driver. I appreciate Legislator Parete's sentiment and including great Performing Arts Spa in my district. But unfortunately, there's also about four or five others performing arts spaces equally deserving in my district. So, but I like the idea of having a greater discussion but at the time I'll vote no.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Legislator Parete brought up a very interesting concept here. I agree with what everybody said, especially that the fact that the arts are an economic driver. But to give medicine to a horse that died is not going to bring it back. A lot of these businesses are almost gone. And next budget cycle we'll have less of them to worry about having the fund. Because when they need the funding now, we're voting no, even though it's not a lot of money, but it might be enough to get them through till next budget cycle. So, I don't understand voting no, to give these poor businesses that would love to put on performances and invite the public in and drive that economic engine. We're not going to help them with that. We're going to tell them come back next year, after they went out of business. I'm a yes, it's not a lot of money. But at least we'll show that we support the arts in Ulster County with even just a little bit to get them through the winter storm. Because once the horse is dead, all the medication can't bring it back to life. I'm a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

No.

Clerk Fabella

Maio.

Legislator Maio

I just want to take a minute and thank you know, on behalf of myself, the Chairwoman Archer and the Ways and Means Committee, we put hours and hours upon hours into all of this, and I appreciate Legislator Parete I do. But at this point we're at the finish line. And I'm sorry if things didn't get in. We do not have a perfect process. But I think it was amazing what we did this time through zoom calls. Natalie and Amber were amazing and everybody else who helped. And yes, we need to get better and we will get better. But we need to move on with our amendments that are in front of us because we did spend quality time on what is in front of us. And I don't have the time right now to go into what should be maybe presented to other people. I mean listen we're zooming all the time let's do another zoom another time and figure that out. It's not the end of the world tonight. Thank you. I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete

Hey, listen, I love the time. You know, I just - my computer died. I got it back here. I kind of love the conversation. I understand where everybody's coming from. The only analogy I can think of is like the guy going to the gallows and they're saying, well you know, even though the victim's family said that you didn't do it, and this guy admitted to it, you've lost your appeals. So, we have to hang you even though we know you're right. So, I understand I understand it's very difficult to make some choices. It takes an incredible backbone sometimes to do it. But um, I'm a yes. That's the way it works. I get it in the long run. On the business I'm in you got to make tough choices. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

I would like to thank Legislator Parete for being the voice for these smaller organizations. You know, for whatever reason they didn't apply. They may not have known the process and totally agree with Legislator Litts. If we give the horse an injection now and so yes, I'm in.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

I'm going to be a yes too.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella.

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Well, I appreciate the support behind the amendment broadening support for the arts. I look forward to experiencing that support for the arts the other 364 days of the year, and I'm excited to work together on that. On this amendment, I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

As a former President Rosendale theatre, I appreciate it's being considered and recognized as well as all the other theaters, as movie theaters and theatrical theaters. I think that's really important. I have some concerns about us being a granting agency. I have to say, if there's a lot that goes to, as Legislator Maio have brought up making these kinds of decisions, and I think that there are granting art agencies that are really good at this, because that's all they do. I would support what Chair Donaldson said, I would be happy to have an amendment that gives another \$10,000 to Arts Mid-Hudson who do fund all of these different programs. That would be great, and then let them make that kind of decision. But as far as this amendment, I am a no.

Clerk Fabella

And Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is defeated 7 to 16. You did not yet vote on the \$12,500 either.

Chairman Donaldson

I want to thank everybody for that 35 minutes. Very nice. And we were cordial. Let us now vote on the amendment as presented unless somebody wants to bring in another one.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman we have a short yes with one no Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Ronk

We were short yes in caucus. Legislator Fabiano are you a no?

Legislator Fabiano

I'm a no.

Legislator Ronk

With one no Legislator Fabiano.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Parete will you be a no on this one?

Legislator Parete

I'm certainly a no on this one. I, I find it fascinating. I find it absolutely fascinating that everything is dismissed when everybody agrees that something is terribly wrong with the process. And yet we're going to go ahead with it regardless of the consequences. So yeah, that's my vote. Thank you very much, Madam Clerk.

Clerk Fabella

Okay. The amendment passes 20 to 3.

Chairman Donaldson

It's a, the next amendment is Amendment 25, right?

Legislator Heppner

It is. Chairman Donaldson, I'll make a motion for Amendment No. 25. as amended.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second it for discussion.

Chairman Donaldson

This is the Awareness for Awareness. \$12,500 for Awareness if anybody wants to know. Alrighty. On the amendment, or it's up for discussion. Does anyone wish to speak? I see no one.

Legislator Heppner

On the amendment, we are a short yes with the following noes, Legislators Gavaris, and Walter.

Legislator Ronk

We are a short no with two yeses, Legislator's Wawro and Bruno.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is adopted 13 to 10.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, I will now move Amendment No. 26 as presented.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second it for discussion.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty, this is for the Sawkill Fire Company. Does anyone wish to speak on this? No one? I'm surprised. So, nobody wants to amend the amendment?

Legislator Ronk

Nope.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay. Then on the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short no with the following yeses, Legislator's Cahill, Donaldson and Petit.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short no.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is defeated 3 to 20.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, I'll now move Amendment No. 27 as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

The Director of the County COVID-19 response, Legislator Archer.

Legislator Archer

Thank you, Chairman. Um, I think that, you know, COVID, we are all in the midst of it and experiencing a lot of different things, and I appreciate what is being proposed here. But I will have to say, I mean, removing a supervisor, public health nurse to fund the COVID Director, when we have state funding that

supports that position. Um, why aren't we why aren't we using the money we have. We have three open positions of public health nurse positions. These are professionals who are trained to deal with health crisis. And I'm not sure why we wouldn't put one of the supervising nurses in as the lead person on this because they're equipped. They've been trained to deal with this. So that given that and what is all that's been done with regards to federal funding that we haven't used yet, some state funding for this particular position, I can't support creating another almost \$100,000 position, that without someone who has the professional health background. And I think at a time where we need to be really tight and fiscally responsible, I think that let's bring let's get the nurses staffed up, and let's leverage their experience expertise and training to support this effort. So, I'm going to be a no on this one.

Legislator Walter

I have something to say.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Thank you. I appreciate those sentiments. I am a public health epidemiologist. And I went to school for a very, very long time to learn how to be. I learned contact tracing, and I learned about herd immunity, not through Facebook, or Google, but from training. And with this training, I would not assume that I could go and be a high school English teacher. I wouldn't like to go build houses. I wouldn't put myself in another type of job that's not what I've been trained for. And right now we're in a pandemic of epic proportion. And I totally appreciate the work the current person has done and our County Executive and the Department of Health and getting a call center put up when it was needed and the dashboard. And that was great back then. And we didn't have state support back then we didn't have federal support that back then. But right now we have the federal support. We have 500, almost \$500,000 already earmarked for public health specialist for public health nurses, and people who are who are skilled in this to be leading the charge. And I feel like we need to hire someone, we're repeating what Legislator Archer said, who is trained in public health, pandemics, public health responses. They should be doing it. And the fact that this is already going to be paid for through the federal government, we have \$500,000 already that we approved as a resolution and haven't filled those positions. And then an earmark for another million dollars. I say let's use the federal money, let's get public health nurses let the people who are trained to do their job do their job. So, I will be against this resolution.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Bartels

Legislator Bartels

Thank you. Thank you I, I want to echo some of what's already been said. I want to begin by acknowledging the great work that's been done in what must have been very difficult. Particularly in the early days, uncharted territory, and organized out of what felt, I think, for each of us, but must have really felt like on the county level chaos organized into allowable effort and a strong coordination of messaging to the public. But in August we approved a resolution for roughly \$1.4 million -1.477. And \$477,000 of that was for immediate use. \$1 million was as a placeholder. And that contract was for CDC funding to coordinate testing, contact tracing and data reporting. A lot of what we're talking about doing right now. And at that time, we proposed to do this using three nurses. We've been told that those nurses could not be hired. But rather than amend the budget, which is allowable under the contract to use the federal money, we're proposing instead to spend county money on an individual that's currently in a position that does not have the public health background that I think is critical in this job and is going to be especially critical moving forward. So, I support the idea of actually utilizing the federal money that we have that's been allocated and hiring professionals that are trained in public health.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Parete

Legislator Petit

Thank you. I think the fact is that these positions aren't filled. And if we're going to take two, three, four months to fill positions when we're in the middle of a second wave of a pandemic. It would be negligent on our part. This is a military type response right now to combat a virus. But and the person that we have in this position is very capable. I spoke to a constituent today who said the fire departments have been contacted because the vaccine is shipped in dried ice. And if the dried ice off gases it can fill the room up with co2. So, it goes way beyond, you know, just strictly what a public health nurse can do. I mean, I'm in favor of this position and the person that's in it.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, so when the pandemic began I had some experience volunteering in the emergency operation center before the person in this position was hired into the position that he's in currently, and that will become this COVID coordinator. And I can tell you that the challenges that we were facing and that governments, you know, local governments faced to all over the country, we're not necessarily challenges of a shortage of, you know, public health prowess. But these were logistical challenges. These were challenges of desperate communication systems that didn't work together. These are challenges of resources, being

ready being physically present, but not being in position and, and not having the match between the manpower that was it that was present and the materials that were present, being in the right place at the right time, and reaching out to the constituents that were needed. These were challenges that went beyond, you know, testing and into things like, you know, who's getting fed, and, you know, what, how are different groups communicating with each other. And, you know, quite frankly, those are not challenges that are going to be solved on the medical side, and to everyone's point, you know, fill all of the medical roles will always have a shortage there. But being able to coordinate this effort is something that is very unique. And, you know, I have seen firsthand what it looks like when that effort is ramping up. And we have that. And I think it's, you know, we owe it to our constituents to, you know, really appreciate the complexity of this scenario. And the fact that we need such a, someone that can approach and a role that can approach that complexity, which is fundamentally a logistics and communications and, and, you know, management role. So, I support this. And, you know, I encourage you, as someone who's seen firsthand what this looks like in the EOC, you know, that others should support this as well.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Gavaris

Legislator Gavaris

Do the comments by Legislature Uchitelle. So, if this is not a medical response, and this is strictly just logistical, then we already have this person. We pay them an annual salary. They've been employed with the county for quite some years. That's our county emergency manager, Steve Peterson. That's his role. He's the emergency manager. That's the job that he does on a day in and day out for any type of hurricane. If you're saying this isn't a medical issue, and that's the role he currently serves.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else?

Legislator Heppner

I believe Legislator Walter has her hand raised.

Chairman Donaldson

Legislator Walter for the second time.

Legislator Walter

Thank you. I just want to say that when this first happened, and again, when we had no support, it was definitely what Legislator Uchitelle said. It was a systematic, making sure we have call centers together, make sure we have food out to people. That was absolutely true when this first hit. There's no question about it. We're in a very different place right now. So as the vaccine is rolling out,

they're going to be - the questions that people will have are going to be more related to doesn't matter if I take this vaccine if I'm on diabetes medication. I didn't take the second vaccine. I missed the second week to take the second vaccine. It's three weeks is it too late to take it? It actually will be it is a medical issue. There's a reason why CDC on a federal level is who is funding this. Because this is a medical issue. This is a public health, medical issue. Vaccines are a medical public health response. And to belittle that, and the significance of the role that our medical world and our public health world is doing, not only in combating this, but continuing to try to fight it is it's unfortunate. And again, we needed him and I'm so appreciative that he came and did what he did back in April, May, June. He created a dashboard. This point, the state has a dashboard that actually works a lot better than our current county one. He created the call center. But now there's going to be a call center all through the state that's much more informative to people who can travel between counties. So, things are in place now that weren't in place when we needed him. And I'm so glad he was there. But this is a medical issue. This is a very different environment right now than it was when this first started. And when you first started volunteering there. And I think we need to recognize the significance of the public health medical emergency that we're in.

Chairman Donaldson

Anyone else? Anyone else?

Legislator Walter

Can I call a long roll please?

Chairman Donaldson 2

Um, what did you say, you want to call long roll?

Legislator Walter

Yes please.

Chairman Donaldson

Alrighty long roll, but I would like to speak before we start on this. I mean I...

Legislator Ronk

Why don't you speak on the long roll Dave.

Chairman Donaldson

Alright. No problem.

Clerk Fabella

Archer.

Legislator Archer

No.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Legislator Bartels

No.

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

No.

Clerk Fabella

Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson

I want to make something clear here. We have a unique opportunity with this particular person. And I think in some ways people have belittle him not the [inaudible] health committee, because this person is a CB, but that's what he

was. He's a coordinator. He was somebody that if anybody understands what they do, they operate under fire. They are coordinators and they coordinate under fire. Not just any coordination. It's a really a coordination with literally being shot at. And they have to coordinate these types of things. Similar things, they coordinate buildings, and things of that nature during wartime. He's also a logistic person. He's also a medic. But the point is, we saw what he did in this instance. And if you think that all that stuff is going away that it's also much easier now. Well, it's not. Things are going to change and they're going to change rapidly. And I don't think a public health nurse is going to be able to handle those changes when they come up, the logistics of it. Not going to be able to handle those types of things. This is somebody that's got to be able to handle things under fire and this is what this particular person is unique at. So, we have something here that probably no other county has. And you can talk about somebody that does other things like coordinators, emergency coordinators, but they're not - they do not add his expertise this person has. So, I will definitely be a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

No.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

No.

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

Maio.

Legislator Maio

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Parete.

Legislator Parete.

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

I hope that none of my colleagues feel that this is somehow money that's being taken from public health professionals or somehow defunding or advocating that we don't hire for public health open public health positions especially if they're grant funded. I really hope that that's clear. We are, you know, just because we are in uncharted territory, and now we've charted that territory with the help of a role like this, doesn't mean that we won't be in uncharted territory soon. In fact, we're now in uncharted territory. So, let me just take a second to say that we are reaching new highs on the COVID pandemic, and we will soon find new challenges that we didn't find in the first round of this horrible disease. So, I am a yes for this. And I will sleep better knowing that my constituents have someone like this helping coordinate this effort.

Clerk Fabella

Walter.

Legislator Walter

Oh, this amendment literally de-funds a public health nurse. It literally says it's de-funding a public health nurse. And with that, I'm a no.

Clerk Fabella

Wawro.

Legislator Wawro

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is adopted 17 to 6.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, I will move the final amendment to this budget, proposed budget, which is 28, as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

What is that number again?

Legislator Heppner

Twenty-eight.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay. I think we I thought we had, was that on the amendment? Does anybody want to speak on that?

No. All right. So, I call the vote.

Legislator Heppner

We are short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is amended 23 to zero. On the amendment as amended is also a short yes. So that's, it's adopted 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Our last resolution is Resolution 434.

Chairman Donaldson

Oh, you have to adopt the budget first.

Clerk Fabella

That's yep, we sure do. We were just talking about that.

Chairman Donaldson

So, let's go on. We can do this again tomorrow. No, add on Resolution No. 434 for the budget.

Clerk Fabella

As amended.

Chairman Donaldson

A few times might we add.

Legislator Heppner

We are a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

Unless I hear otherwise, we are a short yes as well.

Clerk Fabella

The 2021 budget is adopted as amended unanimously. 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Yay. Now we'll move on to the next one 435 Adopting Ulster County Capital Program for 2021 through 2026.

Legislator Heppner

Mr. Chairman, I believe in agreement with Legislator Ronk, I'd like to move to block Resolutions 1 through 5. I mean sorry, Amendments 1 through 5 as presented.

Chairman Donaldson

Okay. The amendments on the Capital Program?

Legislator Heppner

Yes, sir.

Chairman Donaldson

Leader Ronk your alright with that? Okay very good. Call for the vote as amended as blocked.

Legislator Heppner

We are short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes.

Clerk Fabella

The Amendments to the Capital Program are adopted 23 to zero. And then the resolution as amended.

Chairman Donaldson

And the Resolution as amended.

Legislator Heppner

Thank you, Mr. Chairman we are a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes as well.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution is Adopted as Amended.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you for keeping me on my toes.

Clerk Fabella

No problem.

Chairman Donaldson

All right. Now we're ready to - is that that's about it. Right, alright before we adjourn, yes, Legislator Bartel's you want to say something?

Legislator Bartels

If I might, I just wanted to acknowledge and celebrate the fact that today is our colleague and friend Kevin Roberts birthday, and to wish him a very happy birthday and to thank him for spending so much of his special day with us.

Legislator Roberts

No place I'd rather be than with you guys.

Chairman Donaldson

I'm quite sure about that. Before we adjourn, I would like to say something. It really makes no difference if it was sudden or if it was a prolonged ordeal. It has little bearing on how old the mother is or the child. The loss of a mom is very devastating, and our hearts go out to Legislator Mary Wawro for the loss of her mom, Irene Geick. And with that in mind, I wish to adjourn this meeting in her name.

Legislator Litts

So, moved.

Committee Members

Second, second.

Chairman Donaldson

And so, I entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Litts

So, moved.

Legislator Fabiano

Second.

Chairman Donaldson

All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chairman Donaldson

Thank you, everyone.

Legislator Litts

Good night everybody, be healthy and safe.

Chairman Donaldson

Goodbye.