

**Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment,  
Arts and Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** April 5, 2022 – 6:30 PM or (or immediately following Public Works, Capital Projects and Transportation Committee)  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 87224811671  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Brian Cahill  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Legislator Thomas Corcoran, Peter Criswell, Chris Hewitt, Joseph Maloney, Megan Sperry  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Herbert Litts, III.  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Kathy Nolan; Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly; Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning; Sharon Williams, Office of Employment and Training; Jaren Buono and Christian Malsatzki, UC Cornell Cooperative Extension; Jamie Capuano, SUNY Ulster; Cheryl Schneider; Laurie Lichtenstein

Chairman Cahill called the meeting to order at 7:53 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

---

**Motion No. 1:** Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes March 1, 2022

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

**Discussion:** None.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Maloney, and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes **APPROVED**

---

**Presentation – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County**

Director Jarod Buono shared a power point presentation that included a brief history of Cooperative Extension programs, the variety of programs offered locally and regionally through CCE and the dramatic financial and environmental rewards that result from these programs.

**Resolutions for the April 19, 2022, Session of the Legislature**

**Resolution No. 185** - Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$286,314.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way Of Ulster County Inc. – Office Of Employment And Training

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves an amendment with the United Way to oversee and provide services for the summer youth employment program that is funded 100% federally funded.

**Motion No. 2:** **Moved Resolution No. 185**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Corcoran  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Maloney, and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 186** - Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way Of Ulster County Inc. – Office Of Employment And Training

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves an amendment with the United Way to oversee and provide services for the summer youth employment program that is funded 100% federally funded.

**Motion No. 5:** **Moved Resolution No. 186**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Hewitt  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Maloney, and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolutions ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 187:** Approving And Executing A Ten-Year Collective Bargaining Agreement Dated September 1, 2019 Through August 31, 2029 Between The County Of Ulster And The SUNY Ulster Faculty Association (SUFA) – Ulster County Community College

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will approve a ten-year collective bargaining agreement between the County of Ulster and the SUNY Ulster Faculty Association (SUFA) beginning September 1, 2019 and ending August 31, 2029.

**Motion No. 6:** **Moved Resolution No. 187**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Corcoran  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

<b>Discussion:</b>	See attached transcript
<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Maloney, and Sperry
<b>Voting Against:</b>	None
<b>Votes in Favor:</b>	6
<b>Votes Against:</b>	0
<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Resolutions ADOPTED</b>

---

### **New Business/Old Business**

Chair Cahill discussed upcoming interviews for the Board of the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency later this week and later this month. He explained his desire to include all 23 legislators and some of the issues scheduling issues with two dozen candidates and asked for input from the committee.

### **Adjournment**

<b>Motion Made By:</b>	Legislator Criswell
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Corcoran
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	6
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0

<b><u>Time:</u></b>	8:34 PM
---------------------	---------

<b>Respectfully submitted by:</b>	Fawn Tantillo
<b>Minutes Approved:</b>	May 3, 2022

**Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment,  
Arts and Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** April 5, 2022 – 6:30 PM or (or immediately following Public Works, Capital Projects and Transportation Committee)  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 87224811671  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Brian Cahill  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Legislator Thomas Corcoran, Peter Criswell, Chris Hewitt, Joseph Maloney, Megan Sperry  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Herbert Litts, III.  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Kathy Nolan; Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly; Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning; Sharon Williams, Office of Employment and Training; Jaren Buono and Christian Malsatzki, UC Cornell Cooperative Extension; Jamie Capuano, SUNY Ulster; Cheryl Schneider; Laurie Lichtenstein

---

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So, like I said, I apologize for the late start. The other meeting ran long. And it seems to be kind of routine that that meeting runs at least an hour long. So we're gonna have a discussion with the legislative clerk to see if there's something we can do to maybe alternate when the start times or have them start after us or something. Because, you know, we're starting a meeting at eight o'clock at night. It's a little bit late for some folks. So, you know, with that said, I will call the meeting to order and ask that we please stand for the Pledge of a flag. Usually, Herb has a flag but looks like Fawn does. Thank you.

**Committee Members**

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

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank You. Okay, I'll accept a motion to approve the minutes from the March 1 2022. Meeting.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Motion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? No abstentions? Okay. So this committee has a lot of folks that run through it, right. And one of them is Cornell Cooperative Extension. And what I like to do in this committee is have the folks that come in and give us like a little bit of an overview or what's happening or things that they want to highlight, you know, and it's going to be a little cumbersome because there's so many, but this this month, we have Cornell coming in next month, we'll probably have two different other agencies coming and given us a little bit overview of what's going on. So with that, I'll just turn it over. And tonight we have Jared Buono...Buono or Buono?

**Jared Buono**

Buono, like Sonny.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. Sonny Buono. Okay, so we have Jared Buono from Cornell Cooperative Extension here, and he's going to give us a little bit of a presentation about the new and exciting things that are happening over there. Cornell Cooperative. Thank you, Jared.

**Jared Buono**

Thank you. Thank you for having me, everybody. Um, I'm wondering, Chairperson Cahill, Do you want us to present it another time? Because we started late.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

No, I'm fine. No, we're good. No, we're good. Thank you. We don't have a very long agenda. So tonight was a good night to be a little bit late. So thank you.

**Jared Buono**

Thank you for having me. Everyone. My name is Jared Buono, Executive Director at Cornell Cooperative Extension. I grew up on a farm in Saugerties have been ED [Executive Director] over there for going on five years. I'm here tonight with Christian Malsatzki, our agricultural program lead and our grain specialist. So, thank you for having us. If I could share my screen on I will. Just put a short presentation for those of you who might not be familiar with us. I'll run through it quickly. So let me start back at Abraham Lincoln who started the land grant system. Cornell, we're lucky enough to have the land grant university for New York State. So Cornell was granted the land with the idea that they give back the, the work that they do there, they get back to the communities of New York. Hence, extension was born across all states in the US. And the idea is we extend the research from Cornell University to communities through programs, evidence based practices and approaches to things specific to New York. And then we take our experience on the ground here and send it back to Cornell to say this is the research that is needed, because this is what we're seeing on our communities.

**Jared Buono**

So, we've been here since 1913. Our enabling legislation is state county law 224. It establishes us as a subordinate government agency. But we also have charitable benefits of a 501 C 3, although we're not chartered 501 C3. We're a bit complex, because we predate the charities bureau in New York and many other things. There is one of us in every county in New York and the five boroughs. The cooperative part of Cooperative Extension is the cooperation between county, state and federal agencies and funding sources to create this entity and this link between research and practice on the ground. So here in Ulster, we have about 30 staff. This is the support that we receive. Thank you very much. The legislature provides about \$350,000 a year in appropriation. We then match. We get a certain match from New York State on top of that, so the more you

give us, the more we get match from New York State. We have access to federal funds. And then we also employ a lot of grants and contracts, and we leverage the money that you give us to about \$4 million a year.

### **Jared Buono**

These are our four main verticals, agriculture, of course, the first ag extension agent was in 1913 came out. A few years after that was home economics and which we now call Healthy Communities. And then 4-H youth development. We also have an Environment Program. I'll tell you more specifically about the ones you support with the appropriation, mainly agriculture and 4-H. So, I wanted to introduce you to the team, to the team that you pay for and support. The folks at the top Christian and his team are specialists in grains, field crops, grapes, berries, livestock and regenerative agriculture. That's what we have in house here at the Kingston office. We also have access and buy in to several regional programs, the different counties get together, because we can't all afford to have a great specialist and an apple specialist. So, we combine forces and have what's called regional programs. And that group below, there is our regional commercial horticulture team. And so all of our producers in the county have access to some of the best, most knowledgeable, experienced specialists and researchers in the world. And we're very lucky to have Cornell, I think, probably the best land grant research institution in the world for agriculture.

### **Jared Buono**

We also support the 4-H Youth Program, which traditionally has focused on rural and livestock education. But you know, four h is much more than that now, including 3d printers and drones and anti-racism programs. We do it all. So our impacts in 2021, I sent an impact statement to everyone on the legislature. But I'll just highlight some of it here. The ag program did outreach for almost 200,000 people.

### **Jared Buono**

And I know that's more than folks in the county, but we also a lot of people from the region. Look at the programs that we put on here and supports regional agriculture as well. That team of Christian and in his folks put on 48 program events in Ulster County, impacting about 1500 farmers. We also have 90 Master Gardener volunteers right now, who every day are at our office answering phones, especially now in the spring, talking about soil pH levels, and which worms, which seeds to plant and people's gardening questions. So our 4-H Youth Program suffered under COVID the last couple of years. But we're building it back up, we built it back up to 83. Youth with about 25 volunteers resulted in about 350 exhibits at the fair. I know many of you came to the fair and had our world-famous milkshakes. Thanks for coming. We're gonna invite you back again next year. We're going to have more exhibits and more livestock, although avian flu has definitely thrown us for a loop. And so we're not exactly sure what our livestock auction will look like. Some years depends on what, what pathogens are out there. This year, there's going to be no chickens or poultry or fowl of any time. Unfortunately.

### **Jared Buono**

We also have a national recognition for the programs that we developed here in Ulster County, including one of the best stream management outreach programs for youth in County. Every single student in the Onteora district grows up and takes three management courses. And that's paid for with the Ashokan stream management program, which I'm happy to talk about, also recognized for the forestry program that we run here out of the county for youth. And Act for Change, which is a newer anti racism team program, which is taken off in started here in Ulster County and is taken off to New York and the Northeast.

### **Jared Buono**

So I'll just end with agriculture is being recognized for the foundational part of the economy that it is, you know, the the USDA census here, the numbers you're seeing came out of the 2017 just sent USDA census, they

report, you know the value of raw product in Ulster County is about \$55 million. Now, that's farm gate, that means no processing, no out value add none of that when you start to look at those numbers, it grows quickly. For example, the the breweries in Ulster County alone have an economic impact of \$83 million dollars. So that's not including the cideries the farm stands, the wineries, the distilleries now. So that's one of the things that we're working on a better estimation of what is the economic impact of it Agriculture, we're estimating now, and we'll have a better idea of this over the next year, but it's probably an order of magnitude greater than that raw product value. So closer to half a billion dollars in economic impact is what we're thinking. Although no county has this information, we're hoping to put that together. So I'd like to bring this up, because I think your investment in us at 350,000 A year is well worth the what agriculture is for Ulster County. And we're glad that the government is recognizing and supporting.

#### **Jared Buono**

So focus for the next year or two. Like I mentioned before, we've got bird flu in the county. Spotted lantern fly if you have not heard of it, it's a terrible invasive species that we don't have a real treatment for right now. And it threatens pretty much all of Hudson Valley agriculture. We're having a larger focus now, with ag and economic development out of our office in regenerative agriculture and carbon farming. To meet New York State climate goals, it's going to be a complete retooling of every industry across New York state. And New York State farmers and foresters are going to be asked to sequester about 15% of the climate emission goals to meet a net zero emissions by 2050. That's a huge amount of work that we're going to be asking of our farmers in New York State Foresters. So we're putting a lot of effort into what research that looks like, it's going to be a lot of agroforestry, and a lot of measuring carbon, a lot of work with our partners at soil water.

#### **Jared Buono**

We're also going to be expanding stream management education out of our office, where the lead outreach and education partner on the New York City watershed for the Ashokan. We want to offer that to the rest of the county. But of course, New York City won't pay for that. So we find we're creative and finding other ways to to have that service for everybody else.

#### **Jared Buono**

And then after COVID, there was a lot of expansion into food systems. So we brought a lot of folks on and I'm happy to talk about that sometime. But the work we're doing in Farm to School and other initiatives. And then we're very happy to be with this committee. I will say that under the programs committee, we did coax them to come out at least once a year for either a meeting, we held a meeting when meetings were in person, at our office or at the Hudson Valley research lab. And I will invite you all now to come out. Let's have a legislative ag tour, go to the Hudson Valley research lab or some other place that's you can see firsthand the work that happens in pathology and entomology to to keep our industries working in, in Hudson Valley. So with that, I'll just mention these are the folks on our board, including Dennis and Legislator Sperry, who are here. Thank you very much. And thank you from our team for continued support.

#### **Chair Brian Cahill**

Well, thank you very much, Jared, that was very informative. And I will take you up on your invitation at some point here when the weather improves a little and hopefully when we're meeting in person, I would absolutely, like I was in the legislature about 10 years ago, and I never made it out to the lab. That's the one on 9W there by Highland, right?

#### **Jared Buono**

Yes.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So I want to get in that building. I've been passing it for almost 40 years, and I never been inside. So that may be where we meet that. But I do want I do want to take you up on that offer. And I also want to take a moment and thank you for the work that you guys do to help our agricultural community in the county. It's very, it's vital. It really is vital. And they're the contributions to 4-H and all the other programs that you guys do. They, you know, you you you pinpointed it's a half a billion dollars in economic development. And it's not something that should be overlooked. It's something that should be emphasized. And you know, so I've been talking with Chairman Bartels about how can we do that? How can we, you know, bring this to greater focus and highlight some of the positive things that are happening here through our agricultural community in the county. And so you'll be hearing more from us in the coming months on that. And I do again, want to, you know, take thank you for hanging in there for this late hour and giving us that presentation.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

At this point. I'll open it up to any of our legislators that might have any questions for Jared, or anyone else associated with Cornell at this time. Our own Legislators Sperry, who's new to the board there. Anything. Okay, well,

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

I think Jared sick of hearing from me already, so (laughter)

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I doubt that. Right. All right. Well, thank you very much, folks. Again, I appreciate you stopping by and your work is appreciated. And, you know, absolutely vital part of our county. And, you know, like I said you'll be hearing more from us in the coming months here. Okay, thank you very much.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So with that, we're going to move on to our resolutions, we have three resolutions to be a big, big list. It's actually the smallest list that we've ever had. So I'll start with Resolution number 185, which is "Approving the execution of a contract amendment for \$286,314. entered into by the county, to with United Way of Ulster County incorporated for the Office of Employment and Training." And I see we have Sharon Williams with us tonight, if she'd like to elaborate on this in any way. I'll give you a few moments to discuss it if you'd like. Thank you.

**OET Director Williams**

Yeah. Resolution 185 is to amend the contract between OET [UC Office of Employment and Training] and the United Way of Ulster County. So we may extend the service agreement that we have for our Summer Youth Employment Program. United Way provides payroll services and acts as the employer of record for the summer youth employment program. We've submitted a similar similar contract amendment each year for the past several years. And I wanted to let the legislators know that there will be an additional amendment sent out before you, we don't have the full amount of our disbursement from the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, which actually funds our Summer Youth Employment Program. So as soon as we have the final number, we will be sitting submitting another contract amendment to you.

**OET Director Williams**

I'll accept a motion to move the resolution.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Motion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second. Okay. Any discussion?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I have one quick question. Or the number of youth employees after so I know we probably had to scale back a little during COVID. Right. How are we facing for 2022? Are we looking at scaling up, staying same, going down?

**OET Director Williams**

Our numbers are about the same? For 2022? We're looking at serving approximately 115 young people.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, great. Good. Glad to hear that. Thank you. All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Any abstentions? No. Okay, thank you. So we'll move on to 186, which is "Approving the execution of a contract amendment for \$100,000 entered into by the county with the United Way of Ulster County incorporated for the Office of Employment and Training." And Mrs. Williams, I'll let you go again, if you'd like to give us a brief explanation of that.

**OET Director Williams**

Not much more to explain Legislator, Legislator Cahill. It's similar to the contract amendment that was just passed to the committee accepted as for our year round, young adult employment program. That amount is firm. We do you know what the distribution will be for that. But it's the same process. We have to do this every year to sort of extend our agreement with the United Way of Ulster County.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Great. Thank you. I'll accept a motion to move resolution.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Motion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. Any discussion? Okay, all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

All those opposed? Any abstentions? Okay, great. Thank you. And so, our last resolution is number 187, which is "Approving executing a 10 year collective bargaining agreement dated September 1, 2019, through August 31, 2029, between the county of Ulster and the SUNY Ulster faculty, SUFA, Ulster County Community College and I see that we have Vice President Capuano from the college here if you'd like to give us a brief overview of what that long contract looks like.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely. Thank you, Chairman. So, yes, this is a long-term contract. This contract goes back to September 1, 2019 through August 31 of 2029. So, it is a longer-term contract. The Met agreement with our faculty association, our Faculty Association represents both full time and part time faculty so includes our adjunct body as well. This contract does include changes in terms of going on to a salary schedule, which is new to SUNY Ulster faculty also includes a new component of longevity for faculty. We also have several additional changes in the contract. As enrollment shrinks, we're starting to closely watch our full-time faculty numbers and our adjunct pools as well. So, as those numbers continue to decline in terms of enrollment, we have that flexibility within that adjunct pool to really scale up and scale down as we need to. We are hopeful that enrollment will bounce back in the next couple of years. We are seeing an increase a marked increase in the number of applicants coming through this summer semester, which is great news. We're happy to see students coming back to the classroom, we're starting to see that they want more of that classroom, direct classroom interaction and a shift from that remote learning, which is again, really great news for us. So, happy to answer any questions that anyone might have on this one.

**Jamie Capuano**

So, I have a quick question but I'll let Legislator Sperry go first, go ahead, Legislator Sperry.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

Thank you. Oh, I just wanted to know, what is the ratio of adjunct to full time faculty right now.

**Jamie Capuano**

So, we have about 55 full time faculty. And we have about 100 headcount, adjunct faculty members, when you take that adjunct faculty pool based on our 30-credit load, you're coming up at about 50 adjuncts.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

Okay. Thank you.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So, we've faced in the last few years in the county, an issue of our employees fleeing for neighboring counties based on salary. It's especially right now, I was wondering if you guys had that same situation at the college there, and if so, was it addressed in this contract?

**Jamie Capuano**

So, I will say this contract definitely addresses that issue. So, we've been seeing that issue, especially in our part time adjunct pool. So, adjuncts Are you know, they're holding them multiple jobs or working at SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Dutchess SUNY Orange, Columbia Green. So, this contract definitely addresses that. This contract also addresses for our full-time faculty members where that stability within compensation, so they know what their compensation is going to be for some of the out years. Again, that's the advantage of long-term contracts. But we are seeing that as well. We are seeing faculty members and adjuncts who are going other campuses or other colleges based on compensation structures elsewhere.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Criswell,

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Yes. may ask, Can I ask how you're recruiting diverse faculty?

**Jamie Capuano**

So, we are actually working directly with our chief diversity officer, Candice Vandyke. London to make sure all right job postings are being posted in areas where diverse faculty members may be looking. We found that we had a lot of issues with where we were posting jobs and where we were expecting people to find jobs, frankly. So, we're working directly with her to make sure we're reaching out more through word of mouth or alternative community sources, not just kind of putting it on LinkedIn or website to make sure that people are seeing the job postings. And we're working very closely with her to develop an HR diversity tool so that we're both tracking all the applicants seeing are we going are skewing one way so that we can address that and correct it moving forward.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Yeah, I was wondering with the decline in in, enrolled, what are our numbers compared to Colombia Green, Dutchess, Orange, percentage wise, how are we how are we how are we trending worse, the same? And would and I'm sure you have those numbers.

**Jamie Capuano**

Yeah, absolutely. So, we're trending better than Columbia Green. Columbia Green is one of the smallest community colleges in the region, the state, actually. We are trending slightly less than Duchess. Duchess has a very large reach in terms of the students at Duchess pulls in. And we are trending better than SUNY Sullivan.

SUNY Sullivan was another really small campus that is here hitting this declining enrollment much more significantly than what we're seeing. We are trending...

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

That's a percent. That's a percentage.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Yeah, a percent.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Yeah, okay.

**Jamie Capuano**

Yeah. And we are unique in that we don't have dorms. So, that I will say is one thing that helps us as we're trying to navigate this, those campuses that have the dorms are much more financially struggling at this point. We have that flexibility where students aren't necessarily staying with us, which creates, again, not a financial drain on the campus.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, I was just going to ask you about, about that, because I know a few years back, that was like a big push to get dorms. And so, it was kind of a godson that it didn't happen. He was COVID Because you had had all that expense on brand new dorms and nobody.

**Jamie Capuano**

So, definitely, that was one of our blessings with COVID that we did not have dorms with them contend with.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Right. So, is there any other questions in relation to the Faculty Association contract that folks want to talk about tonight? Okay, great. Thank you. Miss Capuano. Appreciate you like to go over that and answering our questions. I'll accept the motion. Motion to move the resolution.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Motion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. Although any more discussion, are we good? Okay. All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? Abstain? Okay, thank you. And that ends our resolutions and our last item on the agenda is going to be the IBA interviews. legislator. Chris. Well, go ahead.

**Legislator Roberts**

Did you have a question, Legislator Criswell? You're muted if you did. I can hear you. Sorry.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I'm sorry.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Did you have a question? I saw you had your hand up. Are you still on

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

My internet is...

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Oh, okay.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

No, I was just learning. I was just learning. My internet's a little unstable. I'm in North Carolina.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Oh, wow. Well, you've moved up. You were in Georgia yesterday. So, yes. Alright, So, as I said, so the folks who you know, who don't need to stay can leave if they like, we're just going to talk a little bit about our upcoming IDA interview process and where we stand with it and some of the other issues surrounding it.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So, right now, we have sent out requests, as you guys all know, we sent out requests to have our questionnaires. We received questions back from four legislators. And what we did was we went through them, and kind of like tried to mold some of them. They were very, very close to some of the questions that were on there. Like, for example, Legislator Erner gave us a couple of questions that kind of molded well with the existing questions. So, we kind of merged them and reworded them. But they were on the same topic. So, we incorporated those in there. I think Legislator Maloney, we every question you gave us we left as is. And I will ask them exactly as you presented them. And Legislator Sperry, same with yours, we incorporated yours into the list and split them out into the three groups, We did one group for the existing members, one for the new members, and we have a list of questions that will be distributed, prior to the interviews that will be asked at the day of the interview only, right? And the reason why we're kind of keeping them back a little bit is because we don't want to give them an opportunity to research because these are really more, you know, what is your philosophical approach? And what are your beliefs? How the IDA should be? Those types of questions, you know. And I'd rather you know, not have a definition read out of a journal or something to me on those answers. So, we want people to speak from the heart on those, you know. So, right now, one second Legislator Maloney, I just want to wrap up where we are in the process. So, we have mailed out the questionnaires we've received, I don't know at least one back, I don't know if we've gotten any more?

**Fawn Tantillo**

At least three back,

**Chair Brian Cahill**

We got three back. And we're setting up some interviews. As you guys know, starting Thursday, and Friday of this week, we have five interviews right now scheduled between Thursday and Friday, we put in a half an hour each for the existing board members. And for the new ones, we're going to go down to 20 minutes and start on Saturday, the ninth at 10am. And so, what what's I'm sure I forward you that string of notes that we had from one of the current IDA board members who was a little unhappy with the process. And, you know, just to, you know, let you know that, you know, some of what he accused us of in that letter also accused me of because he did send it to me, just wasn't true. I mean, we did give options. We didn't say me at this time, we said you know if you can make this, let us know, it was a question. It was actually a question mark, on the end of the timeframe that we suggested because we had a schedule, plugged people's names into the schedule and said, If you can make it, let us know. And if you can't let us know. And the same thing goes for the questionnaires. We had people get back to us and tell us that they couldn't make the questionnaires, we said okay, well when you can get them to us as soon as you can. And we'll schedule your interview according to that. And we also have two other dates out another two weeks out for folks who can't make the dates that we have here. So, we are trying to be very accommodating with, with this whole interview process, we have about two dozen people to interview and it's an extremely difficult process when we we have to consider that we have to adhere to those 24 people's schedules 23 legislator schedules and the staff that's going to be there to support it. So, we're looking at, you know, trying to get 50 people to work on the schedule. So, it's a little bit difficult to get everybody lined up. So, with that, that's where we are. And I asked clerk Tantillo to email out what the schedule is as soon as we have it. What we have today, what's planned for Thursday and Friday, and then any change going forward. We'll mail that out to the committee, actually to the full legislature. And then we'll take it from there. Joe Maloney was first and then we'll go to up. Okay, good, Joe.

#### **Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Yeah. With regards to that email. We got I thought that was fairly silly. By the way, that individual I think was at about 30% attendance. So, I'm not even sure why Some of these individuals want to come back when they don't even go to the majority of the meetings that are presented. You know, I'm a little taken aback, because I've sent Some questions out that I find to be completely appropriate. The IDA more than any other appointments, we have, I think, a board that's going to be essentially giving out the right to not pay 10s of millions of dollars in taxes, and now have started to enter the grant giving world which I don't even think is technically allowed, but they've done it. How they use the UCC, RC, I send Some questions out, Rose, I don't know why the person answering these questions is their financial officer, and we have more from the chair...

#### **Chair Brian Cahill**

She's the CEO of the budget.

#### **Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I've talked to former chairs about it. They would have never allowed her to run point on the questions coming from these legislators. And by the way, the questions I was asking former board members and chairs found to be completely appropriate. And I thought it was a little alarming that these questions weren't being asked. Rose had offered up, I think she was speaking to his pre screening meetings. They have a policy about pre screening meetings, and they're supposed to be a record, they're supposed to be three, not two, not four, but three different and there's a rotation process doesn't look like any of this was being followed. I'm just letting everyone know here, that my approach to these to the sitting members that want to come back on is going to be a little different than then people that have not served on this board before. Because I find the last couple of years, I ran, as, as did Phil in many ways, on IDA reform. The questions I want answered are the same questions, I went door to door telling my constituents I was going to get answers for. So you know, and the fact that we're now getting these, as soon as we start asking reasonable questions, what three or four people have rescinded? Has anyone ever seen anything like that? Yeah, former board members, you've seen what year did

four board members say I want back on the application and then rescind the application after a couple of questions from the legislature. When have you ever seen that?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

There's four I'm not aware of four ?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Were there three or four people rescinded? I Malcolm, Fay, Reese. Oh, and Mr. Marmo? Yeah, I think I would, but he was one that put the application in and runs in the same circles as these other. Look, I think we got a real problem with this IDA. And the IDA, this process needs to be one of a major vetting. I mean, you should be expecting major vetting, especially if you're on there and you want to return. This should, nobody should be thin skinned or not want to have an open honest, a true vetting. Something like we see on TV when we see Supreme Court justices? Well, I

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Well I don't know if it's quite that bad, but...

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I do, I'm talking about 10s of millions of dollars in taxes.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Maloney, I clearly understand that. And I you know, we're every legislator is going to have an opportunity to ask any question they want of any candidate, right? And so, you know, I'll just say that because I don't, you know, we're all equals in this process, right. But I just want to throw this out there, that at the end of the interview process, right, this committee is charged with presenting a slate of potential IDA board members to the legislature. And what I, you know, would like to do is, you know, at some point here, figure out how how we're actually going to do that what we did last time is we gave it a voting system where we rated them, I think it was one through five on specific questions, and then added them up. And whatever that number was, whoever had the highest numbers were how we decided which ones we were going to go with. And it ended up being that some of those folks were, you know, changed. The amendment was altered on the floor. I mean, the resolution was amended on the floor. And people were removed from what the committee recommended and replaced with other people on the IDA board from other legislators. And I suspect that we're going to have a similar situation here. But my point is, is that, you know, I'm not saying, so here's where I'm going. So, we'll go through this first round of interviews, right. And, you know, when we get the questionnaires back, we'll have them we'll have the opportunity to ask any response, as questions have the responses we received from those applicants, right? And then secondly, right, we'll have the opportunity to bring them back in if we want, right, if we feel like, you know, we, their interviewer has raised other questions or they, you know, they're on the fence or you know, whatever, right, we can always bring it back in and interview them again. Right.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And I want everybody on the committee to feel comfortable, that we are giving you know, give doing our best To get our questions answered for these appointments because like Legislator Maloney so aptly said, you know, we are giving those guys that key to the bank. Right. And, you know, there's the standard PILOTs don't have to go before the legislature, they don't have to go before the executive, they don't have to go before anybody. Right? They have to go before the IDA. Deviated PILOTs are a little different. And hopefully, we never see a deviated PILOTs, because I don't necessarily agree with them. So, you know, that said, you know, our job is to select the best candidates based on what we want to see there. Right, everybody gets a vote, Everybody gets seven votes. And so we'll select the best seven candidates out of this committee through the

interview process and present them to the legislature. So, Legislator Criswell, sorry, I didn't mean to cut in front of you there.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

No, where will the interviews be Recorded? And also, how long are they

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So, that's a good question. So, I talked to the chairman about that today. Because there are some people, obviously, with 23 legislators and spread over multiple days, obviously, everybody's not going to be able to make them. So, we have to go into executive session to do these interviews. So, I don't know what the rule is on a recording executive session. So, the chairman is going to check on our the legalities of us recording Executive Session interviews. And if we can do it, we will. Okay. But then we have the issue of how do we distribute them? How do we keep them? You know, private, because it's Executive Session. Right. So, that's not public. And so, there's always that, you know, so that's what the chairs trying to figure out. I would love to do that, though, Legislator Criswell. I sure would, you know, cuz I know, like I said, trying to get 50, you know, in our, in our case, 23 people, you know, to have open calendars all at the same time, it's virtually impossible. You know, we all have other lives and other commitments within the legislature as well. Right. So, so are there any really specific items about the interview process that you folks have that I can try and help with info on and I can try and help with right now. Go ahead, Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Just it's, it's tough to it's tough to go one at a time, ask one question. Without being I feel like these interviews would be better. If everybody that had a question. Like, we're going to break it down to 30 minutes. And there were five or six people that had that wanted to question said applicant, that it'd be almost better to give three minutes per legislator, like they do on other legislative, where you can have a comment and you have to be respectful. Let the person you can kind of interrupt each other a little bit to clarify what you meant or Okay, I got you there. But what about this? And, and I feel like that's otherwise you end up asking your initial question, the person ends up pontificating, not answering the question, the next person goes, and we end up really not getting to the heart of the matter. If we can respectfully give each other three to five minutes each, I think it'd be a lot more.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I think that's an excellent idea. And just to give you a heads up, if last time, I expect, we're going to get a little bit more participation than we did last time, but the last time we didn't need to get everybody on the Committee during the interviews, and we only had a couple of other legislators show up. So, I hear what you're saying. And I do suspect that we're going to have a little bit more activity this time around than we did simply because of the Kingstonian. And so, yeah, that's a great idea. And I think, you know, four to nine, maybe we can decide, you know, three minutes is the right number. But yeah, that's an excellent idea. I agree with that. 100%.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Hewitt.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I saw an updated calendar. We have a special meeting on Thursday at four is that for interviews,

**Chair Brian Cahill**

That's for interviews Thursday at four. Friday at five and then Saturday at 10 or 11. Rather,

**Fawn Tantillo**

At 10, we've started with the earliest ones, or the first ones are 10 o'clock on Saturday.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Oh, right. I'm looking at Commission on Reapportionment is at 11. Yeah, so yeah. So, attend on Saturday. And then we have a couple overflow dates, and what are they for right now?

**Fawn Tantillo**

The 20th and the 21st?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Right, Yes, we have a we have to sandwich them around. Are there committee commitments and things like that holidays and things like that Easter and Passover in between there. So, you know, we have to consider that. So, that would be our overflow dates for, you know, whoever can't make the initial round or if we want to have a second round. And by the way, if we have to go longer we go longer. Legislative session is not until May 18. Right, that's when we have to have our list, May 18. So, if we have to have, you know, more meetings between now and then to to interview more candidates or come up with a group of candidates and that's what we'll do, right. This is just the beginning of the process.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And this is the hard part. You know, from my experience last time, this is extremely difficult to do. First getting the questions together then trying to get you know, people to to to schedule all those People and then go through the process. It's a long arduous deal. Then selecting them, you know, now now it's everybody's personality. So, you know it, this is a difficult process. This is probably the hardest thing this committee will do in the two years that we're here right now, quite honestly; it was the last time. So, just giving you a little "heads up" on that. Any other questions or concerns or comments on this process? Again, you know, we're trying our best. You know, I know that that note that you read, it really, you know, shined a negative light on the process. And I know some folks have also may have reached out to you and said that they felt like they didn't have enough time to do these answers. But anybody that's reached out to us and said that we said, Well, okay, no problem, just take the time you need and we'll schedule your interview around that right. We gave them a date. So, they had a deadline. So, they because if you don't give people a deadline, you know, you know what that means? You know, it's month after month after month. Right? So, that's, that's my spiel on the IDA interviews. So, unless anyone has any other questions, or has anything they want to bring up under new business, I'll accept the motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

So, moved.

Second

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Again. All right, thank you. And I just want to thank you guys for hanging in there. You know, it's, you know, 8:30, which isn't too bad considering what time we started. But you know, Um, Fawn and Vicki and I are going to get together, see if we can do something about rectifying this, you know, DPW meetings used to be the shortest meeting of the month. It was 15-20 minutes. I swear I was on for two years. I don't think we went to half an hour once. So, Tom, you were on that right with me? I think. Yeah. Now they're going to three hours. So, I don't know what happened over there. But anyway, you know, so we'll see if we can maybe rotate the

start time. If that works out for folks. If not, then you know, we'll try and do something a little different. All right. Thank you, folks. Have a great night. Thank you. Night.