

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

**DATE & TIME:** June 7, 2022 – 6:00AM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 827 0250 7244  
By phone Dialing (646) 558-8656  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Brian Cahill  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Herbert Litts, III (on phone only), Thomas Corcoran, Peter Criswell,  
Chris Hewitt, Joseph Maloney (left 7:12), Megan Sperry, and Chair Tracey  
Bartels  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Phil Erner and Kathy Nolan; Deputy County Executive Christopher Kelly; Alicia Demarco, UC Comptroller’s Office; Timothy Weidemann, Director Economic Development; Jamie Capuano and Jen Zell, SUNY Ulster; Hank Gross

Chair Cahill called the meeting to order at 6:05 and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

---

**Motion No. 1:** Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of May 3, 2022  
**Motion Made By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Corcoran  
**Discussion:** None  
**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell. Hewitt, Maloney, Sperry and Chair Bartels  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Minutes APPROVED

---

**Presentation – SUNY Ulster 2022-23 Budget by Jamie Capuano, Vice President for Administrative Services**

---

**Resolutions for June 21, 2022 Legislative Session:**

**Resolution No. 336 -** Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Lands Owned By Ulster County Located At 60-64 Boices Lane, Town Of Ulster To Be Held On Tuesday, July 19, 2022 At 7:30 PM

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will schedule a public hearing on the sale and/or transfer of lands owned by Ulster County located at 60-64 Boices Lane in the Town of Ulster to be held on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 At 7:30 PM

**Motion No. 2:** **Moved Resolution No. 336 for DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Cahill

**Motion No. 3:** **Moved to AMEND** the first WHEREAS by replacing the words “ a local development corporation” with “the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance (UCEDA)”

**Motion By:** Legislator Cahill  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell. Hewitt, Maloney, Sperry and Chair Bartels

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **Resolutions AMENDED**

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell. Hewitt, Maloney, Sperry and Chair Bartels

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **Resolutions ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 337** - Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$80,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. – Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute a contract with Arts Mid-Hudson to promote Ulster County through art and cultural activities.

**Motion No. 4:** **Moved Resolution No. 337 FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Hewitt

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell. Maloney, Sperry and Chair Bartels

**Voting Against:** None

**Abstain:** Legislator Hewitt

**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 0

**Abstain:** 1

**Disposition:** **Resolutions ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 338** - Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$25,000.00 Entered Into By The County – UPAC, LLC – Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to sign a contract with Ulster Performing Arts Center for various operational expenses that allow UPAC to provide programming for Ulster County residents

**Motion No. 4:** **Moved Resolution No. 338 FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Hewitt

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Litts, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Maloney, Sperry and Chair Bartels

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 7

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** **Resolutions ADOPTED**

---

Old Business

New Business

Legislator Erner said he plans to share information about farm shares at an upcoming meeting.

Chairman Cahill asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Criswell  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Corcoran  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Time:** 7:20

**Respectfully submitted by:** Fawn Tantillo  
**Minutes Approved:** July 5, 2022

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

**DATE & TIME:** June 7, 2022 – 6:00AM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 827 0250 7244  
By phone Dialing (646) 558-8656  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Brian Cahill  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Herbert Litts, III (on phone only), Thomas Corcoran, Peter Criswell, Chris Hewitt, Joseph Maloney (left 7:12), Megan Sperry, and Chair Tracey Bartels  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Phil Erner and Kathy Nolan; Deputy County Executive Christopher Kelly; Alicia Demarco, UC Comptroller's Office; Timothy Weidemann, Director Economic Development; Jamie Capuano and Jen Zell, SUNY Ulster; Hank Gross

---

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Ok, it is 6:05 and I will call the Economic Development meeting to order. Please rise for the pledge. I pledge allegiance to the flag of United States of America to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice. Thank you. Okay. Have you had a chance to review the minutes from the previous meeting, the May 3 meeting?

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I'll make a motion that we approve the minutes.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. Is there a second?

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Second.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Backup? Okay. All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Any opposed? No. Okay, thank you. Okay, so tonight, we're gonna go our annual presentation from SUNY Ulster, Ulster Community College will present their 2022-2023 budget overview to the committee. We will be having. I think we're going to be voting on that when is that scheduled again? it's a little bit

**Fawn Tantillo**

In July. At the July session, you'll be voting on the budget,

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And will be at the college for that session. Correct?

**Fawn Tantillo**

Yes, sir.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay,

**Fawn Tantillo**

Just before you do that, I have a call at 845-741-1997. Can I get your name?

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Herb Litts.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Oh, hello, Herb. How are you?

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Very good.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, so with that, I'd like to introduce Jamie Capuano, who is the Vice President for Administration Administrative Services at SUNY Ulster, Jamie, very much for being here. Appreciate it. What's exciting down at the college with the announcement of the new president.

**Jamie Capuano**

It is yes, we're very excited. for that.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I just want to welcome you to the committee and, you know, go ahead and tell us what you got here. Thank you.

**Jamie Capuano**

Perfect, and everyone can see the screen. 2023 budget good. Okay, perfect. This new Zoom world we live in. Okay, so, quick overview of a budget summary. The budget reflects zero layoffs. We always say I feel that that's very important as we go into our budget cycle. The budget does reflect savings that were achieved through retirement incentive that was recently offered on the faculty side. And we did have a lot of interest in that retirement incentive. There's also a decrease in the adjunct staffing levels. Again, that's reflective of a decrease in overall enrollment, which I'll be diving into in a little bit. The budget does include several targeted initiatives to improve student retention. We are enhancing staffing levels with our office for accessibility services that serve that department, really services all of our students who have needs for disability accommodations, anything of that need. And we are seeing a large increase in that since the pandemic so this increase in the staffing levels there will better meet the needs of our students with disabilities. The budget also includes shared service initiatives. These are aimed at reducing operational costs while also trying to improve efficiencies. We have a shared service initiative with SUNY that is our shared chief divert... Chief Information Officer, as well as server hosting. So as you know, when we do our capital projects, in the past, there has been requests for server upgrades. We have now off put all of our servers with SUNY. They host our servers, and that creates a reduction in cost on campus. We are also continuing our shared service initiatives with the county. We've had great success with our purchasing shared service initiative with the county and we work with the county on our all of our bids and RFPs that are getting put out on the market. In terms of our total operational budget, the operational budget is 24 point 4 million. This does reflect a decrease of 2.9 million. That is mostly tied to the federal stimulus funds that have been reduced. We were required to use the federal stimulus funds for COVID related expenses. So COVID-19 testing, social distancing measures, as well as classroom and equipment upgrades provide remote classroom operations. We do have 1.4 million currently budgeted and federal stimulus funds into next year that will provide mental health services for wraparound services that will be provided to students. We are also still required to continue our COVID-19 testing protocols, which will be continuing into next year. In terms of an overall revenue summary, the state didn't approve the floor funding model. We have spoken about that previously. Under this model, the state will provide the same level of state aid that was provided in the 21-22 year while that represents in essence, a maintenance of effort. It is based on a year when enrollment was over deuced so this model has not yet been established and permanent law. We are hopeful that the given the model success with other community colleges that the state legislature and the governor's office will ultimately include it in permanent law. Right now it's just living in appropriation language, which can change annually. The budget reflects 6.4 million and county support through the maintenance of effort. And the budget does include a tuition increase of \$100 per semester on a full time basis, and \$10 per credit on a part time basis. This modest increase will be offset largely by additional tuition assistance programs, such as the expansion of the TAP program for part time students who are enrolled in six credits or more. And the expanded TAP program also does include workforce programming, which is the first time TAP has been offered in that Avenue, which is really exciting for us at SUNY Ulster. And then, in addition, the Federal Pell award amounts will be increasing and 22-23. And that support really provides financial support for our neediest students. It's also important to note that the Excelsior programs tuition rate will reboot in 22-23. That will eliminate what's called as the Excelsior gap, and that's the gap between the tuition rate approved through the program and the actual tuition rate charged by the college. So jumping in just a little bit more on the financial aid analysis that we've completed, it's important to know that 80% of students receive financial support through grants and scholarships. That includes TAP and PELL which I just talked about, but also at the

expense of the part time tap, we do anticipate that number to increase in the next couple of years. Sorry, I'm still getting over a cold, but I can't seem to cut. In addition, SUNY officers Foundation has been extremely supportive of our students. And the board recently announced a scholarship budget of a million dollars, which is a huge increase from where we began back in 2015. So just taking a look at our tuition rate compared to other colleges and the SUNY average, the 22-23 tuition rate will be \$5,080. This is below the statewide average of \$5,115. And it's directly in line with our regional average. So it's always important for us to look at our regional area to see how we're comparing to those tuition rates. This tuition rate will remain the third lowest in the region, behind Dutchess and Westchester County. And as of today, at least 12 other campuses are anticipating tuition rate increases for 22-23. So looking at enrollment numbers, so our budget does projected 16% decrease in overall enrollment for 22- 23. This reduction reflects an ongoing shift from students enrolling on a part time basis. We've seen this throughout the pandemic students are working, they need to enroll in a part time basis. That shift has dramatically changed our enrollment climate. I will say looking at overall SUNY did project a decrease of 13% overall at community colleges, and our projection for 22-23 is conservative. But we did want to develop strong strategic initiatives to really increase enrollment going forward. We always want to be conservative when we're estimating our enrollment numbers, especially given that shift to the part time climate. So looking at enrollment by type, this is really important for us going into this budget cycle. So in 2019- 20, about 37% of students were enrolled on a part time basis compared to 63% on a full time basis. When we flash forward to today, that number is really 50-50. So, although receive less state aid on an FTE basis, or for a part time student, or staff still provide the same level of services and support for all students enrolled to SUNY Ulster. So this is just a quick snapshot of your typical student experience or your every student experience. As I discussed, we do receive less financial aid, or I'm sorry less state aid on the students coming in on a part time basis. But as outlined on this slide, every student goes to admissions, financial aid, student accounts, public safety, health service and the registrar's office, but the typical SUNY also student will go to a lot more offices and receive a lot higher level of services on a per student basis than your typical student. For example, a student who is enrolled on a basis of six credits will only generate about \$600 in state aid, while the same full time student would be receiving about \$3,000 in state aid. The floor model does try to achieve some equity within that. But the floor model is still based on the historical funding level, which included the per FTE amount. And then looking at some enrollment and recruitment initiatives. And then Dr. Al's gonna dive into this a lot more at the next meeting too. But the doege budget does reflect target enrollment and recruitment initiatives aimed at increasing enrollment and retention. So retention is a really key factor for us at SUNY Ulster. The students come in, they're engaged with us we have to keep them engaged. We have to keep them coming back for that fall semester through summer session and then into the following fall. So we will be enhancing flexibility within our students service representatives. We found during the pandemic Students didn't want to meet with us between 8:30 and a 4:30. Schedule. They wanted flexibility. They wanted to be able to schedule remote sessions. They want to be able to do a pop in visit, just ask a quick question. Our student service representatives are on that. And they're going to be having increased flexibility to still achieve those needs. When students those requests... sorry, when students need them, we will also be going back to recruitment efforts in person. So we found that enrollment and recruitment initiatives through zoom just really weren't very successful. Students would, they would view it, they would come, they would listen, but they wouldn't really enroll. So we want to put a face to a name. And we want everybody to see us out in the community, back to those enrollment recruitment initiatives, going back to the high schools, going back to the employers, so

that they see us, and that they connect, create that connection to enroll. And then our enrollment team has also developed a new initiative called "your end." So this initiative, through this initiative, our enrollment team will be sending all Ulster County high school seniors an announcement saying that they've been accepted to SUNY Ulster. This will outline the next steps and to finalize our enrollment pathway. So these initiatives are really changed the trajectory of our enrollment. And we're hopeful that our enrollment will bounce back from a full time, or I'm sorry, from a part time to a full time basis into the next year. So any questions?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So, I've got a couple of quick ones here.

**Jamie Capuano**

Sure.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So the you pay a fee to the county to for the purchasing, correct?

**Jamie Capuano**

Yeah.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Is that the same this year as it was? Previous years?

**Jamie Capuano**

Yeah, we have a contract with the county for that.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. And then the second thing is, you know, we talked a little bit about the the tuition increase, being part of the budget, that is not a permanent thing. Right. So. So now, if the state decides that they don't want to make it permanent, then that really would subject, you know, I guess about 20% of the students to, you know, or maybe more than right of tuition is full time.

**Jamie Capuano**

Yeah, I mean, we're hopeful that they'll include it in permanent law. They just haven't yet.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yeah. So now, do you know if there's activity in Albany to actually do that? Is, are there bills in front of the Assembly and Senate that would do that, or

**Jamie Capuano**

Not yet. So this comes up every year around the budget time. It goes through the budget process, and the executive team has supported it through amendments to the appropriation bill. So it's been included in the Governor's appropriation bill, and then the Senate and Assembly have enacted it. There has been no push to change, change permanent law at this point.



**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yeah. Okay.

**Jamie Capuano**

That's concerning. We'll continue to keep advocating for that. You know, we want to see that in that permanent law.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

We can bug them to, right. We want to partner. We can, you know, certainly do some memorializing resolutions to the Senate and the Assembly and the governor and ask them to make a permanent if at the community college,

**Jamie Capuano**

That would be great, you know, absolutely.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Mr. Chairman. Oh, hold on a minute. Okay. I can't see everybody right now. Fawn, would you mind fixing the screen? So the presentation is all for now. So I can see everyone? Because I see Joe Maloney has a hand up. But that's all I can see. Okay And Herb has a question, but you're not going to see me.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

fOkay. So I'll do in order of order of what I am seeing would be Joe, Herb, then the Chair Bartels.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Yeah, just I thought I remember it being mentioned from last year about some serious investment in classroom technology. It was mentioned, I believe, in last year's, the capital expenditures of last year's budget. I think the presentation, I might be wrong, but I don't think so. Did any of that come to fruition? Where was that?

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely. So we've done an overhaul of Hardenberg. The Hardenberg classrooms that are completely equipped for high tec classroom space. We also use a vast majority of our federal stimulus funds to improve the classroom operation. So adding projectors, adding dual monitors for the faculty members, so they can do the zoom and they can do the hybrid. We've also done a reverse hybrid model in some of our classrooms up at the Kingston c|Center to allow for a faculty member to potentially be in the classroom while other students zoom in either from Stone Ridge or from home. So we've done a lot of a lot of that work, we've completed Hardenberg. Our next step spot will be Vanderlin. And we're going to continue to use some of the federal stimulus funds. Again, we're really restricted in our use of federal stimulus funds. And we're really focusing on those targeted classroom improvements to enable that social distancing component while we do that remote classroom work.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Mr. Chairman, you're muted.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Alright, Legislator Litts next then we will do Chair Bartels and Legislator Erner.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Okay. Thank you. Um, I may have missed it because my audio is not that good. But what is the net increase in intuition to the student over last year?

**Jamie Capuano**

It'll be \$200 a year on a full time student and it'll be \$10 per credit on a part time. Student. So 100 per semester full time. Thank you.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Mr. Chairman, I see a caller. It's 646-522-8558. May I get your name, caller?

**Jen Zell**

Yes, it's Jen Zell.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Oh, hey, Jen.

**Jen Zell**

Hi, Fawn

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Chair Bartles.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Thank you. And thank you for the presentation, Jamie. I have a couple very specific questions. Can I ask you just in terms of the budget on page 13 of the budget, its academic affairs, I noticed some significant increases. And I just wanted to ask that you explain them. Provision for personnel doubled. Internet allowance went from 1000 to 40,000. And then there's a chair coordinator Pay. Could Can we start with?

**Jamie Capuano**

Yep. So I'll start with the provision for personnel. So we recently negotiated our contract with our faculty association. That contract was, was long waited, and we have to do a spread of each faculty members individual salary. That is the amount that's budgeted right now. It's a placeholder right there. And then we will allocate that to each department based on the faculty members within that department. The new contract did include a longevity component, so, we have to go back through all of our faculty records and determine the exact longevity amount for the faculty members. So we put a placeholder in for that point. And then we will spread that as we get closer with, you know, working on each individual faculty members, salary amount and longevity amount with the union.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Okay, and the Internet allowance.

**Jamie Capuano**

So the internet allowance is another area that gets spread across all of the faculty members. Faculty members who are teaching in a remote or hybrid class are eligible to receive an internet allowance pursuant to their contract. You have to determine that amount per faculty member based on the upcoming schedule. So once the schedule is finalized, that amount will be finalized and again, will be distributed amongst the departments.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Okay, thank you. If I may, I just I had another question. You know, I noticed within certain departments and I can pull them up definitely English and foreign language and Business and Professional Studies, that the the amount of the budget lines for full time employees were seemed to be significantly down.

**Jamie Capuano**

Yes.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Can you speak to, to that across the whole, across the whole SUNY Ulster? Are we seeing less full time employees and more part time employees? Or is that just an anomaly in the couple pages? What's what's happening?

**Jamie Capuano**

So those departments you mentioned, had significant retirements through the retirement incentive. So those senior faculty members, especially in English, did take the retirement incentive. We will be back filling some of those positions. But we won't be back filling all of those positions. It'll be based on enrollment. We are seeing a shift in some of the coursework that's going to be offered in the upcoming year base on that full time to part time enrollment, we need to really track to make sure that we have a 30 credit Lu for our faculty members going in on a full time basis. So those departments Tracy, they use specifically mentioned are areas that we had large retirements. So those departments had a higher level of, you know, employees and faculty members who decided to take advantage of the retirement incentive.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Thank you.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Erner, go ahead.

**Legislator Phil Erner**

Thank you, Chair Cahill. And Thank you Vice President Capuano, for your presentation. Absolutely. Can you please explain more your concerns about the drop in enrollment and the increase in part time enrollment?

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely. So as we continue to track our enrollment numbers, I mean, SUNY is all, we're all seeing a decline in enrollment. It's a product of the pandemic. We're hopeful that students will start to emerge and come back to in person classes. We did notice that early in the pandemic enrollments where students were enrolling, but we weren't retaining the students. They were dropping off. They didn't like the remote classroom. We tend to do with a lot of adult learners. A lot of students who were coming back to the classroom who maybe didn't have a great first attempt. Those students are shifting into that part time capacity. As students shift more and more into that part time capacity. Our department offices are spread thinner and thinner their deal with more on a headcount basis than they are on an FTE or full time enrollment basis. So that shift is really impacting the offices that are student focused offices, they're trying to spend more time with the students who may have additional needs that we can or cannot be. And we're looking at our staffing levels trying to maintain their work life balance at the same time, while ensuring that our student's questions are always answered, even through the night. So we're really laser focused on increasing that enrollment number, getting back out there letting students know that we're back in person, we feel that the students typically who come to SUNY answer really need that in person environment. They struggle particularly with math, they struggle with English, they really need that connection with their faculty member, their tutors and their support mechanisms that SUNY Ulster has always been for them. And that's where we really need to get the enrollment numbers back and get the students to know that we're here for them, and we're going to continue to serve them. But as we continue to see that shift in part time, our main concern becomes the staffing levels, and how we can continue to support the students in the same manner that we always have.

**Legislator Phil Erner**

Thank you.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Anybody have any questions or comments? Sorry, I got it. It's been a rough week.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Mr. Chairman, may I asked one more question.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Of course, you can.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Thank you. Thank you, Jamie. What...and you may not have the answer right now, this is less a budget question. But what what? What programs are the most successful in terms of enrollment? What programs are you seeing rising... I mean, at least a status quo or rising enrollment in.

**Jamie Capuano**

So really, those are our programs that students are graduating going right into the workforce. So that's your police basic training, your vet technology, veterinarian technology program, and your nursing program. Those are the programs that really are our banner programs, where students are enrolling, they're getting their credentialing, and then they're moving on to a career immediately. Also, the area of microcredentials has been an area that we're really laser focused on and increasing student engagement and enrollment there. That is another platform where we work with our community, our community leaders and our workforce area to really say students who are working who need a credential, we can create that program for the employer and for the student to give them the credentialing that they need is another big initiative by SUNY and we're really hopeful that that part time tap expansion into workforce, we're really creating another pathway for students to be able to enroll.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Great, thank you. And I just want to say, you know, I attended the graduation and it's always it's always such a moving event, really, for me. I mean, I was near tears a couple of times, actually. You can see that it's a it's a place that's changing lives, and particularly to what you just said in terms of people going right on into the workforce. That was, that was evident, too, in the excitement. So thank you for all you're doing. It's very, very proud of, of SUNY New Paltz. I mean, SUNY Ulster.

**Jamie Capuano**

New Paltz is great, too.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Criswell

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I have a quick question. I'm not sure you're going to have any clue to this answer. But I was just curious if you know, if any students, SUNY Ulster students will be positively affected by Biden's proposed student loan forgiveness.

**Jamie Capuano**

I can certainly do research on that. I don't have an answer off the top of my head on that one. But I'll certainly dig into that and get back to you.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Sure. Thanks.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Hey, Mr. Chairman.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Go ahead, Herb.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Yeah, I want additional question. Um, this isn't really budget related, but I guess it could be. I know, last year, we talked about some deficiencies out in our society and working towards programs, Since a lot of our our emphasis is on workforce programs, to get people back to work and to get retrained. I know there's a huge void in the construction inspection arena. And there was some talk about putting up a course and, and I know that all of a sudden got dropped. And then just recently, we were having some conversations about the possibility of a meat processing facility in Ulster County. And it's been brought up that there is a need for that type of education, because there's not really a lot of trained workforce. Are there any anything going on, as far as you know, looking into the possibility of having those types of courses in? Well, hopefully this year's curriculum but probably next year's curriculum?

**Jamie Capuano**

So I'll absolutely take that one back. In terms of construction inspection. I have not heard of anything right now. That doesn't mean it's not happening on the workforce side and our workforce people are very eager and ambitious and tend to have a lot of initiatives in front of them. Definitely on the meat processing, that one is another one we can certainly take back and do a little more research on. We are also seeing a large increase in the number of people taking our wastewater treatment plant or wastewater plant treatment operator. That's a mouthful. That one is we're seeing a large increase in that enrollment as well. I think that's another area in terms of construction inspection that we're you know, that's definitely something we should be looking at.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Thank you. And if you need any additional information or any help, please give me a call. You have my number. I'm actually at a conference. I'm actually at a statewide conference right now. And several of the seminars, it's been brought up that there's an extremely large void in construction inspection, not only in our area, the Hudson Valley, but statewide and nationwide. So there's there's a lot of discussion on the horizon about how we can correct that.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Thank you.

**Jamie Capuano**

Thank you.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Hewitt. Then Chair Bartels.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Thank you very much for the presentation. I was wondering, you mentioned an increase in accessibility needs since the pandemic, I was wondering if you know if that is related to the pandemic, or is it coincidence.

**Jamie Capuano**

So I do believe it's related to the pandemic. So typically students coming in from high school into college, if they do have an IEP, or disability services that they were perceiving in the high school level, they do what's called transition planning that transition planning enables them to come to the college level more prepared and ready to kind of hit the ground running. What we're seeing is during the pandemic with everything when virtual, those students didn't have that same level of engagement on transition planning, so they're coming to us with maybe higher level of needs in their first or second semester than they typically would have, they had a traditional high school experience. That senior year of high school for students with disabilities typically is focused on developing college and career readiness. Absent that really hands on focus, the students are coming in, and maybe it's the same level of services they were receiving in 11th grade. So we're looking at the programming that they were offering, we're looking at their IEP s and then we're matching that to services that we can provide at the higher ed level. Again, the higher ed level with Disability Services is different, but not completely unique from the K 12 relm. So we use those IEP services that were provided, and we try to make sure that they can match them. Again, our goal is to create them in a career ready focus. So we need to be able to be that bridge where we prior to the pandemic, we were still bridging students into that they just seemed a little bit more prepared for that bridge when they first came in.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Fascinating. Thank you. Yeah, thank you.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I'm gonna let Legislator Sperry go first Chair Bartels.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

Hi, Jamie, how are you?

**Jamie Capuano**

Good. How are you?

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

I'm so, I'm not really worried about the drop in enrollment, because it's pretty typical of all of the colleges in the area. So and then the one thing I just wanted to ask about is, you know, you were talking about the numbers of retirees this past cycle. And so I'm wondering, as far as I know, that you were saying that you're kind of responding to lower enrollment, you know, would that, but when you're going to be replacing them or or if you've already started replacing those that have retired, will you be replacing them with tenure track people lectures, or adjuncts or a mix of all I mean, I.

**Jamie Capuano**

So it's likely going to be a mix of all. So we don't have the lecture title at the college, we have adjunct instructor. And then we have assistant associate and Professor levels. We are replacing some of the positions with tenure track positions. So those are the positions that likely will have an increase in the enrollment. English is an area that every student goes through the English department. That's an area where we have to have very strong faculty members and we are going to be doing a developmental English position. So somebody is going to come in and is going to have that developmental lens while they're teaching English to help our students really succeed. That one will be a tenure track position. Some of the other positions will be filled through adjuncts. Again, that's going to be a bridge to get us through next year. If we do see that enrollment numbers are increasing, we will likely advance those even to potential tenure track positions.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

Okay. And who does the advising Do you guys have an advising officer Is that left up to the...

**Jamie Capuano**

We do. So we have both. So we have advising through our academic affairs area with our recruitment team. And we also do have faculty advisors. So they really work together in tandem advising our students. We also have what's called a trio program. And our trio program are specifics. Specific, eligible students go through our trio program. And that's a really hands on advising program where they really work one on one with their trio advisor, and in addition to their faculty advisor and their partner advisor. So we really do have a whole host of advising services available for our students. And that's one area that through the pandemic, we really felt students needed that one on one, especially students who really relied on that advising component.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

Yeah, I mean, I teach at SUNY New Paltz. And like, during the pandemic, my advisors were pretty high maintenance, like, yeah, where, you know, I might have had like, two points of contact with them throughout the semester, I was now having like, six points of contact, you know, with about 35 advisees. So that like, changes the workload, like tremendous.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely. Absolutely.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

Thank you.

**Jamie Capuano**

Yep.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Chair Bartel's?

**Chair Tracey Bartels**



Thank you. Um, I just had a question about the nursing program. I know that there had been discussion about moving it to a four year program, did that happen? Or do we now have a four year nursing program?

**Jamie Capuano**

We need SUNY approval for anything that's going to be a four year program. So we try to work really closely with those who have the four year program and work to get our students who are in who are going for the full BSN to transfer out, we would need Sunni approval to do a four year program. We're very supportive of having a four year program in nursing. And we'd love any support that can be provided to get that push.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

So So what do you need? What I mean, I think...

**Jamie Capuano**

We need state legislative authority to operate a four year program.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Right. But I mean from us, I think that we should definitely talk more about this, and not necessarily at this meeting, but to whatever extent when we talk about a memorializing resolution from the legislature and lobbying on behalf of SUNY, but I would want to make sure that we were very sure in our efforts, it could be really a game changer, because I personally know people that have chosen that would have loved to have gone but chose other schools, just because they they knew they were going for the four year program and figured they would start where they were going to finish. And I think you'd see a large uptick in enrollment in what's already a great program. So

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

So, maybe, maybe in the coming weeks, we could talk about it more and we can work on memorializing resolution, but also coordinate lobbying at the state level.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely. That'd be fantastic.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Okay, thank you.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. Anyone else have any comments or questions for Vice President Capuano? All right. Well, thank you very much for your presentation and taking questions that we presented. And you know, we will be see you on July 19 at the college.

**Jamie Capuano**

Absolutely, thank you, everybody, be well.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Okay, with that, we'll move on to resolutions. And I just want to remind Herb and Joe that if you're, you have to be on camera to vote on resolutions, just want to remind you guys of that. So we're going to jump right into Resolution 356, which is setting a public hearing on the sale and or transfer of lands owned by Ulster County, located at 6264 Boyce's Lane, Town of Ulster, to be held on July 19 2022. I just want to reiterate that we're going to be discussing the public hearing only, not the merits of the sale, not any of the particulars of the sale, but the public hearing. And with with that, I would like to propose an amendment to that resolution that specifies in the first whereas in the last paragraph, that instead of saying "building to a Local Development Corporation", that we specify UCEDA, the Ulster County Economic Development Association. Can, I get a second.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Mr. Chairman, first, you have to move it for discussion. And then you can

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I will move it for discussion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And I'll second it. Okay. And

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Before we do that, I just asked the chair question.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Sure.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I just just about not discussing the merits because it's a public hearing. I've always heard that as a point made if somebody wants it to go to public hearing, but it's almost sounding like a rule or some kind of like is that Robert's Rules of Order that we can't discuss the merits of something before sending it to a public hearing, because many times we've not sent things to a public hearing, because we discussed merits and thought should go back and get some work before we even put it to the public. Yeah, I was just confused why we wouldn't be discussing the merits and ruleing it out?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Well, you know, you know, let me put it this way. You know, I don't think that it serves any of us very well, to get in a long drawn out conversation about this. There's, there's, what, six weeks between now seven, we five weeks between now and the actual public hearing, right. So we have plenty of time for the public to get information, this is notifying the public, and the public can go out and get as much information about this as they want in that time. And in my opinion, that's plenty of time. That's

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

What we mean. But we may not want to ultimately do it this way. And then we wouldn't be sending it to the public. This is just unlike anything I've ever heard. We discussed in a public hearing that are discussing the voting to send something to the public and not discussing the merits of it seems odd to me. And are you saying we're not going to be allowed to ask questions to learn more about this before sending it to a public hearing?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, so look, so again, you know, obviously, we're not going to shut anybody down who has a specific question. But I do really think that, you know, we're talking about a public hearing here. And there's ample time for anybody in the legislature. And by the way, the entire legislature was invited to this meeting again, and it will be duly publicly noted what this is all about. Right. And, you know, just to give a brief background on it, right, since its move for discussion. So this is a piece of the parcel that was discussed in the previous sale last year, that was not ready, not eligible for closure at the time. It has since become eligible for foreclosure. And the county has proceeded with foreclosure proceedings on it. It's crucial, it's absolutely crucial to the overall development of that site, because it it houses the power plant and the water, I believe, right the power house and has water connections through it. So without those things, that site value plummets. There, you know, there's just no way that they could do this without having to rebuild the entire infrastructure to the site. And so it was always when we did this last year prior to being on the legislature, this time Legislator Maloney was that we did discuss this in detail at that time, that this was going to come forward sometime this year, that this parcel would come up for sale. And when it does, we're I'm sorry for foreclosure. And when it does, we were going to include it in there. So there has been ample discussion about this parcel coming up. It just hasn't been now. Right. Anyway, so

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Just with your opinion of ample discussion. It might not be ample to another legislator...

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I made the motion to identify the Local Development Corporation as UCEDA.

**Fawn Tantillo**

That amendment has been moved. Do we have a second.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Second.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

This Robert's Rules of Order, I don't think we've actually voted on the motion to discuss this resolution. So I think we have to do that first. Don't we? or no, do we do this?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

No we did. We moved it first to discuss? Okay, I didn't hear these in favor of discussing it. Okay. You're right.

**Fawn Tantillo**

We don't vote on discussion...

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

We don't need to vote to discuss.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Okay, actually, actually, Mr. Chairman. Yes. The original motion for discussion. You made a motion for an amendment that was never voted on? Right. And I just

**Fawn Tantillo**

That's where we're at. We just got the second for the amendment.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, all those in favor of the amendment, please signify by raising your hand. Oppose and abstain anyone? Again, Herb, I'm going to remind you that if you're not on camera, we can't record your vote.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Well, I would love to be on camera, Mr. Chairman, but I'm on the phone because this particular hotel does not have Wi Fi.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, I'm sorry, I apologize for that.

**Fawn Tantillo**

To be clear, that amendment was seven, zero. Joe, you voted for the amendment too right.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Yes.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Okay.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Six to zero because I'm not visible.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Tracey makes seven, right?

**Fawn Tantillo**

That is right. Chairman Bartels is with us. So she counts.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Very good. Thank you.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, so now let's discuss it a little bit with that amendment. If anybody has any questions, any further questions, and we can we have a Deput Executive Kelly here. We have Director of Economic Development, Tim Weidemann here. But so we can probably get to the nuts and bolts of this very quickly. Let's say you don't want to get ahead.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

When you say it's now foreclosed. Well, it wasn't before. Is that just because it's hit the 36 month mark of not paying, protect why? Was it not? I was just wondering why it wasn't forclosable. Before? That's.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Yeah, that's the reason.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Do we know if there's, I know the... there was a solar firm over there. And there's some lawsuits. Some of it was, I believe against Mr. Ginsburg's remaining property at one point. Is this part of that lawsuit?

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I don't believe that there was actually a lawsuit. There was a foreclosure proceeding. And during that time, there was a period at which any claimant against Mr. Ginsburg's property could step forward. I know that in our public hearing back in December, there was some discussion from a claimant. I, as far as I'm aware, they didn't pursue any legal steps to make a claim against the property.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Okay. And do we have... is there discussions with the the price or the Do we have an agreed upon value?

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

If I might, Mr. Chair, respond.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yes, go ahead.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

We do not, it's not anticipated to have until we come to a purchase and sale agreement. Remember, the sequence here is starting with this resolution, a public hearing before any transfer of the parcel can take place. Then we would come back with a resolution to transfer the parcel. And then once the parcel was transferred, we would conduct all the due diligence and enter into a purchase and sale agreement. And in that, a part of that process would be appraisal and negotiation on price.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And if everything worked perfectly right now, we're looking still probably till the beginning, sometime next year, right? To close on this parcel.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

It's theoretically possible, it could happen in the fourth quarter of this year. That's kind of the target, it would require all of the steps that I just listed, and then also an additional 90 day notice period, as we learned from the transaction late last year, and then we're also starting to go through for the West Campus now.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

So we are... why wouldn't we do an appraisal now and get an evaluation, collect comps and trying to come up with a value to the property? It always seems like sometimes it's even after negotiations, have we started negotiate? I'm assuming this is going to natural Resource or Cotter. We plan on it going to him. So why wouldn't we get? Why would we have some idea of what it's worth now independent from the person? How do we know? I hear talk that it's pretty much going to cost? Or how do we know that they're going to like the evaluation that we ended up having if it truly is independent? It seems like we know where this is all going. And it's all going to happen a certain way. Just don't know how we know that.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I'm trying to understand the question.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

We're planning on transferring this property to the same person that we transferred the last property to correct?

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I think, just to be clear about it,

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

is there is there a chance that it's going some to someone else?

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I think that that's a for, not a foregone conclusion. I think that the intent as outlined in the December purchase and sale agreement for the East side, the other parcels on the side, it was memorialized in that purchase and sale agreement that the intent was to eventually transfer this parcel over to national resources. So that's expressly mentioned in the UCETA purchase and sale agreement. But just to be clear, there's nothing about a transfer from the county to UCED that necessity necessitates that that final outcome, but

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Except that UCEDA has already said they plan on giving it so that sounds like a foregone conclusion, conclusion to me.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Fair enough. But again, we're at the public hearing. So just to be clear that that decision has not been made yet. So.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Okay, one more quick question. Did Danny is Dan Ahouse going to have anything to do with it? I know he had a lot to do with the... According to Mr. Kotter, he had a lot to do with the negotiations of the last deal that UCEDA made. s Mr. eighth house is going to be involved in this deal.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I, all I can say is that he hasn't been involved with UCEDA or the county and if Mr. Kotter or his entities,

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Mr. Kotter publicly stated in front of hundreds of people that he basically accompanied our executive and was one of the main reasons that the deal was made.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I don't recall that that was the characterization that Mr. Kotter made.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I have it on. I have it on video. That's exactly what he said. I know there were other legislators that were surprised as well. They didn't know I even the supervisor in the Town of Ulster was surprised to hear that Mr. Hay House was so involved.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Can I just chime in here for a minute, if you don't mind? So you know, Mr. Kotter can hire whoever he wants as a private businessman to do whatever he wants them to do. But I can tell you that Dan Ahouse never came to the UCEDA board and never presented anything for National Resources or I park 87 to the UCEDA board,.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Which is what was so confusing to me and a couple of other legislators hearing that that day especially with with all the information I hear about at one point, Mystery House working for Mr. Ginsberg For so I'm not so I'm trying to make sure that on behalf of the people that we're getting the best possible deal we can. And when there's conflicts, I think we have to talk about them otherwise we're not doing our job. I just want to make sure that

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yeah, so I just don't think we have the right to to, you know, stick our nose in in you know, Mr. Cutters business, if he wants to hire Dan Ahouse or the man on the moon, he has a right to do that. And you know, what

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

But he didn't . I don't think he did.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I don't know. I don't know what that has to do with setting a public hearing for the transfer this property or in any way why an employee or a contractor that Mr. Kotter or I park hires has anything to do with that he hired?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I don't know that he did. It sounded like he was almost working on behalf of the County when he accompanied the executive according to Mr. Kotter. So that's what I'm wondering.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I didn't get that impression. I got that Dan was working trying to work between people that he knew and government from his time as a congressman, and the time working for Maurice Hinchey, and trying to connect the dots to help economic development and Ulster County, which I think he did. He did

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

So you are very aware, apparently, Mr. Ahouse was quite involved.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I don't know that it. I don't know that. All I'm saying was that would have been why he was, you know, because he does know a lot of people because he has been involved in government.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Are we sure he wasn't still working for Mr. Ginsberg?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Say that again? I'm sorry, Are we sure he wasn't still working for Mr. Ginsberg. And I don't know what that has to do with the public hearing for this parcel at this point. So it's going to be more, Are we, were just going Hold on, Joe.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

to be part of the same deal. Ultimately, that was just made. So in my mind, it is part of it.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So this is where I say that we're going to talk about the public hearing. This is where I'm going to draw the line, because we're not going to start throwing people's names around without any kind of evidence that they're doing something nefarious.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I didn't say that, No, I didn't say he was. I have the floor and I'm just going to say that. This is what I was taking about when I said we are Thank you chair. I'll digress, but I'll just say that so we don't know. We're told there is no lawsuit pending on the on the property and there has not been an appraisal done. It does seem it's a foregone conclusion that's going to Kotter, those were my main questions. Thank you.



**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Does anyone else have any questions or comments? Legislator Bartels, Chair, Martel's.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Thanks. I just want to be clear, because this is something in terms of the issue of appraisals. This is something that's happening with other properties that are being discussed. For other projects in the county. And my understanding, and I'm just I'm saying this out loud, for clarification, is that we cannot sell a property for under a certain percentage of the appraised value, is that correct? Like, that's the that's a county regulation?

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

This property will be appraised.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Mr. Chair, if, if I might,

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Go ahead, Tim.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

So I would defer to the county attorney's office to get deep into this matter. But I think the, the understanding that I have is that the county itself cannot market and sell properties, it can offer them at public auction, or it can use them. If it wishes to market and sell properties, it can only do so through a surplus to a Local Development Corporation or equivalent entity. And that entity is not required to sell them at market rate, it can justify a sale below market rate if there's some public benefit in doing so.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Okay. And again, again, just to clarify, this, this was discussed at the time of the first transfer, both, you know, pretty extensively in in, in this committee, given that we knew that there was a key piece of of the parcel, that was an outlier. And so it's, it's included in the the original kind of, the mention of it's included in the original contract, but there was discussion at that time.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

And if I might add that, you know, the reason that it was so important to include in that contract, even though we weren't in any position to offer it, the foreclosure period and not expired, was due to the very fact that the important infrastructure for the campus is on on that parcel. And, you know, I think just to the point of eventual point of an appraisal, the appraised value of this parcel is intertwined with the appraised values of the other parcels and the assumptions going in, as documented in that December agreement, were that this parcel would eventually make its way to the developers to incorporate into the larger campus.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Anyone else have any questions on the public hearing? Mr. Maloney.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I just like to make a point to my fellow legislators. As we continue to pass off properties to these public beneficiary corporations I think we should consider before passing it off and losing total jurisdiction and oversight over these where they can then go and basically justify any price they want... the Golden Hill price is beyond alarming. I think we should think about doing our own appraisal, before having a true independent appraisal just finding out the other day from Mark and Dennis, they haven't even seen the appraisal done by Penrose never even saw it, they just went with a million dollar valuation, we have no idea what's even in their appraisal. So that's not due diligence. I think we need to do a better job. I'll be a no on anything like this unless we do an appraisal ourselves. It can be quick, it can be thorough. We can have a number and then that's a way of us making sure that when we pass this property off, and we see the sale down the road that we did our... we did right by the taxpayer. It's just food for thought. And I I'd like to do it here to be honest with you. I think it's a fair request.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, thank you. Anyone else have any comments or questions? Chair Bartels. Thanks. Um, you know, I'm gonna vote. I'm gonna vote yes, for this transfer, considering that we had this discussion, and I was I was definitely a critic about a lot of things related to Tech City transfer. So, but this, this, we had an upfront discussion about, but I think Legislator Maloney's raising, when you say food for thought, I think it really is food for thought, I think we should think about, particularly as we transfer multiple properties, I think we should be thinking about the possibility of a policy of appraisals prior to transfer, just so that we even know we can even track what ends up happening. I also accept and understand Director Weidemann comment about that there can be a public benefit that's different than a strict selling price. So for me, the fact of an appraisal prior to transfer is it's just, it's more value information. It's a wouldn't preclude it wouldn't. For me, I wouldn't end up saying necessarily on every given property, they would have to go at the exact market, there's a lot of reasons to make transfers, in terms of potential public benefit, that that don't necessarily correlate directly with the appraisal price. But I like, I want to think more about the idea of, of considering that prior to making those transfers in the future.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Mr. Chairman. Chairman, Yes, Herb, go ahead. This property and all the other properties have been appraised or will be appraised by an independent appraisal firm. If you want to have a third or fourth or fifth appraisal by an independent firm, I don't know why we'd want to do that and expend that county money. Before a transfer takes place or beyond the transfer, their appraised, the market value is is determined. And then they enter in negotiations for the price. So you could have three different appraisals, they could all say the same thing, the only thing we're doing is spending three times the money, when who we are hiring our independent appraisers. And that all, you know, the negotiation on the price comes after the appraisal. So you're gonna get the market value of the piece of property, and then you go into whether there's a benefit to the to the county constituents, or the price is this the price is that there's contamination on the land or there's this or there's that. So I don't know why we have to have more than one independent appraisal. It's just more money spent for no reason.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you ahead. And then I want to...

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Just real quick. The problem is, we don't know that they're independent. We I just heard from everyone. And you mentioned other properties. Mister Litts, all got their appraisal. No, they didn't. One of the properties that we were told got an appraisal was Golden Hill. They didn't we didn't see it. And the the developers refusing to show us the appraisal. We went with a million dollar evaluation on something that's appraised along with the golden Hill part, something like 37 million, we went with a million dollar appraisal. And that appraisal probably has something to do with demolition, why it was so low, but we're not allowed to see the appraisal. That to me is not an independent appraisal. And it's never going to be independent. If we allow the public beneficiary Corporation and the developer to do it outside the purview of an oversight and jurisdiction of the county. If you we are going to make so much more money with true independent legislative appraisals. Because that number is going to be out there they can then go and choose to use the good of the public and then they can explain to us When we say, Hey, you took less, and it might be good for the public, but it might still be worth the money for the developer to pay for. Golden Hill, the developer up there is eventually going to make a lot of money with all those apartments. So maybe it's good for the public and the developer can pay. But we'll never know what we should have gotten or how that would have went because we didn't go and get an appraisal. Trust me, if we had a fair appraisal done before we trained before Golden Hill goes through as an example of what we're talking about here. Believe me, we would have gotten more than a million what what they're talking about it a million dollars. And once again, how do we know if we don't control it, hire the firm or firms? How do we know it's independent? How do we know that somebody's not being brought in to put forth a number? How did we know that this new appraisal company that wants a future business isn't going to be influenced by the negotiated price when we go so often in these situations and negotiate the price with these developers, the between the public beneficiary corporation to developers, they're negotiating right now, over at Golden Hill, for example, without an appraisal? How do we know that the appraiser comes in and isn't going to look at the negotiated price with regards to their appraisal? It makes sense to get the appraisal done first. So, Legislator Maloney, I think we got your point there. Thank you, Can I just say one more thing

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Hold on, hold on. There are three other people that want to speak, and I want to give them an opportunity to speak and then I'd actually like to speak at some point. Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

And I'd like. And I to respond, I can't see hands up for anything. But whoever we hire, whether it's an engineer, appraisal firm, they're licensed in New York State. I don't know of any firm that would put their livelihood on the line to fix a number for a developer or anybody else. So the fact of the matter is, is they are independent, they are hired, they produce a report, they produce a an appraisal. They're certified, they're licensed in the state of New York. And I don't understand the whole reasoning behind, well, they're going to hire somebody that will give them the right number. And they'll give us whatever number they want, the developer is going to get, because I don't know of any firm that's licensed in the state of New York, that would want to compromise their livelihood and their entire livelihood of other employees and their company reputation to give somebody a number that is not truly a honest appraisal number.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Then why haven't we seen the Golden Hill appraisal?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Litts has the floor. Then it's going to be Legislator Nolan. And then Mr. Weidemann has his had up.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Golden Hills is not the subject of this resolution.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

We're moving we're moving on from Golden Hill,

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

You brought up other things. .Legislator Nolan has the floor.

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

Thank you. So I agree completely with Legislator Litts. And one of the other points about the timing is that a lot of times these processes do take several years. So you want to have your appraisal done at a time that it's actually going to reflect current market value, not what the market value was several years prior. And I have to leave the meeting for reasons unrelated to this discussion. Thank you, everybody.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Director Weideman.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I just I also have a prior commitment that I'm late to and I appreciate the committee's deliberations about this. If there's anything further I can answer. I'm happy to do it. But then I do have to go.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you for sticking around and answering your questions. Appreciate it. I have one more quick one for him. Just that, before you mentioned the the past deal with Natural Resources. And this deal kind of being part of that one. Were you, were you kind of inferring that part like that this deal could be less like like some of what they already paid for the monetary value of the of the first deal. This is kind of included in in some way.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I can't, I can't speak, I guess what I am saying is that as we go through the process with this parcel, it's important to recognize that this parcel has important infrastructure that ultimately would cost a substantial amount of money to bypass or redevelop. And so I think there is, you know, an important way in which this parcel is connected to the others. I'm not sure if that answers your question. But that's

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

that's kind of what you said before. And I was just wondering if you if that's what I was kind of hearing was, you were gently telling us that this is pretty much already Kotter's, and it was part kind of part of the last deal, and that's going to come into effect with what we get for this.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I think I think what I would say and you You know is that the appraisal that was done for the other parts of the campus always assumed that this parcel as it has all the infrastructure, you know, you don't you don't pay top dollar even modest dollar for something that doesn't have electricity, doesn't have sewer, doesn't have water. So, you know, there is an underlying assumption that this parcel and the infrastructure on it would be available to the campus. And so if that's not true, then I think it would require a revisiting of the appraisals on those other parcels, and that may affect the valuation of those other parcels.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, anyone have any other questions? I'm gonna ask Legislator Criswell to get on screen if he can't, so we can vote. Thank you. Any other questions? Okay. So all those in favor of approving the public hearing for Resolution 336, please signify by saying yes.

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

We'll move on to the next resolution. And that's Resolution 337. And it's approving the execution of a contract for \$80,000. entered into by the county for Arts Mid Hudson incorporated - the legislature. This is a legislature appropriation. And I believe that they divide that up to other smaller art people. Is that how that works? LittsAll those opposed? We have one opposed and Legislator Litts is not on camera and unable to vote. No abstentions? Thank you.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

A motion for discussion?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Make a motion for discussion. I'm very casual.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

That's okay. I'll make a motion for discussion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second? Legislator Hewitt. Okay, go ahead

**Fawn Tantillo**

They give out several grants, they'll hold, they'll, they'll publicize it. Normally, they've done all of this already, but they're going to publicize it and, and give out grants to different artists in the in the in Ulster

County, They've already done their this same thing for Dutchess County this year and other counties. We were just a little late into the game this year.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Criswell, go ahead.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Thank You. Yeah, just want to mention that I actually sat as a panelist not for this specific grant. But for another grant that they do, which is state funds. And they're very thorough with the way that they vet where these monies go. The grant recipients have to fill out a lengthy grant application. They have to submit all their finances. And then there's a long discussion between panelists about each of them. We rank them according to you know, which ones seem to have the best impact, which ones seem doable. You know, there are some applications that come where you just don't think the organization is up for it. And so we have that frank discussion. And so I just want to say that I've sat on the grant panel, and I really appreciate that process. And so I feel really comfortable giving them money, knowing that they will have a thorough process, giving it out to different arts organizations .

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Any other comments or questions? Legislator Erner.

**Legislator Phil Erner**

Thank you, Legislator . Do we know why the disclosure of potential conflicts of interest was not checked on the on the contract application?

**Fawn Tantillo**

I don't know that answer and the contract that's attached. The attorneys tell us which which insurances and things they need. So I can ask the attorneys about that.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Chair Bs?

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

I can't I mean to legislators question. I'm not exactly sure. And I think the attorneys would be the right one to ask, but I could say that this contract is the standard contract that we approve year over year over year for, for this funding. So and it's vetted through the attorney's office.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Is it possible that they're not required to do that?

**Fawn Tantillo**

I copy the previous contract. It's also possible that I may have to go back and double check that, You know, they shouldn't provide it. I but I know it won't get through the check system if they're supposed to have it. They're very thorough between the insurance office and the attorney's office, and the comptroller's office to make sure that we've crossed all of our T's and dotted all of our i's, right.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Hewitt

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

I think Legislator Sperry was before me.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I'm sorry. Let's say your spare Sorry, go ahead.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

Okay. I'll go after Legislator Hewitt because he knows more about Arts Mid Hudson than I do . I have a question.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

I just was gonna ask, because my sister received a grant from Arts mid Hudson last year and will most likely receive one this year. Should I abstain?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yep. Okay. Yeah. Well, I would I would, you know, defer to the attorney. Chair Bartels, go ahead.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Yeah, I would, I would say, I mean, this is not legal advice. But I think that our ethics are updated. ethics law does not create a conflict for sibling but to be safe, I would recommend that you abstain right now and then in the interim, speak to counsel prior to session .

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Sperry, I'm sure you weren't going to talk about that.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

No. Um, so is this the this is the New York State decentralization arts money. So it comes from the state, it goes to the counties and then no, okay. So

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

This is just the opposite. I'm sorry, I jumped into that. That's actually the grant panel that I sat on was the decentralization. This is actually direct funds from the county that are granted out through Arts Mid Hudson.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

So, with the decentralization the money comes from the pool and the state goes to the counties, and then the counties, basically, you know, our counties, basically funnel that through Arts Mid Hudson.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Totally different pots of money,

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Independent of the county altogether, I believe. Right?

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Right.

**Legislator Megan Sperry**

Yeah. So thats... okay.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yeah. So they're the second source of funding for the same groups, possibly. But it is definitely not something that the county is involved in.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Organizations cannot apply for the decentralization grant and this Ulster County grant at the same time.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And there we go. And that's why Peter is on this committee. Thank you. Any other questions or comments about resolution 337? Okay, all those in favor? Aye.

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Mr. Maloney. We can't see you?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? And I'll remind Legislator Maloney. Okay. All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

We have Maloney back. Okay. And opposed. Okay, thank you,

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Chair, if I could, if I could just say I just went and got some information. This is that last thing. We just voted on...I, starting in 2011. There was some lawsuit and there's been a lien that was actually filed and 2019 with Ulster County, I think Brian Rounds is the might be the judge on that. The original filing goes all the way up. And it's for the power plant property. So there's a lien. I believe it's that solar company that is suing Mr. Ginsberg for the 2 million that he didn't get. I think we have to reconsider doing anything until we find out if there's if there's a lien against this property, and somebody may be able to win this property in a lawsuit frr Mr. Ginsberg. Yeah.



**Chair Brian Cahill**

So I think that we'll leave that to the county attorneys to hash through that part of it. I don't think that that at this point, you know, something in a legal proceeding. And my understanding is

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Well we're getting

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Hold on, we voted on that already, first of all, and it's

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

But what we were just told maybe false information. Or maybe he never had that information. I'd be surprised if he didn't,

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So the Director of Economic Development is giving us false information, but

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Maybe not on purpose.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Right.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

But Brian, if it turns out there's a lien, and this is part of a lawsuit is the question, then how are we moving forward to transfer this property?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Alright, so we have again, we have six weeks for you to flush that out and bring it up at the public hearing. I think you know, or have someone do it on your behalf. I

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Me? It's our job as the legislature. I'm

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I'm just saying, You're bringing it up. I don't hear anyone else saying oh, that's a great idea. And if you if you think it's a good idea, then go ahead. The committee voted on it. And I'm going to just say at this point, we're gonna move on to the next resolution. We've already voted on it. Chair Bartels.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Thanks. I mean, given that we have the six weeks, I mean, I do think we need to get an answer to that. Absolutely. But it is a public hearing. We're not doing the transfer yet. So that's something I want to get

answers on between now and then and I and I will, I will follow up on that, Legislator Maloney, without a doubt.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, so we're moving on to Resolution 338, which is approving the execution of a contract for \$20,000 entered into by the county for you PAC LLC, and it's a legislative grant, I guess, is what we'll call that. I'll accept a motion for discussion.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I'll move that

**Chair Brian Cahill**

A second

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

I'll second. Fawn, Did you have any down as an abstention on the last resolution?

**Fawn Tantillo**

Yes, sir.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Thank

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Any discussion on this UPAC resolution, giving them 25,000 bucks. I'm gonna look.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Yes, sir.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Yes, yes.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yeah. So it's from the Yeah. So it was the one that we put in the last budget. We're just appropriating it now.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Okay, good. I just wanted to make sure it wasn't, you know, additional funding above and beyond what we budgeted for.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

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

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed. Okay. With that, is there any old business that we need to bring up tonight? Okay, I see any new business that we have to bring up tonight. And with that from long distance I'll make a motion One second Legislator Litts. Legislator Earner raised his hand. So we're going to recognize him.

**Legislator Phil Erner**

Thank you. I just want to mention to the committee that I had started to put together some information about farm shares, as Chair Bartels had had mentioned in her floor speech a couple sessions ago. And I look forward to talking more about agriculture with the committee in the in the meetings to come.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Thank you. That's great.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Anything else? Legislator Hewitt

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

I just want to thank Legislator Erner, Thank him for bringing that up. I think that Amanda Lavelle is presentation was good, but it needs a lot of work. Because right now, I think it is a plan to give out fish and we need to teach people to fish. So I'm looking forward to actually making progress in this committee because ARPA is a one time shot. This is a long term discussion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Right. I agree. And anyone else have anything? Okay, Herb, you're up.

**Chair Tracey Bartels**

Well, I can make a motion for adjournment. I just can't vote on it. You can't make a motion either.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I'll make a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I want to note that legislator Maloney has left the meeting prior to this last vote here. Okay. All right. Thank you. Thank you, everybody, everybody.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Take care.