

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

**DATE & TIME:** September 6, 2022 – 6:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 825 3771 0699, By Phone (646) 558-8656  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Brian Cahill  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Herbert Litts, III, Thomas Corcoran, Peter Criswell, Chris Hewitt (arrived 6:08), Joseph Maloney (arrived 6:05) and Megan Sperry  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Jonathan Heppner, Phil Erner, Kathy Nolan, and Laura Petit; Dr. Alison Buckley, President, Jamie Capuano and Jenn Zell, SUNY Ulster; Deputy Executive Chris Kelly; Comptroller March Gallagher and Alicia DeMarco; Director Dennis Doyle, Planning; Director Timothy Weidemann, Economic Development; Jake Wedemeyer, Ulster County Soil and Water; Director Lisa Berger,, Tourism; Christian Malsatzki, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Laurie Lichtenstein, Confidential Secretary to the Chair; Javid Afrali; Peg O’Leary; Ashley Long;

Chair Cahill called the meeting to order at 6:03 and asked Legislator Litts to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

---

**Motion No. 1:** Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of August 2, 2022 meeting of the Economic Development, Planning, Education, Environment, Arts and Agriculture Committee.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Litts and Sperry

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 5

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Minutes **APPROVED**

---

Ulster County Soil & Water – Jake Wedemeyer gave an overview of several current projects including Stony Cover stream restoration, Panther Kill stream restoration, the purchase of a No Till Drill and cover crop programs.

Jake detailed his budget including various funding sources and services generating almost \$3.1 million. In 2022 which is 33 to 1 rate of return on the funding the county provides. He thanked the legislature for their support and asked for an additional \$40,000 in 2023 bringing the County support to \$131,500. Most of this would be used to offset the S&W staff’s NYS Retirement deficiency payment and rising insurance costs.

Legislators praised the work they do and applauded the addition of NYS Retirement benefits for S&W staff.

---

## Resolutions for September 20, 2022

**Resolution No. 400** - Amending The 2022 Budget To Establish And Fund The Ulster County Agricultural Crisis Relief Program - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends the 2022 Ulster County Budget to add \$2 million to Professional Services and Other Fees from Federal Aid, ARPA to assist income eligible farmers while also offering funding and establishing a program to protect farmlands and to promote activities related to improved soil health and climate resiliency.

**Motion No. 2:** **Moved Resolution 400 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Litts  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Hewitt

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Maloney  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Resolution No. 414** - Authorizing A Right To Cross The Right Of Way Owned By Ulster County Of The Ulster And Delaware Railroad Corridor Near Mile Point 4.8, City Of Kingston To The Hudson Valley Housing Fund Company Inc. – Department Of Planning

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution recognizes the City of Kingston acting as lead agency has determined this project considered as a whole will not have a significant adverse environmental impact and accordingly the Ulster County Legislature hereby determines that the Disposition will not have a significant adverse environmental impact, will not require the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and has made a determination of non-significance under SEQRA

**Motion No. 3:** **Moved Resolution 414 as AMENDED FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting on the Amendment:**  
**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Amendment APPROVED**

**Voting on Resolution 414 as Amended:**

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Maloney  
**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED AS AMENDED**

---

**Resolution No. 417** - Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of County Owned Property, Located In The Town Of Gardiner To The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance (“UCEDA”), A Local Development Corporation For The Purpose Of Open Space Protection And Recreation

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Ulster County Office Building and cause a legal notice of the same.

**RESOLUTION WIDRAWN**

---

**Resolution No. 435** - Dedicating Funding To Implement The Boost For Main Streets Program – ARPA - Economic Recovery – Department Of Economic Development

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will implement the Boost for Main Streets Program funding in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 in ARPA funds be allocated to support a Boost for Main Streets Program and amends the 2022 budget accordingly.

**Motion No. 4:** **Moved Resolution 435 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Maloney  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Resolution No. 436** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$2,000,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Ulster County Economic Development Alliance – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution will approve a contract with the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance for the Boost for Main Street funding Program for \$2,000,000 to run from 10/1/2022 – 9/30/2024.

**Motion No. 5:** **Moved Resolution 436 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Maloney  
**Votes in Favor:** 6

**Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Resolution No. 453** - Setting A Public Hearing To Satisfy The Public Participation Requirements Of The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) – Department Of Economic Development

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:05 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Ulster County Office Building and cause a legal notice of the same and provide notice to all chief elected officials of municipalities within Ulster County.

**Motion No. 6:** **Moved Resolution 453 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry,  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Resolution No. 454** - Authorizing A Public Hearing For The Possible Transfer Of Real Property Owned By Ulster County And Located In The Town of Rochester To The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance – Department Of Economic Development

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:10 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Ulster County Office Building and cause a legal notice of the same.

**Motion No. 7:** **Moved Resolution 454 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts and Sperry  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Maloney  
**Votes in Favor:** 6  
**Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

---

**Resolution No. 455** - Amending Capital Project No. 334 - Kingston Rail Trail (PIN 8758.04) - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Agreements, Certifications And Reimbursement Requests For Federal Aid On Behalf Of Ulster County With The New York State Department Of Transportation For Construction And Construction Inspection – Amending The 2022 Capital Fund Budget - Department Of Planning

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the construction phase of the Kingston Rail Trail project; authorizes the payment of 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the cost of the construction phase; sets a plan to convene if there are cost overruns; authorizes the Chair, Director of Purchasing, Director of Planning, and Deputy Director of Planning to execute any agreements, certifications, and reimbursement requests on behalf of the County with NYSDOT

**Motion No. 8:            Moved Resolution 455 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**                      See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:**              Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry,  
**Voting Against:**                None  
**Votes in Favor:**                 7  
**Votes Against:**                 0  
**Disposition:**                 **Resolution APPROVED**

**Resolution No. 457 -** Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$403,918.00 Entered Into By The County – Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. – Department Of Planning

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves Amendment #7 to extend the term, increase the funding, and update the scope of service of the agreement with Barton & Loguidice for the construction of the Kingston Rail Trail project

**Motion No. 9:            Moved Resolution 457 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:**                      See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:**              Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry,  
**Voting Against:**                None  
**Votes in Favor:**                 7  
**Votes Against:**                 0  
**Disposition:**                 **Resolution APPROVED**

**Resolution No. 458 -** Authorizing A Public Hearing As Required Under Article 25AA Of Agricultural Markets Law Regarding The 8-Year Review Of Agricultural District No. 4 And Providing Direct Notice To Affected Municipalities

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7:15 PM in the Legislative Chambers, Ulster County Office Building, cause a legal notice of the same and provide a notice to all affected municipalities.

**Motion No. 10:            Moved Resolution 458 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry,  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Resolution No. 459 - Appointing Member To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town Of Kingston**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will appoint Dixon Onderdonk to the Ulster County Planning Board as a representative of the Town of Kingston from a term from the present thru December 31, 2025.

**Motion No. 11:** **Moved Resolution 459 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Hewitt  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Cahill

**Discussion:** See attached transcript

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry,  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Resolution No. 460 - Reappointing Alternate Member To The Ulster County Planning Board - Village Of Ellenville**

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution will reappoint Jonathan Winer as an alternate to the Ulster County Planning Board as a representative of the Village of Ellenville from a term from the present thru December 31, 2025 to coincide with the term of regular member Richard Travers.

**Motion No. 12:** **Moved Resolution 460 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:** **See attached transcript**

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry,  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Resolution No. 462** - Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$505,855.00 Entered Into By The County – S & O Construction Services, Inc. – Ulster County Community College

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a contract for the replacement of a rooftop HVAC unit at Hardenburgh Hall for \$505,855 using 50% state funds and 50% county funds.

**Motion No. 13:** **Moved Resolution 462 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

**Discussion:** **See attached transcript**

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry,  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Resolution No. 463** - Designating The Ulster County Department Of Tourism As The Official Tourism Promotion Agency Of Ulster County – Department Of Tourism

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution designates the Ulster County Department of Tourism as the official tourism promotion agency for Ulster County, thereby making it eligible to apply for and accept matching tourism promotion funds on behalf of Ulster County during calendar year 2023, and to represent Ulster County for the promotion of Tourism.

**Motion No. 14:** **Moved Resolution 463 FOR DISCUSSION**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Hewitt  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Cahill

**Discussion:** **See attached transcript**

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Criswell, Hewitt, Litts, Maloney and Sperry,  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 7  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution APPROVED**

---

**Old Business**

---

**New Business**

Legislator Hewitt wanted to invite Henry Gage, Jr., President of the Hemp Industrial Board to a future meeting to discuss using hemp concrete and other industrial uses for hemp.

---

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

### **Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Litts  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Time:** 7:50 PM

**Respectfully submitted by:** Fawn Tantillo  
**Minutes Approved:** October 4, 2022



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

**DATE & TIME:** September 6, 2022 – 6:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 825 3771 0699, By Phone (646) 558-8656  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Brian Cahill  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Herbert Litts, III, Thomas Corcoran, Peter Criswell, Chris Hewitt (arrived 6:08), Joseph Maloney (arrived 6:05) and Megan Sperry  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Jonathan Heppner, Phil Erner, Kathy Nolan, and Laura Petit; Dr. Alison Buckley, President, Jamie Capuano and Jenn Zell, SUNY Ulster; Deputy Executive Chris Kelly; Comptroller March Gallagher and Alicia DeMarco; Director Dennis Doyle, Planning; Director Timothy Weidemann, Economic Development; Jake Wedemeyer, Ulster County Soil and Water; Director Lisa Berger,, Tourism; Christian Malsatzki, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Laurie Lichtenstein, Confidential Secretary to the Chair; Javid Afrali; Peg O’Leary; Ashley Long;

---

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Okay, thank you, Herb, if you would lead us in the pledge to the flag.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Yes, sir.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

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

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. We're going to start. I'll accept the motion for approval of the meeting minutes from August 2 of 2022 as presented

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I'll make that motion.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Corcoran. All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed. Okay, great. So tonight, we're going to have a small, short presentation from the Ulster County Soil and Water Management Group and Jake Wedemeyer. Hope I always say that wrong. I think, is that correct?

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Wedemeyer.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Wedemeyer. Okay. Yeah. So Jake Wedemeyer is going to be making a presentation to us for a few minutes here when we start the meeting. So take it away, Jake.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

Thank you. I'm going to share my screen. Oh,

**Fawn Tantillo**

Oh, let me set you up to do that. Hang on. Oh, okay. Why won't that close now?

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

I want to share my screen. What am I doing wrong here? Sorry.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Hang on it.

**Fawn Tantillo**

I'm going to share my screen. Yes, you're going to share yours. Just one second. I'm having a problem. Getting this all participants share screen. Okay. You should be able to share.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

Can you see it now?

**Fawn Tantillo**

Yes, we do.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

Okay, you ready for me?

**Fawn Tantillo**

We are.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

All right. My name is Jake Wedemeyer. And I work for the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District. And we did I gave a presentation back in May. I just want to let you, the committee, know what we've been up to and what our future plans are. So back in May, we had this slide of who we are with our partners and who's NRCS and the Board of Directors, but we don't have to go through that. One thing I want to say is that we did hire Travis Ferry. He's our new district technician. He's a certified crop advisor. And he comes with a lot of experience. So, he's a welcome addition to our team. He does a lot of agricultural work, Planning, Design grant writing. He also helps us out with our stream program, and also our Stormwater Services. So this is what we've been up to this summer. So current projects. Right now, we're doing the Stony Cove stream restoration project, Bob Jansen Road, it's funded by New York City DEP. This project is approximately \$2,000,100 or doing about 1475 linear feet of stream restoration, channel realignment, stream bank stabilization and floodplain creation. This is to minimize turbidity and also improve stream habitat. At the same time, concurrently, we're working with the New York City DEP, they're funding this project, we're managing it. We're on the other side of the valley with the Panther Kill stream restoration project. So total funding is \$511,692. That entails about 500 linear feet of stream bank restoration for water quality and habitat improvement, as well as stream bank stabilization. So those projects are going on concurrently. And so far we're ahead of schedule except for today's rain.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Well, that's what I was going to ask you, Jake. Did the significant rainfall that we've had in the past couple of days impact these projects in any way?

**Jake Wedemeyer**

Stoney Cove Lane, No, we're ready to get out of the stream. Okay, so all the in-stream work will be done by Thursday. We're still ahead of schedule. But for Panther Kill, we had to shut down the site today. But we're still probably about seven days ahead of schedule, working days. More current projects getting into the agricultural realm with round 27. It's a competitive grant through New York state, the state contribution is almost \$232,000. So we're right now in the surveying and design phase of three agricultural projects, two agricultural, two agriculture, mixing facilities, and one fuel storage facility have water quality and public health benefits. Okay, so we do fuel tank replacements, going from a single wall to double wall, a lot of old tanks out there. So, there's grant money available. So that's a competitive grant. Now we're getting into climate resilient farming. So, we're very good time where we just developed a mini grant program, up to \$50,000 per year. It will be devoted for the planting of cover crops up to \$5,000 per farm, since it's our first year 18 farms are participating. Four-fifths of so the moneys already spent, which is good. And at a minimum, we plan on continuing this program for three years. climate resilient farming grant, round six, we ranked number two in New York State with their grant application, so they're 99% chance we're gonna get this funding, we have to wait for the government, the governor's announcement. So once that if that's official in September or October, we should be in contract. So again, more cover crops, as well as we're going to use that grant money to purchase the no till drill for rental within the county, its long awaited.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Jake, can I ask a real couple of quick questions about those particular projects? They're so sorry? Are your applications exceeding your ability to finance or you're in good shape there? Or do you have access funding for more farms?

**Jake Wedemeyer**

For the climate resilient farm? Farming grant, we're well within the budget. And then with the cover crop program. We do have a little bit of wiggle room, but I think 50,000 a year's good start for 2022.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And are you turning anyone? I guess my question was, are you turning anyone away? Or are you soliciting farmers to apply for these grants?

**Jake Wedemeyer**

We have not turned anybody away. This is the first year I think year two, we might say we might have to increase that allocation. So, 50,000 might have to go up to 60. Yes, Herb.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Just gonna say I think once the farmers around the county realized that there is a no till drill available for rental, it's very quickly going to get booked.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

That would result in staff time. So, Travis and I would have to do the delivery and the rental agreements. And we might have to hire somebody part time to assist with transport. This is a big County.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

We're ready, willing and able to help there, Jake. So, if that's what program, you're gonna have willing recipient, committee.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

Good, thank you. Now we're in the Agricultural Environmental Management Program. That is noncompetitive funding. So, we had competitive funding with round 27 and climate resilient farming. The state recognized that a lot of farms, especially in the Hudson Valley are underserved. Because the big dairies in central New York will out compete us for competitive grant funding. So, the state's one two, it's a two-year contract cycle, and it's going to continue, but we have two projects going on. One is a rotational grazing system. It's the second one in two years, and then it covered Barnyard. So, the total cost for these projects is \$91,250. Now with inflation I did put in for ARPA funding, I emailed the Legislator Nolan so we didn't hear back, but this project here, you know, might be in excess of our, you know, \$80,000 but we do have some reserve funds, with board approval to help with inflationary costs. Go lay down dog. Oh, my, my dog. Okay. Now assistance to residents and municipalities. Usually about twice a week we're getting phone calls for assistance. That'd be stream bank erosion, erosion and sediment control stormwater, pond site enhancement agricultural feasibility and permitting assistance. So that usually results in a site visit and technical assistance free of charge to all Ulster

County residents and municipalities. Like I said, back in May, we're wrapping up the Arbor Day initiative. That was that project was a lot of fun. I think we supplied at least 40 trees to five different municipalities including mulch. We paid for that with our state funding that we received. We did apply for a stream management plan grant application for five municipalities in the lower Esopus watershed. Fire Districts know us I'm still a fireman. Regarding stormwater management, we plan to do a dry hydrant program to in the future. And we have a close relationship with the town assessors with soils group worksheets, which is agricultural tax relief the farmers. Alright, so we're almost done. So, we already went through this 2022 funding sources, this number has not changed. So, we're getting we have regenerated about \$355,300. That's for us to survive to pay the bills and run programs, okay. The estimate is based on a billable hours. So, we estimate 35,000 and billable hours for 2022. Might be more might be less, but we're getting pretty close. Same thing with the ADM program. conservation planning implementation. So, they are estimates, but we are generally pretty close. project funding brought into the county from our programs. Again, we have the tree, the Arbor Day initiative, we switched some funding around we have the Part C cover crop program, then a that was from last may slide. Again, nonpoint source with the climate resilient farming grant, I added that, because I'm 99% sure we're going to get it. And so basically, with all the work that we're doing the different programs, we have regenerating almost \$3.1 million for 2022. So basically, what the county gives us it's a 33 to one rate of return with the current, current cap county allocation. So, so, this is what we've been doing. And this is what we plan on doing in the future. So like the slide said, The ask the why. So, the district's asking for an additional \$40,000 from the county, which would be \$131,500. We might as well ask. Our reasoning behind it is that we just recently got enrolled into the New York State Retirement System. It's been well awaited by all the employees, they've asked for it for years, we finally got in, but our annual deficiency payment is \$39,334. You plan on paying it off sooner because interest but figure if the county can help with, with that, that would be great. Also, our health auto liability insurance goes up about 5% a year. So that's about \$2,000. And then with our increased services, especially with the no till that'd be more staff time and equipment we're going to have to update our old truck to so when our future is with the direction of the board, right with the with the help of her Blitz, we're going to expand our services of no till Of course, we're going to keep implementing our parts even grant program and possibly grow it right. Not just farming but to help out municipalities. We're expanding the Agricultural Environmental Management Program. So there's a big need for nutrient management, planning and technical assistance in applying for grants and actually doing the construction inspection Design Oversight. Again, we're getting more doing more house calls. So we're developing a Facebook page is word of mouth. It's our website. Cornell Cooperative Extension, we partner well with them, they give us a lot of referrals. And we're actually partnering with the we haven't really good livestock educator, but Cornell does. So we talk at least twice a week and their ag programs pretty strong. It's growing. We are going to have to hire additional staff in the future to keep things going. And we're going to we have expanded our Stormwater Services. We have a four New York State DEC endorsed four-hour erosion sediment control course that we provide, and it's free to all county employees. And again, we just want to promote the retention of our employees by providing a current, you know, a decent retirement benefit and keeping their salaries competitive. And that's about it. That's where we're heading. Thank you.

#### **Chair Brian Cahill**

Anyone on the committee? Could you un-share that screen so I can see some faces? Please? I just want to make sure everyone on the committee has an opportunity to ask a question if they have one.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

Was that good?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yeah. Jake, just give us a second here. So, I think Jake might have to “unshare”. So, is that right? Yep. There we go. Thank you. So anyone on the committee have any questions for Jake? Laura,

**Legislator Laura Petit**

I just have a comment. Jake, back in between 2008 and 12, had been advocating for soil and water to be part of the state retirement system. So, I almost feel like the county owes them to that, to help them out as far as their budget goes, because it's well deserved, and I can't believe it took 12 years. But congratulations on keeping up the good fight. Thank you.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So if no one else has a question, I actually have a question. So, Jake, thinking about the impacts of climate change. And what we're seeing, especially in Ulster County as a result of climate change, do you feel like the responsibilities and the work that you folks do will be impacted in a big way going forward or at all? I mean, I'm just sitting here thinking, I don't know how you folks don't get hammered with requests for help, especially after a weekend like this, right?

**Jake Wedemeyer**

With climate change, you know, it's our duty, as an agency to help any way we can. And the main thing is cost share assistance, especially with the economic climate, okay. That's why we adopted the cover crop program. But also, we're not here to subsidize farmers. So, with success, writing out the economy in the weather, the key to success is adoption. So, the more success we have over the next three to five years, the more farmers will adopt these practices.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So do you do think that you could take a greater role in that in trying to encourage the farmers to take more actions to offset the results of climate change, through education through site visits through some of the programs and grants that you offer? Because I'm sitting here thinking like, I can't believe they're not beating your doors that I just can't believe?

**Jake Wedemeyer**

Yes, and yes, and no, I think me taking a greater role is greatly augmented with our partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension. And I think the more boots on the ground, the better. But they're not beating the door down. What they're doing is they're blowing up my phone with texts. So, the key to success with this job, especially with the AIM Program, sorry, my light went out because I had a roof leak. Anyway, the key to success is building relationships. And a lot of these relationships have spanned decades. So if there's a problem, they're either coming through the door, or they're texting me or they're calling the office. And the good news is we hired Travis were very careful who we hired, because they have to know how to get along with people and farmers have to trust and relate to the staff.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Legislator Litts and then Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Well, what I just wanted to add to that conversation is, you know, through best practices, we're changing as farmers. I know, we used to spread fertilizer and cow manure and stuff like that on, on our fields, we used to plow them. With the no till option. There's a couple of things that that's helping. We're cutting down erosion, we're cutting down siltation that leaves the property, goes into streams, create these problems and issues. But at the same time, what no till you're planning a cover crop, and that cover crop then becomes part of fertilization for your future crop. So you're cutting back on, on the use of chemical fertilizers and things like that for your next crop because you're, you're actually fertilizing with an organic, organic fertilizer. So, these best practices moving forward, I think, is what's keeping a lot of farmers from beaten down Jake's door, because it's how we do business. Now we're changing. We're changing the face of how farmers do business, from the past going into the future.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

Yeah. Really excellent presentation by the Executive Director of Soil and Water. And I think your questions are really right on target. Chair Cahill. The difficulty that I've seen, and the reason we have farmers coming to the Soil and Water Conservation Board saying, "Is there something else you can do to help us?" is, is, is multi causal, but I think there's a couple of big factors. One is that a lot of the grants that Jake presented tonight, are capped in some way. So, for the cover cropping, for example, that's capped at \$5,000. There are some farmers, that we could be subsidizing to cover crops at the level of 10, or \$15,000. But that program won't allow the soil and water district to do that. So, we need to supplement where those caps are. In addition, a lot of these programs are pretty labor intensive to apply, and to manage and to have monitored. And what the small farmers tell us is that it's not worth their effort. A lot of the awards are based on per acre, you might get \$5 per acre. Well, in Ulster County, 75 to 90% of our farms are small farms, they might be 25 acres or less \$25.25 acres times \$5, nobody's going to fill out a grant, grant application for \$125 subsidy. So part of what the need is, is to fill in the gaps that these programs that tend to favor larger farms, or that even for larger farms have a cap so they can't be reimbursed for making the changes to the things we want them to be doing. That's the reason that I believe very strongly, we need a supplemental program, at least in the short term. And I appreciate the efforts of Executive Director Wedemeyer to grow the Soil and Water Conservation District I think that has to be done as well.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

Well, that's why they have the AAM noncompetitive cost share funding. So the farmers that don't even compete with large, you know, they're underserved. But it's only 100,000. The cover crop program, it's not cumbersome. So, the small farmers farming 26 acres, times \$82, an acre of cover crop that's pretty lucrative. But it is a \$5,000 cap. That's what the board and I agreed upon for the year one, we could expand it further. But with I understand what Legislator Nolan saying, I mean, we do all the

cumbersome work, we just show up at the paperwork here, sign here. It's a lot of work on us. But again, it's public funding, we have to account for every receipt. But with the cover crop program this year, Travis helped me with that he's fantastic. One page, one page application.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Well, anyone else have any other questions or comments before we move on? Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

It's more of a comment and an observation where I'm very comfortable with what I'm hearing and confident and what I'm hearing from Jake. And I think we're going to be talking about another resolution coming up soon. And I think we should probably get Jake's opinion on that resolution. And I think expanding some of what soil and water is doing may make more sense than what we're trying to do in this other resolution. But it's food for thought. And I think we'll all be talking about that.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Any other comments or questions? No. Okay. Well, thank you, Jake. I appreciate your by and keeping us updated. And you know, I have a feeling we're going to be hearing, you're going to be hearing more from us, rather than us hearing more from you. Because I think what you're offering is something that's going to expand in the future and may be the basis for, you know, helping other farmers and smaller farmers in a better way than we are right now. All right, thank you. Okay with that, I'll welcome Legislators Hewitt and Maloney to the meeting who we started before you guys got here, guys, but we have a pretty full agenda. And we wanted to get going there. Resolution number 400. We'll start there, which is amending the 2022 budget to establish and fund the Ulster County Agricultural Crisis Relief Program. The Department of Finance the Division of Recovery and Resilience.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

I'll move it.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second for discussion.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Second

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Alright, Legislator Hewitt. Is there any discussion on this resolution? I think Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Yeah, I just wanted to reiterate what I said in the chairs meeting. Just to clarify, we did not take any action on this in the ARPA committee just because we wanted to get a little bit more clarification on this, this position that was a little unclear on where it was going to report to and how the structure of it was going to be. And so what we came up with which everybody seemed to be in agreement was that it would the position would report to planning for the moment, and that it would be a one year contractor position, and then it would trans transform into a salaried position. But that year would give an



opportunity to get somebody in place to, to be thinking about the biggest picture of this position. I think it would be an opportunity to sort of work out any kinks or any bugs in this position moving forward and then get it firmly planted in the correct department, whether that is Planning or whether that's Economic Development or where it goes. Legislator Nolan, Legislator Nolan and I worked a lot on this together in terms of trying to get this to the next place where we could actually move it forward. So with permission of the chair if Legislator Nolan has anything to add to that.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Go ahead, Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

Thank you very much. Yes, um, Legislator Criswell, as the Chair of the ARPA committee did recommend this division of one year as the contractor position and then move it, it moved this position in as a salaried position. I think that satisfies the needs of the people who believe that we should have this salaried position. But we're too far along in the current budget cycle to throw it in with the desire to start sooner, and also have the advantage of an outside consultant who can offer some of those suggestions for best practices and sees what's working and what's not working well in the first year. So, I think that was extremely helpful, I have created the, the revise the budget to reflect that the budget had included 90,000 per year, which would have been the level we thought would fund a salaried position with the notion that if the committee requested or required us to do that, that we'd be we'd have it in the budget, the first year at a contractor position would now come in at about 75,000. So there would be \$15,000 to shift for further monitoring or further programs. As the as the money was needed. So the budget has been modified, amended to address that. The budget narrative now addresses the structure that Legislator Chris wall articulated. And we've spoken with planning and with the Department of Environment and the Office of Economic Development, I think they're well situated to cooperate to make this a really effective program right from the first year. And as I as I mentioned in my comments, this, this money really jumpstarts farm farmers subsidies, Farmer assistance, the agricultural component of what Ulster County Soil and Water is doing right now is about \$400,000 a year. And they are expanding, but that's going to be slow and organic, it needs to be this will bring in several times that amount of funding, and also do some things that swimming water district, it doesn't do in a big way. And that other people can address such as conservation easements, which the soil and water district does do. But there's a lot happening in that realm. There's a law clinic, the Pace Law Clinic, which has interns who could work with our farmers, and we need somebody to bring in all these components, that some of the members of the Soil and Water board have been doing outreach and trying to bring in, bring them in in a really coordinated way and let them serve the farmers. So that's I think the the resolution and it's supporting materials now does what I'm what we wanted it to do, what ARPA committee and others have asked, the ARPA committee has scored it. And I think the Legislator Criswell, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think that would be the ARPA committee would have no objection to this committee moving this resolution forward with the notion that they get to look at it later in the month.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

That's correct.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you Legislator Nolan. Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Sure. First, many of us legislators aren't allowed into the chair committee meetings, those robust discussions that were had all those facts thrown around all those questions asked, none of us, half of the legislature doesn't know anything about that. I much prefer that go on in this public standing committee. I think that's the way the legislature was meant to work and proceed with regards to this, I heard it, I heard it just referred to as slow and organic. Soil and Water I don't find it to be slow and organic. I find Soil & Water to be competent and transparent. They're the experts at this. There are experts. Jake said before, he doesn't want to subsidize farmers. It's not that he doesn't want to help financially farmers. But I believe what he means is to temporarily prop them up to the point at which they don't require continuous funds to do the things they're doing. So, it's, I think we're just having a different definition of the word "subsidize". I really don't know why we don't take this money and give it to Soil and Water. This is what they do. They're the experts. If we think we're going to do this faster with hiring some new person that I haven't seen a lot on title qualifications, what their daily job is going to be, day in and day out, where we have experts that do this. We're all very impressed every time we hear Jake talk. We have it here. I don't know why we're going to try to reinvent this and have an answer to somebody in Economic Development. Why not take the 15k that we are going to hire a consultant for Youth Bridge Program, give it to 4-H? We have all these things in the county, why not just take that money and put it where we know it's going to work. But instead, we're going to do a temporary one-year position. We don't know where it's exactly; what it's going to do or who it's going to answer to. But it's going to do all this stuff really fast. Faster than Soil and Water. That's, that's what I think. I'll be a "no" on this. And I think I'm not a "no" on the premise or the idea or the, it's just the approach where I think what we have this expert right here. Why aren't we asking how we should do what we want to do. And then let Soil and Water given

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Nolan, before I let you go, I want to see if there's anyone else as a first time around to speak, sir. Anyone else? Okay, go ahead, Legislator. Nolan. thank you.

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

Thank you. So, the, this request for funding from the ARPA committee came at the request of the Soil and Water Conservation District board. Legislator Litts and I offered to bring it to the legislature and to bring it forward in a full form. They've heard presentations on it, and they voted unanimously that we should move forward with it. So, and I don't believe it has any opposition from the Executive Director of Soil and Water. The I don't know if all the legislators heard, but we did say that we have found a home for this program in Planning. And if all works well, that's where it would be following the first year. If there are any problems that emerged this allows some flexibility for that to change. But it's clear where it's going. And it's very clear what the money would accomplish, which is going beyond what's available through the \$400,000 of funding that the conservation district currently has and has any real opportunity to bring in for agriculture in the next five years. This type this level of funding is, is just not likely to be available and would require increased staff to go after. So, we're creating a program that we're will have in Ulster County, and additional way of achieving this. And if there's ways that this will coordinate

further with Soil and Water in the future, I'm all in favor of that. I've been serving as a liaison to the Soil and Water District every year that I've been in the legislature. And so we're, we're committed to that program. But it's easy to see that there's federal money coming for climate resilience, and a lot for farmland conservation, that will be of a very different type than what the conservation district has worked with in the past. And it may require, we think it's going to require a person with a little bit different type of training, to go after that kind of funding, funding and to manage it, and to help Ulster County do everything it can for its farmers.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

So, I'm all, I'm all for open space. But we would have to hold the leases, the landowner agreements, it's a little out of our expertise or toolbox. But also, it's subjects to district to a lot of legal liability. And the state has already warned us like, well, if you want to get involved in that, you better have some funding set aside for any potential litigation. So, you know, you know, and another thing is with communications with you ARPA funding, but that money we have dedicated for implementation, we're dealing with massive inflation, with lumber with steel with concrete. So, I asked you, Hey, how about with each of these projects, can we tack on an additional 20 percent per farm for contingency. So, you know, we saw I emailed you about three weeks ago. But the ask is \$73,000 that would help the farmers greatly because we want to implement projects that help them not to bankrupt them.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Maloney, you had your hand up again.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Look, have we asked the Director, if we expanded Soil and Waters funding? Would they be able to do the majority of what we're trying to do here?

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

Chair Cahill? Okay, go ahead Legislator Nolan. I think this is a question for the Ulster, Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District board. We have had those kinds of discussions. And I think that I welcome Legislator Maloney coming to one of those meetings and talking with the whole board. That is not a question for the Executive Director. It's a question for the board.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I disagree. I think the Director could opine on whether he thinks Soil and Water could do the majority of what we're trying to do here. Funding was expanded, you're saying he can't answer a question like that?

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

He needs to consult with boards to answer that question, but if he feels (inaudible)

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Hold on, folks, please just promoted please. Say, you know, I don't think that Mr. Wedemeyer was prepared to get going to that level of questioning here. He was coming to give us a presentation. And he's really not party to this resolution at this point. And he wasn't asked to, you know, to respond to that

here. He's a guest of this committee to give a report. And I think if like, like Legislator Nolan suggested, if there's a question as to how this should be looked at who the responsibilities are, and if there's capacity to do this, that should go through the board, and not ask an individual employee, or what they think, right at this point, Legislator Litts then I'll come back to you, Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

I think we also have to keep in mind is that entire office is three people. And they do an inordinate amount of work right now with three people, I don't know how we could dump more on them at this time without increasing your staff by two or three.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

And we're gonna do it all with just one person that we don't even know what they're gonna do. So I just think I just want to be on the record and say, it's 2022. Here we are in America. And we're at a meeting of the Ulster County Legislature. And we can ask a very capable person a simple question, like the discussion we just had, that you've already commented on some of these things. Do you think Soil and Water with advantage with more funding would be able to do some of this? We're to the point in this country where we can't ask a capable person a question like that. I think that's pretty sad.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I don't think I said that. I think that I would, it was unfair, to ask him to answer that question without giving him an opportunity to prepare for that.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

That could be his answer, you know, but we're not going to ask?

**Jake Wedemeyer**

You can ask me.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Go ahead. Let we're gonna let Legislator Hewitt speak first and then, Jake, we'll let you go after that. And I think well, we're gonna wrap this wrap it up after that.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Thank you. Legislator, Nolan. I was wondering with the 90,000 a year or the 75,000, which whichever it would be, did you account for benefits and expenses. And if there are three people in Soil and Water I'm wondering how many people are in the Planning department. And I agree with Legislator Maloney, increased funding in Soil and Water would increase the level of spending for, for staff. So, Legislator Nolan, was this included in the expenses?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Slow down, slow down, everybody. We're gonna get let Jake go in order and then we'll come to Legislator Nolan. And then Legislator Litts had his hands up.

**Jake Wedemeyer**

I feel that Legislator Litts is very correct. We are planning on hiring a second technician, but we're finding with the candidate pool to get somebody qualified up to speed it takes about two years to get to know the farmers, the lay of the land. In terms of a third person, third technician, we shared office with the USDA NRCS. We're only allotted a room for one more employee. I might be able to negotiate another area for them. But since we partner with the NRCS, they pay our rent.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. So, we'll go to Legislator Litts and then Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

I think we have to keep in mind that this is ARPA funding, and it is not something that we're going to get every year. I would wholeheartedly if you know if we if... listen, if the legislature wants to put up a resolution and make this funding permanent, not just, you know, an ARPA funded thing, I definitely would vote to even not only give them more people and soil and water, I'd vote to expand the, their buildings so that we can house those people. But I think we're losing track of the fact that this is only two-year funding that goes away. And typically, when you hire permanent employees, they stay if the money's gone.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, Legislator Nolan.

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

Thank you to address Legislator Hewitt's questions. The difference between the salary line in year one and year two, which is 15,000 reflects the difference in money provided in the second year for benefits. So, a contractor at 75,000 in year one, and a salaried position at 75,000 Plus benefits equals the 90,000 we have allocated to budget year two. One of the other considerations in terms of where this goes where this person and this funding in this program go is what Executive Director Wedemeyer said, the Soil and Water conservation district does not want to do land conservation and land conservation easements. That's a separate realm. They've been cautioned and recommended not to take it on. It's about a third of this program that is in front of the legislature. And part of the reason to do that is we don't have another place where that is happening, and somebody's in charge of it. And we need that. So, I've agreed from the beginning with a salaried position to deal with agriculture for Ulster County, I just didn't think we could get to it, you know, in this budget year, and this is a way to do it. But having that in the future will allow Ulster County to have some flexibility that the Soil and Water district doesn't have and doesn't want for that very important aspect of helping farmers and preserving soil going forward. And I think that the other aspect of this is that we have funding streams coming in, that the Soil and Water Conservation Districts have not been traditionally working in. And so having somebody who has experience with those kinds of funding streams, having the soil having this program manager work with the Department of Environment, as well as Economic Development really changes this perspective on who and who helps and how you, how we help farmers. I do think that we need additional dollars

coming in and I'm committed to looking for and finding those for the things that the Executive Director mentioned. And for things like the shed to house a second No-till drill. One of the reasons we're not looking for two drills right now is that the Soil and Water districts are saying they have no place to put one. So

**Jake Wedemeyer**

No. The fair, fair board. They've been very nice to us.

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

I'm happy to hear it if we can get it over there. We should go for funding for that as well.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you, Legislator Nolan. We're gonna get a I saw Comptroller Gallagher, you had your hand up but we're gonna Okay, so we'll let Legislator Erner go. And then I think we're gonna wrap this up.

**Legislator Phil Erner**

Thank you, Chair Cahill. And I wanted to thank Jake for the presentation. And it's nice to see your face after many months of hearing your voice for the first time hopefully in person sometime soon. Well, I want to thank this the sponsors for having brought this. And I think it creatively addresses issues that were that we're seeing here in the county and agriculture. I also appreciate concerns I'm hearing raised about efficiency. And I'm just wondering if down the road not too long, we might think about whether we need something like a Department of Food and Agriculture, that might sort of consolidate a lot of these functions we've been talking about in county government, and would ultimately be the natural place to put this sort of this sort of position perhaps that's just something to think about. And if I come up with a way to to make a resolution about it, or would propose it to the charter revision commission I guess you all can watch for that. Thank you.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Maloney. Yep, go ahead.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I just want to kind of summarize some of the things I've heard that there's concerns about creating position with ARPA funds, because the position is going to go away. So I heard "well, we don't want to give the the money to Soil and Water for them to use for a new position, because the position is going to go away. But we'll do it inside the county." We hear from Soil & Water, how long it takes to get people up to speed, and to train somebody. But we're going to do it inside the county with no expertise there. A third of it as is open space, that's fine that that Soil & Water does really not want to get involved in but the majority of it is subsidizing farmers. And one of the things I heard was there's this \$5,000 cap, why wouldn't we just give the money to Soil andWater so they can raise that cap and do what they do what they're experts at? I don't understand why we're looking to be redundant and duplicate inside the county where we have zero expertise. I mean, we showed how little we know when we started off by trying to throw it to Economic Development. And we said, "well, you know what, maybe that doesn't make sense. Let's do it in Planning." And I think the resolution that we're about to vote on, I don't even know if we've amended all that language yet. But let's pass it along. Guys, we

don't know what we're doing. Soil and Water does. Let's not try to reinvent the wheel here and waste a bunch of money. Let's just expand what the experts do, what we're all happy with. I think, I bet every person on this meeting thinks highly of Soil & Water and Jake as I do, so why don't we empower them to do what they do?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Anyone else have any other comments or questions before we call a vote? Okay, then all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? Okay, thank you. We're moving on to resolution 414, which is authorizing a right to cross the right of way owned by Ulster County of the Ulster County of the Ulster and Delaware railroad corridor, near milepost 4.8 in the City of Kingston, to the Hudson Valley housing fund company incorporated. And this is a request from the Department of Planning. I'll accept the motion for discussion.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Motion.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

All right, so Corcoran and Litts. So I'll just briefly go over this. We've had this has been in front of us multiple times since I've been back. So we're we're looking at it in our third year. I think it came up in our first year here. And it's been kind of floundering around. The last time it came through to our committee, I think it was last month, we had some issues with the secret language within the resolution. It has subsequently been all amended by Planner Doyle, to my personal satisfaction. And so I don't know if anyone else has had an opportunity to look at that amended resolution or if they have any questions or comments or concerns about it. And if you do, we can talk about it now. Okay, I don't see anyone. So with that, I'll request the vote. All those in favor?

**Fawn Tantillo**

Chairman, I believe you have to vote on the amendment.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Oh, thank you very much. Thank you. Fawn. So with that, I'll ask that we accept the resolution as amended. That was delivered to you in your packet. All those in favor? Aye. Aye.

**Committee Members**

Opposed.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. And then the resolution as amended. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed? One one opposed? Okay. Thank you.

**Fawn Tantillo**

I'm sorry. Did Mr. Maloney. Did you vote for the amendment?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I voted "yes" on the amendment and "no" on the resolution.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Okay.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. So we're gonna move on to resolution 417. Which is setting a public hearing on the sale and or transfer of county. Oh, this was pulled right. Was this when it was pulled?

**Fawn Tantillo**

417 was pulled. Yes.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Four seventeen was pulled. Next up: 435, which is dedicating funding to implement the Boost for mainstreet programs, ARPA funding, Economic Recovery Department of Economic Development. I'll accept the motion.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Motion to discuss.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, Legislator Hewitt. Okay. So, I guess Tim, if you want to enlighten us a little bit here, I'm gonna pull up the resolution here.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Chair Cahill. Can I just chime in just one second as Chair of ARPA?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Absolutely.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I just want to inform this committee that the ARPA Committee voted unanimously to pass this.



**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Any legislators have any comments before I asked, Director Weidemann to fill us in on this before we go forward. Okay, got a couple of screens here. So take me a second. Okay, Tim, if you don't mind giving us a little bit of background on this.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Sure. So, this program is, is designed to support businesses and commercial districts throughout the county. These are areas that were hit especially hard during the pandemic. And you know, even before the pandemic were an important source of economic activity throughout the county, often struggling with infrastructure needs, and with marketing and branding is downtown business districts to be able to get the word out and generate additional visitation and support the businesses in those districts. We had heard even before the pandemic, that that our downtown districts in fact, way back, I think one of my first exposures to county government was actually participating in some of the work that the Planning Department did on a main streets toolbox back in 2012, or 13. Really, you know, it's a matter of best practice in a community like Ulster County that's far flung large with, you know, rural pockets and urban pockets, to focus our economic development activities on our commercial cores. There is a state Main Streets program that has very limited funding, it's been successfully used in a couple of cases throughout our county. And the idea here, as discussed with legislator Criswell was to put together a program that mirrors that New York Main Streets program using ARPA funds to help support businesses and commercial cores throughout the county. So, with the consultation of the ARPA committee, we worked through a couple iterations of a program design that outlines the kind of basic gist of this, I'm happy to go into that if it is worth the committee's time tonight. We can also circulate that as backup materials, that would be helpful. But the basic gist is that we would make available \$2 million of the ARPA funding to make awards to commercial districts or to anchor businesses in those commercial districts through a competitive process that mirrors the state's Main Streets program, looking for an evaluation process that would involve members of the legislature as well as making members of the Executive branch and, and that ultimately would help to catalyze growth and support economic development in those commercial courts. I'm happy to go into any more level of detail, but maybe I'll turn it back to you chair Maloney. Sorry, Chair Cahill to see if there's any questions from the committee.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Hewitt, sorry, I was muted there.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Thank you. I was just wondering if this is an expansion on the CARES funding that we're doing the business grants with?

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

No, this is a separate and distinct program. As you recall, we had the cares one program, which is funded with monies from the New York State CDBG cares program, a million dollars of funding for that first round of cares that we have basically completed at this point, we are just about to begin the cares to funding which was \$2 million that was allocated through our buffer individual grants of up to \$35,000, to businesses that were impacted by the pandemic, and that our low to moderate income business

owners. This would be a separate and distinct program that would be geared towards larger core organizations within these commercial corridors. Awards would be up to \$250,000 for larger capital projects, expansions, as well as up to \$250,000 for the commercial districts themselves to do things like wayfinding signage, or to do marketing and branding activities to drive more visitation to the downtown cores. Commercial facade programs would be another eligible use of the funds, so distinct from that cares program, and that it's supporting individual businesses, but also commercial areas.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Right, thank you. Legislator Petit, I see your hand up.

**Legislator Larua Petit**

Yeah, I'm not quite sure how to phrase this. I was looking at and I thought it was a similar program in Dutchess County. It's a municipal Investment grant, which goes through their Planning Department, and is for towns and fire districts in wastewater. So it's infrastructure. So I'm still looking for clarification on why this funding can't go into another county department, whether it be more controls in place, rather than give it to essentially not for profit. And then to add on to that. I don't know if I've ever seen a UDEDA report of the expenditures, where the funding is going and what their annual budget is.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Mr. Chair, if I might respond?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Please do Tim. Thank you.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Sure. So first thing just to clarify for legislators. The, the the funding here would not be for not for profit organizations, although they would be eligible to apply as ultimate recipients. The proposal as with the CARES 2 project is that the funding would be delivered and implemented through UCEDA. So it would go through the not-for-profit, but ultimately the awardees, eligible awardees, could be for profit businesses, municipalities and not for profits. The evaluation would really be driven by their ability to improve visitation and economic activity and our commercial cores. I'm sorry, I'm actually forgetting the second part of your question.

**Legislator Larua Petit**

Me, too. The reporting annual reports from UCEDA. So UCEDA has an audit, that's complete annually that provides a full financial report and programmatic report. Happy to elaborate on that to any extent that this committee or others on the legislature are interested. We certainly will be providing an updated reporting on the CARES 2 program we are about to launch it. And as that gets launched, we will provide statistics to the legislature probably through this committee as an update on the progress of that specific program.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Maloney,

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I think, Laura, you would ask something about, there was something about Dutchess County as well. But um, so the Cares Act? And you can correct me, Tim, the Cares Act, the CARES 1 and CARES 2 was more, it was a lower sum of money that we were we were kept much lower. And it was more to save businesses, right, that were hurt losing revenue during COVID. But this is more to a much higher cap. And it's to build and expand businesses in certain. I mean, is that a fair, brief difference between the two?

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I could mince words with you. But I think that's a fair overall characterization.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Okay, and that now, I was concerned, you know, historically, and I've said this before, when government gets involved in, in giving money out to businesses, it's usually by industry, where you go with the state, and the federal government did a lot for restaurants, because they were so hurt during COVID. But now we're getting to \$250,000. That makes me very uncomfortable with the ability to give one business to help them expand. You could literally with \$250,000, helping one business expand, put another business, out of business. And I just think when we're talking about money this big, and now we're we're picking, we're really picking winners and losers. We're not going by industry, airlines, restaurants, banks, were all every single company in that industry had the same ability to get those funds from the government, you're going down a real dangerous path when you're talking about giving somebody \$250,000 without a ton of oversight. One other thing you mentioned, we've done something like this before, and you use the word successful. What, where's the, what do you mean? What is the success to you? And what is some examples of success in the past? With regards to the county being involved in something like this? And I wouldn't mind you opining on my concern about industry, because I've pointed out before that the CARES Act actually went to businesses. And I've talked to, I just talked to a business owner of one of the businesses that was a half a mile away from a business in Saugerties, who was still pissed off about the money that's competitor got.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Let me if I might try to unpack that. You know, I think the first thing about industry specific focus, I understand that that's one approach to delivering support. And when it comes to economic development, and we've certainly used that approach and other program. We've prioritized a set of industries in our off to 2040 strategy. And I think those are industries that we'd like to continue to see supported and strengthened in our communities. They seem to be effective at delivering jobs, delivering quality, high quality jobs that pay living wages. So there's a value to that. But I think the approach here is one that recognizes there is also a value to focusing our investments on the commercial areas and cores within our community that are ultimately where people want to go to shop where people want to, you know, increasingly want to live, they want to dine they want to recreate. So, you know, I think there's a recognition here, which is not unique to us. It's an approach that's been taken throughout the state throughout the country to focus our economic development on those commercial cores. So appreciate the feedback and input. I would say that you know, in In approach here, what we're doing is saying, in this case, it's the geographic focus of the awardees that matters most in terms of driving the economic development outcomes that we want to see, not the industry itself. And so I think that's, that's

why we designed that program, this program, the way that we have, recognizing that these are larger awards, it will be incumbent on the review process and on the management of the grants going forward to ensure that we do take into consideration the impacts that this could have on competition with other businesses, the idea is to lift the the commercial districts, So there certainly would be a sensitivity to not disrupting other businesses in that commercial district. That will be a part of the evaluation and review that the evaluation committee goes through before selecting businesses for award. You know, this is again, modeled after a program at the state level that has been successful. We've seen it used successfully in communities here. The two that come to mind: We had one project in the Accord area that applied for main streets grant. Ultimately, that project wasn't successful, but they then sought funding from New York State Empire State Development. And we're successful there to try to revitalize in a blighted building in that in that Hamlet, that ultimately will add to the commercial strength of that core, and make it a more livable, walkable, commercial destination. We've seen other communities in the county use the main streets program facade for facade improvement programs. And so that's another example that we've seen successful here in Ulster County.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Just wanted to make sure that everyone else had an opportunity to talk here, Joe. Yeah, go ahead.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Just two more concerns. You know, there's language in the state enabling legislation with regards to the IDA. And it's this famous thing that a lot of us talk about, that have issues with some of these PILOTS. And it's the "if not for" language. And it's really important, when government starts giving out money for something, it's easy to say, "Well, they did this, it was a success," if they were going to do that, anyways, it's not a success. It's a handout. So, I haven't heard a lot about the controls and the management of this, we're we're going to ensure that "if not for" language, and and make sure that this is truly something that doesn't hurt another business, really does help grow a business and a type of business that we want to grow. And I hear a lot of words, and phrases that make me think we're still all about tourism. And I think we really got to pump the brakes. Because there's no one, there's no place for anyone to live, every person that travels here. Now we have too many people traveling to Ulster County, to the point where the waitstaff and the truck drivers, and so many other middle class jobs don't even have a place to live anymore. And that's really going to start hurting us when we start losing the few manufacturing and industrial jobs that we have. Because there's nowhere for people to live that are making 20-25 bucks an hour, and then it's a real. Then you're really in a downward spiral when you start losing those jobs, the ones that you really want, in the, you know, in industry, industrial manufacturing, we need more of those. And it just seems like a lot of this approach to economic development and Ulster County, we're still being driven by this tourism, I still don't know how many more walking trails we want to, we want to spend money on because I still don't know where anyone is going to live anymore. And a lot of that is because the people that are coming up here, we're now out of hotels to the point where 5% of our housing stock is Airbnb. And that's all for tourism. Tourism is not necessarily real great paying jobs a lot as well. So I'm just troubled by a lot of things. I know it means well, but I think I just think we're being a little irresponsible with some of this. But I appreciate the you know, that it's, you know, well interest intended.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

If I might I mean, I think that's a really interesting and legitimate point that I think, you know, I think Lisa and I talk a lot about this, this is the challenge of tourism, but it's also something that we not we need to recognize our strengths and often played to our strengths. But I think Legislator Maloney, the the point I would just make is that I think we need to recognize that these amenities or quality of life amenities to for residents who are here, which is important as we want to create a place where ultimately the competition globally these days is not on who has the most natural resources or even who has the best technology. It's who has the people and you know, in and not to take away at all from the struggle that that kind of, you know, pinch on housing and cost of living has I mean, I feel it and I know many people who do and I'm sure lots of us do. But I think we need to be careful to recognize that these quality of life amenities are really what make us competitive as a region for people which is the commodity of the future. And so what I would say is that this program is designed I'd like to strengthen the quality of life in these commercial cores. But ultimately, as you see in the in the outline, which we'll send around, we're also allowing that residential projects and the commercial cores could be eligible with a goal to try to incentivize more residential construction or retrofits in these commercial cores, which not only adds housing, but it adds it in the right places, which are places that are compact, walkable, transit accessible, have the infrastructure. So you know, I take to heart what you're saying, I don't disagree, I think we need to think carefully about those things in programs like this.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I'm just going to chime in here with something that my town government is doing right now we have a job to your point, we have a manufacturing company that has trouble getting housing. So what he has done is he's requested that to the town board where he can actually build housing on, in his facility for people to come and live. And it's critically needed a place right now. up behind the old Burlington, there..

**Director Lisa Burger**

Chairman, it's Fala Technologies.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Fala is, you know, it's actually in front of our town board right now with the request to build housing, on their site for their employees. And I think that that's kind of like what Tim is talking about here where we could probably, you know, work with some of these folks who do need housing. It might be something that we explore in a wider, wider range here going forward. Anyone else have any questions or comments before we move on? Okay, oh, sorry, Chris. Go ahead.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Thank you. I think Legislator Maloney has a good point about often focusing on tourism, when a word like wayfinding can be seen as a tourism word. So people when they visit, know how to get around. But at the same time, if we think about it as how do we get locals to shop at Main Street? How do we get signage to be clear about what is a vibrant Main Street? What is walkable? What is bicycle friendly? That I liked the program because it could be focused on locals?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Just a quick question to but those states that those sounds like that sounds like government. You know, those are government signs and streets. I mean, I'm all for that this is we're talking about giving money to the private sector here, correct. For their own business, signage, or whatnot, that's different than what you just described. And I'm all for what you're saying. You know, and I just like to say that what's going to get people here and keep them here in the future? Is good schools, clean water, green energy, infrastructure and high paying jobs. But that's not what I hear this money is going to be spent for I hear amenities. You know, I don't know if that's the government's job to help businesses with, you know, amenities.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

If I might just clarify...

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Hold on one second. Legislator Hewitt, do you have a comment?

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Thank you. Yeah, I think that's a good point, Legislator Maloney. It makes me realize that RUPCO recently applied for a consolidated funding application with the state in order to create more vibrant, vibrant districts around I think, mostly Kingston, but they are an agency that's helping many businesses across the whole street, work together and collaborate. And so it's not like one businesses will thrive and take off, I think that will help is to have a coordinated effort to make it work.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you, Tim. You had a comment?

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Just to clarify the signage example. You know, I think if you look at Rosendale, which dentists in the planning department worked closely with Rosendale on a Wayfinding and signage program. That's an example of what we're talking about here. It's to supplement normal street signs, to guide both visitors and residents on how to get to local destinations. Just to clarify that and you know, appreciate all the feedback and input this is all helpful, and we are working with RUPCO. They're hoping to get funding award from the state to do something very similar on the Broadway corridor in Kingston, which we would obviously support as a way to augment the efforts that we're proposing here with the Boost for Main Street program.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Any more comments or questions before I call for the vote? Okay, so on resolution number 435. Right. Yeah. All those in favor? Aye. Opposed?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

(inaudible)

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, thank you. So we're gonna move on to 436, which is approving the execution of a contract for \$2 million entered into by Ulster County and the also County Economic Development Alliance, Department of Finance resolution. Oh, that's a typo there resolution 453 2022 sector. Now that's a table on the agenda so it ends at the Department of Finance. A resolution. Sorry, yeah, that was a typo.

**Fawn Tantillo**

Yes that's a typo.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So we're going to end it there with the Department of Finance there. So that's a contract for the what we just discussed. Right. Yeah. So all those... any discussion on it? I'll accept the motion to move it.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Motion.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second, Criswell, any discussion on it before we vote?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Looking around, I'm sorry, what number is what number resolution is this?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

This is for 436. This is the contract for. okay. Yes. That we just discussed with with you, Sita. Okay. Any any comment on the contract? Okay, all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed. Okay, so then we're gonna move on to resolution 453, which is setting a public hearing to satisfy the public participation requirements of the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Department of Economic Development. Motion. Any discussion? All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed. Okay, thank you. Resolution 454 is authorizing a public hearing for the possible transfer of real property owned by Ulster County and located in a town of Rochester to the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Department of Economic Development. A motion for discussion?

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Motion.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Second, Legislator Hewitt. Tim, you want to just give us a little bit of a brief, brief background? I know that I think you went over this one other time with this.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

Yeah, I might have mentioned it before. But this is the resolution that authorizes a public hearing on the potential surplus of this foreclosed commercial and residential property in the hamlet of Accord. This is the old laundromat property which has been subjected to an environmental review and ultimately was deemed free of any contamination issues. So this is moving forward to surplus that property to market it and sell it for potentially redevelopment of commercial and housing uses on the property. It's about three or four acres if I'm not mistaken, right in the hamlet. On Towpath Road. We've we've had expressions of interest, kind of informal expressions of interest, from a number of folks in the community interested in redeveloping the site we feel confident that once it's in UCEDA hands it can market and sell the properly property relatively quickly.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

OK, great. Legislator Hewitt, then Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Thank you. I just want to echo with Director Wiedemann said it's in a very vibrant area of Accord Main Street for Accord, but Accord is starting to take off with a small Accord market. And there's a big project called the Granary that is planning to be a brewery and market and restaurant. And this property is straight across and it would be involved with the rail trail development as well, in that spot.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

This Mr. Wiedemann said there is environmental issues or there isn't.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

There was a long process to determine whether there were environmental issues. The site was ultimately cleared and DEC signed off on it. Dennis, you may have more detail if we want to go into more detail on that.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

When was the last time this the owner paid taxes paid a tax payment on this property?



**Director Tim Wiedemann**

I'm not aware and could find that answer but don't know it off the top my head,

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Because I know getting on the clerk's website, I saw that there was a legal impediment 17 and 18. And then I remembered seeing this property on that list when we when when we were looking into 701 Grant Avenue, which we still haven't got to the bottom of. And I believe this goes back almost as long if not longer than 701 grant Avenue. So we might be talking 10 or 11 years here. There was only two years where I saw there was legal issues. I believe I saw it on the hazardous list when I got the hazardous list going back years ago. So now we have another property. It's almost like a mirror image of 701 Grand Avenue where it didn't pay taxes for 10 years. There was supposedly legal issues. There was supposedly hazardous issues which there wasn't. Obviously we know that the legal impediment thing is probably the same as 701 Grand Avenue which that isn't. What happened here? And now, we want to transfer it to the EDA where we lose all jurisdiction because there's some private entity that I'm sure is perfect for it. No one has an issue here with another 701 Grant Avenue. Can anybody explain from the Executive branch of government? Anyone explain why this was considered hazardous? And then not and then hazardous and then not? And there was legal issues, and then there wasn't. And this property just sat out there for 10-11 years. Can anyone explain?

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So I'm going to go to Comptroller Gallagher, if you don't mind, I'd go to yeah, we'll go to you first. And then we'll go to planner Doyle. I don't see anyone on the executive team here. Who was speaking up, so.

**Comptroller March Gallagher**

Yeah. All right. Thank you. I just want to note that this property has been flagged in our real property tax audit. It is one of the properties that has received similar treatment to 701. I agree with Legislator Maloney's analysis that it does appear on and off the list, the hazardous list as well as having legal impediments cited multiple times, I think this is just another example of a process that requires more oversight, which is, you know, needs to happen for the bulk of properties that are being held in abeyance that should be added to the auction. So you know, from what we can see from the record, there is very clear communications, with attorneys to the Department of the Environment, stating that there really is not a significant environmental risk on the property. And I think, you know, our, hopefully our work will inform you, but I believe there are a number of properties in this category.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Planner Doyle, I'm gonna let Legislator Nolan go first, and then I'll come to you and then Joe will come back to you.

**Legislator Kathy Nolan**

Um, well, Planner Doyle may have better information on this, but I'm just recalling that I heard a presentation from Deputy Director Amanda LaValle, about the need for the county to develop a mechanism to settle some of these issues. And that recently the county has, it has enacted that. I think we actually voted on it as legislators to move that forward. And I think that some of what we may be

seeing is the result of now having a process to get past some of these roadblocks, where there were questions raised and the county didn't have an effective mechanism for making the determination. So I was going to suggest that maybe if it wasn't to this committee that the this committee invite Amanda Lavallo to come and speak on that, unless director Doyle is is prepared to do that, or help us understand that new program.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

We'll go to Planner Doyle.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

Thank you Chair, just to just to back up a little bit in terms of where we are on on some of this work. This was a a site that was actually flagged by the Department of Environment for environmental issues. The Department of Environmental Conservation came in and they tested the site. That's why it was that was why it was held off from going to auction. The site was the site has a lien against it , a DEC lien against it to pay off that and the environmental work that was done, I believe that lien is in the neighborhood of about \$35,000 worth of study work, that's that was done. When the lien was taken and DEC cleared the site, the county did take it for auction. And then what we did is we looked at it and put that the the existing house on the property has four apartment units in it. It's also a, a, an historic house. It's a part of the Rochester Historic District in the hamlet of Accord. So we thought it had an opportunity to use portions of that property for either affordable housing or the county was still looking for some sites for its respite house. And so we asked that it'd be held withheld from the auction relative to that. So that's where we are in this. And then there's been renewed interest from other people because of the economic investment going on in Accord to take a look at redoing that laundry mat. We thought that that was going to actually have to be a tear down. There are there are looks at this with with respect to how we can continue to look at this property for affordable housing purposes or Respite housing purposes, as well as achieve the redevelopment of that laundromat property. And there's been some concept plans out there, but I just want to let the community, the community know that there was an actual study with respect to this and testing done. So there was a real concern with respect to environmental contamination here. And it wasn't until the site was cleared by DEC that we took we took it and as soon it was, as it was cleared. It's my understanding that we we went and foreclosed upon it at that particular time.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Legislator Maloney.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I was just wondering a couple of things, but what year was it flagged and what year was it cleared? And can you provide documentation To that, and any other documentation you have regarding these, because in the last comptroller's report, there was quite a bit of documentation that I have no access to. And I'd love to know what was going on behind them. I'm also very interested in who has contacted the county and shown interest. When was it? When was it first flagged, because we're going back many years that it was deemed environmental, which I assume was when it was flagged. So that's many years ago.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

Yeah, we can we can get you that information. I can't answer the question with respect to who's contacted the county, but we could certainly get you the information in terms of when it was flagged and when the outreach DEC occurred. And when the testing on the site occurred. How do

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

you who told you who told you that businesses have shown people have shown interest in the property?

**Director Dennis Doyle**

The same people that were involved in the granary discussion have indicated it's right across the street have indicated a willingness to take a look at that property on the other side. And that was part of a gateway meeting that we had with the with the granary project, in terms of in terms of their development,

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

This house has been vacant for the last 10 years, or if people have been living in there.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

I don't have a vacancy status with respect to the house and how long it's been vacant.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Were there people ever living in there over the last 10 years?

**Director Dennis Doyle**

I don't have that status, whether it's 10 years or not, I don't I just don't know, I can tell you that we do know that there are apartment units in it.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

Because if we weren't going to foreclose, because of environmental issues, it's alarming if there were people living on the property for all those years. I'd like to I'd love to have the County Attorney and the Commissioner of Finance come in and answer questions about this, where those are basically the only two individuals that have the right not to foreclose. I know no one wants to get to the bottom of \$10 million at 701 Grant Avenue. I was promised we would get to the bottom of it. We're not. We have false statements from the Commissioner of Finance, about it being a legal issue that was debunked later. And now here we go again, and we're just going to pass it along to the EDA, the same individuals that have not foreclosed on all these properties are now going to have no jurisdictional oversight to do whatever they want with the property.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Comtroller Gallagher. Oh, I'm sorry. Legislator Petite had her hand up. I'm sorry.

**Legislator Larua Petit**

Thank you. Two questions. And thank you. Legislator Nolan. I do recall when Director LaValle had made a presentation about funding to check properties. So I'm wondering, was this one of the five properties that we were verifying in advance before we transferred them for public housing use? And the other question is, and I think my eyes are tired, but I'm looking for the the actual parcel the SBL, which I don't seem to see in the resolution itself, so I can have that I'd appreciate it. Is it just tired eyes?

**Fawn Tantillo**

I'll get it for you. Okay,

**Legislator Larua Petit**

Okay, thank you.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, Comptroller Gallagher.

**Comptroller March Gallagher**

Yeah, I did just want to share with everybody that it hasn't paid taxes since 2011. And there's about \$114,000 owed on it.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you.

**Legislator Larua Petit**

So, if there's one of the five properties in the resolution that would that we've been holding? No, it's not.

**Comptroller March Gallagher**

I don't have the answer to that.

**Legislator Larua Petit**

Okay.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

So a real quick, Comptroller Gallagher, you said that you are, you flagged some properties on the environmental list? Is that what we're talking about?

**Comptroller March Gallagher**

Right, we have a number of properties that became identified through our real property tax audit as properties that have been eligible for foreclosure for many, many years and have an inconsistent record in the County Clerk's legal files as to why they have not been foreclosed upon, or why they were not acted upon, you know, in it over that course of a decade or so. So, you know, we're putting together something on all of those properties together. And I hope to have that to you guys soon, you know, the next two months or something? Yeah.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, Director Weidemann.

**Director Tim Wiedemann**

So, I absolutely respect the conversation about kind of backward looking how we got to this situation. I have little to say about that, because it was before my time. But I think the point of this resolution is to begin a process that would culminate in a resolution back before this body, requiring this body to then vote whether or not to actually surplus this property to use it as a reminder that that's one of two methods for us to dispose of property, the other being through public auction. And in this case, I think the the facts that Dennis pointed out and it was actually me who said that there have been others interested in this property and as Dennis pointed out, one of those is a developer that's purchased a property across the street, and has an interest in eliminating an eyesore right next to a property that they're going to invest 10s of millions of dollars in. But there are others that have stepped forward. And if it pleases you, Legislator Maloney, I'm happy to get contact info from those folks, I would expect that they will all make themselves known. When there's an opportunity, if this body proceeds to surplus the property to UCEDA, there would be an RFP process, so there'd be a public transparent process by which they would submit their proposals to purchase the property. Likewise, if this body chooses not to surplus and chooses instead to go to auction, their information would be public at auction, as well. But so just, just a reminder that this is about this particular resolution is about how we proceed now that we have cleared this of environmental concerns and have a property that the county has foreclosed on, has promised to be redeveloped as a part of a commercial district that is seeing renewed investment.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yeah, I'm gonna ask Comptroller Gallagher a quick question, Joe, then I'll come back to you if you don't mind. Um, so Comptroller Gallagher. So you said you flagged some parcels that have inconsistent record to the clerk's office? You know, did this one jump out to you? Is there something special about this? Or is this just one of, you know, I'm guessing I'm trying to get to this, you know, is this a matter of sloppy, sloppy bookkeeping and record keeping? Or do you think that there's something nefarious happening here with these properties? I mean, I want to get to the bottom of this, because we hear it month after month after month, accusations of of some, some nefarious activity taking place in relation to properties that have been surplus and on, you know, forclosable on a county rolls for quite some time, you know, this one pales in comparison. I mean, I mean, I'm sorry, 701 is a different league than this one, it's 100, 100, some thousand bucks over the course of 10 years, right? Or 11 years, whatever it is, right. And I don't think it's in the same league as 701 Grant. However, the deficiencies in the record keeping, and all of that are the same. I don't dispute that, right. However, you know, we do stand a chance to get that money back rather quickly, right, either through UCEDA or through a public hawk. Right. So the fact that UCEDA has the ability to market this, and, you know, take the bids, something to me that is favorable, then go into public auction, because we'll know who those people are, they will be vetted. If we go to public auction, they will not be vetted. Right. And so I'm just trying to get your feel for it. You know, what do you think about that, even though, you know, we know that there are some sloppy record keeping on this particular parcel.

**Comptroller March Gallagher**

So I personally do not object to the transfer to UCEDA that I think that's the purpose of entities like UCEDA it is to be more flexible with the disposition of property. I do think this is a good economic

development opportunity. And you know, I have a soft spot in my heart for economic development. I mean, I want to see these things return to the tax rolls as quickly as possible. I do not see any, at this point, I do not see any sort of nefarious intent on these properties, I would say there's like maybe between 15 and 20, that we were significantly concerned about. I think that it's not just sloppy record keeping, I think that there was generally, you know, there was actually confusion by staff about how these properties should be treated. We do not have a policy that is all encompassing, that deals with these many counties have committees that are made up of multiple people that meet on a regular basis to discuss these properties. And in fact, you know, we have a draft policy that we I think I've shared, but we'd be happy to share again. So I do think there's a way to clean it up. I just think that I want people to know that this is one of those properties, so that if you, you know, you do send it to UCEDA that I'm not coming back in six weeks or seven weeks and saying like, Oh, hey, this was on the list. And you guys are like, wait, what, there are about 15 to 20 properties that are in this weird category, none of them Oh, as much is 701. But it really does add up. I mean, this one's only \$114,000 in back taxes, some of them are more. And it does show a sort of a weakness in us turning these over. And when you add them up, there could be at least an amount that is material to the taxpayer. Right. So yeah, I think we need to change the way that we handle these properties. We need a more comprehensive approach of committee type structure to kind of make sure that things are being birthed off through the process and and I'm glad we're cleaning it up. And I'm also glad that we're talking about it in this context today because I think just moving these properties to see that without acknowledging that there one of the properties that are in this limbo land would be a mistaken you know, act, it would just it's a lost opportunity to talk about, you know, better ways to improve our processes. So I hope that answers the question, I will try to, you know, expedite that. Obviously, it's been a focus of ours. And it's a very big undertaking. I don't know if you know, I've been to town hall in town of Ulster, like looking over Susie Rheb shoulder at how she enters taxes, and it's a big process what we're working on, but I get these properties or an issue for you. And I'm happy to kind of put together a list of just what those properties are that we've identified so far, so that you have them in economic development, sort of the list that, you know, we have that we're looking at. And I'd be happy to share them with the committee and Tim,

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I think it's really important that if we're going to be looking to offload these to UCEDA that we have a full understanding of those specific properties anyway, right. Yes. Deputy Exec Kelly.

**Chris Kelly**

Thank you. Sure. I just wanted to first thank Legislator Maloney, I think these are all, you know, perfectly valid questions regarding process. And I do want to thank Comptroller Gallagher, who has been sorry, my daughter just showed up to who has been instrumental and kind of flagging these properties and inconsistencies in the in the process over time, I think that, in my discussions with her and with other others on our staff is we're trying to get to a point where the pathways will be consistent. So when we present these properties to the legislature in this committee, you'll see the clear paths with each of these properties, whether they're for public use and benefit commercial developments, or what for me-me puppy here. (child's laughter)But it really is, and I'm a firm believer in a good process will kind of answer a lot of these questions and allay concerns, and really move us to a point where after a three year period where somebody becomes in arrears to the county, we're moving on these. Amanda has undertaken a process with ARPA funds, where we now will have the ability to step out and do 10-

15 properties in a year to make that environmental assessment on a rolling basis. And then we won't be in this 10 year window, the regular communication with the legislature will happen. So you know, the questions, while sometimes can be uncomfortable, I'm sure for some of the staff are the right questions to ask. And they push us in the direction we need to be as a county. So I just do I sincerely want to thank you guys for watching. Thanks. Thank you.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Any more questions or comments? Legislator Maloney has his hand up. Go ahead, Joe.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I'd just like to point out that, you know, if this, if this property was putting back put back on the tax role, when it should have been, you're talking about a lot more than \$100,000 in lost revenue, as well. So we can say it's 115. But it's far more than that. It seems like the assessment was quite low as well. There's no environmental issues there. You know, with regards to, you know, 701 Grand Avenue was mentioned, they aren't these are two different properties, that seven, one grand avenue does have a lot more alarming, you know, attributes to it. And I would just like I know, chair that you're on Ways and Means. I don't know how we haven't seen the Commissioner of Finance in Ways and Means. I think we should be calling the Commissioner of Finance and the County Attorney and to answer simple questions. This statement was made about a legal issue. There was no legal issue. You said there I have quotes that were in the paper about legal issues, asked the County Attorney, if we really want to get to the bottom of this, this property and 701 Grant Avenue and maybe others. Why don't we call we can go into Executive Session? Why don't we call the Commissioner of Finance and the County Attorney in and just ask them very simple questions? The Commissioner Finances saying it's the County Attorney. I doubt it's the County Attorney. But let's see what the County Attorney says if we really want to get to the bottom of \$11 million, and maybe more and less taxes. And I don't think we should necessarily move on without getting answers on all of these properties and what happened there it's our job. So, with false statements, manipulated documents, that was all in the Comtrollers report, we we've just acted like this isn't happening. And here we are again, to postpone, ask to postpone while I'm talking about both as if they're one because they're so similar. I'll ask for just a postponement to guarantee that we're going to get to the bottom of all this before and I do think we should have a robust conversation on why we don't go to the tax auction anymore. And we seem to want to transfer so many properties if there's all these capable businesses involved that we now know there's multiple contacting the county to go and pick one seems almost improper.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, so I'm gonna I'm just gonna ask that we get back on track here. This is a public hearing resolution, and I'd like to get back on track on that. I know we've covered a lot of ground gave a lot of leeway in the discussion tonight. And I think that that was fair. However, I think we should get back to the resolution itself. Anyone.. you mentioned that you want to put a motion into postponing?

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

I'll make a motion to postpone.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Do we have a second on the committee? Okay, so there's no second so therefore, we'll be moving on the resolution. So, on resolution 454, which is authorized public hearing, all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed.

**Legislator Joseph Maloney**

(inaudible)

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, thank you. Resolution 455: amending capital project number 334, Kingston railtrail. Pin 875 8.0 for a reimbursement request for the I'm sorry, authorizing the chair of the Ulster County legislator execute agreement certifications, and reimbursement request for the federal aid on behalf of Ulster County with the New York State Department of Transportation for construction and construction inspection, amending the 2022 capital fund budget Department of Planning.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Say that again. (laughter)

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Motion.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Second

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Criswell. Second by Legislator Corcoran. Any discussion? All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? Thank you. Resolution 47 approving the execution of a contract amendment for \$403,918 entered into by the county for Barton and Loguidice, DPC. Department of Planning. I know I missed that name of

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Loguidice.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thanks, Herb. Is there a Motion.



**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Motion.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Criswell, Second. Okay. So, would you mind giving us a little bit of a brief overview on this?

**Director Dennis Doyle**

So, I'm sure thank you. We were we finally have construction go ahead for the Kingston railtrail. It's been a long struggle. Part of it has to do with the fact that we were held up in land acquisition. And we have we now have acquired all the land, we've made the necessary amendments to the state environmental, the state Environmental Quality Review Act was done if we had to redo our environmental work. And so, we anticipate you'll see a contract very shortly from nice dock as well for this for construction. And so, when that happens, we'll be we should let the project hopefully, by the end of this month, or if not, if not early in October, and we should be able to go to construction. We're waiting for final federal, federal highway final approval to let the project in this contract is the construction inspection work associated with that. And there's also money in this contract to make up for overages that occurred because of our necessary work that we had to do with central Hudson and are in our issues associated with land acquisitions. So there's additional design work in here as well and that's reflected in the resolution. Okay.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Yes, I'm sorry, I missed who was first, Herb or Pete?

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Herb, you go ahead,

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

I just wanted to ask what's the overall cost of the project for construction?

**Jake Wedemeyer**

About 2.8.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

Okay. Total project cost.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I just want to if you could remind me where the Kingston Rail Trail is, as opposed to Midtown linear park.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

Sure, it starts at Washington Avenue. And it runs the old O&W railroad. It runs out through and connects into the trail that runs along Route 209. It'll connect in our past the, a tunnel under Route 209 and I just passed the tunnel right in there.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Oh, by Best Western where we're just talking about with this.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

Yeah, that's right. The parking lot will be at Best Western and we'll connect into the existing parking lot on Route 209.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

Got it I thought I just wanted

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Dennis what is the contiguous length of that trail gonna be at that point when this is done.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

Two, about two point I'd like to say it's around two to over two miles.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Wow, that's pretty good.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

I can get you the exact mileage but it's over two miles.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you.

**Director Dennis Doyle**

It may actually be in the resolution.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And it probably is. Any questions or comments? Okay, then I'll call For the vote, all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposedt. All right, great. Thank you. Resolution 458, which is authorizing a public hearing as required under Article 25 AA of the Ag market law regarding an eight year review of the Ag district number four and providing direct notice to affected municipalities.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Move it.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Second.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay. Any questions or comments? Okay, all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? Thank you. So we have resolution 459, which is appointing member to the Ulster County Planning Board for the Town of Kingston.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

I'll make the motion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I'll second it since I represent the town of Kingston. How's that? All those who are any questions or anything? Okay, all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? Resolution number 460, which is reappointing alternate member to the Ulster County Planning Board for the village of Ellenville. I'll move it.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

(inaudible)

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Okay, all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? So we have resolution number 462, which is approving the execution of a contract for \$505,855 entered into by the county for S&O Construction Services Incorporated, Ulster County Community College. I'll accept a motion for discussion.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Motion.

**Legislator Thomas Corcoran**

Second

**Chair Brian Cahill**

And I see we have the President Buckley in attendance. If you'd like to comment on this briefly give us a little bit of background.

**Dr. Alison Buckley**

Thank you very much for the opportunity. We are appreciative of the county support of all of our capital projects. This resolution approves the execution of a contract and the amount of \$505,855 with s no construction services. It is the replacement of the roof top ah back on Hardenburgh Hall. 50% is reimbursable from the New York State Dormitory Authority.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Any questions, concerns? Okay, all those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? Thank you, President Buckley. Appreciate his hanging around for your short time there. Thank you.

**Dr. Alison Buckley**

No, thank you very much.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

A resolution 463 which is designating those to County Department of Tourism as the official Tourism Promotion Agency of Ulster County for the Department of Tourism.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

I make motion.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

I will second the motion because I'm a big fan of tourism. Any any questions or comments? I'm going to ask Director Burger to give us a little bit of a update maybe two minutes if you don't mind.

**Director Lisa Burger**

Certainly, I'm happy to give you a little update. I love New York released their tourism economics numbers approximately two weeks ago and Ulster County Tourism saw 67% growth in visitor spending in the year 2021. So that was over 2020. So we now bring in over 862 million in visitor spending that that's our current number. And that's 124% growth from 2019, which was a pre-pandemic year. So we are doing extremely well. And this resolution designating us as the official tourism promotion agency for the county enables us to participate in I love New York programming and to receive I love New York matching funds dollars. And the we have to have that designation in order to participate in the program. And I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Thank you. Anyone have any questions for Director bird? All right, I'll call for the vote. All those in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Opposed? Okay. So that ends our resolutions. Does anyone have any old business that they'd like to discuss committee on this committee? Okay, any new business you'd like to bring up? Legislator Hewitt.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

I would like to request a presentation at next month's meeting. Should I just speak to you directly, Chair. It's a about should I tell you about it now.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Now you can get you if you want to give us a preview short but that's no problem.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

Some of you may know Henry Gage JR. He's been appointed the new president of the Hemp Industrial Board of New York State and he has a hemp house in Kingston, that during the Ice Storm They didn't have heat, but it maintained a 70 degree ambient temperature because of the thermal mass of the hemp concrete. And he's recommending having a presentation to this committee in order to talk about how we can support him in industrial hemp in Ulster County.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Great. He'll be well, welcome. Okay.

**Legislator Chris Hewitt**

I'll get it on the agenda. Thank you. Great.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Any other comments or questions before we asked for a motion to adjourn? All right. Well, thank you, everyone. I appreciate the feedback. We had a pretty good discussion tonight. And I think that we, you know, make some headway on some of these things in the future and to always, like, always appreciate the time that you folks put into this committee and you know, your comments. Thank you.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

I will make a motion for adjournment.

**Legislator Peter Criswell**

I'll second that motion.

**Committee Members**

All those in favor? Aye. Good night.

**Chair Brian Cahill**

Good night. Thanks.

**Legislator Herbert Litts, III**

Yeah, please, be safe. Stay healthy. Thank you, everybody.