

**Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit Committee
Committee Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 4, 2020 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656,
Meeting ID: 954 2632 7693
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Brian Cahill
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo, Jay Mahler, Laurie Lichtenstein
PRESENT: Legislators Lynn Archer (arrived 6:25), Thomas Corcoran, James Delaune,
Herbert Litts, III, Mary Beth Maio and Abe Uchitelle (arrived 6:30)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Tracey Bartels; Deputy County Executive Marc Rider; Director Sajaa Ahmed and Tony Roser Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT); Director Dennis Doyle and Deputy Director Chris White – UC Planning Department; Alan Macaluso, Director of Information Services; Richard Remsnyder, Director of Tourism; CEO Rose Woodworth, Board Members James Malcom and Richard Jones, Industrial Development Agency; Kevin Smith

Chairman Cahill called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: Motion to Approve the Minutes & Transcript of July 7, 2020

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Delaune

Discussion: None.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Chairman Cahill called upon Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Board Members James Malcolm and Richard Jones and IDA CEO Rose Woodworth to give the committee an update.

See attached transcript.

Resolutions for the August 18, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 232 - Calling For Issuance Of Extended Moratorium On Evictions And Rent Relief During State Of Emergency

Resolution Summary: The resolution calls for a temporary moratorium on evictions, and the enforcement thereof, in Ulster County effective until 30 days after the date the declared state of emergency in New York ends.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Discuss Resolution No. 232**
Motion By: Legislator Maio
Motion Seconded By: Chairman Cahill

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 3: Motion to Postpone
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Delaune
Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Postponed with the sponsor's consent.**

Resolution No. 274 - Authorizing The Required Steps For The Transfer Of Real Property Owned By Ulster County And Located On Golden Hill, City Of Kingston To The Ulster County Housing Development Corporation – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: The resolution identifies the disposition of the property as an “Unlisted Action” and a determination of a “Negative Declaration” under SEQRA, to advance the transfer of the former Ulster County Jail property to the Ulster County Housing Development Corporation

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 274**
Motion By: Legislator Delaune
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 275 - Authorizing The Chair of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Town Of Shandaken For The Direct Invoicing Of Bus Fares For Shandaken Summer Day Camp Students – Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit)

Resolution Summary: This resolution will authorize the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the Town of Shandaken to provide transportation to day camp students and invoice the Town directly for this service.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 275**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 288 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Alindus, Inc. – Information Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution will extend the term of a contract with Cherwell for software maintenance and support from August 31, 2020 to August 31, 2021 for \$12,500. bringing the new total for the contract to \$164,650 since it first began on September 1, 2016.

Motion No. 6: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 288**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 289 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gioia P. Ambrette, Inc. D/B/A Newcastle Communications – Information Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution will extend the term of a contract with Gioia P. Ambrette, Inc. d/b/a Newcastle Communications for maintenance and support of the VoIP telephone system from October 21, 2020 to October 21, 2021 for \$165,550.04 bringing the new total for the contract to \$727,292.95 since it first began on October 22, 2016.

Motion No. 7: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 289**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Delaune

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 290 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way of Ulster County, Inc. – Employment And Training

Resolution Summary: This resolution will amend a contract with United Way of Ulster County to decrease funding for a youth job training program because of the reduction in the number of participants due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion No. 8: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 290**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 291 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. – Planning Department

Resolution Summary: This resolution will approve a feasibility study of the U&D Corridor between Big Indian and Highmount for development of a recreational trail at a cost of \$79,015.75 (100% Federal Funds).

Motion No. 9: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 291**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Delaune

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

New Business

Old Business

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo & Laurie Lichtenstein (transcript)
Minutes Approved: September 1, 2020

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Chairman Cahill 00:01

Lynn may join later, that'll be okay. But since we have a quorum, I don't want to hold everyone else up. It's 6:05 now. We have quite a few resolutions here and we have some guests. So, to respect their time, I'll call this meeting to order and ask that we please stand for the pledge to the flag.

Let's we'll present the flag. Okay. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Thank you very much. I'll accept a motion to approve the minutes from our July 7 meeting at this time.

Legislator Litts 00:57

So moved.

Chairman Cahill 00:59

Second?

Legislator Delaune 01:01

I'll second.

Chairman Cahill 01:03

Okay, all in favor?

Committee Members 01:04

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 01:09

Anyone opposed? Okay.

So then. So, tonight we have I invited the newly formed IDA members. And we have a few of the members from the IDA here with us. And I just thought they could give us a brief overview of how things are progressing since the new board has been formed and, you know, some high level, a high-level overview of how things are going. So, I don't know if you guys have discussed who is going to speak on behalf, but whoever is going to please feel free, and let us know what's going on here.

James Malcolm 01:47

I guess I'll kick it off, if you don't mind Rose and Rick. You know, it's not rocket science for us. We came in and you know, I remember interviewing prior to, to get reappointed to the board, and my feelings then are my feelings now. We are going to change a culture. We're going to reaffirm a relationship with the Legislature, whether it's just that or on the executive level of the county where we want to come home. And this is what we've started off doing. I think we're successful. We've had some meetings with the County Executive, we've had meetings with Economic Development, And it's no secret. It's hasn't been anything other than, you know, discussing what we'd like to see from them. Asking them what they'd like to see from us. A spirit of working together. And so far, so good.

And as far as the board itself, the makeup of the board, I have my own leadership style. And I believe in creating a big footprint. And I think we're doing that, unlike a lot of other people, I was able to take people, based on their skill set, and put them in charge of whether it's finance, or governance, or audit, and let them pick their committee members. Which, you know, everybody wants to be appreciated. And all views are accepted. And they're, I wouldn't say debated, discussed as a better way to put it.

We have a couple of hot button projects out there right now that we are making sure that we take our time and follow the steps and all the protocols so we can get it right, because it's important. We're not in the business of scaring people away. But we're in the business of good sustainable projects. So, whether it's our CEO who is invaluable, Rose Woodruff, or Rick Jones, who's on here, who always brings a good well-educated perspective, as far as the numbers on projects. And, you know, we've been given a lot of information to make judgments. And what we try to do is try to take the emotion and the personal feelings out of it and stick to the mission.

So, Chair, again, it's nothing that's new or recreating the wheel. I want to thank the Chair, Mr. Cahill, for you know, we've had some conversations. You know, he's given me his number. He said, hey, listen, and I've done the same. You know, something comes up, but we need clarification, or we want to share our opinions with each other. That's fine. I think our board is as transparent as you're going to get. We welcome input from the other agencies. And at the end of the day, we're you know, we're the ones who are tasked with making these decisions. So, I'll leave it up to my colleagues if they want to add something or there's any questions.

Chairman Cahill 05:17

Rose, would you like to add?

Rose Woodworth 05:19

I don't know if Rick disappeared.

Chairman Cahill 05:21

I think he did. I think we lost Rick, actually.

James Malcolm 05:25

He'll show up.

Rose Woodworth 05:28

He's far out in the middle of Accord, out there. Right. So, yeah, I think I mean, I think Jimmy pretty well said it. I'm really excited. The board has done a really good job with, as far as, you know, really taking their time to consider projects. And also considering the fact that, you know, we're in a, obviously a totally different climate, totally different situation, and really taking care to make sure that we check and see how the county's doing before we necessarily issue pilots or go forward with any project.

We reached out, like he said, to the County Executive, we've reached out to the Chamber of Commerce. And we've tried to reach out to anybody that we can because the board feels like, you know, we want to hear the opinions of everybody. And we want to, we want to do the best that we can.

And then, right now, we've got our grant program going on. I'm looking forward to the board voting on who's going to get grants next week. So far, I think we have about \$130,000 that people have applied for, and that's at the tune of about \$2,500 each, because I think only two or three of them are our projects. So, it's a lot of businesses. It's a lot of organizations, and we're not even halfway there. Today, I'm met with Ward Todd and will be on his radio show for this weekend to really help to get the word out so that we can help as many as possible.

Chairman Cahill 07:05

Great, thank you very much. Mr. Jones. We lost you for a few minutes there. Mr. Malcolm and Ms. Woodworth spoke. If you would like to add something for a few minutes, feel free.

Rick Jones 07:16

I heard what Rose said. I don't know what Jim said. I apologize.

James Malcolm 07:20

I'll vote for you, Rick.

Rick Jones 07:21

I lost my WIFI connection.

Chairman Cahill 07:24

Yeah.

Rick Jones 07:26

You know, I think that I've been on the board now for two and a half years. And I think it's safe to say that with Jim is as the chair, and two new members, there is a different level of anxiety, if you would, or commitment is a better word. You get to get some things done. You know, first couple of years, were just trying to get some administrative things out of the way.

But it's pretty exciting. I don't know if Jim mentioned we had a... we took a look at our housing policy recently. So, we may have some changes to make to that. We're looking at the projects that are in place right now. And some of them are... most are in compliance, as it turns out. A few are out of compliance. And so, between our attorneys and theirs,

we'll be taking a look at meeting with those that are out of compliance to determine why they're out of compliance. And how do we get them back into compliance? In most cases, it's not meeting the staffing numbers that they're required to meet. And some of that is to be expected, given the current situation, the COVID situation. But we'll be meeting with them over the next, I'm sure next couple of months. So, I think there's a lot going on.

I heard Rose mentioned about the grants that was real exciting, that we're able to get those in place. And Rose, what are we committed about \$300,000? Did you mention that, okay, mostly out of the IDA, little bit out of the CRC. So, that's really great. And I still have a nice, nice sized budget. As the CFO, I'm comfortable, if need be later on, and depending upon our how our fee schedule goes with new projects, we might even be able to do some things in a few months, depending on how long this COVID pandemic scenario lasts. Maybe we can do some additional things with some of the additional money that we have in place. I guess even with the \$300,000 coming off the top we still have about \$1,000,003, \$1,250,000.

So, exciting. You know, enthusiasm is high. I think it's safe to say so is that of the other six members and of Rose and our attorneys. And anytime you could say that attorneys get excited about something, that's a good place to be, and I think they are pretty excited about trying to accomplish. I'd add one more thing, Brian. We were able to bring in some... we brought in the Comptroller's Office representative from his office. Actually, Rose put it together. Rose, would you elaborate?

Rose Woodworth 10:10

Yeah, we had a really great training. It was a full day. I tortured the board from nine to five. But they were actually they were all great. They were all enthusiastic. So, the beginning, the first, the morning was a little bit... probably the most boring because that was me and our attorneys discussing IDAs as a whole, and then our policies, our bylaws, and some of our projects. So, that, you know, it was a real overview of what we are and what we do.

And then in the afternoon, we had the former comptroller, Elliot Auerbach and his team for the Division of Schools and Local Government Accountability. They gave a good presentation, talked about [Paris] reports for 2018 or annual reporting. And talked about compliance issues for IDAs.

And then we had Senator Skoufis, who kind of gave a different point of view. But I think one that was extremely valued about, again, compliance issues, and things that he's looking to get passed for the with the legislature in Albany this year, next year. And he had a lot of really valuable points.

And then we had March Gallagher, as well. And kind of a different point of view about yes, we may be looking at a \$40 million deficit this year. And we were really concerned and really wanted to talk to her. You know, does that mean we should be careful with sales taxes? Does that mean we should be careful with pilots? But... She actually talked to us about some of the projects she thought that wouldn't be such a great IDA project. And now seeing on the flip side, how much sales tax revenue they've created through the years, and how much it's really helped the economy.

And then we also were lucky enough to have Lisa Berger and Evelyn Wright talk about economic development as a whole. So, it was, it was a really nice well-rounded training day.

Fawn Tantillo 12:15

They did it in-person in the chambers too.

Chairman Cahill 12:18

Right. Well, that's great. I just want to take a moment and thank you folks, because the members of the board, this is a volunteer board, and they spent a lot of their own time doing this work, you know, at their own expense. And, you know, it doesn't go unnoticed by me. And I just wanted to say thank you for your time and your effort. And, you know, I'm really looking forward to the next couple of years here where we can see great progress going with the economic development and cooperation with the IDA in the county. Thank you very much.

Rose Woodworth 12:51

Thank you.

Chairman Cahill 12:52

You guys are welcome to hang around, but we're going to move on to resolutions now. You feel free to leave or stay tuned. Okay, so we're going to move on to the first group of resolutions.

The first resolution is resolution 232: Calling For Issuance Of Extended Moratorium On Evictions And Rent Relief During State Of Emergency.

Fawn Tantillo 13:19

I heard somebody say they were moving it. Did I?

Chairman Cahill 13:27

Mary Beth is moving it. Is there a second? I'll second it for discussion here so we can get the thing rolling here. Anybody on the committee want to discuss before we go to Legislator Bartels. Okay, go ahead, Tracey. Thank you.

Legislator Bartels 13:44

Thank you. Thank you, and thanks for moving it for discussion. I'm going to ask. again... I'm going to ask that we postpone it, but I may end up having to withdraw it. I feel really strongly about this resolution. I'm sorry, I wasn't able to be here last month to talk about it. But so, if I could just take a moment and give you some background.

I was trying to look for best models of legislation that address this issue and something was sent to me actually from a national group, but it turned out that what they sent me was happened to be from Kingston. And I put it in initially, pretty close to verbatim to Kingston's policy, which was passed the Kingston City Board, City Council.

The first problem with it as is, is that it's in as a policy, which it obviously can't stand as a policy if we were to undertake anything would have to be as a local law. But the bigger problem is that it may be a certain amount of wishful thinking on my part, and potentially on Kingston's part as well, in that we're definitely stepping into state authority.

So, I've been trying, I actually reached out to Deputy County Executive Wright, because I heard that there was some work happening on a similar background. She said it wasn't happening in the Housing Commission, but we, you know, we shared concerns about where, where we, we see the possibility of this going, particularly for renters. What I think is so great about this piece of legislation is that it does protect landlords to the extent that once the moratorium does get lifted, payments have to be current. That said, we can only do what we can do.

So, what I'm going to look to, to potentially bring back is either a memorializing resolution, which we know only has so many legs. Or possibility of a home rule request. Ithaca is doing some really kind of out there things. And that they did that through a home rule request and some changes in their local authority.

So, again, I don't I don't know what we're going to be able to do. But I think we really have to be thinking outside the box, because very soon I think we're going to see, potentially, and this is a committee that knows about this well, but potentially thousands of people finding themselves evicted, both because of back rent that's owed, but also because there's a lot of pressure on the housing market now. So much so that housing stock is going to be put on the market rather than continue to rent. So, I just worry for so many of our residents. And hopefully I'll have something concrete. But if we could just postpone this for now, I'm likely to pull it, and bring it back something different.

Chairman Cahill 16:51

I'm good with that. So, we'll keep this, and we'll bring it back next month, or in some form, maybe, maybe not right?

Legislator Bartels 16:58

Yeah. And if anyone on the call committee wants to reach out to me, I'm happy to, you know, to, to collaborate on ideas in order to move something forward something that can create some kind of protection.

Chairman Cahill 17:10

Great. Thank you very much.

Legislator Bartels 17:14

This motion to postpone.

Legislator Litts 17:17

I'll make a motion to postpone.

Legislator Delaune 17:20

I'll second it.

Chairman Cahill 17:22

Okay. All in favor?

Committee Members 17:23

Aye.

Legislator Litts 17:24

I just want to make, I did want to make one comment, though. I mean, we're concerned about housing and having housing stock. But if landlords can't keep up their payments and the landlords cannot pay their taxes, everything gets in default, and then we don't have the housing stock. There's nothing for people to rent because it's been foreclosed upon.

Legislator Bartels

Can I respond to that?

Chairman Cahill

Feel free?

Legislator Bartels 17:54

Yeah, thank you. Yeah. And I hear you Herb, and I'm concerned for landlords too. You know, our family's been in the position of being landlords over the course of time. So, I know that that landlords face pressures as well, What... again, the wishful thinking of this legislation required that once the moratorium was lifted, that landlords be getting regular payment, or, or the exception wasn't going to be made.

So, if you've ever gone through an eviction proceeding, you know, if you are going to evict someone, that could take months of continued non-payment. This, this proposed policy would have required that landlords were getting their month-to-month rent and that a plan was put in place for back rent, which was the only reason it struck me as being protective of both.

I think that's probably what the, you know, the state is struggling with right now, as well. Is that there's, you know, there are a 1,000, a million circumstances that could come up, and each one is unique. So, when you try to paint this broad picture, to create a protection other than providing financial resources to pay rent. But in order to solve the problem in Ulster County, the problem that I think we're going to see, it's going to take so much more money than we have in this already stressed environment, even in a great environment. You know, I know that we put together, the Executive put together proposal that has some rental assistance, but you know, it's \$100K and something thousand dollars, how many people can that help and for how long?

Chairman Cahill 19:32

It's like a month a month support, really?

Legislator Bartels 19:34

Exactly, and the cost of mass homelessness is going to be pretty dynamic. I mean, it's going to its going to have a huge cost on services, etc. So, I think we all have, we have to, we just have we have to try to struggle to through thinking what the best practices are. I mean, at this point, I know that the Executives Office is looking at what they can do, or what we as a county could do in order to provide for the for the increased homelessness that we're expecting. That's where we are at versus preventing the homelessness. Now we're saying, okay, how, what space can we provide? Because we don't have enough right now.

Legislator Cahill 20:19

Right.

Legislator Bartels 20:20

So, again, I'm open. I'm open to the tough discussion. And I welcome everybody's comments between now and then and I'm going to continue to do research and see if there's something that we can bring forward as a county.

Chairman Cahill 20:34

Well, thank you very much, Legislator Bartels.

Fawn Tantillo 20:37

Mr. Chairman, Legislator Archer is with us now.

Chairman Cahill 20:41

Yeah, thank you.

Legislator Bartels 20:42

Dennis had his hand up. I don't know if you, sorry.

Chairman Cahill 20:47

Yeah, go ahead, Dennis.

Dennis Doyle 20:49

Thanks, Legislator Cahill, appreciate it. Just a couple of points relative to the resolution 232. You did mention the county's emergency running assistance program. We did move \$177,000 from our Community Development Block Grant funds into Emergency Rental Assistance. We have, I think the number is 53 families that have signed up and qualified outside the City of Kingston for that, and they will pay three months' rent, up to \$1,000 a month. So, that's the first thing. It's been successful.

We do have some more money to move, should that need arise. What we're waiting for is the state just stood up \$100 million-dollar Rental Assistance Program, itself. So, we're looking to see what that brings relative to that... the need in Ulster County for that, and how many Ulster County folks can sign up for that particular program, as well. We should have some data on that, I would say probably within the within a couple of weeks, but that's a fairly large program.

In addition, the state has about \$29 million of Community Development Block Grant funds that it got from the CARES Act that it hasn't distributed to what we call non-entitlement counties, of which Ulster County is one. So, we have had at least beginning conversations with the Office of Community Renewal about the use of that funds and about the needs in Ulster County.

The thing that just happened is OTDA just released an Emergency Solutions Grant money for non-entitlement counties. Ulster County got about three quarters of a million dollars. That program, for reuse of those funds, essentially had to be back, it has to be signed by the Commissioner of Social Services. It has to go back to the state I believe, by this by last Friday, it went back to the state. We looked at, we work with the Continuum of Care, the Commissioner, and others to establish lead agencies to have a conversation about what the appropriate use of those funds are. And in essence, they are literally trying to make sure that we have enough funds for homeless housing moving forward into the fall.

And last but not least, is to take a, I shouldn't say a substantial, but some of that money, and move it towards helping the Legal Services of Hudson Valley avoid evictions. So, we've essentially moved some of that money, that the original... I haven't seen the final application, or what the commissioner signed, but the original thought was we're going to move some money into, and working with the Office of Legal Services, to essentially, help avoid evictions that are not legitimate.

So, those are what's out there right now. We certainly recognize the fact that... and I know the commissioner recognizes the fact that there's a potential for significant amounts of change.

One of the things that I think was important with respect to the comments, in terms of the need for landlords. Right now, the supply of housing in Ulster County is at an all-time low. And one of the things that's happening is the rental problems have exacerbated because the rents are now higher than what we call the HUD fair market rent. So, we have

individuals that essentially have Housing Choice Vouchers, what we used to call Section 8 Vouchers, that are out in the community actively looking for partners, actively looking for placement, for apartments, where the government will pay the fair market rent and they only have to pay 30% of their income, regardless of what that income is, relative to those rents. What's happening is, is that the apartments at fair market income are just not available.

So, there's many individuals, over 100 individuals right now, running around, basically trying to find a place to live where the government will pay 100% of their rent, if it's at the fair market level, and they can't make the connection with the landlords. So, whatever we do, we need to understand that while they've been vilified in the past for, for, for maybe for, for legitimate reasons, the idea of what we're going to do with respect to landlords, and how we're going to treat that, and how we're going to bring housing stock back into production is critical.

One of the most recent studies in the City of Kingston show that there are over 100 to 150 units in the City of Kingston that are currently vacant and not used. Those are those are things that we really need to think about how to do and it's some of the things that are under conversation right now with the housing committee. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Cahill 25:38

Hey, I'm using my wife's computer tonight. So, I'm getting used to where I find everything. So, bear with me as I go through all this. Again, thank you, Legislator Bartels, for your effort on this. It's something that obviously, you know, it's right in our radar right now and something we'll be dealing with for the foreseeable future. So, thank you and we look forward to hearing more about this in the future.

Alright, so we're going to move on to Resolution Number 274, which is awesome, which is: Authorizing The Required Steps For The Transfer Of Real Property Owned By Ulster County And Located On Golden Hill, City Of Kingston To The Ulster County Housing Development Corporation – Department Of Planning.

I'll accept a motion.

Legislator Litts 26:21

Motion.

Chairman Cahill 26:22

Motion and seconded (Delaune). Okay. Any discussion on this? I think we all know that, you know, the basis of this is to get the ball rolling so that we can form the LDC and get this whole process moving forward. This is a legal requirement that we have to do. And there's a public hearing on this coming up too, right? That's correct. Yeah, yeah. Okay. Anyone have any other discussion who's on the phone there? I'm sorry.

Fawn Tantillo 26:55

And we find out the name of the caller at 0710

Richard Remsnyder 27:00

This is Rick Remsnyder, I apologize.

Chairman Cahill 27:02

No, that's okay, Rick. No, that's fine. Thank you. Yeah, there was a mix-up. Legislator Bartels pointed out today that the weekly update had one time and our agenda has a different time. And so, the weekly update is the one that went out to the public. So, we have to start at six. In the future, we'll make sure that they match. Sorry about that.

Okay, any discussion on 274 while we're here? Okay. All in favor?

Committee Members 27:36

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 27:37

Opposed? Okay, thank you.

275, which is Authorizing The Chair of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Town Of Shandaken For The Direct Invoicing Of Bus Fares For Shandaken Summer Day Camp Students – Department Of Public Transportation. I believe that they pay 50%, or something like that. Is that correct, Sajaa?

Sajaa Ahmed 28:01

They pay \$1.30 per ride. And we've already started this service. So, it's just to make sure we can add this revenue source to the budget. And we worked with the Town Supervisor, Supervisor Stanley was great. We worked on a COVID plan that conformed to the Department of Health guidelines, which was challenging, but also interesting for us to see how it would work. And it's been working out really great. We have two drivers that kind of handle it. And we've received some extra training on how to socially distance. And I have to applaud the counselors for making sure these kids, who have really been homebound for the past six months almost, can actually get out. And Shandaken is one of the few towns that is doing day camp at all.

Chairman Cahill 28:54

All right, right. Anyone have any other questions about this resolution or comment?

Legislator Litts 29:02

I'll make a motion. I'll move it.

Chairman Cahill 29:04

Is there a second?

Legislator Maio

Second

Chairman Cahill

Second by Legislator Maio? All in favor?

Committee Members 29:11

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 29:12

Any opposed? Thank you. Resolution 288: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Alindus, Inc. – Information Services. So, I'm not quite sure what that is.

Alan Macaluso 29:32

Hi, this is Alan from Information Services. That is our Cherwell ticketing system. This is what is used for submitting tickets to for various IT services. And it also has some interfaces with the public safety population, and some custom interfaces for that population, and Department of Social Services. It's essentially, for IT service requests. Like a help desk kind of support? It's a ticketing system that allows us to do tracking of lifecycle and assets, and ticket management, and workflow, and assignment of onboarding requests

Chairman Cahill 30:09

Gotcha.

Alan Macaluso 30:10

Etc., etc. Everything having to do with the break, fix, IT issues, networking, you know, security ITS, etc., etc. So, in the end, can you generate reports from this to determine, you know where you're, you know when I'm going to say weak spots, but where the trouble spots tend to be?

Chairman Cahill

Exactly.

Alan Macaluso

That's one of the key features of the tool that it gives us some metrics that we can say we need to shore up this aspect of IT operations where spending a lot of time doing X, Y, and Z. How can we fine tune our onboarding request, for example, because we know they get hung up in this particular spot. So, those types, the reporting capabilities, of the software is quite rich. And we can do exports to like Microsoft Power BI if we need to do more, more robust reporting, but that's one of the capabilities that it does provide. And it's one thing that we do use on annual reports to kind of get a sense of how we're doing from year to year.

So, just some highlights about this. So, the renewal for this is about a 9.8% increase over last year, \$12,900, last year was \$11,700. That's really just support and maintenance of the software. Just as a highlight one of the things that we did to kind of save some of our operating expenses around our ticketing system is that previously had been hosted externally with a vendor. So, they had, they had their own hosting cost, and we had to provide a dedicated circuit, VPN connection between our facility in South Manor, to Denver, Colorado, that was a significant additional cost. So, we brought that... and there was also some performance issues that we kept having with the hosted application. So, we brought it in house.

So, it's now hosted on the Information Services, hosted at South Manor. It gives us a lot better performance. It gives us better access to sort of the database behind the scenes if you do a number of experiments, and with more rich and robust reporting that I mentioned, because it's in-house, we have that kind of capability. What we're paying for now is just more of like the licensing of the software itself. And, and so, one thing I wanted to mention is when we brought this service in house, our overall expenses were reduced by approximately \$8,000 year over year from [inaudible]. But even just a little side note that that's essentially what Alindus is.

And this I guess the revised contract amount is upwards of \$164,650, which is really just implementation costs from the previous years. And from the previous years that included the hosting and VPN tunnel, which as I mentioned, now is has been decommissioned. So now it's just software maintenance from September of this year through the end of August of next year

Chairman Cahill 33:05

Do they do they provide any training for our county employees with this or just like booklets or web pages, that kind of thing?

Alan Macaluso 33:11

They do. But we provide a lot of the training that is necessary for our county constituents. We have a lot of deep experience, personally with our team. So, if there's any training that needs to get done, we do it ourselves. I mean, one of the things that's also useful that we use it for is for alerts for when COVID-19 hit, we post a lot of our own internal training documentation up there, videos that'd be created. So, it becomes kind of like a one stop shop for anything having to do with maintenance, the support of our county employees and their various constituents.

Chairman Cahill 33:43

Great. Thank you.

Legislator Litts 33:45

I'll move the resolution.

Chairman Cahill 33:46

Is there a second?

Legislator Delaune 33:49

Second.

Chairman Cahill 33:51

All in favor?

Committee Members 33:52

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 33:54

Anyone opposed? Thank you very much. I appreciate your time there. That was a great explanation.

Resolution 289: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gioia P. Ambrette, Inc. D/B/A Newcastle Communications – Information Services. This is Allen again, so...

Legislator Litts 34:18

I'll move it for discussion.

Chairman Cahill 34:20

We have a second?

Legislator Maio

Second.

Chairman Cahill

Okay. We have a second. Okay. Go ahead. Thanks, Adam.

Alan Macaluso 34:24

Sure. So, this is the renewal, one-year renewal of service and support for our voice system. Over time the contract has been has evolved to include like voicemail services and support that was not previously covered on previous contracts. So, the amendment amount for is for October 22 of this year to October 21 of the following year, \$465,550, which is a zero increase from this year's amount. The total revised contract after demand would be \$727,292 and change

Just as a reference, the Newcastle VoIP System was originally implemented in 2013. So, we're going on to... How many years is that? Almost seven, going out to eight years. And the contract, right now, for the county, overall county VoIP system this has to do with our remote and on-site support that we get from Newcastle, which we do use pretty regularly. They're very responsive. They also manage services for the actual call center software. They manage the appliances that are on-site. There's also some software maintenance that comes along with that. Office Watch, which is how we can keep track of call volumes and we're calls are being spent and how we do... how we can understand how calls are being made. How various departments are utilizing the service, after hours support, etc., and voicemail and technical support for the overall system itself.

Chairman Cahill 36:11

Is there an instant messaging aspect to this? Are you guys just... what do you use for that in the county?

Alan Macaluso 36:18

Yeah, Newcastle does provide some additional sort of what they call collaborative services, like instant messaging, collaboration software

Chairman Cahill 36:27

Like Slack or something like that?

Alan Macaluso 36:30

It is really pathetic, actually. For some of the stuff that we get out of Microsoft Teams, which is, you know, separate conversation, which is a product that is sort of built into our Office 365 product suite. It's hands down superior to what Newcastle provides. So, in fact, and when we're looking at very seriously looking at... I mean, I don't you may, some other phone may have experienced VoIP-related performance issues over the last six months due to COVID-19, and some of the dependencies, and the impact and usage of the voice system over the last six months. There's some... it's showing its age. And it's showing its age from both the hardware perspective, some of the hardware is old, some of it's not supported, as easily supported. And just the industry is moving in another direction that Newcastle is struggling to stay on top of.

Unfortunately, because there's a lot of hardware dependencies that we're trying to understand and tease out. But we're aggressively looking at cloud-based solutions to help kind of pull us out of these hardware dependencies, give us some capabilities that we just don't have the Newcastle system. And also give us some features that are not available in a

system like Newcastle. Like for instance, some of the newer systems, voice systems, in retrospect with COVID-19 where Newcastle... the Newcastle system could have been... What I should say, a modern VoIP system would have been really superior was to be able to take your phone, off your desk, and go home and plug it in and wake up like it's on the county network. So, those kinds of scalable capabilities is ideal in a situation like COVID-19, but it doesn't have to be COVID-19

But I know Steve Peters, from the emergency management, was talking about this scaling up for the hurricane. If there was a true issue, they could have taken a pile of phones, stood him up somewhere and they would be able to have a VoIP service somewhere else, right, in a physical location, as long as there was internet access

So, we're aggressively looking at that. I mean, obviously, there's some cost analysis that needs to get done, but we're aggressively looking at it. But to date, I mean, our support from Newcastle has been really great. As far as a professional service. It's just that the hardware and the platform is showing its age.

Chairman Cahill 38:57

Right.

Alan Macaluso 38:57

We're looking at some alternatives.

Chairman Cahill 39:00

Well, thank you very much. Anyone have any questions in regard to the voice over IP stuff? Okay. Thank you. All those in favor?

Committee Members 39:11

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 39:12

Anyone opposed?

Okay, we're going to move to resolution 290. Now, I believe, right? Yep. 290, which is: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way of Ulster County, Inc. – Employment And Training.

Chairman Cahill 39:33

So, does anyone want to move for discussion or do we just one vote?

Legislator Litts 39:37

I'll move for discussion.

Chairman Cahill 39:39

Second. (Mary Beth Maio) Okay. Is there any discussion?

Legislator Uchitelle 39:44

Never seen an amendment to reduce a contract.

Chairman Cahill 39:47

Yeah. Right. Well, is it? Is it reducing it?

Legislator Uchitelle 39:52

Or is that different one?

Chairman Cahill 39:54

No, I think it's a different one. I think this...

Legislator Uchitelle 39:55

Okay.

Chairman Cahill 39:56

Yeah. Yeah, I'm not quite sure what the training is, but we can probably, if Marc might be aware of the... Marc, are you aware? or Chris White? Are either of you aware what this is?

Chris White 40:10

I don't have any...

Deputy Executive Marc Rider 40:11

I'm trying to pull it up. Sorry. Hold on.

Chairman Cahill 40:14

Let me see. I have it here. I could probably. I just didn't know if you guys know off the top of your head.

Legislator Uchitelle 40:23

Yeah, it says, this is 290. It says amendment one, decreased funding, reduced number of participants.

Chairman Cahill 40:29

Oh, yes. Right. I remember this now.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider 40:34

This is the Summer Youth Employment program, correct?

Chairman Cahill 40:36

Right. Right.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider 40:37

Because of COVID, we had less, unfortunately, less participants than we normally would have.

Chairman Cahill 40:44

Right. Okay. Well, this is the right one, Abe. It's not often we reductions. Alright, so, I think we'll call for the vote. All in favor?

Committee Members 40:55

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 40:56

Opposed.

Okay. And then the last resolution tonight would be Resolution Number 291, which is: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. – Planning Department. I believe that's for the extension of the rail trail. Is that what that one is?

Legislator Litts 41:19

Move it for discussion.

Legislator Delaune 41:21

Second.

Chairman Cahill 41:22

Okay. Chris, go ahead.

Christopher White 41:26

This is a study that is for the most western part of the corridor. So, it doesn't connect to the Ashokan Rail Trail. It's between High Mount and Big Indian in the Town of Shandaken. It's a five-mile area that was designated for conversions trail. And what this is, it's a federally funded study that we're doing, basically to see what it would take to make that into a trail. You know, it will assess where our wetlands are. It will assess what the current condition of the structures are. There's two major bridges. And it will also just look at where the trail head should be. We're not sure where this thing would begin and end. I'm looking at logical termini for the trail.

Chairman Cahill 42:11

Okay, and somebody else is paying for it. So, I guess that's good news too, right?

Christopher White 42:16

Yeah, it's 95% federal and then 5% my time.

Chairman Cahill 42:20

That's great.

Christopher White 42:21

No, county cash.

Chairman Cahill

Great.

Fawn Tantillo 42:22

And my screens telling me Rick Remsnyder was speaking. I don't know if he...

Chairman Cahill 42:27

I think he took out some background noise. Okay, go ahead, Chris.

Richard Remsnyder 42:34

I'm still here.

Legislator Litts 42:34

Brian.

Chairman Cahill 42:35

Yeah, go ahead, Herb.

Legislator Litts 42:36

All right, Chris. You know, the D&H, or the Delaware and Hudson wanted to come down a way from where they are at High Mount now. Is that going to be also included in the study?

Christopher White 42:51

We have an agreement with them right now that allows them to come down and have a station in High Mount in Ulster County. So, we, you may remember we negotiated and signed that agreement about a year and a half ago. So, this will take into account how this dovetails with their new station. Which I think was delayed because of COVID. They really, they haven't operated or done much maintenance. But I know that at some point, they're going to bring their train back from Arkville, to the bottom of Belleayre Mountain. And that's probably where we'd have a combined trailhead to access the trail. Yeah.

Legislator Litts 43:31

So, we'll be part of the Barton & Loguidice assignment to review all of that as part of this report?

Christopher White

Yes. Yeah.

Chairman Cahill 43:43

Any other questions? Okay, all those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 43:50

Opposed.

Okay. So, then we're going to go on to old businesses or any old business that anyone wants to bring up or like to discuss.

I just want to comment, Rick, that I got the travel guide, and I think it's excellent. Actually. It's very, very good. Um, picked it up at Adams the other day.

Richard Remsnyder 44:10

Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman Cahill 44:11

Yeah, it was very good, very informative, a lot of stuff in there. And it's pretty, pretty current actually, it has a lot of, you know, "call about COVID before you go stuff" in there, you know, which is kind of surprising at this point, you know, but it was a very good. Very well done, very well put together.

Richard Remsnyder 44:30

Thank you very much appreciate that.

Chairman Cahill 44:32

Any new business? Okay, Legislator Litts. I'll accept a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Litts 44:41

So moved, sir.

Chairman Cahill 44:43

Second?

Legislator Corcoran 44:46

Second.

Chairman Cahill 44:47

Okay. All in favor?

Committee Members 44:48

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 44:50

Okay, everyone, thank you very much for a very quick meeting.