

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

DATE & TIME: October 6, 2020 – 6:00 PM or immediately following the Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee

LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 926 5973 1213

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Brian Cahill

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Victoria Fabella, Fawn Tantillo, Jay Mahler, Laurie Lichtenstein

PRESENT: Legislators Lynn Archer, Thomas Corcoran, James Delaune, Herbert Litts, III; Mary Beth Maio, Abe Uchitelle and Legislative Chairman David Donaldson

ABSENT: None

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Albert Bruno, Peter Criswell, Tracey Bartels and John Parete; Special Guest, Rick Remsnyder, retired Director of Tourism; Deputy County Executives Marc Rider, John Milgram Evelyn Wright; Timothy Weidemann, Director of Economic Development; Lisa Burger, Director of Tourism; Alan Macaluso, Director of Information Services; Dennis Doyle, Director of UC Planning; Sajaa Ahmed Director of Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT); Dan Ahouse, Brad Jordan and Joseph Bonura, Kingstonian Development, LLC; several callers

Chairman Cahill called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He explained that the committee was not accepting any public comment and would be moving Resolution No. 328 to the end of the agenda to allow participants with other business to leave the meeting if they choose to.

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

Motion Made By: Legislative Chairman Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: None.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio, Uchitelle and Donaldson

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 8

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Resolutions for the October 20, 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 Archer
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: Legislator Tracey Bartels, sponsor of the resolution, requested it be postponed. (See attached transcript)

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Postpone Resolution No. 232 with sponsors approval**
Motion By: Chairman Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio, Uchitelle and Donaldson
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Postponed with the sponsor's consent.**

Resolution No. 333 - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Education Department's Adult Career And Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation And Employment And Training For Reimbursement Through The Work-Try-Out Program For Federal Fiscal Year 2020 And Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget – Office Of Employment And Training

Resolution Summary: This Resolution would authorize the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a Work Try-Out Agreement Form and any amendments with the New York State Education Department's Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCESS-VR) and amend the 2020 County Budget by adding \$8,120 in State Aid for Part-time pay and benefits.

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 333**
Motion By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio and Donaldson
Voting Against: None
Abstaining: Uchitelle
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Abstaining: 1
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 348 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$23,474.50, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Assetworks LLC – Information Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution would approve an contract amendment to extend the term of agreement from 11/30/2020-11/30/2021 and increase finding an additional \$23,474.50 for AVL fleet management software maintenance and support using 100% county funding. (Prior terms 6/1/2010-11/30/2020 – Prior Amount \$429,684.44)

Motion No. 5: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 348**
Motion By: Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio, Uchitelle and Donaldson
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 349 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$68,778.39 Entered Into By The County – Tyler Technologies, Inc. – Information Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution would approve the 9th contract amendment to extend the term of agreement from 12/06/2020-12/06/2021 and increase finding an additional \$68,772.39 for MUNIS payroll and human resources software maintenance and support using 100% county funding. (Prior term 12/07/2011-12/06/2020 – Prior Amount \$490,843.32)

Motion No. 6: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 349**
Motion By: Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Archer, Corcoran, Delaune, Litts, Maio, Uchitelle and Donaldson
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 8
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Resolution No. 328 - Approving The Deviation By The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Relating To The Terms And Conditions Of A Certain PILOT Agreement To Be Entered Into Between The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency And Kingstonian Development, LLC In Connection With The Kingstonian Development, LLC Project, And The Undertaking Of The Project Under The Agency's Housing Policy

Resolution Summary: This Resolution would acknowledge notification of the proposed deviation from the Agency's Policy, wave any formal notice from the Agency of the proposed deviation from the Agency's UTEP Policy, approve the payment terms and other conditions to be contained in the PILOT, approve the Project by the Agency for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of the Agency's Housing Policy and authorize the Chairman to execute and deliver the PILOT Agreement.

Motion No. 7: **Motion to Approve Resolution No. 328**

Motion By: Legislator Corcoran

Motion Seconded By: Legislative Chairman Donaldson

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Cahill, Corcoran, Litts, Maio, and Donaldson

Voting Against: Archer, Delaune and Uchitelle

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 3

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted**

Old Business:

New Business:

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislative Chairman Donaldson

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 8:03 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo & Laurie Lichtenstein (transcript)

Minutes Approved: November 5, 2020

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Chairman Cahill 00:01

Well then, I'll call this meeting to order. Can we please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance?

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 for all... liberty and justice for all. Sorry, I screwed it up. Thank you. Please be seated.

So, I'll accept a motion for the approval of the September meeting minutes.

Chairman Donaldson 00:46

I'll move it.

Legislator Corcoran

Second.

Chairman Cahill 00:50

All in favor?

Committee Members 00:52

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 00:53

Anyone opposed? Thank you.

So tonight, we're going to take a little bit break from our normal business. I would like to take a moment to recognize a former retired county employee who was with the county for a number of years and had a significant impact on the county. I was in the Legislature quite a while ago. And when we were there, when I was there, the first time, and Chairman Donaldson was the Chairman. And I was a rank and file. And we had the opportunity to fill some of the departments. We brought in a couple of folks to run the tourism department. Hallie Arnold, who was a reporter at the Freeman and Rick Remsnyder, who was a golf reporter at the time. And we brought them in to head up our tourism department. Unfortunately, Hallie Arnold passed away almost, like less than six months after we brought her on, she got cancer and passed away very quickly. And fortunately for us, Rick was right there to pick up the pieces and move forward. That was what, 14 years ago, Rick?

Richard Remsnyder 02:00

Right. That's correct, sir.

Chairman Cahill 02:02

Yeah. So, I just wanted to take a few minutes to recognize Rick, through this committee, for his contribution to the county and what he's meant. So, I'll just read this. Well, actually, I'm going to say a little bit about this before I read this one, if you wouldn't mind.

Okay. Thanks. You know, so when we first, when we first came aboard, you know, the tourism, you know, was pretty normal, it was repetitive. And it was always focused over the same things year after year after year, Rick recognized that there was much more out there, and that Ulster County had a much wider appeal. And not just within the next neighboring counties, but actually nationally, and in some places globally. He took what was, you know, a local tourist destination, or tour stop, I should say for, you know, specific places and turn the entire county into a tourist destination that's known from coast to coast at this point. You know, people know, the small towns in Ulster County, they know, uptown Kingston, like it's this big, special thing across the country.

And a lot of those things are attributable to what Rick and the work that he did. While he was at the helm of the tourism department. Rick is personally responsible from taking Ulster County from just a kind of like a sleepy place to get away in the sticks to an actual tourist destination that people are flocking to. It's a complete difference from when he came on board to where we are today.

And I just couldn't let Rick retire without taking a couple of minutes to express, you know, my personal gratitude from the two times that he served on committees where I was at, in the legislature, and commend

him for his long term and dedication and success to the county. If anybody else has anything they'd like to add feel free.

Chairman Donaldson 04:03

Yeah. I would like to add something.

Chairman Cahill 04:07

Go ahead, Chairman Donaldson. Sure.

Chairman Donaldson 04:09

Yeah. It's been a pleasure working with Rick. And I knew a little bit before we ended up appointing him. And of course, he is one of my best appointments. I loved working with him. And he's always a gentleman and a just a pleasure to work with. And he's done such a great job. And, Brian, you stole a lot of my thunder that I wanted to say. So, I don't get back there repeated.

But as I pointed out, you know, Rick, came on 14, maybe 14 and a half years ago was correct. That's correct. Yeah, it was about 14 and a half years ago we came on and he's just really changed this whole thing around. And as you guys, as Brian pointed out, we are a destination area now. We are not just a sleepy town that's, oh, let's get away for... or it's a cute little place up in Kingston or Esopus. No, it's a place that people want to go to, because they can do a lot of things. There's trails, there's, there's rails, there's all kinds of stuff that can happen in here. And the world knows it. And a lot of most of that is because of Rick. But thank you, Rick, I really appreciate what you've done for us.

Richard Remsnyder 05:25

Thanks, Dave.

Legislator Uchitelle 05:30

And if I could jump in, Chairman Cahill. So, some of my legislative colleagues, being a freshman legislator, you might not realize this, but about 10 years ago, I actually interned for the county, so I might be one of the few people on the legislature who actually worked for Rick, for a short time. And it was a great experience. And he definitely showed just a steadfast dedication to service to the tourist community, to the community of businesses that tourism, you know, enables to thrive in this county. And I learned so much. And I really, really appreciate that. And I will also add that during that time, I also got to know Lisa Berger, and I know that she's going to do an incredible job. So, thank you so much, Rick, and I'm really excited for what the future may hold for Lisa.

Richard Remsnyder 06:24

Thanks, Abe.

Chairman Cahill 06:27

Anyone else? Okay, Fawn, you can put that up there now. Thank you.

So, Rick, in recognition of your 14 years plus of service, to Ulster County, I'd like to present you with this "Pride of Ulster County and award presented by the Ulster County Legislature to Rick Remsnyder, Director of Ulster County Tourism for 14 years, in recognition of your retirement and for over 14 years of dedicated service, outstanding commitment, and a legacy of excellence you have given to Ulster County. And it's signed on the sixth day of October, by the Chairman Dave Donaldson." Thank you, Rick. Your tenure is greatly, greatly appreciated. The citizens of Ulster County owe you a great debt. Thank you.

Richard Remsnyder 07:13

Well, thanks, Brian. And I got to be honest, I just, you know, you're way too kind. You know, it's a, it's a team effort, anything that we've been able to achieve in tourism. And it's been a team effort. And not only my staff, but I've always had fantastic support from the Legislature. I know you got busy schedules. so, I'm going to hurry on through this. That, you know, I can remember going back to the first meeting and I was a little intimidated, because the meeting was all these Legislators, talking about everything about going on in Ulster County. But I got to say that after a couple of meetings, I've got more comfortable in the job. It's been my honor, and pleasure to work with the Legislature. We couldn't be where we are, without the support that you've given me. and my staff, I have to say, thank Dave Donaldson, has kind of gone in full cycle here. He did hire me as the Legislative Chairman, and he came back as the Chairman.

I want to say had fantastic support from both sides of the aisle. And I'm really going to miss it. It was a labor of love. And as a mentioned, I know that Lisa, being my deputy for five years, she'll step right in and continue to promote Ulster County. So, thank you so much for that. It was really nice to you to take a few minutes to... I certainly didn't expect it. So, but thank you very much. And good luck. And I'm hoping to see Dave Donaldson on the Links one of these days. Thank you.

Chairman Cahill 09:16

Okay. Thank you very much, Rick.

Chairman Donaldson 09:18

Thank you, Rick

Unidentified off-screen speaker 09:20

Take care.

Deputy Executive Wright 09:21

Thanks, Rick.

Chairman Cahill 09:24

Okay, so we'll move on with the agenda now.

Legislator Litts 09:26

Thanks, Rick.

Chairman Cahill 09:30

So, we have the 2021 department budget requests are next on the agenda. And the first one is Economic Development, and it's Lisa Berger. And we also have the newly announced Director of Economic Development, Tim Weidemann, with her. So, if you guys want to take over. I'm not sure, I think Tim, you're going to lead. And Lisa, you're going to back up. Is that how this going to work?

Lisa Berger 09:52

That's exactly it, thank you, Brian.

Chairman Donaldson 09:58

Well, I'm letting Rick know, you can escape now.

Tim Weidemann 10:04

Yes. Thanks, you guys. And thank you, Lisa. I think we wanted to be here both together in person, even though masks are required in this setting, to just show that we're eager to work together as we kind of craft the next steps in our economic development and tourism work. And I think you all know that I started the county back five years ago working in the Economic Development Department really excited to return to it.

So, I'm going to kind of quickly run you through our budget request, and happy to answer questions and go into more detail wherever you guys would like to dive in a little bit more deeply. As you will have noticed, we have both the operating budget, the typical operating budget request. And then we also have a capital project related to Tech City that I'm happy to talk in more detail about and answer any questions.

In the operating budget, you'll see that we have maintained the traditional four positions that we have. The director, Deputy Director, our Senior Economic Development Assistant, and also known as Business Services Assistant, lots of titles for that one, and then our Confidential Secretary position. And the team that Lisa has assembled, which is really an entirely new team over the last two years have been doing a great job. And so we're looking forward to having them continuing those roles. We broke down their time based on their kind of assessments of how they allocate their time between the work that is done in the Department of Economic Development.

And I'll just reiterate what is in the budget document itself, which is, you know, that we have a mission to promote greater prosperity and equity within our economic development work, building on the work that our office to 2040 working group did. And we see that as really focused on four main areas of work.

The traditional work of any Economic Development Department is around business retention and expansion. This is working with our existing businesses. And that really comprises probably about a quarter

of the work that we do overall, if not a little more. It's really Barb Loughran in our office, who's our business services representative who meets with local businesses and has lots of conversations with them about their needs. And she'll continue to do that.

We're adding in this year, a lot of effort within our team on our target cluster initiatives, which are again, building out of the Ulster 2040 work, focusing on four target clusters to grow our economy, having to do with makers and creators; agriculture, food and beverage; health, wellness and care; and climate, energy and the environment. And so, we have some initiatives that will come out of our contractual services budget, primarily there. And also, it'll be a main focus for me and Kate Heidecker, the deputy, to really grow our work in those target sectors.

The Ulster 2040 report also highlighted the need to really think about social and economic infrastructure. You know, we've got roads and bridges, and sewer and water and natural gas are all obviously important to our economic development as a county. But I think we all recognize that training and education, childcare, housing, transportation are all also important. And so, we'll be dedicating some of our staff's time in some of our contractual services budget, to try and to advance work like a broadband project to look at access across the county and make sure that there's access to that modern infrastructure that's so important for economic development.

And then, you know, I think it's always been true. And I think Lisa, was, is continues to be a good kind of champion of this, that economic development is about partnerships. We have a relatively small team of four people doing a lot of work, and they really can't accomplish it... we can't accomplish it without partnerships with you guys in the Legislature, and then partnership with a bunch of organizations at the local, regional and state level. And so, we'll really make sure that dedicating time next year to continue to build those relationships.

And so, you know, that's kind of the quick sketch of the four areas of work that we're doing. And within those, you know, I think we've asked for a total of \$275,000 in our contractual services line, which is an increase, admittedly, from last year, but I think, coming out of the Ulster 2040 work, even just the part that we focus our attention on, those target clusters, is going to require an additional investment. And that's really where we see that extra funding going. Happy to go into little bit more detail if folks have questions on that.

Lisa, is there anything you want to add?

Chairman Cahill 14:31

Is there anyone on the committee that would like to ask a question of Tim or Lisa.

Okay, Lynn, go ahead.

Legislator Archer 14:38

Thank you. It would be great to have a better sense of what the additional \$75K and professional services is going to do.

Tim Weidemann 14:48

Yep. So, two things that I would point to, as you know, you know, as is only appropriate as we go through contractual obligations, we'll have an RFP process and, and then come back with contracts for a lot of this work. So, I can't speak to exactly how this will pan out in terms of what vendor. But I think the work we're planning with that additional \$75,000 is a combination of investments in our makers and creators sector in Ulster 2040. In particular, it's a recognition of the opportunity that we have with, with Tech City and with its value to kind of re-establishing a home base, a central hub for a lot of our makers and creators and small manufacturers. And so, we're looking at contracts with initial agencies, or organizations, that would help us to plan that out. And help us to identify some of the first tenants that might be a good fit there. There's a lot of conversations, obviously, with you all before we get to that, but we think that that's reasonable to assume we can get there in 2021, and want to have the funds there to be able to support that.

Legislator Archer 15:48

Chairman, may I follow up? You talked about Tech City, I've not had a chance, we've not had very long to look at everything. So, can you just give us an overview of what is being proposed in the capital plan for Tech City?

Tim Weidemann 16:03

Sure, happy to. Yeah, I know, it's a lot to digest. The quick thing to say is that there may be a little sticker shock, we proposed a capital project, that's about \$3 million over the course of the next three years. That's in recognition of the fact that you all have asked for, rightfully so, a little bit more of a window into what we plan to do there, rather than taking it in little pieces that could get us into the hole pretty quickly, to have a more comprehensive picture.

And so, we put our heads together with the folks at DPW and Buildings and Grounds who have existing relationships with a lot of the contractors that actually did work there when Bank of America was there. So, we're able to kind of get some good estimates on what it would take to get the building, first and foremost, up to a position where it's not further deteriorating. And so, that really means being able to protect the envelope of the building. And so, that's kind of the first phases of that \$3 million capital project that we see in the near future, and would really be kind of the minimal investment that the county would need to make to stabilize the building and prepare it for future occupancy.

Then the remainder of that \$3 million, we feel the best way to tackle that is in conversation with the legislature about the future disposition of the property. We don't... I think it's not realistic to expect the county to kind of take on that full share by itself. And we would work with you all to identify other partners that we can bring to help raise the capital that's needed to accomplish that \$3 million project.

Legislator Archer 17:26

And is any, because I haven't seen it, is any of it as being proposed for 2021?

Tim Weidemann 17:33

Yes, there is a hold on, let me get it up in front of me. And I'll tell you the number for 21. So, I believe the number for 21 was about \$500,000. Just as a kind of a full disclosure, I think we're working on a capital project that will come to you all later this month for consideration for the November Session, that will actually be some additional capital work this year.

So, we anticipate somewhere in the \$250K to \$350K or \$400,000 range of initial capital that we should do this year to make sure that the heating is ready to go on and that the building envelope is protected from the weather throughout the winter. And then up to, and this is, you know, subject to further discussion, as we put in future capital projects or amendments to that capital project. We're anticipating or the capital project anticipates another \$500,000 or so in 2021.

Legislator Archer 18:31

Is this an addition of what we've already spent this year?

Tim Weidemann 18:35

It is. Yes, it is. And I want to just stress that there is a point, in 2021, when I can appreciate the need to make decisions about do we want to keep investing as a county in this building, or find other partners to make those investments. And so, I say, you know the capital program itself identifies \$500,000 additional capital investments in 2021. But I think that how much of that the county ends up on the hook for, versus working with other partners to accomplish, is an open question that we should discuss.

Legislator Archer 19:04

So, that'll take us to a million before anything's even done with that. And so, this is ramping up a building. Well, this goes back to a long, long, longer discussion, but it does raise some concerns and I'm just putting it on your radar.

Tim Weidemann 19:20

Yeah. Appreciate that, Lynn.

Deputy Executive Wright 19:24

Chairman Cahill, if I can just...

Chairman Cahill 19:25

Well, I think Chairman Donaldson had his hand up earlier, Dave, you're good? Okay. Go ahead, Dr. Wright. Sorry about that.

Deputy Executive Wright 19:31

Yeah. So, I just want to just emphasize, and maybe say a different way, what Tim just said, which is that... what we've laid out here in this capital project is everything that we think is going to be necessary to get it to that full occupancy point. So, we really, you know, took it to heart that we needed to have everything on the table. But the anticipation is that some of that work, we can get funded by other partners. Some of that work may be, you know, the responsibility of tenants who move in who want to customize the space or themselves. So, you know, the thinking is not that the county is going to be paying for all of this. It's that we want to make sure that the full picture is on the table. And now we go out and start figuring out how the pieces are going to get paid for. And as we start talking about institutional arrangements and timelines, we can get into more of the detail on that.

Chairman Cahill 20:28

Legislator Bartels go ahead.

Legislator Bartels 20:31

Thank you. I definitely, I would like to, not necessarily tonight, but I do want to drill down on all the details surrounding Tech City and the proposals. One thing that concerns me, even just in the conversations this evening, is we're already talking tenants which, which is a certain presumption of longer term ownership. And I'm not clear that that's been decided. You know, I've heard in different conversations, a wide range of proposals for this building, including getting it back, you know, on the tax rolls, which I know would be the case if we had tenants. But I never, it was never my assumption that we were going to maintain, that we were going to maintain an ownership status in this building, regardless. So, that's something that gives me pause. And I want to be certain that we're all on the same page moving forward terms of what this project entails.

Tim Weidemann 21:34

Yeah, I can just say that I understand Tracey. And I think that's something that we certainly are open and going to have more discussion about. As I say, tenants, you know, I think that it's just under the assumption that we all agree, that occupancy of some sort in order to start getting it back on the tax rolls is a priority, and how we go about that and who owns it and who is responsible for those tenants, is an open discussion that we still need to have.

But it all of it requires some minimal investment to get the building, one, protected from deterioration. And two, up to minimum occupancy code standards. And so, that's the, you know, that's the direction that this project suggests that we move in. And then takes it in steps that we can continue to discuss as we make determinations, obviously, with you all, about the future disposition of the property.

Chairman Cahill 22:25

Chairman Donaldson, then I'll come back to Tracey.

Chairman Donaldson 22:28

All right. Yes, I mean, thank you, Evelyn, for your update on that. I believe the mindset has to be that, we know we have to get the building to a point where we don't have to worry about a deteriorating. And I think tenants just merely means, that could be an owner, it doesn't mean to me it doesn't mean we're renting it. I think, all that is open for discussion at this point. But I think in order to get, you know, even have the discussion, we have to have the building to a point where we don't need to worry about whether deteriorating it, or whatever else we have to do to it.

So, at that point, I think we need to have a serious discussion as we go along. We can start having, you know, having those questions now, in fact, for that matter about where we're going with that. And I mean, the economic development group and put together for the Ulster 2040, I think, you know, they may ask my ideas for the building. And we may be able to do... I would like to see, you know, perhaps, you know, working with the Ulster 2040 groups, some of them, and along with us Legislators, getting together and actually do a collaborative effort to, you know, push this, you know, push forward. So, we can all be enthusiastic behind whatever we're doing.

Chairman Cahill 24:01

Tracey, go ahead. Thanks, Chairman.

Legislator Bartels 24:04

Thank you. In terms of protecting the structure from deterioration, what structural analysis, engineering analysis have been made it? Do these analyses exist? And can they be shared with the Legislature to show both the immediate priorities and then the priorities, as they extend out over the years if we maintain ownership?

Tim Weidemann 24:32

Oh, I can. I think what I can share is the details that went into the, kind of next level of detail, in the capital project that was presented in the capital budget. So, you can see where those numbers come from. And I think you'll see that the immediate needs are things that are, you know, we have very capable DPW Building and Ground staff who know that building well enough to know that there are certain things that need to be done before this building can withstand the winter. And in particular, that's making sure that we can have, you know, protect egress and access to the building, make sure that it's safe to get in and out of it. Make sure that the sprinkler system which is ready to activate is continue to be maintained, and that it's ready to go if it's needed. There's stuff that, you know, it's kind of basic stuff, that we can share.

And it's obvious that as we get further into this, and whoever is the responsible party who has to take on these bigger improvements in the out years, there's more engineering work, more architectural work more and more of that kind of planning and design work that will need to be done at that stage. So, I would hope that as I share that, that list of the initial stuff that makes up the first year or so of the project, you'll see

items there that are pretty obvious to you as well, that these are things that really need to be done in the short term.

Deputy Executive Rider 25:49

These were in-house estimates, though done by, like Tim said, by our Buildings and Grounds Department, not hired out engineering reports, etc. For the most part, correct Tim?

Tim Weidemann 26:02

Yep.

Deputy Executive Wright 26:02

Yep. But the some of the expenditure in the in the later phases in entails getting an engineering assessment. So, that's down the road.

Legislator Bartels 26:13

Okay. Thank you.

Chairman Cahill 26:15

Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle 26:17

Yeah, I just want to, you know, echo and build on Chairman Donaldson his comment. I think a number of us on the Legislature, perhaps everyone in the Legislature, you know, sees a potential for a vision to be developed in one format, and we might disagree about some of the different specifics of it. But I would just encourage those on the Executive team that are involved in this to, you know, really bring us into that conversation on the vision. And begin that conversation on the vision so that we're not, you know, having the experience, on the Legislative side, of being kind of nibbled to death by ducks, so to speak, as we keep kind of doing these individual pieces. Which we wouldn't argue against happening, you know, needing to happen.

But, you know, for those of us that are looking forward to getting excited about something happening there, it would be really helpful to, you know, be part of that process and to let that vision carry us forward rather than the, you know, the kind of piecemeal repairs that need to happen to stabilize it. So, you know, I appreciate that we're early in the conversation. And I just ask that you don't lose sight of that bigger picture, which I know you're thinking about, but please include us as well.

Chairman Cahill 27:36

Thank you, Legislator Uchitelle. Anyone have any comments or questions? Dr. Wright.

Deputy Executive Wright 27:42

Yeah, I just wanted to thank Abe for that. We had an initial vision conversation with a few of you on one of the leadership calls, I think that was last month. And we're eager to continue that conversation. I think we really put our effort over the last month into really nailing down these numbers with the DPW so we could give you a complete picture of what we thought the capital needs were. But definitely want to switch gear now back into the vision and those institutional arrangements that we started talking about last month.

Chairman Cahill 28:16

Right, great, everybody good?

Tim Weidemann 28:19

Legislator Cahill, Chairman Cahill, if I could just say, in addition to what Evelyn just said, that you know, and to respond to Legislator Uchitelle. That there's a lot of work that needs to happen is building. And some of it is not sexy. And so, that's the stuff that I think we're talking about first. And fully appreciate that as we think about the vision for the future of this building, and what that looks like, that's a conversation that you all should be, and I'm glad to hear, want to be a part of. So, that's great.

Chairman Cahill 28:50

All right. Thank you very much. Appreciate your time. And thank you for the presentation. And welcome to the team Tim and good luck. Thanks. And the woman behind you there. Lisa, thank you very much for your time here so far. And we'll be seeing you in a new role on this very committee. So, thank you. And good luck, and we'll see you soon. Thank you.

So, next up, will be Planning and Director Ahmed suggested that we share the budget on the screen, so we can follow along. If Dennis, is that okay with you if we do that?

Dennis Doyle 29:28

Sure. Fine.

Chairman Cahill 29:30

But Fawn, are you ready to do that for planning? And you're muted?

Fawn Tantillo 29:39

I think I have it set up so she can share.

Chairman Cahill 29:43

Oh, so then okay, so, you were going to do it so they could share? So, I guess, let me see if I can do this. And...

Fawn Tantillo 29:50

I don't have her budget. So...

Chairman Cahill 29:52

What? Oh.

Fawn Tantillo 29:53

I thought she wanted to...

Dennis Doyle 29:54

Are we doing planning?

Chairman Cahill 29:56

We were doing planning first right now. Yeah.

Right? So we can....

Dennis Doyle 30:04

I have a presentation as well, Mark. So Fawn, I sent you my presentation as well.

Fawn Tantillo 30:11

You...

Dennis Doyle 30:11

You saw that? I sent you my presentation this afternoon.

Fawn Tantillo 30:16

I'm sorry, I did not see that. Let me...

Chairman Cahill 30:23

So, then while Fawn, while you're doing that, we'll skip over to you UCAT, because they're next Anyway, we'll come back to planning after that. Is that okay? Everybody agreed to that?

Sajaa Ahmed 30:33

Hold on. I thought I was after Dennis. So..

Chairman Cahill 30:36

You're not ready. Okay.

Sajaa Ahmed 30:37

Give me one. I can be ready.

Chairman Cahill 30:40

Take your time. We only have a few other things to do tonight.

Dennis Doyle 30:47

I mean, I could share my screen if she doesn't have it.

Fawn Tantillo 30:50

Hang on. I just got to... Okay... There you go.

Chairman Cahill 31:32

Hey, there we go. Okay. Thank you. And Director Doyle, go right ahead.

Dennis Doyle 31:38

Sure. I thank you for the opportunity to present the budget of 2021 on this budget to the committee. We really appreciate it. As you can say, as the first the first of a slide, if you want to flip through those slides. One. Yes.

I wanted to give you a sense of what our what our current staffing is. We currently have seven staff. They're divided in two major areas that the county planning department works in. One is transportation. And the other is on special projects. We do a lot of special projects, a lot of them with the Legislature and certainly a lot of in coordination with other departments.

We also have a responsibility for land use and demographics. The land use responsibility is statutory. And it supports the county planning board, which reviews land use decisions for all the municipalities in the county. We do a number of housing activities more recently than we have in the past. But we have we have a continuing responsibility with respect to community development block grants. We also do an annual housing rental survey as well as other activities with respect to housing including a housing rehabilitation program, Community Development Block Grant, a current housing, homeownership, and we recently stood up with respect to COVID-19, and Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

The other thing that we also do is we support a number of county capital programs and capital projects, including, as you may be aware that the Fire Training Center, which we supported in the future, we're currently supporting a veteran cemetery work. And we're working with the Office of Emergency Management with respect to their needs for an emergency tower facility, a radio facility, in Saugerties. And additional towers that they're going to be meeting up in the Shandaken and areas in Tonshi Mountain.

We do support the also county farmland Protection Board. So, we do agricultural work as well. And we also support something under the housing thing to pull the continuum of care, which is the HUD creation and some of our fees for professional services go to those supports. Next one.

So, this gives you a breakdown of the budgets in terms of where we are for individual areas. So, administration is about \$60,000. Land use and demographics about \$100,000. Housing is about \$104,000. Special projects is \$119K.

So, how do we spend the budget? This is how we spend the budget that you give us and you can see the transportation, there's a vast amount of money spent in transportation. However, that's 95% reimbursable from the federal government. And we actually get more reimbursements than our in our budget because we actually be able to be reimbursed for our benefits and for space that the Transportation Council uses in the County Building. And that's why that's a negative number in terms of county share. Next.

Just we'll quickly this will give you the pie chart and you can see about 48% of the budget is in transportation and the other ones are purely equally divided between land use housing and some of the special project work. Next.

So, I wanted to give you a sense of what, when we when we talk about transportation, what we really mean when we have that conversation. The County Planning Department is host agency for something called the Ulster County Transportation Council it's a federal recreation, it's a Metropolitan Planning Organization. We have the responsibility for programming, federal funds on that are being used in the county as well doing something called a Unified Planning Work Program.

And we also have responsibilities to essentially do a Long Range Transportation Plan. We just completed the Long Range Transportation Plan update in September. We're currently working on the graphics of that document, but the document itself and that and the recommendations that have been adopted. We have a number of ongoing studies a Road Safety Analysis, which is currently county wide that should be done by the end of the year.

We do an annual Traffic Monitoring Program. We are currently involved in New Paltz area doing a Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Opportunity Study for the community. We anticipate that that would be done by the end of the year. Again, the Village of Ellenville Wayfinding Project that should be done by the end of the year.

We've engaged with UCAT with respect to the needs for their fleet storage, we're doing an analysis of their of their fleet and their storage capabilities and a place to put that storage facility. We're currently looking at areas in and around Golden Hill for that. That study just got underway.

We just had a kickoff meeting today with respect to the U&D Corridor Trail Feasibility Study up in the Shandaken area.

And then we in our Unified Work Program, since we're are funded on a fed, on a state fiscal year. Our Unified Work Program will be adopted, needs to be adopted by the end of March. And it becomes active on a on April 1 with the state fiscal year. We currently have in our in this year's work program.

We currently have a Route 9W study in the town of Ulster for congestion management. We have a City of Kingston Rail Safety Analysis and we also have a Resiliency Study in the transportation system. And part of the money's in in our capital program and in our in our fees for professional services will go to make sure that we have enough money to do these projects.

UCTC issues to call for projects in December for it's up UDWP program. And then we run from, as I said, from April to March next.

So, special projects, you've all seen us that we do special projects. One of the things that we've done is the Ashokan Rail Trail Project, Midtown Linear Park, Kingston Rail Trail, so we've been involved in those projects.

The Ashokan Rail Trail, we're doing some final closeout on that trail, we still have an open slip up there, a stormwater pollution prevention plan.

The Midtown Linear Park, we anticipate that we're going to go to construction in spring of 2021. We currently are looking for right away clearance on that. We've had some issues with respect to the right way mainly because we have to find heirs and assigns from back in the 1930s.

We're currently going through a lot right away discussion on the Kingston Rail Trail. And we also anticipate that we'll go to construction in 2021.

The Ulster County Public Safety Training Center. We're finishing that work up. We're working with DPW and Emergency Services, who essentially complete the rehabilitation of the existing modular. We went back and looked at all of our options and we currently are working on that effort right now.

The Public Safety Radio Tower in the Town of Saugerties, we finished our view shed analysis. We're currently working on a public meeting with the Saugerties Planning Board and anticipate coming to the Legislature shortly asking for a SEQRA determination for that project so that we can move it forward. We would hope that we would move to construction in 2021 for that project as well.

The Ulster County Veteran's cemetery we funded the design of that. We ran into some issues relative to archaeological needs. We've completed some of our Phase II archaeological work and it looks like we will be doing need to be doing a Phase III archeological study. The archaeological consultants are telling us that the site is usable, but we have to do what they call artifact recovery. We'll be back to the Legislature for that increase in that capital project as well.

The Tech City stuff you've talked about. We've been assisting the Executive team with respect to strategy and vision. And then one of the things that we did, we are looking at is the a portion of the need for an apportionment work on 2021 based on the 2020 census. And then we do use some money for capital

program development that that you are currently in the process of getting from the County Executive. Next slide.

Housing work. We've been engaged with the Legislature quite often in 2020 with respect to housing work. We also do other housing work associated with that including the management of that Housing Rehabilitation Program. I mentioned \$590,000 homeownership program, we did repurpose about \$177,000 for housing rehabilitation. We did repurpose to emergency rental assistance.

We are reporting three major housing initiatives. One is the reuse of the jail on Golden Hill. We've been working with the Housing Development Corporation. We're in the process of deciding on a proposed developer for that site. We also are working with the Executive team and Patterns on Housing Action plan and the housing committee that was established between the Executive and the Legislature. We're doing an analysis of county properties for housing purposes as requested by the Legislature. We're currently looking at some of the properties that are available in this year's auction. And then we have a continuing discussion with the City of Kingston with respect to the city the suitability of expanding the City of Kingston Land Bank to a countywide land bank.

We also have money in this year's budget to provide some funding for the Ulster County Housing Corporation. It's about \$10,000 in the budget. Part of the need for that is, we think we may have to do some subdivision activity work which would require some work relative to surveying. We also have to have some directors insurance, because we have outside directors that are on sitting on this on this committee that we need to protect. So, we're in the process of looking at those budgets, and it's a prudent thing to include some money for the Housing Corporation. As we move through that process, and the site ends up in the development mode, that money would get repaid to the county as part of the fee from the developer that we choose. We also do the housing rental survey I mentioned about and we advise communities on zoning and planning issues associated with housing. Next.

Agriculture and Open Space, you're aware that we have supported the Farmland Protection Board on an annualized basis for the Ag additions. One of the other things that we're going to be doing is Ag District #1, which is in the south eastern portion of the county in the Marlborough area, comes up for review this year. So, we'll be in that eight-year review process.

We will also be looking at updating the Farmland Protection Plan. We had money in last year's budget. We did not use that money, it was returned on the basis of the budget cuts for 2020 as requested by the Legislature and by the County Executive's Office. We're continue to have an ongoing discussion with Ag and Markets with whether or not they will release any funds for the update of that. We did not include any revenue in our estimate for release of that funds. But if that revenue, we will apply for that grant if it becomes available. And that revenue would be a 50% match to any funds that the county expends.

We've been working with the Department of Environment on the Lower Esopus work. This is part of an order on consent. The county is acting as fiscal agent. So, this effort essentially does not cost the county any

money. We act as a fiscal agent for order and consent and that money was deposited with Ulster County by DPW.

And then I just give you a sense of where we sit in terms of some of the boards that the director sits on. The next slide.

So, land use and demographics. As I mentioned, the County Planning Board, the Planning Department supports the Board. There's a 23 member board that's out there. We have an annual, we meet monthly to discuss various proposals that come in from municipalities that are required to come in front of the board on a statutory basis. The year before, in 2019, we did about 230 land use referrals. We will probably be in the hundreds this year but not beyond that. The referral process has been picking up over the last month. We're seeing quite a bit of housing referrals and a lot of small commercial development as well.

We also work with municipalities on considerations such as short term rentals, how to streamline regulatory review, including zoning and housing affordability, countywide design guidelines. We just completed this last week, we just completed a seminar for the municipalities and local planning boards which have training requirements on design guidelines, particularly with respect to dense density. We also conduct what we call gateway meetings with applicants that are before local boards and need local approvals as well as county approvals and state approvals to bring all the parties together so that they can meet with us and sit around a table, or in this case, a Zoom meeting, to essentially have all of the various agencies weigh in on their proposal so they know what to expect and they know what studies they need to do. And also we do have some design suggestions and other opportunities to essentially meet with developers and architects. We do about two of those a month, sometimes more. A lot of the local attorneys and in the applicants attorney He's really appreciate these kinds of reviews. Next slide.

So, we do quite a bit of capital program and project support. I mentioned those before. We have been to Veterans' Cemetery, the radio system, the UCAT bus garage. So, we do quite a bit of capital program support. We also worked with a number of other projects, particularly DPW on some of their of their projects that relate to the Transportation Council.

We do a lot of funding changes around and moving money around to make sure that projects that are being funded at the local level and being funded at the state level, have adequate funding, including working with the City of Kingston on their most recent re-pavement on Hurley Avenue, the ongoing the ongoing work with respect to re-pavement on Beale Street, and down in those areas on Wilbur Avenue. So, we continue to move money around and look for funding opportunities to make sure that we can make sure our transportation system remains safe and efficient. Next slide.

So, this is a breakdown of our professional service fees, there's quite a bit of money, there's about \$360,000 in professional service fees. This breaks that professional service fees down among the major areas. S, you can see a vast majority of that \$250,000 is associated with the transportation. That's 95% funded. And in

general, what we do with these professional service fees is we make the 5% match with staff, and the entire consulting cost is essentially covered by the federal government in those instances

We support Ulster County's Continuum of Care, which is a requirement if you're going to receive Homeless Assistance monies. That that contract is an outside contract with a with a with RUPCO at this particular point in time. The Continuum of Care brings in about roughly about \$1.2 to \$1.3 million in homeless services on an annualized basis.

And as I mentioned previously, there is some money in here relative to the Housing Corporation so that we can have a budget for that Corporation moving into 2021.

The Agricultural Plan Update is about \$50,000. \$49.5K here, but it's actually in the budget around \$59,000. And then the Special Projects reapportionment work is in other special projects is \$16,000 and change. And then the Capital Program support and this is literally put in so that if there's a need to sort of basically implement a capital project program, we have some money that we can do the necessary upfront scoping study so that we know what that capital program is going to be. That comes out of operating rather than comes out of the capital project itself, before a capital project is established. Next slide.

So, I just wanted to give you an overview of the of the Capital Program and the those items that are in the county's Capital Program that were the responsibility of the planning department.

We have two new initiatives in the county program that the County Executive working with the Legislature and also in discussions with others, has asked us to help sponsor. One is a new county broadband initiative. This funding is requested to begin a feasibility analysis. Basically, to use this fixed wireless broadband to reach underserved and underserved areas in the county. And perhaps also in those areas where internet reliability is a challenge. We've had numerous discussions with the Wawarsing community about this, there are other needs relative to the Shandaken area.

And when we looked at COVID-19, we actually did some work in the COVID-19, to work with school districts to see whether they could give us the addresses of students that were having problems with internet. We're going to take that and begin an RFP process to bring someone on board to take a look and see a fixed wireless will work in these areas. We have done some initial GIS work on that so that we can get a sense in terms of what existing towers that are out there can serve as a fixed wireless base, and also what new towers would be needed to reach some of those underserved areas.

The other thing that I ended up we ended up in a discussion with, I know the Executive had a discussion with the with the Legislative folks relative to how do we move forward some legislative initiatives that are not, were not in the past in the capital program. So, we added a something we added this to the capital program, its Community Development Program. This is an expansion of what was the Shovel Ready Program.

The program would be designed to assist community investments that would advance county goals and provide matching funds. We want to make sure that the community has bought into some of this work and is willing to participate with the county. One of the things that's important to note anytime we do these kinds of projects, we would have to have a bondable interest which basically means we need a property interest in those.

And we would not suggest that this program fund maintenance, ongoing maintenance needs for the for the communities. Nor do we think it should fund or duplicate some of the other funding that are in our capital program. And what I mean by that, when you look at our capital program, there is funding in there for various shoulder work, there isn't funding in there for various bridges. And that can meet some of the needs that have been discussed relative to sidewalks or other types of things. So, we wouldn't be doing that kind of work here.

The ones that continue is the Open Space and Recreation Funds. These are funds for open space protection and expansion to public recreation opportunities. The Stream Management Program, that's one of the ones that we continue to work with the as a fiscal aid, a fiscal agent, that's part of that order on consent that I mentioned before.

The Midtown Linear Park in the Kingston Rail Trail, these are established capital projects. And they continue to hopefully move into construction in 2021.

And then we have a Transportation Planning Studies. And this is just in case the Transportation Council decides to program additional monies that are not in our operating funds, that we can go to the capital program and show you that there's money available in the capital program for these additional studies.

Next, I think that's it. That's it. Hopefully.

Fawn Tantillo 51:07

That's it. That's it.

Chairman Cahill 51:13

Oh, thank you, Director Doyle, that it's a lot to take in in a short period of time. As usual, you do an excellent job of providing us with enough information to go forward and think about what's going on there. Is there anyone in the committee that has any questions for Director Doyle?

Chairman Donaldson 51:33

Does everybody....

Chairman Cahill 51:36

Go ahead. Chairman Donaldson. Sure. Yeah,

Chairman Donaldson 51:38

I'm going to, everybody on the PowerPoint, I hope you remembered at all.

Legislator Archer 51:48

We'll have a test. Can we get a copy of the PowerPoint,

Chairman Cahill 51:52

I was just going... I was just going to request that.

Legislator Archer 51:54

Great, thank you.

Chairman Cahill 51:55

... made a presentation, please forward it around to the committee. So, we can take a look at. Because I had a couple of questions that came up early on, and I forgot them as we went on. So...

Dennis Doyle 52:05

I gave I gave it to Fawn, so, she has it to send to the committee. And my apologies Fawn. I know, it was this afternoon. I was in Yonkers this morning. So, my apologies for that.

Legislator Cahill 52:15

So does anyone on the committee have any questions for Director Doyle? Legislator Uchitelle, go ahead.

Legislator Uchitelle 52:24

Yeah, I would just... not really a question as a request. Just as I noticed that you mentioned the land bank thing. There are a number of us on the Legislature that are passionate about that. And I've actually, when this came up with the City earlier in the session, it involved a fair bit communication between the Legislature and the City, between myself and the Mayor. And I just would ask that, I would like to be aware of that, and, you know, serve in any way that I can in those conversations. But at least be aware so that I don't hear from them, you know, rather than from us. Thank you.

Chairman Cahill 53:03

Okay.

Dennis Doyle 53:04

And we certainly would...

Chairman Cahill 53:05

Go ahead.

Dennis Doyle 53:06

We would appreciate that. Right now that the difficulty right now is I think the Kingston Land Bank is extremely focused on one of, I think, over 30 properties that they currently have in their in their inventory. And they're trying to deal with those issues before sort of outreaching to others.

I think it's important to note that we're looking at a workaround here. And the workaround would be essentially to try to...it doesn't join the same protections, and you need to understand that. But the workaround would be similar to what we did with the with the Golden Hill property... would be to move property out of the auction, into the county's hands, and hold it, and then surplus it to the to the Housing Development Corporation, which you have, and then move it from there to those folks that essentially can redevelop those properties for affordable housing and or other uses that have community benefits.

Chairman Cahill 54:04

Legislator Bartels, thank you for waiting.

Legislator Bartels 54:07

Oh, no problem. Thank you for recognizing me. So, a couple things. I'll start just since we left off on the land bank, I mean, and again, I know this is not exactly terms of your budget, but I do hope that we're continuing to have the conversations about the possibility of creating a County Land Bank in collaboration with the City rather than using the city's land bank strictly as a workaround, because I think there's a lot to be gained in terms of the possibility of having a synergistic countywide land bank. I know that would require the City's, more than consent, cooperation. I mean, I think this is something we'd want to be doing together. But I hope that we're moving forward in that direction, rather than just us.

Dennis Doyle 54:53

I think that's the exact direction we're going in.

Legislator Bartels 54:55

Okay. Fabulous.

Dennis Doyle 54:56

That's the exact direction we want to go in.

Legislator Bartels 54:59

Okay.

Dennis Doyle 54:59

We don't want work around in that instance. We really want to expand the City's land bank countywide. And that brings up a whole host of other questions in terms of what we bring to the table. It's about memberships. It's about mission. It's all of those things come in, come into that. But we want to do this cooperatively with the City.

Legislator Bartels 55:17

Absolutely. And I see tremendous possibility in that regard. So, I hope that we can find a way to reach, you know, a joint end-goal with the City on that.

Forgive me if I get it wrong, because I don't have the presentation in front of me. I have a couple questions. I think it was related to your last slide, both the open space, in terms of the capital, the open space initiative, and then you referenced, did you say we're repurposing the Shovel Ready Fund to be the Community Fund, does that mean we're not doing Shovel Ready anymore?

Dennis Doyle 55:55

We will do Shovel Ready under that guideline. We can do shovel ready under that guideline.

Legislator Bartels 56:02

Okay, so, I just like to understand that better. And if now is not the moment, I can talk to you later. I do want to understand that better. But I also want to ensure that in both instances, in terms of open space, and in terms of any community program, because I know these both have been attempted before, in the previous administration, that there's some kind of process created, that's clear, that's transparent. And that's open and competitive.

Legislator Bartels 56:36

And in the one instance, where we supported an open space. And Dennis, I know you were part of that conversation, we there... all of a sudden there was a resolution... This is years ago, what there was a resolution before us to help support open space initiative on a on a farm project. And it wasn't an issue of whether or not it was a worthwhile project. It was how was this project chosen? And did everyone in the county know that these funds were available? And how did... was there a metric created to evaluate one project against the next. And that was multiple Legislators had that concern that these were things that were happening internally without a competitive process. So, I just want to make sure that whatever we do in terms of the capital that we have, we have a transparent process.

Dennis Doyle 57:26

And we've heard that loud and clear. And I think with a Community Development Fund, it's actually written in that it would be a collaborative process between the Legislature and the Executive relative to what we're going to fund and why we're going to fund it. And those priorities may change from year to year. I think what we wanted to do with respect to that, and in the description in the Capital Program was make sure that we were advancing county goals. And that that was one of the key things that that's why that's mentioned. And on the on the Open Space Plan and the Recreation Fund, we heard you loud and clear, we understand that.

Legislator Bartels 58:00

And if I can just finally, I should have said first, thank you for the presentation, and all that you do, Dennis. presentation is very, very thorough. I mean, I'd like to have it too, to reference. But I want to thank you for all that the department does, I know that it's a big responsibility. And you do work across a broad spectrum in this county, and I for one, am grateful.

Dennis Doyle 58:24

Thank you.

Chairman Cahill 58:25

Thank you. Anyone else have any questions or comments? On the planning department? Okay, so then we'll move on to Director Ahmed for UCAT. And before she starts, I'm going to ask her if she could jump behind there and play a few songs on the drums for us. Just kidding.

Sajaa Ahmed 58:44

Well, COVID, I think has definitely created a space shortage in some people's houses, including mine. And my husband's music studio is the only place that my two-year-old son, who was on here earlier, couldn't find me, but I can actually hear him outside trying to make his way. And I want to thank the Legislature for having us to present. And I did send a presentation to Fawn and Jay during this meeting and I apologize for not getting that to everyone sooner.

We actually, yesterday, just expanded our service to close to pre-COVID levels. And I'm going to get into that in just a second. But I wanted I know Rick's not on here before anymore. But last year for our budget presentation, he went before us and had a PowerPoint and I just remember Carol Hargrove looking at me and saying we need to make sure we to that. And so I wanted to thank him for giving me that. This week will actually mark two years for me with the county. And it's been an amazing experience.

And I've actually been in public service now for nine years, starting with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and I've been in government through Sandy and Irene and all these other disasters, but I don't think I any of those things could have prepared anyone, but especially me, for taking on this role and encountering COVID.

It's been illuminating for me to interact with staff having just assumed this role. I think I was only two months in when this started. And we're one of the few departments that continue to report to work our continued to provide service. And, you know, it's been, I can't really say it's been easy. But I think as a team, we've improved upon a lot of our internal communications and different things like that, to try and make the best of a really bad situation for transit. I'm serving right now on the New York Public Transit Administration **[**acronym**]**, which is kind of the it's kind of similar to NYSAC. I'm serving on as the chair of the rural transit Task Force and interacting with some of our PR agencies to figure out some of our best practices. And we've come a long way since March to determine what those are. But I think even today, there's no perfect solution for transit. And as I go through the presentation, you'll see the precipitous drop in ridership that we have.

And Jay or Fawn, do you need me to share the screen?

Fawn Tantillo 1:01:31

Well, I'm sorry, I thought you I thought I was sharing it. I'm having a problem. Here,

Chairman Cahill 1:01:38

Here, we see something but it's only like two lines of a spreadsheet, or a line of the spreadsheet. It doesn't look like you're getting the whole document in the screen.

Fawn Tantillo 1:01:52

It looks good on my side.

Sajaa Ahmed 1:01:54

If you if you stop sharing, I can actually share it up. There we go.

Chairman Cahill 1:02:03

That's much better.

Fawn Tantillo

Are you seeing it?

Sajaa Ahmed 1:02:08

Ah, yeah, I see it, you can go to the next one. It's just the title slide. And I will of course share this with everyone. And this is very different from Dennis's, there are practically no numbers. So, and part of the reason for that is because of the uncertainty around one of our most important segments of our budget, which is our revenue. I'm going to start with where we are today.

With our COVID service level, as of yesterday, we have expanded almost to our pre-COVID levels. It took this long for many different reasons, not the least of which is that we have a driver shortage. And although we were approved to do some part time hires, it's really difficult to hire bus drivers in a pandemic. And we are finally getting some people on board. But that made it difficult to go to our full-service level.

And then the other issue was is people have had to... I'm going to knock on wood right now we have not had any COVID cases on the part of the UCAT staff, which I'm really hoping and praying continues to be the case, but I am in working with the emergency operation center prepared for it that is, or if and when that happens. But people have had to quarantine and when people quarantine in such a small agency and means that there's no driver available. And because of DOT regulations, we can offer overtime only to a certain extent. And I personally worry about that just makes opens up the drivers to more opportunities to actually contract COVID.

So, you know, the decision was made in conjunction with the County Exec that we would have limited service throughout the summer. And we would try to work with people who are trying to go to and from work and give them kind of demand responsive service but as of yesterday, and it went really well.

I'm really proud of the team here at UCAT. There are some drivers that haven't driven the night shift in a long time and they did a great job and I'm... I was a little bit surprised that I didn't get any calls yesterday, but it's going well so far.

So, right now you're required to wear masks. We have them available to riders if they need it. We're trying to keep people socially distanced on the bus. Obviously, it's not easy. We do have full cleaning. We did have to do a cleaning bid that was much more expansive than we originally thought earlier this year and that is built into our contract call services line for next year. To keep up with that cleaning and we have a cleaning company come every day. And the drivers also complete additional cleaning. And you can go on to the next one.

So, in addition, thank you, thanks to our Agency Operation Center and the Department of Health, our drivers can go get tested at Golden Hill, which is really a godsend, because we can send them right away, if there's an issue. If they have a temperature from their daily temp check, we can send them home right away. And the turnaround time is pretty good. They're unlike some of the other places that sometimes take much longer. And we also provide masks, gloves and sanitizer to all of the employees. You can go to the next one.

Sajaa Ahmed 1:05:47

So, earlier in this year, and I know that was through resolution, we did receive nearly \$5 million of CARES Act funding and that is going to be applied towards our operation from January 20 forward for 2020. Some of it will hopefully carry us over into 2021. So, that will offset county share. And this is federal funds based on our formula for urbanized area. And we also got rural transit funds. So hopefully some of that will carry us into the first quarter of 2021. We're hopeful. Well, I wrote this before today, but we're hopeful for a second stimulus.

And I know that this picture here is actually Congressman Delgado did do a visit with some of our staff. We had a very distant roundtable back in August. And he has committed to more funding through our ability to request Rural Transit 5311 funds. So, I'm a little bit nervous, like everyone, about the census because that may change our funding, formula funding. But I did have a conversation with a member of Dennis's staff [Brian Slack.] And he mentioned that it didn't it does not seem like we would lose our urbanized area funds.

The last slide I have is about our capital projects, which is always a good note to end on. You know, through COVID and through all the challenges that we faced, we weren't able to continue with these capital projects. And that is really a testament to the other departments, especially the Department of Environment and the Planning Department that kind of kept us on track with those projects. The number one project is

the electric buses. The procurement process is complete. We're just working out some last final steps and the funding for the actual buses. I know I see. You can go to the next one.

And so, as I mentioned some of the CARES Act money will be carried forward. Most of our expenses are held flat. The one line item that I did notice is less than this year is our maintenance line. And one of the reasons for that is we are expected to get three new transit buses before the end of the year. I'm really hopeful that supply lines and assembly lines are bidder right now is GILLIG, which is an American transit company based in California. They did shut down briefly, but I know that they're back to work and they have promised delivery before the end of the year. But obviously, in a pandemic, some promises are a little bit looser than usual.

And our most variable line item, this budget was difficult to prepare, because still today, we don't know what's happening with our state funds. The good news today, I didn't get to do resolutions for this cycle because we just got it about 10 days ago. But we did get capital money from NYSDOT for 2021. So, that was really, really welcome news because we weren't sure what was going to be happening with that.

But I'm going to get to the next slide. And that's kind of the one that's a little bit nerve wracking.

Our, our funding from the state is dependent on ridership. And this is not something that's specific to UCAT. MTA also has declined of nearly 75 to 70% in ridership. And as you can see, we're kind of in that same, you know, same boat. There's some routes that are almost, you know, decimated in terms of ridership. For example, the route that runs between SUNY Ulster and SUNY New Paltz has, you know, one to two riders. But the catch 22 there is, the other component of our formula for state funding, is miles. So, if you don't run, like we didn't run throughout the summer, you're missing out on that mileage reimbursement.

So, for this year, NYSDOT, keeping us at 2019 levels, but they still haven't said what's going to happen for 2021. It was built into the budget for next year that there could be a 20% decline in those funds. But the one good thing is that last year, the **SOAFI** formula, it's called state operating assistance formula, was increased. And that was based on a rental car tax. So, rental cars are doing great in New York. So, hopefully the Legislature, the State Legislature doesn't change how that funding is allocated to us. So, I am hopeful that we will be okay.

And we are starting to kind of think of head on how do we kind of grow our ridership in the next year, to a sustainable level. I think it's going to take a long time for it to get back to where it was. But there are a lot of new people in the county, I think the budget overall showed that and just kind of anecdotally, I know some of them are from New York City and probably used to using mass transit. And, you know, a push to kind of get those people to use the UCAT system, especially within the City of Kingston is really important to us as an agency.

You know, Tim, Evelyn, Marc, I think there's a few people that have had the opportunity to ride the electric buses during the procurement process. And even before when they were demoed here at UCAT and then

within the City of Kingston. So, we went with New Flyer as our vendor. It's an American company, as well, and it's based in Alabama. And they also have a facility here in New York. So, the anticipated delivery for these won't likely be until the end of next year. And we're hoping to wrap up the contract process by the end of this month.

The other project that goes hand in hand with that is our Bus Charter Infrastructure Project. And that is moving along quickly. We've had walkthroughs, that's got administered right now by the New York Power Authority. And in conjunction with the Department of Environment, and Nick Hvozda, the deputy there, has really taken the lead on that. And I'm really thankful because he's an engineer. And I don't always have much input to give. So, but it's really been a joint effort through. We also have someone on our on-site from DW who knows a lot about our facility and about the Transformers that are on site at Golden Hill.

And then our last kind of usual capital project is our Bus Replacement Program. So, as I mentioned before, we have three GILLIG transit buses coming in at the end of the year. And then we just have to replace under FTA, Federal Transit Administration rules, the buses that have reached the end of their useful life. We have federal funds for the next year, and we have some state funds now. What the future holds beyond that is pretty unknown.

In addition to the uncertainty around the state funds, our federal enabling legislation also expired, the FAST Act. So, and I am hopeful that in the next, you know, iteration of Congress, there will be a focus on continuing or sustaining the levels that we have. Transit encompasses a huge sector of the automotive industry. So, I just, you know, it usually doesn't matter. The party in power, you know, it's usually been funded, obviously, different regulations come through when there are our changes to the legislation.

Oher than that, the last slide I have on there is just everyone's contact information. Toni couldn't join us tonight. But she has been really a godsend for me, because she's so knowledgeable about operations and just a lot of institutional knowledge about the county and the city. So, I've definitely been leaning on her.

And then there's all of our numbers, if any of your constituents need dispatch scheduling for our senior rides our paratransit if you go back to the slide with ridership, our paratransit is down because I think a lot of programs like at Gateway and other things that are used on a regular basis, I realized that I don't actually have that broken out here. So I misspoke. But our paratransit is operating at about 50% ridership, as usual. So, that's the service that's available to people with disabilities. And people who maybe cannot use the fixed route bus system.

So, I think I've been talking a lot. I am happy to take any questions that you guys have.

Chairman Cahill 1:15:30

Well, thank you very much. We appreciate you taking the time giving us a thorough overview. And I also want to commend you on the working through this very, very difficult time. Public transportation, I think probably took it on the chin more than anything. With the exception of maybe movie theaters, I can't think

of anything that was affected more by COVID than transportation. So, thank you for hanging in there and trying to keep everything afloat. And right. I'm glad to hear that we're back to full service now. And let's hope that the writers come back very quickly.

Is there anyone on the committee that has any questions for the director? Okay, Going once, going twice. Okay, again, thank you very much for your time. We appreciate it. And I'm sure if anyone has any questions, we'll reach out. Thank you.

Legislator Uchitelle 1:16:33

Brian, you're on mute.

Chairman Cahill 1:16:34

I muted myself accidentally. Sorry about that. Yeah, so, that concludes the budget presentations for tonight. So, we're going to move on to the resolutions.

I just wanted to state that, for those that joined after the meeting started. What I plan on doing is going through all the resolutions and leaving the deviated pilot for last because there's only a few resolutions, I think we only have four resolutions total. And so, we'll go through the other three, and then we'll do deviated pilot last for those that are on call for the other ones and don't want to hang around for that.

So, we'll start, we'll start. And by the way, there'll be no public comment in this meeting tonight. For those that joined late. We're going to reserve public comment on any of the resolutions in this committee for the legislative session. Thank you.

So, we're going to go to resolution 232, which is: Calling For Issuance Of Extended Moratorium On Evictions And Rent Relief During State Of Emergency.

Hold on a second, Legislator Bartels.

Fawn Tantillo 1:17:44

Oh, we need someone to move for discussion. So we need...

Chairman Cahill 1:17:48

So, move for discussion. Okay. Sorry. Go ahead.

Legislator Archer 1:17:50

I'll move it.

Chairman Cahill 1:17:51

Second?

Legislator Uchitelle 1:17:51

Second that.

Chairman Cahill 1:17:52

All right Legislator Bartels,

Legislator Bartels 1:17:55

I'm sorry, you know, I've been contemplating pulling this. But can I just have somebody postpone it one more time while I determine if there's something else we can do. I feel pretty confident, based on legal advice, that we can't do this as written. But I I'm still trying to figure out if there's something that we can do.

Chairman Cahill 1:18:13

So, okay, I'll make a motion. we postpone it or Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts 1:18:17

I was going to make the motion to postpone it.

Chairman Cahill 1:18:20

Thank you. All right. All in favor.

Committee Members 1:18:24

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 1:18:25

Any opposed? Thank you.

Chairman Cahill 1:18:28

The next resolution will be 333 which is: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Education Department's Adult Career And Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation And Employment And Training For Reimbursement Through The Work-Try-Out Program For Federal Fiscal Year 2020... That is a mouthful. And Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget – Office Of Employment And Training. I got to get to the rest of it out. There you go.

Chairman Cahill 1:19:01

I'll accept a motion.

Legislator Litts 1:19:02

I'll move it.

Chairman Cahill 1:19:03

Second?

Legislator Corcoran 1:19:06

Second.

Chairman Cahill 1:19:08

All in favor? Any discussion? All in favor?

Committee Members 1:19:13

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 1:19:14

Opposed?

Chairman Cahill 1:19:17

Okay, so then the third one tonight will be a Resolution 348 which is: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$23,474.50, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Assetworks LLC – Information Services

Chairman Donaldson 1:19:41

I'll move it.

Chairman Cahill 1:19:46

Okay, Chairman Donaldson. Second?

Legislator Litts 1:19:48

I'll second it for discussion.

Chairman Cahill 1:19:50

Legislator Litts. Okay. Anyone have any questions or comments on this? Okay, I'll call for a vote. All in favor?

Committee Members 1:20:02

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 1:20:04

Opposed? Okay, great. Thank you.

Legislator Uchitelle 1:20:07

And then Chairman Cahill. Yeah, I could just get tripped up by the moving the order. On resolution 333. I was actually intending to abstain.

Chairman Cahill 1:20:20

Okay, well, I think we can... go ahead.

Legislator Uchitelle 1:20:22

Is it too late for that Fawn?

Chairman Cahill 1:20:25

No. Okay. As long as a committee meeting still in order, you can do that correct?

Fawn Tantillo 1:20:29

Yes.

Chairman Cahill 1:20:30

Yeah. Okay. Thanks for pointing that out. Legislator Uchitelle, I appreciate it.

Legislator Uchitelle 1:20:34

Yeah, sorry. I just it snuck up on me faster than I expected.

Chairman Cahill 1:20:37

That's okay. Resolution 349: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$68,778.39 Entered Into By The County for Tyler Technologies for the Information Services

So moving.?

Chairman Donaldson 1:20:58

Move it.

Legislator Cahill 1:21:00

Second?

Legislator Uchitelle

Second.

Chairman Cahill 1:21:01

Okay. Any discussion?

Legislator Uchitelle 1:21:08

I was just curious if we could just hear really quickly what the reason for the increase was. Because this being fleet services, I would imagine there's less fleet activity. And I just didn't know if this is the resolution, I'm thinking it is.

Alan Macaluso 1:21:23

All the previous one, Assetworks was the previous resolution, which was 348. So, that is a standard increase for Asset Records as a countywide fleet management, which is inclusive of DEW, Central Auto, UCAT, which basically we use to track vehicle maintenance. And it's an extension of the contract and an increase for one year of the software support and maintenance for Assetworks.

Similarly, for 349, that is for Tyler Technologies, the Munis system, that's our human resources and payroll, software maintenance, as used by Personnel, Finance and other departments for tracking employee, payroll, etc. Again, that's just an increase in support and maintenance for that software package.

Fawn Tantillo 1:22:27

I apologize. This was moved by Donaldson and seconded by?

Chairman Cahill 1:22:31

Uchitelle. Okay, so all in favor?

Committee Members 1:22:42

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 1:22:44

Opposed?

Chairman Cahill 1:22:46

Okay, so then that brings us to our last resolution of the evening. And I'm going to read this. So, this is Resolution No. 328, which is: Approving The Deviation By The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Relating To The Terms And Conditions Of A Certain PILOT Agreement To Be Entered Into Between The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency And Kingstonian Development, LLC In Connection With The Kingstonian Development, LLC Project, And The Undertaking Of The Project Under The Agency's Housing Policy.

Chairman Cahill 1:23:26

I'll accept a motion to move it.

Legislator Corcoran 1:23:30

Motion.

Chairman Cahill 1:23:33

All right, so we have a motion by Legislator Corcoran, a second by Legislator, Donaldson.

Chairman Cahill 1:23:41

Any comment or do we just call it? Oh, just kidding.

Committee Members

[Laughter]

Legislator Archer 1:23:46

Nice try, Brian.

Chairman Cahill 1:23:47

Legislator Archer.

Legislator Archer 1:23:51

As some of you know, maybe most of you know, I made an appeal to the IDA. I really believe that this is a complicated project. And I really believe, strongly, that the IDA needs to do in a third party review. And in fact, the County Exec came out supporting that perspective. And at this juncture, I don't think we should move on this until we get the findings of a third party review.

Chairman Cahill 1:24:26

Chairman Donaldson.

Chairman Donaldson 1:24:28

Yes, this third party review, I believe is in the process of taking place. I've had conversations with the County Executive yesterday. And I had a conversation with Deputy Executive Milgrim and the processes taking place. And they should have that by next week. And it was a last-minute thing that gets thrown in.

Chairman Donaldson 1:24:58

And I'm in right now. Bad, you know, the [East Clare] is up. And we put in affordable housing there. The Alms House is being built as we're speaking and it's going up rather quickly, the Alm House project, more affordable housing there. Our LDC has been meeting and, you know, we have been, you know, looking at proposals and visiting sites. And that's going to be various housing, more affordable housing. And this project here in Uptown Kingston is a more of a market rate but it does have 10%, affordable housing.

And the IDA of course, is sort of an independent body because we appointed them to be independent, an independent body, that's what we do. That's why we went through the process of appointing people to make sure that they were independent. And what their job was, is to run these numbers, and I believe they run those numbers, they use their software with that.

I do not think that they should be held up at this point. It still got to go through Ways and Means. And we have a meeting at Ways and Means on Tuesday, if he reports that there, and when we're not satisfied yet, you can postpone it to the following Tuesday. I don't think this thing should be keep lingering on and on.

As a result, it makes sense for us to pass it out this committee. It still got other areas to go to before we actually accept it. And like I said before, the county is moving forward, and there is going to be an independent analysis of the deviated PILOT. It's going to complement, or it will counter what the LDC, I mean, what the IDA has more or less gone and their independence. And we have a number of people on the IDA, like Richard Jones, and we know all know, that is, you know, pretty much a stickler for looking at numbers. And so is a few other members.

So, what I'm saying is, I don't think we should be opening that up in this committee, when in fact, you know, we put it on the agenda for a vote before the Legislature. And anybody can vote any way they wish, by whatever information they choose to use. And, you know, I believe... I agree with the independent analysis, if we can get this done in a timely fashion. I had that conversation with the County Executive yesterday. And I've also had the conversation with Deputy Executive Milgrim. And Deputy Executive Milgrim assured me that they are working and they have someone that's starting that independent review. And they are... hopefully, that will be gone early next week.

Legislator, Archer and then I'd like to put my own hand up. Go ahead.

Legislator Archer 1:28:18

Thank you. But and I appreciate, I appreciate the things that you've said Chairman. But first of all, where the Economic Development Standing Committee on it, it comes here first, because it is about economic development in the county. You're asking this group to make a decision without all the facts.

There has not been an independent review done by the IDA. They've taken and used their software system to take the data and the numbers that have been given to them by the developer. This is not an independent review. This is data and numbers. And, and this is trust to verify. I mean, the reality is that a third party will come in and look at it in a very different way. And so, and they will test the numbers. And that's the whole point of a third party to do that.

And so, why as Economic Development, would we vote something out of committee when we don't have all the facts? I am, quite frankly, what we have before us our general terms that was agreed to by the IDA. But they haven't done a final vote on this PILOT. So, we're kind of seeing it in mid stride.

And all I'm asking for is, look, the first presentation I had on the numbers was last Tuesday. So, having something been sitting out here for a long time. I will say that the actual group need to turn determined that they didn't want to bring it before the prior IDA board. So, any delay is not by us but it's by the developers

themselves in wanting to wait till they felt comfortable, they had all their ducks in a row to go before New IDA Board.

So, all I'm saying is give us the courtesy of not trying to rush through something as the body, as Economic Development, that committee that should be looking at these things. I support responsible economic development. All I'm asking for is a third party review before we're asked to make a decision on something. That's informed legislation that's not just rushing to do something, because somebody wants a PILOT. Thank you.

Chairman Cahill 1:30:36

Chairman Donaldson, I'll let you go and then up, then I'm going to go.

Chairman Donaldson 1:30:39

Yeah, I mean, you know, we can also look at this as paralysis by analysis. I mean, the IDA has got their work, their due diligence in this. And as a result they come up with a deviated plan. And that's what before us. And we are doing the analysis. The analysis will be done. And as an outside item. And I realized maybe you don't trust that the IDA did their work. And we...

Legislator Archer 1:31:13

Don't put words in my mouth Chairman, please. Do not put words in my mouth. Do not put that that's really...

Chairman Cahill 1:31:19

Please, wait. Please wait. Please wait. Legislator Archer,

Legislator Archer 1:31:23

I will wait as long as someone doesn't put words in my mouth.

Chairman Cahill 1:31:26

This is not the presidential debate. We're going to have one legislator speaking at a time, please. Thank you.

Chairman Donaldson 1:31:32

And you were given the information of probably closer a year ago. You sat down with the developers and they pointed out some of these things. And to say you didn't have any of this information is false. And you know, I realized that, you know, you come up with this idea. I didn't know anything about it. That this independent analysis. And it to me, it's starting to look like death through 1000 cuts. And, you know, sometimes we do have to have some faith in the IDA because right now we're already we've got, like I said, Esquare, we've got the Alms House. Our LDC is putting together things. And these are market housing. Yes, we'll be doing 10% affordable housing.

And the numbers are there. And I believe they bear out. At least in the way... when I ran through them, they bear, they bore out what they... why they needed this. And as a result, the independence study by next week, we're also I believe, will bear that out.

And to tie it up for another month or two makes no sense to me, because it already can be tied up. It goes before the Finance Committee yet. And if Finance Committee can crack at it. They can have a crack at it on Tuesday, they could have another crack at it on the Tuesday after that.

So, it's not being... it's not being rushed. This thing has been out... been project for that has been talked about for I don't know how long. This is the third attempt at this type of project in Uptown Kingston and I believe it's going to be transformative. And just like the Alms House, Esquare is becoming transformative. And just like that LDC, and our LDC that's going to put housing on Golden Hill. And as somebody that is lived here and all my life, I want to see this transformation.

Chairman Cahill 1:33:39

You would have to finish when I was taking a sip of tea, thank you. So, there's a couple of things here, we did receive an email to the committee, the analysis, the cost benefit analysis that the IDA ran. And although it doesn't have every bit of the finance, finances available to what an independent one will get, hopefully. It gives you an indication of where it sits. And it looks like it comes into just under with somewhere around 2.7 to one in benefit of, of the government. Right? So, I'm not basing my opinion on that. I'm just saying that, to me, that's a pretty good indicator of what this project is bringing forward.

Secondly, I'm going to ask a Deputy Milgrim if he wouldn't mind helping us out here and letting us know if we are going to see an independent cost benefit analysis prior to the next Ways and Means Committee. Or at least prior to the second Ways and Means Committee before our Session.

Deputy Executive Milgrim 1:34:47

Chairman, thank you. I'm actually going to defer to Tim who's actually taking point on this right now. I know he's been in discussions. But Tim, if you could just chime in if that's all right, Tim.

Tim Weidemann 1:35:02

So, I guess Can, can you, Mr. Chairman, remind me of the schedule for those ways and means meetings so I can confirm or deny?

Chairman Cahill 1:35:11

Yes, I believe it. Go ahead, Chairman. Thank you. Would you know the answer, I guess,

Chairman Donaldson 1:35:15

The meeting is Tuesday. And then again, as Lynn will point out, then they meet again, the Tuesday after that.

Chairman Cahill 1:35:23

So it would be the 13th of October, and then the 20th of October.

Tim Weidemann 1:35:30

So, you know, I think it's probably everyone understands an accelerated timeline for any project to try to work in a week or week and a half. And, and so I think we've had discussions with [MDC], that suggests that they can have this done by the end of next week. So, it would look that that would mean that it would be not before your first of those two Ways and Means committee meetings but before the second of them.

Chairman Cahill 1:35:54

Thank you. And so, I'm just going to go back to kind of reiterate what Chairman Donaldson said. I think that, you know, we, as a Legislature, we still have an opportunity to have our input into this prior to going to the floor for an entire legislature vote. But I also believe that, you know, we can move it forward to the next stage so we're not holding it up if the cost benefit analysis does come back in favor of government in the county and the school district in the City of Kingston.

Because I think that's a little bit unfair to the developers who have spent so much money and so much time trying to get to this point. And you know, like the way I like to refer to it, most of you have heard me say this before, but I can't tell you how much I despise being 80% down the runway, and then having someone say, oh, we're not taking the trip. I don't like that. I think it's unfair to the committee. I think it's unfair to the people who have spent so much time and energy on this project, and the people in the IDA, who have worked on it, the City of Kingston who has already approved it.

And I think that, you know, as Chairman Donaldson said, this is not new news. This was a something that's been around for a year. And obviously, if the folks who thought that a cost benefit analysis would be an important aspect of this, well, I'm sure they thought of it a few months ago, right? Or six months ago, when the project was started talking, taking on some increased energy and look like it was going to come before us. I think we all knew that this project was going to come before us at some point in this year. Right? And to wait to the 11th hour, I just think is disingenuous. I don't like it.

And I'm going to tell you, as the committee chair, you know, I'm going to stand up right now and say, this is the second time that this has happened, on very crucial issues where we've had a single legislator, interject a thing into this committee that delays it. And I don't like it.

And so, by the way, I wasn't involved in the conversations that took place between two legislators and the company that's going to do this study. Right. And again, we're a committee. Just like I said, for the IDA board, we're committee. And if there's anything that's going to take place, we do it as a committee. And I'm just going to tell you right now that my vote is going to be to pass this tonight. And if the Ways and Means Committee wants to look at this a little further, then go right ahead.

Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle 1:38:15

So, you know, just to be clear, Legislator Archer is not the only legislator that that would like to see this review happen and would like to be able to digest it. This is the district that I represent. I'm very, very familiar with the space there. I worked across the street for many, many years. And I care dearly, as all of us do, especially those of us that represent Kingston, about the growth that Kingston has had, that uptown Kingston has had and how transformative it has been.

You know, this is the first night that this committee has this resolution to review. This, you know, I was appraised of more specific numbers in the last week. And I would like to have those verified by a third party. The work that the IDA does to put the numbers into their, you know, process is, you know, the numbers that are provided, and I don't sense anything sinister with them at all. But I would feel a lot more comfortable about something that to the, you know, to Chairman Donaldson, this point is absolutely going to be transformative for my district, to feel really confident in that. And I'm just not at that level of confidence tonight.

Chairman Cahill 1:39:32

Legislator Archer go ahead.

Legislator Archer 1:39:34

Thank you, a couple of things I'd like to address. First of all, in my remarks at the public hearing for the IDA, I recognized all the work that that group has done. And I said, as much. And I do believe that for them to take it to the next level, for them to ensure that they're looking at a project, and a project as complex as this. This is not just a housing project. It is not just a retail sales project. It's not just a boutique hotel and a structure to garage. It is all of those things. And it's complicated. And I think they'll be the first ones to even acknowledge that that level of complexity with their application is difficult. It's not just one standard project.

So, I am not negating the work that's been done. I applaud all the work that's been done. And I applaud all the efforts, even on the new folks to get familiar with this project. So again, I appreciate the work they've done.

But I also appreciate the fact that we are being asked to make a decision without all the facts. And without a verification. Yes, a year ago, the group came to us and gave us a preview of their thinking. But there's been many iterations of that very project along the way in talking with the City and talking with the school district, in many meetings with the IDA. First with the first Board; now with this Board.

So, to say that I had a general sense. And of course, as I said, as I said the other night, I'm supportive of responsible economic development. But I'm also responsible the taxpayers of this county. And before I would vote for something, I'd want a full review and an opportunity to digest it, instead of having it be

shoved down our throats in a quick timeframe because the developer had chosen to delay when they were bringing it before us.

I want to support Kingstonian, I want to support those efforts. But I also want to ensure that what we're approving is we have all the facts, we're not just doing it by the seat of our pants. And that, I'm sorry, is what I believe is important. Not to slow it down. But to ensure we're informed, and we have all the information with which to make an informed decision.

And as to the comment about not including you. You and I Brian had a conversation to bring that to this table tonight in a very different tone. Really Chairman, I'm very disappointed in that. That's all I have to say.

Chairman Cahill 1:42:11

Well, we didn't we didn't have a conversation. And it was a post your meeting with the company that's going to be doing this study with another one.

Legislator Archer 1:42:19

What did I say to you? I said it was an exploration of information. And no way were we doing anything without coming back to you. And...

Chairman Cahill 1:42:27

Right. So, my point is that it's not just...

Legislator Archer 1:42:29

That happened within 12 hours, Brian. And now we want to re-adjudicate that conversation in front of everyone, fine.

Chairman Cahill 1:42:35

Well, no, that's not my point. My point is, is that is...

Legislator Archer 1:42:38

[Inaudible] It is disappointing.

Chairman Cahill 1:42:38

Okay, my point my point is very simply that, you know, I've been running this committee as a committee, and I and I respect that every person on this committee has a voice. And I try and include every committee member in everything that I get across my desk. I pass it along as soon as I get it. Right? And, you know, the idea that, that that we didn't have an opportunity to talk about this as a committee prior to you bringing it to the committee was my point. Okay. And my point still remains, right, that we've had plenty of time to look at this. And we've had plenty of time to bring up an issue like this, up to today, because...

Legislator Archer 1:42:45

[Inaudible] I didn't get...

Chairman Cahill 1:43:18

I have the floor. Excuse me. You know, I believe that we knew about the range of the pilot, probably four months ago, at least three or four months ago. I believe we did. And I know that some of us have met one on one or in groups, with these developers over the last four or five months prior to COVID, right. Some of us have met with these developers, where they presented these numbers to us. So, there was plenty of time for people to take this type of action. I'm not saying that. I don't want to see it. Of course, I want to see it. But what I'm saying is, I want to see it. But we have an opportunity to still move this resolution forward tonight, still see that information, and not delay the developer any longer. That's all.

Chairman Donaldson and then Legislator Archer.

Chairman Donaldson 1:44:09

Oh, yes. I knew nothing about the conversation that you're talking about and the independent study, I have no problem with that. But I would have been nice if somebody wanted to, if they wanted to do this independent study and, you know, question the IDA. That's fine. I know, you know, it's always better to have double and triple checks, I guess. But the point is that it could have been done, or talked about two months ago or whatever, because these things have been going on and we could have actually made the comment, let's do an independent study. And once the PILOT comes out, have the independent study.

So, we are going to be doing this independent study, even though it's a last minute thing, and that's fine. I mean, I applaud the idea. I had that conversation. Like I said, with the County Executive, and you know, what his concern was, you know, people who are, you know, throwing dispersions, where there really isn't dispersions. And we need to make sure that everything is on the up and up, that the numbers work. And, and that's the whole point.

And so, we're bringing in a very reputable group that of course, I believe that kind of gotten brought in by Legislator or two. I don't know what those connections are. But the point is, is that they're going to come in. And as Tim Wiedemann said, they will add that information by the end of next week. You'll have time hopefully, you'll get them on Thursday or Friday, you could digest them over the weekend. You can see that what the numbers are and then we can make a vote on the night of the Legislature to move it forward, or no, or we say those independent numbers, make it look like it's a terrible deal. So therefore, we can't move it forward.

So, I mean, the idea is this committee can move it forward. It's still having another check, and then a check on and after that. Because on the floor you vote on it. It's like waiting when we get to the Finance Ways and Means Committee, it'll be voted on its merits. Whether you accept it or you don't will be based on the information that you have, or don't have.

Chairman Cahill 1:46:39

Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts 1:46:43

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A vote tonight only moves it out of this committee to floor. You can always be defeated at the floor. We have a couple of weeks to get whatever information we need. I request you call the question.

Chairman Cahill 1:47:05

Go ahead, Legislator Archer.

Legislator Archer 1:47:06

Yeah, I just want to be clear, the first opportunity that I have seen the last iteration of numbers was on Tuesday. I had concerns when I looked at it, I spoke with a fellow Legislator Delaune. And the conversation was a very innocent, well, what you know, we both had some concerns. And I won't speak for Jim, I'll let Jim speak for Jim, about the numbers. And it was a very... the minute when we thought of a third party review.

Legislator Delaune picked up the phone and talk called both you Chairman, and you Chairman Cahill, about it. So, to act like anybody was trying to do a last minute... I really resent that. That's the way it gets positioned. We all are working hard to try and move things forward. But I think we should at least paint them in a fair and equitable way versus drawing and casting aspersions. I'm not looking to do that. I'm looking to ensure that for the taxpayers of this county, we are spending our money appropriately. And that there is a balance between the developer making money on this and the benefit to the taxpayer. That's all I'm asking for. And I don't think that's unreasonable.

Chairman Cahill 1:48:23

So, Legislator Litts has called the vote. So we're going do a vote, I guess right now. Okay. So...

Chairman Donaldson 1:48:31

If you don't mind I'd like to respond slightly.

Chairman Cahill 1:48:34

Okay. So this this, this will be the last comment unless anyone on the committee hasn't spoken, wants to make a comment, okay.

Chairman Donaldson 1:48:42

Jim gave me a call about it. He didn't say they were going to push you to do that. But he did call me say that he wanted something of that nature. And I understood where it was coming from. And I said the same thing I said to you, Lynn, is that it's kind of a late on that. And, you know, like, I would hope that, you know, we can move this. But if like I said, it seems like the County Executive, and along with Milgrim and

Weidemann, and push the idea that they are going to get that. And so as a result, it will happen. And the funds were there to take care of it, and will recoup those funds, whatever they may be, and the study will be done. And we'll have that in time, prior to the next Legislature, the meeting of the body.

So, therefore, you will have an informed... you can make an informed decision, at least informed as much as you want. But I'm sure there probably will be other questions, but at this point, it'll be there. So, if it's not then we perhaps probably push to postpone again or whatever we may do. People can do that if they're not happy with the numbers.

But the numbers will be there. By the end of next week, you have a time, you don't have to wait for weekend, four or five days to devour them. And it's going to be done by a very reputable company that I know, Jim knows, you know, we all know. So, it's not going to be it's going to be totally independent. And therefore, I hope we add some trust there. But I'm sure there may not be trust even if it came out.

Chairman Cahill 1:50:35

Okay, so is there anyone else on the committee, I'd like to comment before I call the vote? Legislator Delaune.

Legislator Delaune 1:50:44

Just quickly, I just want folks to know that I did reach out to both the Chair and Chairman Donaldson, to let them know that I had a concern. And it turns out that there was other folks, other Legislators that also were concerned about the amount of the PILOT. So, I'm really pleased that we are going to go through a process to just make sure that what's being proposed is not unduly enriching the developer. That it's the right number, for this PILOT. It's not too much. It's not too little. It's what makes this project happen. I want to see the project happen. And I want to see the developer make money. That's a good thing for Ulster County. So, I'd like to see the numbers though first, and get that assurance, before we move to a vote.

Chairman Cahill 1:51:50

So I just want to make sure that there's been a couple of questions raised by legislators through the chat that aren't on the committee, and they want to know if the report will be shared with the entire legislature. And I'm going to request that that does happen, Tim, that everyone gets a copy of that before we have an opportunity to vote. Okay.

Tim Weidemann 1:52:10

Yep.

Chairman Cahill 1:52:10

Okay. Thank you very much. Okay. So any other legislators have anything they'd like to add before we call the vote? Okay, so then all those in favor, please signify by raising your hand saying aye.

Committee Members 1:52:24

Aye.

Fawn Tantillo 1:52:33

Okay.

Chairman Cahill 1:52:35

All those opposed?

Legislator Archer 1:52:39

And I'm just opposed only from the perspective that we don't have the information with which to move it forward. And I'm disappointed that Economic Development doesn't have the information to make an informed decision. Thank you.

Fawn Tantillo 1:52:54

So, it passes five....

Chairman Cahill 1:52:56

Oh, hold on, Legislator Uchitelle would like to speak, I guess.

Legislator Uchitelle 1:52:59

Yeah. No, I just wanted to make sure my hand was raised on opposed for the reasons that Legislator Archer mentioned. Just that we need more information.

Fawn Tantillo 1:53:07

[Inaudible]

Chairman Cahill 1:53:09

We are going to get that information. We are going to get it and there'll be two opportunities to stop this in its tracks if the information doesn't meet the Legislature's approval. So...

Fawn Tantillo 1:53:22

I have the vote five yeases and three noes. So, it passes.

Chairman Cahill 1:53:30

Right. That's correct. Okay. There's no other business on the agenda. I think we have some old business, but I don't think we have anything. Oh, looking at wrong the file. Sorry. I don't think we have anything on old business at this time. unless anyone has anything they want to bring up.

Legislator Litts 1:53:50

I'll make a motion for adjournment.

Chairman Cahill 1:53:53

Well, let me ask if there's any... Hold on a second fellas. Is there any new business at any would like to bring up this evening? Okay, now I'll accept a motion for adjournment.

Legislator Litts 1:54:04

So moved.

Chairman Cahill 1:54:06

Second?

Chairman Donaldson 1:54:06

Seconded.

Chairman Cahill 1:54:08

All in favor?

Committee Members 1:54:09

Aye.

Chairman Cahill 1:54:11

Opposed? Okay. Thank you very much folks for hanging in there for what turned out to be a pretty long meeting. Appreciate it. Take care.