

**Energy & Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 9, 2019; 6:00
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Manna Jo Green
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Lynn Eckert, Jonathan Heppner, Mary Wawro,
Brian Woltman
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Kathy Nolan; David Gordon, Legislative Counsel; Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, UC Department of the Environment; Tim Rose, UC Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Jonathan Kaplan, Royal Carting; David Haldeman, UC Environmental Management Council

Chairman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:10 pm. She lead the Pledge of Allegiance and made introductions

Motion No. 1 - To move into executive session for the purpose of conducting an interview and discussing potential appointments for the Recycling Oversight Committee and allowing fellow Legislators to remain for the interviews. (approximately 6:12)

Motion Made By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Eckert, Heppner, Wawro, and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Interview with Jonathan A. Kaplan

Motion No. 2 – To move out of executive session at approximately 6:30 noting that no action was taken.

Motion Made By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Woltman

Discussion: None
Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Eckert, Heppner, Wawro and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 3: To Approve the Minutes April 4, 2019
Motion Made By: Legislator Woltman
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Eckert, Heppner, Wawro, and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4: to approve Resolution No. 203 - Amending Capital Project No. 519 Ulster County Law Enforcement Center (UCLEC) Energy Upgrades – Amending The 2019 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works, and

Resolution No. 205 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Central Hudson – Department Of Public Works

Resolution No. 203 Summary: This resolution will amend the 2019-2024 Ulster County Capital Improvement Program by increasing Capital Project No. 519 for UCLEC by \$242,000 to install gas lines and convert the current boilers to natural gas resulting in a net operational savings in annual fuel costs.

Resolution No. 205 Summary: This resolution will approve that contract with Central Hudson for the installation of a high pressure natural gas (NG) line to the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center (UCLEC).

Motion By: Legislator Woltman
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: Chair Greene asked Ms. LaValle to explain details of Resolutions No. 203 and 205 – She described the failing oil fired heating system in the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center (UCLEC) and the urgency to replace this failing system. She described the need for redundancy in a building that large and a natural gas systems would be an improvement over replacing the oil base system.

Ms. LaValle explained that Central Hudson (CH) is installing a natural gas line in the area and will install the line to the UCLEC for \$242,000. This charge is less than it would be if CH was not currently working in the area but CH would install the gas line at no charge if the county was willing to guarantee using a certain amount of natural gas for at least 10 years. The county plans to explore other energy efficient options including heat pumps and solar and is not willing to guarantee using a specified amount of natural gas.

Ms. LaValle discussed the “pay back” for they natural gas system is approximately 5 years. She also discussed the New York State Energy and Resource Development Agency’s (NYSERDA) grant and the Flex tech study as part of a long-term energy reduction plan.

Legislator Nolan recognized the unique issues of providing 24-7 heat and hot water to such a large facility serving hundreds of people. She noted this system did not preclude the development of other

energy efficient systems that will be explored as part of the Flex Tech study. She suggested taxpayers should hold the legislature accountable if other energy efficiency measures are not explored.

Legislator Eckert discussed the need to have a back-up system and felt it would allow time to study geothermal, solar and other green energy options while providing much needed backup.

Legislator Heppner noted this is a first step to improving the overall heating system and will provide a level of security necessary for such a large facility. He spoke about the draft NYSERDA flex tech study and how it will move the building toward other efficiencies. He felt it was important to have that security and sited another jail facility where the system failed and created a local disaster.

Chair Greene expressed a fundamental concern approving any new fossil fuel system. She believes a geothermal solar system with battery backup is very reliable and spoke about renewable energy economy with storage and efficiency. She is disappointed these energy efficient alternatives were not explored before these systems failed and is concerned that once a new system is installed there is no urgency to explore another system that would zero out greenhouse gas emissions. She recognizes the responsibility of providing heat to the facility but will vote no as a protest.

Legislator Heppner recognized the current system is in a state of imminent failure. He feels that it is a practical solution for now that the county can walk away from in the future when a geothermal solar or other green solution can be added.

A discussion ensued regarding many of these issues.

Voting in Favor:	Legislators Eckert, Heppner, Wawro and Woltman
Voting Against:	Legislator Greene
No. of Votes in Favor:	4
No. of Votes Against:	1
Disposition:	Resolutions No. 203 and 205 Approved

Motion No. 4: to discuss Resolution No. Resolution No. 128 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 20 Of 2018 As Amended, A Local Law Requiring Restaurants And Fast Food Service Establishments Provide Plastic Beverage Straws Solely Upon Request

Resolution Summary: This resolution will approve a proposed local law to regulate the distribution of plastic straws by food establishments in Ulster County.

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

Discussion: The committee discussed a proposal by Legislator Nolan to amend the resolution to include other single use plastics like coffee stirrers and eating utensils. The Town of Woodstock recently passed a law that will phase out these single use plastics commonly distributed by takeout restaurants.

Legislator Wawro repeated her preference to work with local businesses to accomplish this rather than legislate it.

Legislator Woltman agreed and recommended a broad discussion and public education campaign on these and other single use plastics such a cup lids. He praised the awareness this discussion has created but questioned how the enforcement will work.

There was a discussion regarding the need for another public hearing if the law addressed anything beyond plastic straws; should it be a complete ban of single use plastics and other aspects of reducing single use plastics; could it be amended on the floor or should another law be written.

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Eckert and Heppner
Voting Against: Legislator Wawro and Woltman
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 5: to amend and approve Resolution No. 173 - Appointing Members To The Recycling Oversight Committee to add John Kaplan as a Commercial Hauler and John Schoonmaker as an at large member.

Resolution Summary: This resolution will appoint members to the Recycling Oversight Committee

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Eckert

Discussion: None

Voting in Favor of the Amendment: Legislators Greene, Eckert, Heppner, Wawro and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Amendment Approved

Voting in Favor as Amended: Legislators Greene, Eckert, Heppner, Wawro and Woltman
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

New Business: Chair Greene shared information about the Hudson River Revival and 50th anniversary of the Sloop Clearwater in June.

Old Business: Chair Greene gave update on Climate Smarts work including the Green Business Challenge. They are joining the Saugerties CSC and Chamber of Commerce to host an event on May 20th.

Legislator Nolan announced a “Flip the Switch” event on May 18 at Frost Valley to celebrate their new solar array. Anyone interested in attending

Legislator Wawro is sponsoring an event in Saugerties on June 4 to discuss recycling. The UCRRA and several haulers are invited.

On May 14, there is an event in Saugerties to discuss problems with construction and demolition (C&D) dumping at a location on Route 212.

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Woltman

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo

Minutes Approved: June 6, 2019