

**Energy, Environment & Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 5, 2022; 6:30 PM or immediately following the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 893 1439 7456
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Gina Hansut, Phil Erner, and Joseph Maloney (left 8:00)
ABSENT: Legislator Eric Stewart
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Eve Walter; Deputy Executive Marc Rider; Dave Haldeman; Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC); Dennis Doyle, Director, UC Planning; Nick Hvozda, Director of Department of Environment; Tim Weidemann, Director Economic Development, Nate Litwin, Director & Molly Scott, UC Office of Recovery and Resilience ;Tim DeGraff, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA); Jen Metzger, Cannabis Control Board; Matt Colangelo; Ellen DiFalco; Ilona Ross

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: Motion to **APPROVE** the Minutes of April 7, 2022

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: (See transcript)

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, and Maloney

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 4

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes **APPROVED**

Tim DeGraff gave a report for the UCRRA. He is moving back to the Comptroller position. He gave details of the first Household Hazardous Waste event and the schedule for several more this year. He gave details of several zero waste initiatives including a Compost Awareness event, a promotional video created in cooperation with local students, Repair, Refurbish and Recycling events.

Director of the Department of Environment Nick Hvozda gave updates on Earth Day events, Green Business Champions program, and work with stakeholders for the proposed. Reuse Innovation Center

Dave Haldeman EMC reported on a presentation by Bard College students on Climate Adaptation and assessing vulnerability to Climate Change. He invited members to the next meeting to hear Harry Terbush, owner of 3 local hydroelectric facilities. Mr. Haldeman mention problems Terbush had not been paid by Central Hudson in over 6 months.

Haldeman also described concerns with tourism sustainability in the Catskill Park and local townships due to the growing popularity of trails and other recreation. He said there was a critical need for additional parking and public restrooms.

The committee discussed the need for solar mapping.

Resolution No. 15: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 131, Vehicles, County, Article I, Sustainable Green Fleet Policy, In Relation To Strategies And Goals, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 21, 2022 At 7:00 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution schedules a date and time for a public hearing on a proposed local law to update the Ulster County Green Fleet Policy.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 15**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution APPROVED**

Resolution No. Resolution No. 167 - Adopting A Negative Declaration For The Demolition Of The Former Ulster County Jail Located On Golden Hill, And Establishing And Funding

Resolution Summary: This resolution determines that the demolition of the former Jail located on Golden Hill is an Unlisted Action that is a discrete action that can be considered separate and apart from the future actions; amends the 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program and creates Capital Project No. 630 – Demolition Jail Golden Hill for \$1,500,000.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 167**
Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: See Transcript

Motion No. 4: **Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 167**
Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Erner, and Maloney
Voting Against: Legislators Greene and Hansut
No. of Votes in Favor: 2
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: **Motion FAILED**

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene and Hansut
Voting Against: Legislators Erner and Maloney
No. of Votes in Favor: 2
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: **Resolution FAILED**

Resolution No. 252 - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Cooperative Agreement With The New York State Department Of Conservation For The Implementation Of Environmental Benefit Projects On The Lower Esopus As Provided For In The DEC Order On Consent – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute a new Cooperative Agreement, and any amendments thereto, with the NYSDEC for Ulster County to act as fiscal agent to implement the Environmental Benefit Projects, specifically the Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 252**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, and Erner
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 253 - Appointing Member To The Recycling Oversight Committee

Resolution Summary: The resolution would appoint a member (to be determined) to the Recycling Oversight Committee

NO ACTION At the request of the sponsor.

New Business

Memorializing Letter declaring support for NY/NJ Watershed Protection Act

Memorializing Letter declaring Support for the New York State Climate Action Council Scoping Plan

Indoor Air Quality – Legislator Erner described a situation with air quality in a rental house and health concern about poorly maintained heating systems being exacerbated by green insulation practices.

Old Business

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Greene
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 8:53 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: June 9, 2022

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Chair Manna Jo Greene

I'd like to welcome everyone to the May 5th, Cinco de Mayo meeting of the Energy Environment and Sustainability Committee and ask if the clerk would kindly take the role.

Fawn Tantillo

Manna Jo Greene

Chair Manna Jo Greene

President

Fawn Tantillo

Gina Hansut. Not yet. Phil Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Present.

Fawn Tantillo

Joseph Maloney

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Here.

Fawn Tantillo

and Eric Stewart?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I apologize. I've been getting so many emails, I can't remember if Eric sent a note with apologies or not. Okay, and with that, um, Would someone like to volunteer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance? Let's say, Phil, would you do the honors?

Legislator Phil Erner

I would rather not, but thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Oka. Joe?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'd rather not as well.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, I guess it's up to me. Who else is here, we're still missing two members. So I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you. And with that, I would entertain you for everyone's had a chance to look at the minutes for our April 7 meeting. I would entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

Legislator Phil Erner

So moved

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Moved by Legislator Erner. Do we have a second? Legislator Maloney to you.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, good. All in favor, please. Signify by raising your hand and or saying aye. Anyone opposed? Motion carries in the minutes of April 7 are approved.

Fawn Tantillo

And Madam Chairman, Legislator Hansut just joined us.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Wonderful. Gina. Just so you know, we, we said the pledge and approved the minutes. And do you have any questions about the minutes? Are you Are you okay with that?

Fawn Tantillo

Can you hear us? Gina?

Legislator Gina Hansut

I can hear you. Okay, we can hear you. Okay, sorry about that. We ran a little late.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I'd like to hear about it offline later. So did you have any questions about the minutes?

Legislator Gina Hansut

Me? Nope. I looked everything over? No, I'm good.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, excellent. So the next item is an update from the UCRRA, And Tim DeGraff, would you be so kind.

Tim DeGraff

Um, I'll just start off. Because Fawn brought it up. I did. Um, I am going to be stepping down as Executive Director. I'm just so everybody's aware. Basically, what happened is as I was performing a dual role of Executive Director and Comptroller, and as time went on, it became more and more of a reality that it was just too much to handle. So I had I had lengthy discussion, discussions with the board chair, and then, you know, our current board as well. And I think we've we're still tweaking it, but we're working on, on a plan that I think will be that'll be really, really good for the agency as a whole. And I think everyone will have been pleased with that. I think we're probably we should be able to put the final stamp of approval on hopefully at our next board meeting. I know we don't want to go much past that for sure. But it's all it's going to be a good change. And it certainly will, will benefit the county as a whole once we get into that, because there's just too, there's just too many big projects outside of the day-to-day operational stuff, which I would say that I'm a little, much more my strength actually being involved in running the actual business internally. So, I just think this just make us much, much better. On the whole. So, I'm, as I said before, I'm not I'm not going anywhere, we're just kind of doing a restructuring. That's all. You The other thing I wanted to bring up because it was mentioned earlier as well is the board and the staff did get together and formally submit our, our comments to Nick from the Department of Environment with regards to the RIC RFP, so that was completed on our end, Angie asked me to pass along some information that she wanted me to let you guys know, we did have our first household hazardous waste (HHW) event, this past Saturday in New Paltz. We had 300 slots available, we only ended up with about 200 residents that took part 50 people no show or and or cancelled and we did have 50 spots that I hadn't gotten filled before that day. The next one is scheduled in Kingston at our Ulster facility for June 26. And big change for that one that's coming. That's also good news is the May 1, the paint, paint care through the paint care stewardship program will be coming into effect. So that'll be our first HHW where we'll be taking the latex paint. And that will all be handled through our vendor and paint care. That so that's, that's really good news. There's also additional businesses and rest where residents can bring their latex paint, like Herzog's, and Sherwin Williams and Kingston, and also the Habitat for Humanity Restore and Kingston out route 28. If you visit pink care in New York, I believe you can get more information on that. And we'll have two more events, one in August and one in October as well, which will have paint care involved. The recycling outreach

team is also working with some students from Ulster County Community College to develop a new promotional type of video for the agency. So that's, that's great that, you know, two agencies and Ulster County can get together. And it's been obviously a benefit and real-world experience for the students at the college. And it's going to be helpful for us as well to get some, like I said, some promotion and marketing material out there. And I think after that, the next step that we were talking about doing is hopefully doing setting up some type of virtual tour. Because when obviously, when COVID happened, we couldn't have people come on site. And that really sparked the idea that if we can get put something together and produce something and we can put on our website, so people could, you know, learn about the agency just strictly through a YouTube video. So that will probably be the next video that we work on. Compost Awareness Week. Angie says, we have a lot a lot of upcoming events and programs underway for me to celebrate International Compost Awareness Week. Always check our website for any events. The recycling outreach team collaborated with upstate films, I believe that was this past Sunday at the Orpheum and Saugerties. They hosted a free documentary screening on food waste, and about 30 people attended. And they did a whole Q&A session, session afterwards. And it was successful and not that Angie is already looking into doing another one. So that's really great. They also hosted a free Verma comm posting webinar, which they had 20 people signed up for. And this upcoming weekend is our spring compost bin and rain barrel sale. The distribution event will happen this Saturday. And also, on May 17. There's a free intro to composting workshop in person at the town of Plattekill library. She wanted me to update on our website there they've added more waste reduction content, reuse organization lists where you can search by the item that you want to donate and where that can go repair refurbish organizations list so you can search by the thing that you want to get fixed. And my plastic alternatives which was created by the New Paltz Climate Action Coalition. So through our website, you can search for local businesses that either sell products in bulk or where people may bring their own containers when getting carried out meals. There's a bunch of other free outreach programs that have been planned for June and July, in partnership with the Rosendale library, Esopus library, Ellenville library and the Gardiner library. And the last item I wanted to bring up is we just got notified the DEC opened up the grant program, the food scraps recycling on so we can start submitting an application for May 1. And our plan is to try and submit an application and this will go through our zero-waste committee at the agency before we formally submit anything. But the plan is to get moving on figuring out a way to have more organics diversions at some of the town transfer stations. I mentioned that in the past about setting up totes and our totes and trailers. And that's what we're hoping to do. There's going to be match matching costs involved. And I believe 50% reimbursement after that, hopefully to purchase the equipment. So, if we could get that, that grant that would be that would be an excellent step forward and finding another way to divert organics out of a different kinds of waste stream other than work, you know, what comes to us? Any questions?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I just want to thank you for adding in a couple more HHW collections. Because I know that I've gotten some calls with people that are backed up and, and there was a waiting list and they just couldn't get an appointment. So having two more collections, especially after COVID Because people have stuff sitting from, you know, doing cleanups because they were stuck home. So thank you.

Tim DeGraff

Yeah, we did four events last year. And we did we have four planned for this year. That's why I was quite surprised when they gave you guys the numbers before to have 300 slots. And actually, you always have people who don't show up, especially if it turns out to be a nice day. That's, that's going to happen. But I was surprised that we didn't actually fill all the slots, because like you said, usually there is a waiting list for it. And for the first one in April, that was a little surprising. But um, maybe because it was in the southern part of the county. Maybe not, not really sure.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Joe? Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

No, I was gonna say,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. All right. I think that was an excellent report, and I appreciate it. And then Department of Environment Director Hvozda, Nick Hvozda.

Director Nick Hvozda

Thank you, Chair Greene. Good evening, everybody. I have two brief updates for tonight. First one is a program that was released on Earth Day, this past month. It's a partnership between the Department of Environment and the Office of Economic Development for a green business champions program. It's an action-based certification program, where county businesses can complete actions and get certified and then receive recognition from, from the county in a host of ways that we can help promote them as green businesses in the county, there's more information about it on the county's Green New Deal website. And the applications are open. Second, at Chair Greene's request, we have received all of the stakeholder comments for drafting a scope of work for the Reuse Innovation Center Capital Project, planning study capital project. Thank you to UCRRA, and the board and staff for putting together some very good comments that we're in the process of compiling. And it's really helping us to narrow down the scope of work. So thank you to Tim and the team there. And next step is to finalize the scope, put together the RFP and get started. So that's all from me, unless there are any questions.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I just want to encourage people on the green business champions now that it's up and running, you know, someone gets certified and it's if there are a number of different actions that they can take installing solar doing an energy retrofit, a lighting, retrofit. And all of that is detailed on the website. But it made me think about who I knew, in Rosendale and Marletown that have taken these actions. And I've been sending that information to the business and also living Mike Darcy, I think is Michael Darcy is managing that program and letting Michael know so that he can encourage participation because ideally, we want it to be that if somebody is looking for a vendor or business that they check the site to see who is actually helping implement the green New Deal and, and address the global climate crisis. So Um, thank you. All right. Next is Environmental Management Council, the EMC. Dave Haldeman. Do you have an update?

Dave Haldeman

Yeah, just very briefly. Our speaker last, this last month was a bunch of students from Bard College, which spoke to us about the Ulster County climate adaptation planning project that they were working on. And it's just a very novel way of getting communities and individuals within communities to assess their vulnerability due to climate change. So, it's just something you can keep in mind, it's out there, and it seems to be workable. The other thing I would mention at our next meeting, which is May 25th. Harry Terbush, who is the local businessman who runs the three hydroelectric plants, one in Walkkill, here, one across the river in Wappingers. And then there's a third one. He's going to be our speaker. And in talking with him of late, there seems to be a considerable amount of difficulty in his renewable energy, as be waterpower, but he also included solar in them getting paid, he hasn't been paid for the product he's been producing for six months. So, it might be of interest for those of you who are in legislature to, and I'll make sure that Fawn has that information in advance so that you can zoom in with us at that time to hear what he has to say. But if my understanding what he was pretty upset about the situation now. Yeah,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Who is? Excuse me, David, who was? Explain that again.

Dave Haldeman

Okay. So Harry, who's now owns Windsor machine, who is the developer and producer of hydraulic local hydroelectric power. He's going to talk about those dams he has an operation and how much he produces. He's also going to talk about dams. Like, there's one up in sovereignties. He mentioned that he had approached some years ago, but that never went into power. But he says it's an ideal spot. So, but the big thing is, he's having there he and apparently solar as well, are having all sorts of difficulty in the payment process. For that, which they're producing.

Deputy Executive Rider

Is that through Central Hudson, sorry, I

Dave Haldeman

I don't know whether it's Central Hudson or the Public Service Commission, I'm not sure.

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

But it's not Ulster County, correct?

Legislator Joseph Maloney

No, doesn't sound like it's Ulster County. Perhaps Ulster County could help, I guess, is what they're saying. I'd be interested to hear more.

Dave Haldeman

His power plant in Walkkill, in Hamlet of Walkkill is one of those affected. So,

Director Tim Wiedemann

David, I'm going to put my email address in my, my little name, name tag on my screen. And I would love to connect with him, especially if there's a site and Socrates that maybe would be possible. It sounds interesting, and our Office of Economic Development might be able to help.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

That's great. And thank you, to everyone who spoke to that. I am a customer of what is it natural power group? And I've seen the work that they do. I've been to the Wappingers Falls site. And just to give folks a little bit about the big picture. There has been an interest in trying to develop guidelines for what's a good low impact hydropower project and I use the term low impact hydro. Because I don't think we want to be flooding large areas. But it is possible in some cases appropriate to capture hydroelectricity. The Saugerties site is one that actually the DEC and Riverkeeper have agreed is a good site. But there is also a strong desire on the part of the Hudson River Estuary Program, River Keeper and some others to take out as many dams and have a free flowing what they consider to be healthier watershed. And so, where we have come at this point is we're looking for three different projects that we can showcase as a model. And one would be the, the idea of taking the dam out and showcasing the benefits of that. Another would be rehabilitating or restoring a dam. And then the third would be repowering or powering a dam for low impact hydro. So that's just a little background information. And I believe there is someone who's very actively trying to develop the site in Saugerties. they've done quite a bit of work on that. In this case, it's not the natural power group. It's a different developer. And, Tim, if you send me a reminder, I'll put you in touch with them as well. If you wouldn't mind,

Director Tim Wiedemann

For sure.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Pardon? You will. Okay. Thank you. All right. Very good.

Dave Haldeman

That's the second, Manna Jo.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please.

Dave Haldeman

Yeah, the only other thing I just might mention that it came up at the end of our meeting last time was that there's some concern on the part of the county EMC, about sustainable tourism in the Catskills, that some places within the Catskill reserve and park are being overcrowded. Trails are being overwhelmed. They don't have enough parking, and they don't have enough toilet facilities, etc. And we may we're working on trying to get a speaker on that topic for our June meeting. I just wanted to mention that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Right. You're doing excellent work. And it's a really important part of the county. It's sort of the environmental conscience of the county. And let's see. Oh, Environmental Management. I think we're up to resolutions. Did I see a hand up? Yes. Go ahead.

Director Tim Wiedemann

Please. Madam Chair, I just wanted to say on that last point, I would love to know details about that event, I can share them with Tourism Director Lisa Berger, and I'm sure she'd love to participate in that conversation.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I and I would very much if you want to set up a call if happens to be an area of expert. Well, expertise is a stretch, but an area that that I have some knowledge about, and I'm pretty current on. We actually had an intern working on gathering that information. So, we have quite a bit of information. And we've met with most of the key players in the region. So, I'd be glad to share that information.

Director Tim Wiedemann

I'll send you an email on that too.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. And I'm at this point I would like to...

Fawn Tantillo

Madam Chair, Legislator Erner has his hand raised?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please. Go ahead. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, Madam Chair. I, and thank you to all our presenters. Now, I had a few notes from my own attendance at the Environment Management Council that I just wanted to mention here. Or if you'd rather we could take it up later in new business.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Why don't you go ahead, and that way, we'll be complete.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. We talked a little bit about a county wide policy around building renewable energy generating facilities or other type of construction that we have to deal with, that we have to do to deal with, with the climate catastrophe and not taking steps backwards. And such as when we were talking about that PILOT for the solar array that would clear 20 acres of woods, and we talked with at the council about an idea of the county and this has come up in our committee here too, but just the county banning that sort of practice. And. and then also adopting a taxation scheme that makes that may make more sense for us to actually appropriately encourage what we want and understand what we're what we're going to be getting for that. What the responsibility is for commercial developer of such facilities. And, and then also

the idea that we have so much impervious surface in the county. That could be the first site, we would I would think, to put additional infrastructure rather than having to put it on either agricultural land or, or certainly not clear anything other land that could be used for, for things that haven't already been, been built. So that was one thing we talked about. And let me go, let me leave it there.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And look, let me just make a possible suggestion for a modification. I have been thinking, and I was gonna bring this up at the Climate Smart Committee, whose role is to advise the county. And that is, to be sure that, especially for the PILOT projects that come through us are that some people will call it a reverse pilot, because they are already exempt from taxes. And this is a way that those PILOTS are away to where they agree to pay taxes, because they're using the services. And, and I was thinking not to make more work for next department, but that someone there use either the solar mapping tool or something comparable to look at each of those and give us an idea because they come both to EES and Public Works. And give us an idea of, for example, is core forest or prime farmland didn't involve areas that we would want to protect. And then another thing if there were going to be a county wide law, and I think we need to, if you're interested in pursuing that, and if the committee is we want to speak with the attorneys. But I would want there to be a variance opportunity. So, it wouldn't just be automatic. I completely agree that we shouldn't be taking out forests because of their ability to draw down and sequester greenhouse gases. On the other hand, there may be circumstances where it wouldn't. It wouldn't be as much of a loss as other circumstances. And so, I know that in the solar mapping tool, they don't specifically say yes or no, they kind of leave that up to the municipality. In this case. It's it's usually a town or a city. But I think it's worth further discussion and exploration. We can't take committee time to do that. But maybe some of us would want to get together brainstorm. And then if there's an action to be taken, bring that to the committee. And I definitely would want input from, from Planning and Department of Environment, if we were going to go that route. But I do think at least a screening, the way we have a checklist for projects that are subject to SEQRA, or are covered by the laws and regulations that are already in place in my county. But I think this might either add to that or be specific for solar projects. Anybody have any? Yes, please. Dave, go ahead.

Dave Haldeman

Yeah, I just wanted to follow up on Phil's thing, at the very end of the meeting, I mentioned talking about impervious surfaces that are perfect for solar warehouses. In just below us in Orange County. There are tons and tons of warehouses just sitting there taking up acres and acres. I've seen the same thing in the Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania, where you've just got 100 acres of warehouses and no solar. So I just throw that out there. We did not have a chance to discuss that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I also want to let folks know that because I've been doing a lot of work with solar and the solar mapping project and the regional energy working group and I'm actually trying to help um the laborers. I shouldn't say the teamster's union, it's in Orange County, but they have a four- or five-acre property that they want to put solar on. And we have gone through several developers, and it's just not as easy as one would think we've been working on this I've been just offering to help, really since the fall, and it's surprisingly complicated and difficult. But I think we're working with an organization right now, that is very helpful. And I think they will succeed. But the, the thing I what I've come across is that Central

Hudson and other utilities are required to update what they call a DSIP, that's a distributed system implementation plan. Because we are going from a one-way grid to a bi directional grid, where generation is going to be increasingly distributed, not, not centralized. And in order to accomplish that, there is the need for grid modification, and especially hosting capacity and interconnection. Sometimes the cost of that is a major barrier to an otherwise really excellent project. I would say that Jockey Hill, in the town of Kingston, the, the Old City of Kingston landfill, is a really good example of that, where the interconnection essentially killed that project, because the cost was too high. So right now, and I think Jen is still on the quality of Jen Metzger is on the call. We'll be offering comments on the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, and finding a way to get the grid where the generation is going to be as we move to distributed energy is a really important part of an implementation plan, and how that's going to be equitably paid for. So, and this is on behalf of the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Coalition Energy Working Group that's been meeting since 2010. and so forth, I don't want to take more time on that. But you know, I think to whatever degree we can educate each other about particularly things that relate to climate solutions that we should do that all right, um, So, anything else before we get to the resolutions with that, I would like to focus on Resolution Number 15 -Setting a public hearing on the proposed local law amending the code of the county of Ulster chapter 131, vehicles, county article etc. The Green Fleet policy in relation to the strategies and goals and this is setting a public hearing for June 21. A motion to discuss. Okay, thank you Legislator Hansut, seconded by Legislator Erner. is there any discussion? Yes please. Oh, first, first Legislator Erner and then I saw Legislator Maloney. And I know that um, Legislator Walters is here as, as the sponsor.

Legislator Phil Erner

Legislator Walter, would you like to go ahead?

Chair Eve Walter

Sure. So, I put this in at the end of 2021. And so, it's been quite a while But it's been postponed, I feel the, the, the, the language in it is to reflect what's in the county's general policy, I'm requesting that you just either vote on this one, or if you actually have a very specific change you want to make and suggest it now, and I'll be happy to do it. But I really urge you not to postpone this anymore. And you can also just accept this one and put in another one. If you have after conversations where if you want to, you know, increase both the percentage or decrease the year. I mean, I'm fine with either of those. I just feel like I prefer you either make the change and vote on it or vote on a as it is?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Then I may not have the order, right. Who was ready to speak next? Legislator Erner, I think you were.

Legislator Phil Erner

Sure. So, thank you, Legislator Walter, We, so, we postpone this originally out of concern that updating the policy without having a corresponding goal of reducing the fleet size might not be the direction we want to go. So, I know that this we've, we've heard from, we've heard that this more or less codifies where we're already at, I believe Director Hvozda, you'd explain that to us before? Right? Like we're basically they're already at the 20%. Through the Chair, is that is that right?

Director Nick Hvozda

So, as of the end of last year, we were at 9.4%. For all vehicles in the fleet.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. And I've I've talked with, I've talked with DPW Deputy Director Kim Millian, about our fleet, and she is in support of going forward with this new language. I still have grave concerns that we're not doing everything we need to do to cut back on, on fleet size. But I think that's a discussion that I want to have further with her because I'm not the expert on on that. And she manages the whole fleet for the county is my understanding except for UCAT. So, I could support this going to a public hearing and hearing from the public. As long as we're also talking and passing resolutions here in our county, that demand that we cut back the fleet wherever that is possible and cut back other emissions as well as wherever is possible. Because otherwise to meet it is actually just greenwashing. So that's what I'll say. Thank you,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Sure. Um, so, on one hand, we're already basically on pace to be here. So, this is basically kind of just a thing, I guess, for the public, for us to say, hey, we're like driving something that's already being done. Nick, I think has already told us we're basically on pace to be at 20%. So, I'm not really sure what the point of a memorializing resolution to ourselves is that to stay on pace to what we're already on pace to do, except that the public hears something and might think we're doing more than we're actually doing. That's kind of what concerns me DPW cat in the sheriff's department, there are certain vehicles that were under the impression can't even fully be green. And that's the largest part of our fleet. So, these numbers are going to be limited to a certain amount, because we're not even able to go there yet. Secondly, or thirdly, I think Phil and I have talked a lot about reducing. Nothing in the report we've done. You know, I just sent Phil something the other day, some articles where looks like six to 8% of plastic being produced in this country actually gets recycled. That's scary. And so, you got to be careful when you're talking about going green and what it actually means. Where do you get these batteries? How much mining are we doing? Where are we generating the electricity that goes into these vehicles? Another big issue I have is we just bought three buses. Legislators couldn't wait to get down there to get their picture taken with the Executive because we purchased three buses. I'm not sure how that's an accomplishment of an elected official. I think any elected official could have spent that money. What different elected officials could have done is purchased buses, a green buses that had the ability to drive outside of the city of Kingston. These three buses we just purchased. They were a little cheaper. We bought them it served its purpose. The public thinks we're going green. We can't even go outside of the city of Kingston or go up certain hills with them. Then I hear that there were buses that maybe cost more. There was a A producer or manufacturer out in California, that may have had a better bus. So, my whole issue with all of this is, it was never about reduction. It doesn't do anything, but kind of, in my mind trick the public into thinking we're doing more than we're actually doing. We're on pace to do it anyways. And I don't really know how green it really is, if you're not talking about reducing. And if we do move this way, and it's always about things that sound good. And this is great, isn't it? We're taking pictures, then we're really not doing the kind of environmental things we really need to do this is that superficial surface? Sounds great. We have the word green. But really, until we dive in, reduce, reduce,

reduce the size of our of our fleet, and get the greenest vehicles we possibly can, then we're just doing press releases. So, whatever, this can go to public comment, but in the scheme of thing, I hope no one thinks we're really doing anything here.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, thank you, Deputy Rider.

Deputy Executive Rider

The only thing I want to add is that I believe the current policy says 5% by 2020. So, we've reached that 2020 has come and gone. You might as well rescind the policy if we're not going to amend it. As Legislator Walter said, if you want to pass this and go deeper than feel free to, you know, to go more we can evaluate that look at that look at reducing the size of the fleet where we can, we can continue to do all that. But I think we need to update the policy to match where we are, which is we've exceeded the current policy and the deadlines passed.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator, Walter.

Chair Eve Walter

Thanks. And I also want to relate it to what Deputy Executive Rider said, without changing the policy, we can't be sure that this is the same Executive we're going to have through 2025. Just because this is the momentum that we're going on does not mean that if a different Executive came in and a year or two, I don't know the exact time period and I know things are up in the air. But if there's nothing codifying that will stay on track with this. And so, you know, I take I questioned the, the idea that this is just for a press release, this is the fact that we should codify this so that we do stay on track, and we continue to stay on track. What would otherwise stop this from this, this momentum from changing? And so why risk that? As far as doing more, I would also reiterate what Deputy Executive Marc Rider said, feel free to put in resolutions with dramatic expectations of ways we can improve our green, that will be great. I mean, that is irrelevant to this, go past this. At least get it to public hearing and put your money where your mouth is if you want us to do more than put those resolutions forward. That'll be great. I'd love to see them.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And, and thank you. And again, this is setting up a public hearing. Personally, I think it's a step in the right direction. And I think we can move incrementally. If it was a step backward, I would feel differently, but it's definitely a step in the right direction. And I just want to ask without putting you on the spot, but Legislator Hansut, did you want to speak to this at all? Before we call the question?

Legislator Gina Hansut

No, I think that we probably, my opinion is that we go forward with a public hearing at this point.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I just want to ask Nick one quick question. If we didn't pass this today, would anything in your day-to-day work change?

Director Nick Hvozda

The function we serve at the Department of the Environment is mainly a reporting function, most of the vehicle purchasing decisions happen elsewhere.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Marc, if if this didn't pass today, would anything in your day to day work change?

Deputy Executive Rider

No, I mean, likely not. But as Legislator Walter said,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

No, thank you. Thank you. That's all. That's all. I was wondering. Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. I would like to call the question and ask for a vote. We had discussion; I don't think we have to re motion the resolution. I think we can just call for a vote. So, on Resolution Number 15 to set a public hearing won the Green Fleet policy. All in favor, please signify by raising your hand and or saying aye.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And is anyone is anyone opposed? All right, motion carries. Next Resolution Number 167. Adopting a negative declaration for the demolition of the former Ulster County Jail located on Golden Hill, and establishing and funding capital project number 630. Demolition of the jail Golden Hill and this is an ARPA project with the planning department, So, I would like to hear a motion so that we can discuss this. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

I move that we postpone this, and we'd like to discuss that please.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Um,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Should we, should we, can we open it for discussion and then make a motion to postpone? If that's all right, Phil.

Legislator Phil Erner

I'll withdraw the postponement. Sure. I move we discuss

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll second.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. And that was Legislator Maloney. And so let's go ahead with the discussion. I see Legislator Erner's hand.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

If I could step in front, was this something I know there's people from the from your district? Your, Phil that I see on? Chair, did you want to do public comment? I thought you said public comment before each resolution. So, I just wanted to make sure there weren't Anyone from the public that wanted to comment on this resolution. Sorry, stepping up, just reminding you that I that's how I took what you said earlier. I didn't mean to step on you again, Phil.

Legislator Phil Erner

No. That's yeah. I appreciate that. Joe, and I actually need to excuse myself for one minute, I'll be right back. I don't want to hold things up. So however, that works. Procedurally, I want to hear and participate. But I need to be, be gone. And right back.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay. Thank you. Um, why don't I call on Deputy Rider? And then I think that if there are people from the public that would like to speak, if you can raise your hand for will they be able to raise their hand if they want to speak or how will they let you know? You're on mute.

Fawn Tantillo

I think they can raise their hand.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

We can just we could ask them. When, when Deputy Rider it's done. Okay. Very good.

Fawn Tantillo

I see people raising their hands now.

Legislator Manna Jo Greene

So. Okay, excellent. Go ahead. Mark, please.

Deputy Executive Rider

I would just strongly urge and ask the committee not to postpone this, whether or not you pass it, that's up to you. But there are deadlines that are approaching for funding sources and other things in June for the developer and they will need to show support or, or not through, you know, the negative declaration. There is not anything that a month will do to sway this conversation in this committee. So, I would strongly urge the members who want to support this resolution to not support a motion to postpone.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, I see Matt Colangelo's hand raised.

Tim DeGraff

Hi, good evening. Can you hear me?

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes.

Matt Colangelo

All right. Thank you for the opportunity, I would strongly urge the committee to postpone this resolution. I don't think the developer's interest are more important than the residents. I live over on Glen Street in the City of Kingston and have been trying to represent the residents that are impacted. So, I do think a month would be very important. I don't think the developer's interest are more important than the residents with respect to the issues that impact the environment with regards to demolition, their vast, which is why we need to postpone it. issues regarding the possibility of asbestos that still could remain in the jail should be discussed. The question of whether or not ARPA funds should be used for this demolition when it is believed that the RFP for this project would require the developer to pay for it. And if there is agreement for a cost sharing, why is the county paying 100% and the developer paid zero? So I definitely think postponement is a very important thing, because building this project correctly is extremely important. And I think it's more important than the developer's interest to meet a deadline. So, I hope that some of these questions that have not been asked but been answered, this committee will, will postpone so that they can get the answers to better understand. Thank you

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, Um, Deputy Rider, is this a direct response? Otherwise, I'll go to Ilona, and then come back to you.

Deputy Executive Rider

The only thing I want to say is that some of the comments that were just raised have nothing to do with SEQRA and the environmental impacts. This resolution had, went through five separate legislative committees, it has passed four. The issue, some of the issues raised have nothing to do with SEQRA. There are no negative impacts environmental impacts from the demolition of the jail is currently there. And if there is asbestos, it will be remediated. And so that there is no negative impacts for demo demolishing the jail. And we would do that regardless of the housing project. What I was saying, and it has nothing to do with the interest of the developers, there are some major state and federal funding deadlines, which is why we've worked our way through the last year and a half. And we've had three plus public information sessions. And we've had public hearings, planning board on, on their SEQRA and for the project, but this seeker is for the demolition of the jail, we need to get the jail that's been closed for over a decade demolished and out of there. And in fact, just by doing that, that will improve some of the stormwater runoff and other things. And this project overall, will improve the stormwater runoff. And I've told Mr. Colangelo that outside of, you know, on phone conversations, and so that is separate that the runoff is separate and apart from this project, the traffic is separate and apart from

this project. So I just urge the committee to move. It's already been postponed a month. And it's passed all four other committees that it's come to.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Let's see, um, Ilona. If you would unmute yourself and make your comment and then I'll

With due respect to Mr. Ryder, the fact that previous committees have passed it may not be relevant, because we've seen other projects that are misbegotten be passed. And so that by itself is not a sufficient reason to not consider this particular resolution, I will say I am new to this issue. I am not as fully informed as I could be. I will, I will admit that from the start. But what I will also say is that I went there last night, and I got a good tour of the property. And I was shocked by what I saw. I was, I was absolutely shocked at the condition of the of the, the grates that water is both the capacity of the number of grades of water is supposed to go down that sewage, that stormwater is supposed to go down. I was shocked at the condition of the pipes that were blocked by leaves that have not been maintained. And the fact that everything Mr. Ryder said sounds nice, but I now have enough experience with government locally to not, not let me say not, not take it in at its full worth in words. I'm not sure that postponing this resolution is the right thing to do. Because as I said, I'm not familiar with the legalities. I don't know if there's another SEQRA that's going to come up for the project. I don't know what the implications of a SEQRA resolution are just on the on the demolition, as opposed to the construction. But when I looked at it again, I'm new and I haven't done my homework on it. But I was shocked at the paperwork that I saw and I tried to look at the paperwork and maybe there should be another hearing for the paperwork so we can all understand what's, what's at stake. But I'm, you know, I'm almost of the mind that people should delay it and then put a great deal of study into the steps and perhaps make have more public participation. I'm sorry, I may not be able to be part of that. But I would hope that other people would give it their all and really publicize this because it right now it does not look like the best thing as it stands. Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Sure. I wasn't here for a large I just some of this goes back to the past term. And I wish I was here. You know, I've seen actual emails and guarantees from the former legislator of this district where he promised more public hearings that never happened. I think we sandwiched four topics into one public hearing. And it was, you know, digital was done on Zoom. I think there should have been more public hearings. Designed, I got to, I got a lot of questions I'd like to get to two we have and some of it is environmental. Some of it, I think is this is a this is a standing committee and I and that's why I invited Tim Weidemann here. And I appreciate him coming in here. And I have a couple of questions for him as well. What, when was the appraisal done on this property? And what is it appraised for? Can anybody answer me that? From the Executive's wing out there. I don't care? Who was was there? What was when was it done? And what, what did it appraise for this property? Can anybody tell me that?

Director Dennis Doyle

Well, we haven't. If I may, Miss, Madam Chair.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

So just an answer to a specific question.

Director Dennis Doyle

Sure, that the we're looking at a purchase and sale agreement with the developer. I'm not sure what this has to do it the resolution just...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

It doesn't matter. We've, we've, we've invited you in to talk about a lot of topics here, because I don't think a lot of these topics have been talked about. And there's legislators that are being asked to vote on something that weren't here, when these answers may have been given. So that was a simple question. What was the appraisal? And what was the number? It's just something I've been wondering, and this is the

Director Dennis Doyle

We anticipated the value of the project was, was somewhere around 1.6 to 1.8 million.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Did you do an appraisal to get that?

Director Dennis Doyle

The appraisal was done, the price was, was done by the developer and we would, we would update it as part of the...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

The person that we're going to sell their property to did it themselves.

Director Dennis Doyle

If you let me finish, Mr. Maloney, as part of the final work, we would, we would have it reappraised.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, thank you. So, Dennis answered that question. So, we already have an issue, we have what sounds like this property is assessed at \$17 million. We had we, we entered into a relationship with the developer that were taking their appraisal number at \$1 million. Part of the deal originally, as far as I'm understanding was to do that demo, which is part of this conversation today. And now we're doing that demo and working off of an insanely low appraisal. Like I said, \$17 million assessment \$1 million appraisal done by the person that we're going to then sell it to, we have some issues here. If this gets held up, I'm comfortable holding it up, because I think we need to rewind. There's issued there's a lot of traffic with regards to demo. Where did we get the \$1.5 million number? Was there was an RFP?

Director Dennis Doyle

If I if I may, Madam Chair.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes, please.

Director Dennis Doyle

So, I want to go back to the I want to go back to one of the first comments because what what we need to understand is, is that the property that you're talking about that that has the estimate of the of the attacks estimate is the entire property on Golden Hill, this is a subdivision of that property, we would subdivide it off, and it would only include the jail property itself. So when you look at that you can't take the current estimate that's out there or the current tax assessment that's out there and apply it across because that includes the buildings on the buildings that house, our Health Department and our UCAT, etc. Whereas we would, we would subdivide that off. That's the first...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Thank you. Thank you for that.

Director Dennis Doyle

The second thing...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

We still don't have an appraisal and letting the developer give us an appraisal that sounds low still seems rather weak.

Director Dennis Doyle

But the point being is as I indicated, we would go back through and have it reappraised as part of the final process.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

After the, after the fact? You just told me you're already, you're already entering into negotiations for the price of the land without an appraisal. Who the hell would ever do that?

Director Dennis Doyle

We have, we have, if you read the purchase and sale agreement, the purchase and sale agreement indicates that what we would do is appraised the property before it's sold. That's what the purchase...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

But you're already in negotiations...

Director Dennis Doyle

The question you asked me. Excuse me, let's me

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Let's get back to the demolition. We obviously have a...

Director Dennis Doyle

Let me answer the appraisal question, if you would please.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

There was a demo question. But you've already admitted you're in negotiation...

Director Dennis Doyle

The purchase and sale agreement basically says that we will do an appraisal prior to the sale, and they will pay us the appraised value. That's what it says. If you asked me a question in terms of what we anticipated the value was started... 1.6, and \$1.8 million. But if you want to ask the question in terms of how we're going to arrive at a final value, there will be an appraisal to do that, Who will do the appraisal? Them? We will make sure that we work together to do the necessary appraisal, if you're asking us who would do the appraisal, the point that I would try to do is make sure that we both agree on a fair appraisal and hire someone that certified that both parties would agree...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

See, I'd want the legislature involved in who's, who's doing this appraisal, because I've already got a lot of questions. So back to the show. Look, there are some there's some alarming factors. On the demo.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Malone Here. I just like to pause for point of clarification. And ask the Clerk I'm just looking at the fact that Legislator Stewart is not here. And so, I just want to ask the clerk. If the vote were a tie vote, it would not, the resolution would not pass. Is that correct?

Fawn Tantillo

If it's a tie vote, it fails.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, I just want everybody to be aware of that. I'm not going to cut off conversation. But it may make sense to postpone until Legislators Stewart is is here for that reason.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

More, More importantly, let's get some of these answers. So, the demo: how did we come to the, the demo, guesstimate?

Director Dennis Doyle

So, what are the things that we looked at is we had a prior quote we were proposing to demo this jail for many years now, and I'm I believe the legislature should be aware of that, given its condition. And so, we looked at a prior quote that prior quote, as I understand it was a little over a million dollars. And so, you're looking at other quotes we had...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

What year was that?

Director Dennis Doyle

I don't I don't remember the year Mr. Maloney. I'm sorry, Legislator. I just don't remember the year. But the thought being was that we would, we would do, we have a base bid in here that would demo the jail. And we have additions to that base bid on alternates, which would do additional work.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, thank you. For that I have I have concerns about the price in general. It seems that we're going off of a bid. We don't even know what year it's from. I know that I went to renovate a bathroom three years ago, and then it was twice the price this year to renovate that same bathroom. I don't know about going off of just raising it a little bit did that last demo? If you can't even tell me what year it was? Do you know if they took into consideration whether there was asbestos and the kinds of requirements that go along with removing toxicity from a building? Was that taken into consideration? There's also worries about the traffic? Where are these trucks going to go? How are they getting off there with these either. We've already acknowledged that you need a stoplight. So, now we're going to have trucks up there. Also, I heard talk of claw backs from the, from the Executive, which I find very unrealistic. Who's going to go back and try to claw back if something doesn't go the way we thought it would. And not to mention, it's ARPA funds that run out. Once you don't spend the ARPA funds by a certain date, they're gone. So, is it even legal to put claw backs into ARPA and ARPA funded? And have we even looked into that? There's just so many. And once again, we're talking about what sounds like a very low, low price with no transparency. No, I mean, why not just get the appraisal from an independent source and have a lot of people in on who chooses the appraiser. Make sure we know what it's worth before we start entering in negotiations. And then on top of it, we're doing the demo off of we didn't even go out for an RFP, which is virtually free. We don't exactly know what's in the building. We don't know how the, these large trucks are going to be getting, getting the jail out of there if they can in a safe way are they're turning right. Are they turning left? You know, I'm just I just bummed here. So... and I still have more questions. We haven't gotten to the runoff study. But let's go. I think if we do postpone, I think when it when you guys come back in a month, maybe, maybe some of these questions can be answered, because that's the leverage we have. Phil represents the people over in this community. The only leverage we have sometimes is maybe postponing part of this, maybe you'll tell me, you're going to figure out a way to move on anyways. Well, that's I'm not going to be bullied into looking the other way on a lot of questions. Now. I guess there's still some more Marc wants to speak for the third time. But um, you know, no one commented on the public hearing aspect, even though it's in writing from the former chair of the legislature that can be produced, who represents that district, he promised this community more public hearings before we got to this point. So, forgive me if I don't want to take you know, people's word for things. When a lot of this stuff doesn't make sense. It doesn't look like we're doing our due diligence. And there are a lot of questions. And like I said, we haven't even gotten to have we done a runoff study there, because anyone that's going up there sees that they're serious water issues. There are there are freshwater ponds, there might even be a stream. They're already flooded out.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Maloney.

Director Dennis Doyle

If I may.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes. Go ahead.

Deputy Executive Rider

If I could I have for you, Legislator Maloney. So yes, there has been a runoff study. A consultant. And it has shown that this project will only improve the work the, the runoff to the residents, the runoff with stormwater, nothing to do with this project. It goes back decades. And in fact, it doesn't even really has to do with the nursing home or us being up there in the jail. It has to do with Glen Street as at the bottom of a hill, Golden Hill is Golden Hill go up there. And you'll see that above our property, there are mountains, and the runoff begins up there. Now there will be catchments and other things in the site of this property that will, that will increase stormwater. And I've explained that to Mr. Colengelo. On the public hearings. We've had three public input sessions with the developer, one on July 27, 2021, true on September 1, 2021, and one on 10/25. All of the information is on the website. If you go to Pennrose's website, it has the Q and A's, it has the Zoom links. It has all three-meeting information and the presentations. And there has been public input and some of that has gone into this project. I am aware that if it's a two-two tie, it fails. But as I said it's gone through four committees. I think it's time for the full legislature to have an opportunity to share. Even if it fails tonight, then I will be okay with that.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Chair if I could, first of all community forums are not public hearings, Marc. So, no, I stand by my public hearing comment. And can you just answer me who did this run run off study? Was it an independent firm of some sort? Who did that run off study?

Deputy Executive Rider

I believe it was Chason. But I'd have to double it. Dennis is shaking his head.

Director Dennis Doyle

Chason.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. I'm

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Was it was Chason - one of the original developers here?

Multiple speakers

Consultant, developer, engineering consultant.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

They're an engineer hired by who?

Director Dennis Doyle

They're hired by the developer.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Okay, here we go. Yeah, you know, this, this is what I mean. So, we get our appraisal done by the developers. We get the runoff study done by the developers. The traffic study. Everybody, and these people that are eventually going to make money off of this, are the ones that are telling us everything's fine. It's, you know, you could have said that, and then you know, I say, well, who's Chason? You say, Oh, they're a consult? Oh, well, who were they hired by all the developer? You know, I gotta, I always have to press and ask and peel away a little further. And then and then we get a different story. I don't want to, first of all, that's county property up there. These, these residents are already being washed away. So we can take ARPA funds and make a sweeter deal for the developer and get rid of the jail for them. And to be honest with you, the diligence around the, the plan of that doesn't pass the test. But we can't take money and make and make this make it right for these people that live there. And if you think we're not going to have more runoff after we start putting apartment complexes up there, then but, but maybe we'll ask the developer, they'll tell us. No. They'll tell us no, it won't. It won't. I mean, these, these are reasonable questions. And there was a traffic study, I assume as well. Who did the traffic study mark?

Deputy Executive Marc Rider

That's how it works...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

No, it is not. It's how it works in this administration, apparently. No, it's not. It's not down the road from your house. So, this is how works. Come on, guys, please, if we have the commute if we had 1000 independent members of the community here listening to this back and forth Who do you think who do? What do you think? Do you think they'd be concerned? Do you think they'd be happy with what they're hearing?

Director Dennis Doyle

So, if I may,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Legislator Maloney, um, I am going to, there are other hands up. And I would like you to put any other questions you have in writing, I have a feeling we're gonna have to postpone the one acknowledge other people on in the meeting. And, and, and just say that, for example, rain storm order practices can be implemented to reduce the runoff there, there are ways of addressing these and they should indeed be incorporated into whatever agreement is finally reached. And I'm going to call on Legislator Erner. And and then I'll call on Ilona again, briefly. And then I'm going to make a recommendation for action legislator. Earn, go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, Madam Chair. And I want to thank, I want to thank the members Executive team for coming here to answer our questions. And I want to thank the residents here from District Six for speaking up. And for coming here and for bringing attention to what's going on in in their neighborhood, in our neighborhood, we're all part of this county, we have to think as neighbors in the county. So, I was intending to stick to the matters that our committee here handles. But some folks have brought up points that go that go beyond that. So, I want to take a moment. Just on that. And then And then before proceeding with the environmental issue, I said last night in the housing committee that I don't think a project like this should go like this, I don't think we should be taking public property at all, in fact, and turning it over to private developer interests, I think that property ought to remain public, and with a possibility of the future residents who will live there to have either the public, the community as their landlord, if that's how it has to be, or else an equity opportunity so that they can become homeowners and not have to rent to this developer that we're giving public property to. Unfortunately, I wasn't in the majority on that last night. And so, it seems the will, the will of the housing side of our body is that, that it's okay. At least in the committee. So, so fine. But that doesn't change the fact that we haven't, as a county, done adequate outreach to involve the people who might end up living there, impacted individuals in our community who have been displaced from their homes and Kingston from the county in some cases entirely, are we? How are we going to know what they need, if they're not here talking with us in our in our public hearings, whether it's done by or even anything that it's done by the developer, I have now, multiple Kingston Community Housing advocate organizations that have told me, they were asked by the Housing Development Corporation and the developer to come to the table and bring their people and when they saw how that process was working, they didn't sign they refuse to sign off, they said, We can't say that this was an adequate process, we have not actually engaged the community in need of this housing for it. So, unless and until that happens, I can't support moving forward on the project as a whole and I realized I have limited power to do so. I think this can be worked out and we can build something for to house people up there if that's what people want to do, but it has to involve impacted people who are taking the lead and telling us what we need to do there. So,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Hold on, please. We can come back to this. I have a suggestion as to what action we could take. But um, I'm going to honor a request by Jen Metzger. skirt that we take something out of order because she has to leave. And it's been almost an hour, actually an hour and a half. So, I'm gonna put a pause on this. I know it's a motion that's been seconded and it's on the floor for discussion, but I would like to move. And I want to say a lot of good points have been raised. But I would like to move to the memorializing letter declaring support for the New York State Climate Action Scoping Plan, and I'm not even sure what action we need to take because that's a letter. But um, I think it would be helpful to also next month, do a memorializing resolution. And while she is here, I'd like to give her a moment to just address the question and questions we may have. And then I would like to suggest that we the reason for doing the letter this month is that comments are due on June 10. And we wouldn't have

NOTE: Technical problem shut down the zoom meeting and it was restarted a few minutes later.

Fawn Tantillo

I apologize. My, my internet went out. And I was trying to, I think I hit the wrong button back on. I apologize. Let's see if we get everybody back in here. I'm so sorry. I am. Hope everybody gets back here. Hi.

Legislator Megan Sperry

No worries.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Hello,

Fawn Tantillo

I apologize. My internet went out and I was trying to do so. I think I let's see if our committee members have come back. I apologize.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Technology is great when it works. And otherwise, we live with the results. So, I apologize for taking things out of order. But I would like to ask Jen to speak briefly and answer any questions that committee may have.

Jen Metzger

Sure. Can you all hear me? Okay. Yes. Okay. Great. Um, good evening, Legislators. I want to first of all, thank the Chair and all of you for considering this letter of support. We're at a very important point in the process of implementing the state's climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, which was passed in 2019. And that law is tasked a Climate Action Council created and tasked with creating drafting a scoping plan to, which is basically a blueprint for meeting the emissions reduction and equity goals of the plan of the of the law. And that draft plan has been open for public comment since January 1. The public comment runs through, through June 8, and I'm sorry, June 10. And, you know, I think it's just very important for our communities, our counties to weigh into this process. I, I worked on that law when I was in the State Senate. And I'm proud to come from a county that has taken, you know, such important actions locally, to address climate change and shift to a clean energy economy. And, and this letter shows support in line with the county's important leadership over the years. So I'm happy to answer any questions or try to if anyone has any.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right, it doesn't appear that anyone has any questions. I would like to suggest that we do both that those because of the time constraint and more or less discussion had a time constraint and we'll come back to that, but that any legislator who supports this, sign it in time, so that it can be mailed and received or emailed and received by June 10, which is the close of formal public comment on the draft scoping plan, but I would like us in June to consider a full memorializing resolution that would be voted on by the legislature, but it would be after the deadline for public comment. So that's my suggestion. If

anyone wants to speak with to that, if not, we'll go back to the other conversation. Your earlier conversation. Okay, um yes, please go ahead Legislator Hansut

Legislator Gina Hansut

First, thank you. And I did see a number of Legislators already put in for their signature to be on this one. So, I, you know, I'm in support of it, obviously. And I don't know if you want to do the other one now to since we're on this, and then we can go back and just finish that up. So, I did see again, like in the in the emails that a lot, a lot of legislators have already signed on for these. And then, with help I put one together for, for our river and the New York New Jersey Watershed Protection Act. As we all know that the rivers right here in our backyard and the importance of it, and that this act would provide grants to us from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. So, I just thought, since we're on the one, we might as well do both. Hopefully everyone is in support of those.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Right, and I don't believe we have to take any action on the weather. And let's see, the memorializing resolution has to go through a process. So, we can submit the resolution in June, and then. Now, let's see, submit it, it's too late for a late resolution for May. So, it would be an on-time resolution for June. And we would act on it in June, and it would be after the deadline, but it would still represent the work and the will of Ulster County. So, I think we're good on this. And we can go back to the discussion that I interrupted. But I think Jen had another appointment and needed to be available for, for this discussion.

Ilona Ross

Thank you, Jen.

Jen Metzger

Thank you all. And I apologize for this interruption. I really do. Have a great evening.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. Now as we go back to Resolution Number 167. Regarding the negative declaration for the demolition of the jail at Golden Hill, I mentioned earlier first, first of all, I do want to say that, for my opinion, there were a lot of very good points raised. I would like a lot of those questions to be answered. And I'm also concerned that we may not quite frankly have the votes to pass this tonight. And Deputy Rider, if it passes at all, but Deputy Rider said it was time sensitive. And I I think that kind of puts us in a dilemma. So, yes,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

It's time sensitive for the developer. And it might not be if we had an open and honest conversation, maybe, maybe, it's okay. If we hold this up. I mean, we can't be as legislators and, and the other branch of government here, we got to do our job. And we can't, we can't hear that, oh, we have to forget all these questions, all these conflicts, and just move on because the developer may lose some money or not get the interest rates they want. This may have to do with interest rates. So, it's and we haven't even gotten to all the questions I wanted to answer. I really appreciate you. And I know, I know. Phil has also said that he has a lot of the same issues and questions and I appreciate what you just said that you had issues. We haven't even gotten a green space, the pilot talk that seems inappropriate. So,

what, we work for the people, not the developer, so I just I just don't want to be pushed by the executive branch of government to fall in line and forget all these questions. Forget about the community. Forget about the environment. Forget about the traffic. Forget about the, the fact that every major number that we're getting is from a developer that should, that should not have been giving us those numbers. And now let's move on because it might hurt said developer get a better interest rate. I could care less,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

If I may. My concern was in losing grant funding. Oh, that's what I meant by time sensitive. I would like to...

Legislator Joseph Maloney

For the developer?

Deputy Executive Rider

No. And it's not... if I could, yeah, please. There are applications for state and federal funds that are doing June and they need to show that they've gotten the approvals. It's why we put this in last month, knowing that it could be postponed a month. Dennis and I will sit here all night and answer any question that's raised. And the answers that we have today will be the same answers that we would give you next month, because we've already done the legwork. And if this fails, the committee, I'll asked for a petition to discharge and I'll get it on the floor this month. And so, I would rather there be a straight up vote. If people support this project, I would ask them overall, regardless, I would ask them to vote against postponement tonight, and to support moving forward, whether it fails. It will not probably be a project, if they do not get funding, that that is due applications in June. We may have a developer that walks away. And I doubt given the last 18 months that we'll find another developer, I was talking to these folks today, they looked forward to working on many affordable housing projects in and around Kingston and Ulster County. And because of the process, where essentially a handful of neighbors have been able to stop things at various levels, this is something they've never seen anywhere else. They probably are not interested in doing future projects here. And that's unfortunate,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I have to respond to that. I just have to respond to that.

Legislator Phil Erner

As do I.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

He's talked, Marc Rider has been allowed to talk more than me this meeting, and I'm a legislator. He's now blaming the community that has valid points. He's, he's, he's already threatened, that we're going to hurt the developer. Well, if and if that doesn't work, he's now threatened us that he's just gonna go over our heads, it doesn't matter what we do in this committee anyways, it's gonna get a petition to discharge and he's confident he's going to get everybody else to agree with it on the floor. Well, thank you very much. Let our committee do its job. Once again, this developer that we're so scared of losing, has gotten the sweetest deal I've ever seen. Maybe not, I've seen some other pretty sweet deals over the past 10 years for developers in this county. But back-to-back to it again. They did the, they did the

appraisal, okay, they appraised it low. And then I hear but don't worry, if it's a low appraisal, they're gonna we're going to work with them and find a company to do another appraisal. And we'll agree on that as if it's not going to match up with the appraisal you already have. We have some of the same questions coming out of Tech City right now. I mean, all the, all, none of this makes any sense. And the end the, in the end, the developer has been allowed to do everything, every study, every price, every part of the negotiation. And now and now because of a couple of neighbors are upset about a couple of things. They're telling you, "we may not want to do business here anymore." Well, my God, maybe I don't want to do business with that developer anymore. And maybe we should start from scratch. Maybe we should go out for a big RFQ and open transparent RFQ. And have other developers come in. If we end up costing this and March is probably right, they probably will go and lean. And I've already heard about a legislator this term vote on the damn gas tax in a way he didn't want to because he was worried about losing funding for something else from the Executive. So, we're already playing these games, again, the same games the last administration played, and it gets old. cut about an open, honest, transparent process where the people when not the developer. So, I'm sorry, Marc, I reject everything you just said. And I resent it. And I resent you telling these people on this meeting that have legitimate concerns, concerns that I've been there for, I think our committee should go. And all of us go down there and talk to these people like me and Phil have and like I Ilana has, because they do have real concerns. And then as a legislator, I have real concerns about the funding of this. And all these conflicts. We haven't even gotten to some of the conflicts. But obviously there's, there's conflicts when the developer is allowed to do give all these reports come up with Can you imagine selling your home and having someone come to you and telling you what your home is worth and starting the negotiation that way? It's just this is unacceptable. And I'm sorry if this is the first committee that has exposed some of this, and I do think I do think we've exposed him this I think a lot of the, a lot of the, a lot of the other legislators here are going to be surprised at how at some of these things about what we're finding out about the developer. I don't think I know for a fact there's a couple of legislators I've talked to that are going to be surprised I asked him I was talking to some of them the other day, what's it appraised at? I don't know, they must have done one. I mean, they're I'm sure they don't know it's appraised at a million bucks by the developer. I'm sure they don't know a lot of these things. So maybe, Marc, you won't get it passed on the floor. If there's enough legislators that that can fight back against, you know, the pressure.

Matt Colengelo

Chair I don't know if anyone can hear me.

Fawn Tantillo

Chairwoman Greene, you're muted.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Just a moment, Matt. I don't, don't recall muting myself. But I think at this point...

Matt Colengelo

Chair, if I can, as a resident I'm a little appalled that with Mr. Deputy Rider said. We are more than a handful residents.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

I did not call on you. I'm gonna call the question at this point.

Legislator Phil Erner

Chair. Might we please hear from some residents? Who were...

Chair Manna Jo Greene

We have.

Legislator Phil Erner

May I continued some of my points from before because I actually believe they will be constructive. That could help us get to some. Or never mind. Never mind.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. All right. I am calling the question. I expect that. What I would like is for legislator Erner and Legislator Maloney to put their comments and questions in writing, and submit them. And I ask that before, if this does go through a petition to discharge that we get the answers to those questions. But I, we could spend all night going back and forth. And I don't at this point, I don't think we're making any progress. I want to...

Legislator Phil Erner

A point of order.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Yes.

Legislator Phil Erner

Or I would like to move to postpone. But I'd like to understand if we, if we postpone can it then be overridden and get petitioned to discharge and go to the floor only if we vote no.

Fawn Tantillo

If you put, if you do a vote to postpone and the vote is two to two. And it would fail. Just FYI. If you do, if you call the question and vote on it straight up and the vote goes two to two, it fails.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And in that case, there could be a petition to discharge.

Fawn Tantillo

Yes, ma'am.

Legislator Phil Erner

But the postponement wouldn't give them that opportunity to go straight to the floor.

Fawn Tantillo

Yes, that is correct. If the postponement should pass, it would not go straight to the floor.

Legislator Phil Erner

I see.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And I Are you making a motion to postpone?

Legislator Phil Erner

I would like to, yes, I move that we postpone.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I'll make a second. And I really hope, you know, it's the last little bit of leverage we have after a lot of new information. I really hope we postpone and give ourselves a month of leverage for the community for the environment. And, and for the for the tax dollar.

Legislator Phil Erner

And I just like we have, I don't want to speak out of order, excuse me, but I do want to speak before we move on.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Go ahead.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. Thank you, Madam Chair. So, we've heard from, we've heard from a lot of people in the government. And we've heard from a few people in the community, not in the government, who are who are here to depending on us to do right by, by all the people and I, like I said are in this committee, we're supposed to talk about the environmental issues. I have, I haven't even gotten to my questions about those. And but just to summarize what those would be the the community are asking us for some commitments, in writing, around dealing with long standing stormwater issues. They're asking for the county to work together with the City of Kingston, and with a private nursing home up there to deal with those issues as a precondition to go ahead and do more more work up there. And I think that's totally reasonable. They're asking to also address long standing traffic issues that, again, it's not just the county but we can't say that we can't hear in the county we have to say what can we do? Who can we work with? That's our responsibility to our people. So if it means going to the City of Kingston and Golden Hill and Everybody, and working it out, I understand that progress has been made to put a gate on Glen Glen Street. And I think that needs to be guaranteed in order and the other traffic issues have to be guaranteed before we can proceed. We, I understand there was another developer that's in County that had put in a proposal for this. And if that's the case, they might be ready to do it. If we don't if, if the current one decides that they have to pull out but to stick more to the environmental concerns, I unfortunately, the city planner, Suzanne Cahill couldn't join us tonight. But I'm hearing from environmental groups within the city that are asking for a deeper review of that they. So, a more robust SEQRA like that would require a negative deck on that side. And so there, but, but bottom line is we we need to follow our community and not tell them what they need the people who live in the area,

immediate area, no, and they're just looking for us to work with them and not try and resist them, like it seems, is what this is they they have legitimate concerns that I believe we can solve together the County, the City, Golden Hill, and if the developer is going to continue, then they should be on the hook to for that they should not be able to proceed without addressing that. So we do it, we do it in the proper order. And that's why I'd like to postpone. Thank you.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, so you've made a motion to postpone? Do we have a second on the motion to postpone? Okay, we have a second. I just want to ask one question. Before we vote, and I certainly, Legislator Hansut, if you want to weigh in at any time, just, you know, please let me know. And that is to Deputy Rider or Director Doyle. I want to get clarification, what I don't want to do my post postponing is, is to put the county in jeopardy of losing grant funding. I do think that a lot of the questions that were raised should be answered. And I think there's an opportunity to do that. Before this goes to the floor. But in terms of postponing, I would like to understand what jeopardy that would put the county and I'm at this point, I'm not concerned about the developer, but I am concerned about what jeopardy that might put the county and if somebody could answer that.

Deputy Executive Rider

So I mean, like the county is not a part of any grants that we would get. I mean, the only thing it wouldn't have anything to do with postponing a month is that we have to use the ARPA funds in a certain amount of time as Legislator Maloney said, but that wouldn't be relevant here. The funding that I'm talking about is the funding that makes affordable projects possible, aka JP and other state funding sources that only open up at certain times of the year and and it would likely delay this project a year, bringing in a new developer would would likely delay this project two to three years and we're in the middle of a housing crisis. We've answered the neighbors questions I've told Legislator Erner that we will do a study. And I can commit to it in this public meeting, that we will do a study to figure out the stormwater runoff problem that has nothing to do with this project that has been there for two decades. I'm willing to work with the City and Legislator Erner and the legislature to do a study and figure out what needs to happen to improve their situation. And, and you have my word on that. And we will move forward with that. Regardless of what happens tonight, we will do a study on on the stormwater. On the traffic it's likely that the city is going to require a light. We're also working with the nursing home company to figure out a way to put up a gate to stop traffic. This project will not use Glen Street, we have a commitment from the developer that that Glen Street will not be used. And it looks like we're gonna have a requirement of a light so this is what I'm saying. These questions have been answered. They've been answered in front of the City Planning Board. And, you know, that's all I have to say.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Thank you. Well, I think some other questions were raised. And I'd like to get them in writing, like to see them, for example before the caucus. But I think at this point, your hand is still up Legislator Erner, I will take that last comment. And then let's go ahead and vote on the motion to postpone.

Legislator Phil Erner

Through to the Chair to Deputy Rider or anyone else who knows, these funding sources, are they only available to a private developer or this particular private developer? Or is it something that we as a county could ourselves obtain as well.

Deputy Executive Rider

There are tax credits, and the county does not pay state or federal taxes. So they are only available to a private developer. They're not only available to this developer, but they are hard to get. And like I said, there's been 18 months of due diligence here, another developer can't just come in and take and pick up where this one leaves off. And the quality of the units and the presentation is why this developer was selected.

Legislator Joseph Maloney

I think what Phil was wondering, so we wouldn't need the tech, they're getting tax credits. The government doesn't pay tax. I think Phil was wondering about if if the county decided to do something themselves, would they be eligible to get these funds? They wouldn't need them. We don't pay taxes. I was told I talked to Dave Donaldson at length about why this developer was chosen. And he said they admitted a lot of wrongdoing in past projects. And that's something you don't hear a lot of developers do. And it surprised everybody that they were willing to admit, yeah, we screwed up on that one. And they liked the openness of mistakes. That's that was Dave Donaldson. And he was on the on the houseing Corp I believe, but he I didn't hear anything all that impressive about the group to be honest with you. But we could maybe bring David and have him talk.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. At this point, I would like to call the question. And on the floor is a motion to postpone resolution number 167. Man, if there was ever a time I would like to be able to would what's it called when when you excuse yourself from voting? Yeah, (laughter) But let's see, all in favor of the motion to postpone. On the motion, two people, Legislator Erner and Legislator Maloney. Anyone opposed to the motion to postpone. So myself and Legisltor Hansut.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Abstain?

Fawn Tantillo

So, the motion fails,

Chair Manna Jo Greene

The motion fails. So at this point, I would like to if we're not postponing, then we need to vote on the

Fawn Tantillo

You have a motion on the floor.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

For the for the resolution for the neg deck on the Golden Hill project. And so we'll call the question on that. On resolution number 167, as written, all in favor,

Legislator Joseph Maloney

Manna, if man if I just could just point out the fact that could we I would just ask you. I know the reason it seems that we didn't postpone was to give, because that takes away the the ability for a petition to discharge. But I do think that this should go forward with a petition at discharge. I think our colleagues should have a healthy amount of skepticism and questions to be answered. So, I do think it would be better to go forward rather than have five there'll be saying five committee said yes, let's vote this down at least, put the petition of discharge up and at least it'll have that as "hey, we this does need some discussion. It didn't pass every committee and there are questions to be answered". So, I would ask for a consideration for a no vote and let them do a petition to discharge and that is why I think you chose not to postpone

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, so on on the resolution. All in favor of I'm adopting the neg deck for the demolition at Golden Hill and the rest of that project, please indicate by raising your hand and or saying Aye. All opposed? No. Okay. And so the vote was two to two. And that means that it fails in committee and will require a petition to discharge. Yes, mam. Okay. And I really would like to see the answers to the important questions that were raised by the community and by our colleagues. I am I personally have concerns. And it would be very helpful to see those answers before we have to vote on the floor. And I would ask that that be before caucus.

Deputy Executive Rider

If I could get the questions as soon as possible, we can get you answers. I mean, next week is a sin the following week is the floor. So we're happy to answer every single question. We would have answered any questions tonight. And, you know, we're willing to be here. So any questions you have, we'll provide answers.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right, you know, mindful of the time and the rest of our agenda. And I do want to just say that. Well, Joe will talk to you offline. But I do think you have had a chance to speak more than anybody else on the call. Oh, at the meeting tonight, but let's talk about that offline. So resolution number 252, authorizing Ulster County Legislature to exercise a cooperative agreement with New York State Department of Conservation for the implementation of environmental benefit projects on the lower Espopus, as provided for in the DEC order of consent. Department of Planning. Do I hear a motion to consider this?

Ilona Ross

I'll make a motion.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. And that was Legislator Hansut moved and Legislator Erner second. Any discussion on this motion? This resolution? Right. Um, I think at this point, we can call the question all in favor of resolution number 252. Please indicate by raising your hand and or saying hi.

Fawn Tantillo

Joe left us. What's it? And I don't see Joe Maloney. So he left. Okay.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. We still have a quorum.

Fawn Tantillo

Do and this past three to zero.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, um, so motion carries three to zero.

Fawn Tantillo

Yes, ma'am.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All right. Resolution number 253, appointing members to the recycling oversight committee. And that is because Margo Becker was appointed to the board of the RRA. So she can no longer serve as the representative of the Environmental Management Council. But I don't believe there was a name included in the resolution. Go ahead. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah, I spoke to Legislator Petite. And she asked that we postpone this so that she can go back to the council and determine who they want to have.

Fawn Tantillo

You can take no action, so you don't have to postpone it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay.

Fawn Tantillo

At the request of the sponsor you will take no action tonight.

Legislator Gina Hansut

Yeah, sounds good.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And I would prefer to vote with the name. So if anybody has any other concerns, let me know. And if not Oh, My goodness, I complained about how long the agenda is. But um, looks like we did get through it. New business, we talked about both memorializing resolutions. And then there's an item indoor air quality. Who had requested to speak on that?

Fawn Tantillo

Legislator Erner had a concern about air quality.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah, thank you. And just I don't know what the right thing is I have just a Joe, Joe, Legislator Maloney said he accidentally dropped off, he's, I guess he's trying to get back on.

Fawn Tantillo

Great. We will let him back in.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. We have a problem with indoor air quality that we need to address. As we also need to address things like insulating our homes better and other measures, we need to provide energy efficiency and reduce emissions. The case study was done here in the City of Kingston on some rental housing, and it was actually initiated to try and understand why someone's electric and heating bills were so high. And it turned into a discovery of the unhealthful, if not downright hazardous condition, in this person's dwelling. And I've, I believe I've sent the committee this report that that this consultant had done along with the resident. But just to say we actually have a quite a serious issue here, it seems to me in in city, Kingston, as well as greater Ulster County, around the quality of the air that our residents are breathing in their homes, and we're going to need to work with whoever we need to work with. To solve that, while simultaneously working on things like insulation, the indoor air situation seems to have the biggest impact on renters and lower income folks who have less that they themselves are able to do with their own apartments, because they need to work with their landlord on it. So, we'll need to do that, too. But I just wanted to bring that to the attention of the committee, I have a phone call, there's a group. It's called something like I'm sorry, I don't have the exact name like the Hudson Valley indoor air quality group that I'm meeting with for the first time tomorrow to learn more. And we'll happily report back. If anyone else is interested to connect with them, let me know and I will work to connect you.

Deputy Executive Rider

I'd love to be connected later on.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, you got it. Deputy Executive Rider.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And I have brought this up. In particular, in reference to the ARPA project that I would like to ask Director Doyle, if he wants to let us know the status of a project for building retrofits for low and moderate income. And that also brings up in addition to making sure the Retrofit is done in a way that ensures clean air for the because if you're sealing up a building, you want to be sure it doesn't have mold or mildew or, or other harmful materials in the building that people might be breathing. But, um, one other question with regard to that, our proposal and I'll just put it on the table and hear your response, many low and moderate income households, um, are tenants and, you know, figuring out how to ensure that the building retrofits get done in a way that the tenants themselves are benefiting, and that it is not just to the benefit of the landlord, certainly in terms of comfort, and in terms of lower bills, if they pay their own bills, that the tenants would benefit, but it gets tricky when it's not a lower

moderate income household. So I don't know if you've considered that but if you wouldn't mind giving us a quick update on that post ARPA project. Thank you, Chairman Greene. We've been, we were the recipients of a \$800,000 housing rehab grant, there was a homeownership grant for housing rehab. And we've done a few of these in the past. And the thought in this grant was to combine that with money from the county to do a deeper dive on these on these low and moderate income homeowners to do energy retrofits. And so we started a conversation with citizens for local power, the idea of essentially they were, they have a number of internship programs they work with, they work with a number of contractors, but they don't have a lot of capacity. So the thought was that we could help them build capacity with some money, and take the rest of that money and put it in actual retrofits deep energy retrofits, using the contractors that they work so that they would provide the interns the insurance work for the contractors, we would work through it and existing rehab, our existing rehab program, to qualify those contractors to do the deep energy retrofits and combine what we have to do in these houses to do what we call code compliance, if works, and that can be from anything from ADA ramps, to new roofs, to septic systems, to Wells, to changes in bathrooms, et cetera, et cetera. And sometimes, it's actually mold remediation, that occurs as well. And we combine that and come out with essentially, what I think is a pilot program that then would be repeatable over the years, working with this working with the organizations that we're currently working with, I would say that working with landlords is a little bit more difficult, especially for US federal money. Because we have to then find a place if you're doing if you're doing a lot of work in in the unit, you have to find a place for the person that's living in that unit to live. So you have to pay relocation costs, and you have to find a place for that to happen. So sometimes it did that that was what made that's difficult. We've had discussions in the past about doing what they call landlord rehabilitation efforts. And and then what that what that would end up doing is is that when you want to try to do is make sure that if you're going to do that, that the apartment remains available to low and moderate income individuals, not that you not that you essentially rehab, the rehab the apartment and then the landlord ends up throwing them at throwing person out and running it for a higher a higher amount of money. So that's yeah, that's what we that. So that's the kind of thing that that we're working at, that would probably come up as part of the next Community Development Block Grant one, block grant work that we do, I would also say that the the, the consolidated funding applications are out there's not a lot of money for housing into consolidated funding applications. But we're looking into that with with our team to see what is out there and what we can do with respect to housing. And, hey, in addition to consolidated funding, there may be infrastructure or is that the same funding? It's a different funding source and the infrastructure and investment and jobs act bill is a different it's it's not it's not concerned that the consolidated funding application is New York state and federal money, but it's released from New York State, the funding is controlled by the state of New York. And I believe NYSERDA has worked through and has a recommendation about the landlord program. And I was going to ask Susan Gillespie to look into that. But I've been given information that they actually have a program. Probably not familiar with it, we'll take a look at it. I'm not familiar, one of the things we will do is make sure that we do energy audits on these houses and take advantage of the NYSERDA credits that are available so that we do this we make the money stretch for And I think it really is potentially a wonderful pilot program, because we need I forget how many hundreds of 1000s of buildings to be retrofitted, and and electrified to meet the goals of CLC, EPA, the governor's the governor's budget basically indicates that they're going to try to find at least 20,000 houses in energy retrofits. And and so, you know, starting this pilot that combines the benefits of energy retrofits ensures that it's done in in a way that promotes healthy indoor air quality.

And is a training program really create It's a wonderful model, because we're gonna need lots and lots of training programs and lots of lots, lots of building retrofits to meet these goals. And as somebody who is fortunate enough to be living in a house, I've said this before with a deep energy retrofit, where my bills were reduced significantly, way more than half. And I got through the whole winter with two small space heaters, even after leaving during the day shutting them off, coming back to a still comfortable house, it's it. It's really a very worthwhile investment on many fronts. Can that move forward to ARPA, before we use up all the ARPA funds? We're working, we're working through the administration to provide a resolution for the June for the June meeting. Yay. Excellent. All right. I know we didn't. And I'm sorry that Joe left the call or was accidentally disconnected. And I don't want to underestimate the questions and concerns that people have raised. I think they're all important and valuable. And what's most important is that we're all listening to each other. Before I ask for a motion to well, there might be something else in theory or climate smart. I have. I want to say the climate smart committee is an extremely valuable place for information to be exchanged. And you know, I don't have an immediate report for anything new, but there have been some really good suggestions that I will be bringing to the climate smart committee. But what I want to say is, I've been doing some climate science education for lay people and climate activists and so forth. Given how extremely disturbing the news is about both poles are melting. The Arctic is 30 degrees centigrade, warmer than its historic average in winter. And the Antarctic is 40 degrees warmer than its historic average in summer. And very large pieces of the ice shelf are breaking off. And it's just, I have a list that I will send to font along with. I think I promised I would send around the PowerPoint on on solid waste. And this is a list of I think it's 13 headlines, mainly since November of forest fires in Siberia, which supposed to be a cold place. And you know, so many other really devastating and very recent, up until November, I thought that if we implement all the climate solutions, proposed in drawdown and by other Climate Leaders and climate scientists, that there was a chance that things would be all right. But I am more concerned than ever when I see these headlines, so I'll just send that around. And it's why I think it's so critical. I know I sound a little bit like a broken record, but it's not the same as it was it's it's so much worse than what was predicted. And before we close I alone, his hand is still up and I see Legislator Erner and then I'm going to ask for a motion. Ilona, did you want to say something in closing?

Ilona Ross

Yeah, it would be very brief. It was one thing somebody mentioned that the run off is because we're in the Catskill Mountains. Well, when I stood on Golden Hill, I appeared to be the highest person in the neighborhood standing on the top of Golden Hill. There did not appear to be any other path for runoff and I followed the path, you know, because it's like a dome, and it's that's it. So the water really does run down the side of Golden Hill, the jail, it just runs down the side and I followed the path of the water, and it goes across the road. And basically it goes down into the poor people on Glen Street. That's where it goes. So, I do think that whatever is going to happen to go to the jail on Golden Hill is going to impact absolutely the people. So I don't think that these are separate issues, the way it was described. And then the other thing I wanted to say is we've seen with some projects when they're handled piecemeal, you know, one, one step one, resolution one, one step for the developers, then you know, at the next step, they pull another rabbit out of the hat. And they're the people are left holding the bag. So I think it would be really nice, if a more comprehensive, more comprehensive plan was addressed early on. So the people could really know exactly what we're going to be paying for what we're going to be getting in return, how much the developers going to be making, and who's you know, which people are

going to benefit. That's something that really don't get to see very often. And rather than just, you know, push this resolution through, and then we'll deal with the next one. That's that's a pattern. That's why people don't trust government. So that's pretty much it. Thank you very much.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

You're very welcome. And please put those questions in writing. And both Legislator Erner and Maloney are going to put their questions, and anyone else who has questions, and we will get those answers. I do want to reiterate that Deputy Rider said that there would be essentially a stormwater management study done and our Department of Environment has, for many years, modeled green stormwater management, I think right on the wrong property and other pilot projects, and has a great deal of knowledge. So I think we can address each of the concerns. And I don't want to dismiss any of them. But I also you know, we'll see what the legislature decides moving forward. And legislator or you have, I think you might, oh, wait. I'm gonna defer to legislator hands up because she hasn't spoken as much. And then you can have the last word,

Ilona Ross

I just wanted to just reach out to Legislator Erner and Maloney, you have spoke about times, you've met with different people, and so forth, please feel free to reach out to me. Even though I am at the other end of the county, these are still all county residents. And if I can attend any of those things, I would love to so feel free to reach out.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. Thank you, you're really appreciate that. And thanks for bringing that letter to us this month.

Ilona Ross

Happy to do it.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

And your hand is still raised. Was there any? Were there other points you wanted to make? legislator? Oh, you just

Legislator Phil Erner

Yes, just just to, since our last item was on the the climate smart. And I received it several communications this month about the new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, mitigation of climate change summary for policymakers. And while we've not yet reviewed that I did write back to those who wrote me and asked them for specific mitigation strategies. And Madam Chair, I think you you saw some of that trying to set up some meetings with some some of these county residents here. And but I'll just say like the impacts are hitting us here, too. And I mean, and whether the particular ice storm, for example, that we all had to deal with is because of that or not. The fact is like the systems that we have need to be more resilient so that we're not cold in the winter, as we also decarbonize. I understand, and we can't and it connects to our housing crisis, also in a big way, like people like we have to be thinking about, where we put new housing we want to build but not displacing people. That that is an environmental impact as well like keeping communities together is a part of environmental

sustainability. So I'll just leave it there. I look forward to further discussion on all this. Thank you so much.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

You're very welcome. And again, my appreciation to everyone for listening to each other because we are in a climate crisis. And I believe that it's through collaboration and working together and building consensus that if there's any chance to have viable solutions, that's where it's going to come from. I do want to say that I've reached out to Maris college and Lamont Doherty Earth Institute. Up mana.

Ilona Ross

I'm sorry, I'm going to excuse myself because I'm remote at the jail and they're getting ready to lock up some doors.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay, you're absolutely excused. And I'll keep everyone posted on the opportunity to learn more about global climate science. So we have a context for what we're going to be facing in the future. And I'm going to thank everyone and ask before you go real quick, a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Phil Erner

So moved.

Legislator Gina Hansut

And I'll seconded that.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

Okay.

Ilona Ross

I didn't mean to interrupt. I just want to be locked in here.

Chair Manna Jo Greene

All in favor, please raise your hand or signify by saying aye. And thank you all for your time and attention. And Gina, go, go before you get locked in. All right, good night, everyone.