

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

DATE & TIME: March 3, 2022; 6:30 PM or immediately following the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 843 2440 6481
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656,
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Manna Jo Greene and Vice Chair Gina Hansut
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Phil Erner, Joseph Maloney (6:30 on phone, 7:00 on zoom), Eric Stewart
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Laura Petit; Deputy Executive Marc Rider; David Haldeman, Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC); Nick Hvozda, Director of Department of Environment; Tim Degraff, Charles Lande,, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA);

Chairwoman Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM, and asked Vice Chair Hansut to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to APPROVE the Minutes of February 3, 2022 and February 9, 2022**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: (See transcript)

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney, and Stewart
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Director Tim DeGraff gave an update of the UCRRA that included hiring a new Environmental Educator, progress on the study of potential landfill siting, and other solid waste issues.

Interim Director of the Department of Environment Nick Hvozda gave an overview of that county department and various environmental projects throughout Ulster County that included the 2021 Carbon Neutral Government Operation Report and the 2021 Green Fleet Report. He repeated information about a grant for municipal tree planning projects.

David Haldeman, Chair of the Environmental Management Council (EMC) reported Judith Enck, former EPA administrator and current professor and founder of an organization called Beyond Plastics was the featured

speaker at their February meeting. The EMC is also concerned about the Champlain-Hudson Power Express project.

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, April 19, 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: **Moved Resolution No. 15 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: See Transcript

Motion No. 3: **Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 15 (2nd time)**

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

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Hansut, Erner, and Maloney
Voting Against: Legislators Greene and Stewart
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 18: Appointing An Independent Administrative Hearing Officer Pursuant To §304-25 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster

Resolution Summary: This resolution will appoint an Independent Hearing Officer to be determined as authorized in Local Law 8 of 1991 “Ulster County Mandatory Source Separation And Recycling Law”

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 18 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney, and Stewart
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 109 - Urging New York State To Increase The Hudson River Estuary Management Line Item In The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) By \$2 Million

Resolution Summary: This is a memorializing resolution urging Governor Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Heastie to increase the funding of the Hudson River Estuary Program to \$8.5M in the 2023 budget.

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 109 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney, and Stewart
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 147 - Adopting And Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Construction Of A Veterans Cemetery To Be Located At 381 Plains Road New Paltz, New York – Veterans Service Agency

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts and issues the Negative Declaration under SEQRA for the construction of a veteran’s cemetery in the Town and Village of New Paltz.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 147 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See Transcript

Voting in Favor: Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner, Maloney, and Stewart
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 154 - Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes Agreement With SG Pioneer PV, LLC For Solar Energy Systems Pursuant To Real Property Tax Law Section 487 – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to enter into a PILOT Agreement, and any amendments thereto, with SG Pioneer PV, LLC for the building and operations of a Solar Energy System

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 154 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See Transcript

Motion No. 3: **Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 154**

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion: See Transcript

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Chair Greene asked Vice Chair Hansut to Chair the meeting.

The Committee discussed Resolution No. 108 - Urging The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA) To Deny Transmission Developers Inc (TDI) Payment-In-Lieu-Of Taxes (PILOT) Request For The Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) Project In Ulster County.

Resolution No. 108 was not on the agenda for consideration by the Energy, Environment & Sustainability committee but was discussed because environmental concerns related to the CHPE project had been repeatedly deliberated in this committee. It was approved in the Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture Committee on March 1, 2022 and will come before the full Legislature at the March 16, 2022 Session.

Chair Greene resumed the Chair

New Business

Legislator Maloney updated the committee on an upcoming resolution to expand the Drug Drop Box program in Ulster County.

Legislator Erner discussed concerns for public safety that arose during power outages caused by the recent ice storm, Central Hudson's role in restoring power and the need to ensure reliable electric service as we move away from fossil fuels. He outlined these concerns in detail in an email to the committee.

Chair Greene discussed the need for better solar battery storage, developing solar micro-grids, and OET's successful offering of training for "green" jobs. She outlined the need for additional education regarding refrigerant management.

Old Business

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 8:48 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: April 7, 2022

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Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 00:15

We can start with the reports, and I'd like to welcome everyone to the March 3rd meeting of Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee and ask if, I was going to ask you to call the roll but you, you also have to be letting people in. Should we just?

Fawn Tantillo 00:42

I can, I can do both.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 00:43

Okay, wonderful, please.

Fawn Tantillo 00:46

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 00:48

Present.

Fawn Tantillo 00:49

Deputy Chair Gina Hansut.

Legislator Gina Hansut 00:52

Present

Fawn Tantillo 00:53

Phil Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner 00:55

Present.

Fawn Tantillo 00:57

Eric Stewart.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 01:01

Eric, you're on mute.

Fawn Tantillo 01:06

And there we go.

Legislator Eric Stewart 01:08

I'm sorry. I'm present.

Fawn Tantillo 01:11

And Joseph Maloney we know is on the phone. But he is muted right now. So when he gets home, he's going to try to log on with us. So you do have a quorum, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 01:22

Thank you very much. I'd like to, I guess I have called the meeting to order. And I'd like to ask Legislator Hansut to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

Legislator Gina Hansut 01:36

Okay. 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.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 01:56

Thank you, I think probably, as much as that means to all of us at any time, in these times, especially. So thank you. All right. Next item on the agenda is to approve the minutes of February 3rd, and we also had a special meeting on February 9th. Can we do that as one motion? Okay, I thought I, I think I saw Eric Stewart's hand, Legislator Stewart?

Legislator Eric Stewart 02:30

Oh, so moved.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 02:33

And did I hear a second?

Legislator Phil Erner 02:35

Second.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 02:36

Okay, any, before I call the vote, any discussion? Oh, okay. Then all in favor of approving the minutes of February 3rd and February 9th, 2022. Please indicate by saying aye.

Committee Members 02:56

Aye.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 02:57

Anyone opposed? Okay, motion carries four to zero for the moment. And Legislator Maloney is listening in.

Fawn Tantillo 03:12

We can count him when he gets on.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 03:15

And welcome Tim. I would like to, your're first on the agenda. And so, if you're ready. I know you just got here. But if you're ready, please give us an overview or report on the UCRRA, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

Tim DeGraff 03:39

Yeah, I hope everyone can hear me. I think I'm having a little bit of internet connection. So, I turned off my video. So, it should help. Yeah, good. Okay, good. Um, so I want to start off by saying that our new recycling educator started on Tuesday. Her name is Tanisia White. She's a recent graduate of Stony Brook University, where she majored in environmental design policy and planning. And Angelina is going to be her direct report, her direct supervisor, and she's been, you know, training her and orientating her this week. And we're really excited. Um, we cast a wide net. And we were very happy actually with all five of the candidates we interviewed. But Tanisia brought something a little bit extra to the table. So, we're excited to get working with her, and I'm sure you, everyone will meet her along the way. Um, I wanted to let everybody know that Angelina and I met with the Department of the Environment and I also spoke to Tracy Bartels separately, with regards to the Reuse Center. So, I just wanted to let everybody know that we're in communication and we'll have comments prepared with regards to that by Marty team. So, we are a part of that. All of our required reporting to the DEC for the year was completed, um, with Charlie Whittaker. So that's all been filed. Our external audit for 12.31.2021 year and the field work has been completed. The financials, actually, I finished drafting the financials today and sent them along to our auditors. So once that is complete, and I have the full audit report, I will send that along to the entire committee. We also completed our first internal audit report that's posted to our website. And if anyone wants that, I can always forward along as well. It's right on the main popup screen when you go to our site. That covered our composting operations and ABO compliance. And then the last item I wanted to mention. Seneca Meadows, the, one of our new board members, Jim Gordon, brought up at our, at his first meeting, about his concerns of Seneca Meadows was closing. I wanted to let everybody know, because it's something that's been mentioned over and over again. Seneca Meadows isn't closing. Their permit, their DEC permit expires 12.31. 2025. They're currently in negotiations with the towns up there, the Town of Waterloo and Seneca Falls more specifically, for a new host community benefit and to repeal their local law, which was giving them the

hang up there. And they gave us, I would say, optimism with regards to those negotiations. They are they are currently in the permitting process to get an extension. They're expecting that all to be complete by the fourth quarter of 2023, and doubling down by 2024. And they're expecting to get an additional 15 years of airspace. And that's, that's. Oh, I also want to, because I know there's a lot of new committee members who don't know who I am. I started at the agency in January of 2007 and I was the Controller. And I've been acting as Controller and Executive Director since July of 2020. And if you ever have any questions, feel free to just call me directly at the office, okay.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 07:25

Thank you. And Tim, you used an abbreviation that everybody may not be familiar with - ABO?

Tim DeGraff 07:35

Yeah, Authorities Budget Office. They are the regulatory authority in New York State that we report to. Part of the reason why I wanted them included in the internal audit was because they will go out and do compliance audits. So I wanted to make sure that we were prepared if that ever happens.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 07:55

Okay, um, let's see.

Legislator Eric Stewart 08:00

Thank you for bringing that up, so.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 08:03

I do the same thing. And people call me on it. So I just, especially right now, um, as we have, most of the people on the committee are new. New to the Legislature or new to this committee. So I see your hand Legislator Erner. You're on.

Legislator Phil Erner 08:27

Thank you, Chair Greene. And thank you, Tim. Thank you, Director, Director DeGraff. I, I, um, about the the landfill. You have probably heard in this committee and elsewhere in the Legislature discussions around possibly siting a landfill around our county. In the, and thank you for clarifying the situation at Seneca Meadows. I didn't realize that could still be an option. So now hearing that. I'm wondering if you have an opinion about whether we continue to make use of that facility or not? If we do have that option after the end of 2025.

Tim DeGraff 09:18

Yeah, so I've actually commented on this over the past year or so. Whether or not they stay open should not change what we're looking towards doing. Long term, short term, we should definitely be, and there's plans for us to figure out a contingency plan. In case that does happen, in case they close, but even if they open, stay open and get the extension. We could still have contingencies in place. You gotta have to have two of everything in the garbage business. So, I don't, I don't think that just because they might get the expansion, doesn't mean we should be relying on them. And that's not just for Ulster County. You know, that's for all of New York State. We are not the only ones that bring our garbage there. They are a massive facility.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 10:07

I see that um, Charlie Landi, Director Landi, Board member Landi, put himself off of mute and put his video on. And I know this is a subject dear to your heart. Would you want to weigh in on Legislator Erner's question? And I don't mean to put you on the spot. You can pass if you'd like, but. We're not, we're not hearing you. Can you shake your head up and down or side to side if you want to speak?

Charles Landi 10:53

So, if you can't hear me, there's not too much that I can, that I can.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 10:57

Now we can, now we can, please continue.

Charles Landi 11:00

Okay, it's working now? Okay. There's one thing I want to say about Angie Peone, who just recently presented us with a brochure that looks like a work of art. And it talks to the seven R's to rethink waste. And it goes into refuse, reduce, reuse, repair, regift, recover, and recycle. And I gotta tell you something, this looks like a professional job done by Walt Disney. And Angie Peone should be commended for her efforts in this thing. I won't take too much more of your time. But it's a, it's a, it's a work of art. And if you're ever out at the agency, each and every one of you should pick up a copy of it. Thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 11:48

Um, we will be meeting again soon at the Legislature. So maybe somebody could leave some copies up on the sixth floor for us? And also, if there's a PDF that we could preview it, that'd be great. All right.

Charles Landi 12:11

I'll talk to Angie about that and see if we can't do that. Yes.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 12:16

And, and Legislator Erner, I want to say that it's costing the agency \$8 million a year and last year went up to \$9 million a year. I checked with Treasurer Landi. And that money could be going to help, if we can site a landfill, and I'm very optimistic that we can if we do it well and correctly and, and also create a fair host community benefit after diverting as much waste as possible. But that money could be going to paying off the landfill, which will be an asset. And the tipping fees would be staying here, instead of us having to create the pollution to export the waste and export our dollars as well. So, Legislator Stewart, please.

Legislator Eric Stewart 13:18

I'm sorry. Just a point of clarification. You said it was \$9 million, and that's just in transportation cost of the waste alone?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 13:25

Transportation and tipping fees.

Charles Landi 13:28

No, transportation and disposal. It is transportation and disposal.

Legislator Eric Stewart 13:32

Okay.

Charles Landi 13:33

Disposal at Seneca Meadows, yeah. Hi, Eric. How you doing?

Legislator Eric Stewart 13:37

I'm doing well. How are you, Charlie? It's nice to see you.

Charles Landi 13:40

Good.

Tim DeGraff 13:41

And I welcome everybody to, if you go to our website, and you click on About Us and Authorities Budget Office, you'll find under financial reports, all of my most recent, comprehensive annual financial reports, my CAFRs. And I made it a point that in the MDNA section, the management discussion and analysis, we actually reference where our tipping fee comes from, and you can see exactly per ton, how much transportation is how much disposal is, even how much our debt service costs. So, it's a, it's a very good document to get an understanding just by reading the management discussion analysis.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 14:23

Okay, I'm gonna just make a couple other quick points and then call on Nick Hvozda from the Department of Environment. One is that you may or may not know that Legislator Petite, Chair Bartels, myself, Europa McGovern, from the Department of Environment, and we always have a liaison to UCRRA and a few other knowledgeable people have been working on a Zero Waste Implementation Plan. That is an evolution of a draft of a zero-waste action plan that was created by the Recycling Oversight Committee. On March 10, I'm going to be giving an overview of what I know, both about the Zero Waste Implementation Plan and the Reuse Innovation Center, which Nick will be talking about it in a moment, as he gives the Department of Environment update, and also, you know, my own take on how we can successfully site a landfill by maximum waste diversion, and a fair host community benefit, and Legislator Petit, and the chair of the UCRRA, Katherine Beinkafner, who was also a geologist, a hydrogeologist, and really has a lot of knowledge about what would qualify for landfill siting. And the other thing I would like to do is get on the agenda of the Supervisors Association, maybe with somebody from the agency, and, and really help them to understand that if it's done well, that a landfill can actually be an asset to the county and to the community. But anyway, please mark, March 10, at 7pm for an overview of solid waste management in Ulster County, and then also, I believe, the following month, there, they've been speaking with Kimiko Link who lives in Ulster County and works for EPA, and is doing amazing things with waste diversion in the Virgin Islands, because Region Two of EPA includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, which is kind of a nice assignment. But what is really interesting is the amount of waste diversion and putting those materials

into a what is an evolving circular economy. So, good things coming up, that can help shape the next few years as we do try to stop exporting our waste and manage it in the best way possible, within our borders. Legislator Petit, did you want to add anything before we go to? Direct, is your title director or coordinator, Nick? Director?

Nick Hvozda 18:28

Yes.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 18:28

Director Hvozda. Did you want to add anything on March 10? Or?

Legislator Petit 18:33

No, I just I think it's great that we're taking all these strides moving forward and collaborating on projects like this. And, you know, I think this is also a way to get the public education out. You know, we, as we do all of these different venues, you know, we'll hit different groups of people. And, you know, I just keep hoping we can get there.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 18:59

Okay, please, Director Hvozda. Please give us an update on the wonderful things that are happening in the Department of Environment.

Nick Hvozda 19:14

Thank you, Chair Greene. The main thing I want to report on is a couple of reports that we released this week and submitted to the committee. Two reports. First one is a report on government operations, greenhouse gas emissions and our reduction goals. And this is a report that's described and required in resolution 315-2019. And we were looking at goals that the county has set for government operations reductions of 25% by 2025 and 80% by 2050. Both of those are tied to the year of 2012 is the baseline. So currently, as of, you know, over calendar year 2021 last year, we're at a 21.4% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions for government operations only. And I will, I'll give the caveat that in 2020, and 2021, while starting in 2020, we saw a major reduction, presumably due to the pandemic, a reduction in operations overall. So that seemed to continue in 2021. But despite that, I think we're on track for, for meeting that 25% reduction goal by 2025. And there's more detail in the report. But I'm happy to answer any questions about that, when you have a chance to review it. The second report that's published is a report on the Green Fleet Law, the sustainable Green Fleet, this is local law 9 of 2015. And I'll give a couple of numbers that are relevant to the amendment to that law that's being discussed tonight. The original law asked for a 5% of the fleet should consist of green vehicles by 2020. We met that goal. We're currently at about at 9.4% of the fleet, which is 44 vehicles across the fleet that are considered to be green vehicles, which includes hybrids of, in all vehicle classes. And of that 9.4%, 9.1% are fully electric vehicles. So, for, for the new goal of 20% by 2025, which is proposed, we need to purchase about an additional 50 vehicles that are green vehicles in order to meet that goal, which is a, I think, is a good goal for an achievable goal, based on the procurement plans over the next three years. Both of these reports are posted on our website now, and will have been submitted to the clerk of the legislature to, for the committee. The only other thing is, as Chair Greene mentioned, and Tim mentioned, the RFP draft that we've started for the Reuse Innovation Center has been circulated to

various stakeholder groups. And we're expecting, or we requested comments back by March 18, for moving to the next step of that process, so at that point, we'll, we will compile them, see where the similarities are, and the differences are, and then convene some, some type of meeting to discuss where those differences are and what we should do in the RFP itself.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 23:25

And I want to commend the department for doing an excellent job and having an inclusive process where you're vetting it, the RFP before it goes out. And it could be as simple as an expanded version of the Reuse Center that Legislator Petit so successfully developed in the town of New Paltz, or a facility that will divert any waste that can be diverted, that is not currently being handled by the agency or the agency is not going to be handling directly. And they'll have say in what that is or isn't. And whether it's a single site, whether it's a rehab of an existing building or building new, all of those questions will be incorporated into the feasibility study. And then, then there will be a very iterative process to answer those questions and come out with a recommendation. And my goal, what I'm hoping can happen is we finish the feasibility study by the end of this year and actually implement next year. And that's a little bit more ambitious than the timeline for the RFP. But I really appreciate the fact that we're moving on this and not letting it sit on the shelf. Because I think it's, it's gonna be really crucial for successful landfill siting and sound solid waste management. I really hope Ulster County will model it. Um, okay, the next update is.

Fawn Tantillo 25:36

Legislator Greene. I saw Gina had her hand up and Mr. Erner.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 25:40

Hi, I'm so sorry. Please.

Legislator Gina Hansut 25:43

That's okay. I just wanted to say that I attended the county executive, his announcement at the transit center on the 15th with the electric buses, part of the, obviously, the New Green Deal. And I was fortunate enough to take a ride on the bus and I learned so much and it was just wonderful to see something actually come to fruition like that. So, everyone should be very proud of that.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 26:12

And I'm even seeing electric school buses and, and large vehicles, you know, so it's it's not just personal cars anymore. Okay, um, environmental management.

Fawn Tantillo 26:32

Mr. Erner also had his hand up. I'm sorry. It's hard to see the whole screen. I know.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 26:37

Okay, please.

Legislator Phil Erner 26:41

Thank you, Chair Greene. Thanks, Clerk Tantillo. Director Hvozda, unfortunately, I did not manage to read the reports yet. But I look forward to doing so. And with respect to our vehicle policy, I see the proposed updates that we're going to have a hearing on if we passed it tonight, but I'm just wondering, one piece obviously is needing to ultimately eliminate fossil fuel combustion. But another piece is the general extraction, and that, that making vehicles itself necessitates. So, I'm wondering whether there's any plan for the department to aim to a drawdown in terms of how many vehicles are needed, in general, and not just because of the extraction itself. But the possibility that some additional work under a Green New Deal might be available to workers who could have jobs that currently a machine might do, assuming that those workers wanted to do that type of work.

Deputy Executive Rider 28:01

Deputy Executive Rider here, happy to take some of this, too, because I mean, Nick and the Department of the Environment has one role here. But we have a fleet manager over at DPW as well, who kind of oversees the entirety of the fleet, not just the green portion. So I know, Legislator Lerner, Erner, sorry. Um, we have plans for the County Executive's kind of Green New Deal in Ulster County, which I'm kind of in charge of shepherding a little bit with Nick as well. And this is definitely something that we look at. It's gonna, it's gonna be a big push to do the kind of elimination of vehicles that that make a huge difference, but it's definitely something that we evaluate and when vehicles go out of kind of order, we decide whether we need to replace them or if we can shift in another direction. And, Nick, I don't know if you have anything else to add.

Nick Hvozda 29:11

To that, I'll say that I, the vehicle replacement cycle is, is not one where we're replacing vehicles that haven't met the end of their service life. So there is understanding the body costs of the vehicles. We're not discarding vehicles for which the, you know, greenhouse gases have been produced excessive or without providing service to the county, I suppose. But I think the, I don't know what the average retirement age is, but I think it's 10 years, 15 years for a vehicle so. And then, the second thing which we discussed briefly in the report is that there is a an assessment process that we've been working with a fleet manager to implement, where anytime a vehicle comes up for replacement, the department that's requesting the replacement to the fleet manager has to define what the use case is for the vehicle, define what the current vehicle in the, in that use is, and then make recommendations for what type of green vehicle could replace it, coming organically out of the department. So that's. Will that lead to reducing the number of vehicles? I don't know, but it's a step in that direction.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 30:44

I just want to mention something that came up. Some of us are working with the Ag Society and the Ulster County Fair. And you know, trying to make the fair, help the fair become more sustainable, divert our waste, and use electricity more efficiently. And one of the suggestions that came up that we're going to move through channels is to give UCAT a heads up and see if there's any way, that's Ulster County Area Transit, a way to help festival-goers, especially those that are commuting by rail, or preferably by bus to New Paltz, right now, but it would have to take a taxi, if they don't have transportation, and the idea of giving UCAT enough lead time to see if they can help fill, fill that void. So we are trying to promote the use of public transit and, and make it you know, that is a way of addressing the, the need for less vehicles. Please, Mark, go ahead.

Deputy Executive Rider 32:13

Just on those same lines, you know, one of the goals of kind of the Green New Deal is doing a car-free for the Ashokan Rail Trail. So getting UCAT bus to take people out there either from the park and ride or other areas, or from Kingston.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 32:36

Legislator Stewart, go ahead.

Legislator Eric Stewart 32:39

This may be a bit of a tangent, but it's definitely related, regarding UACT. I know that when I, you know, see the bus service on 209, for example, in down, in my neck of the woods, it occurs to me that there's you know, I'm all for using public transit. And I think UCAT is a great service. And I'm totally in favor of the three new electric buses that they've just added. But it seems to me like you might get more ridership if there were actual stops. I know so many times I see people standing on the side of the road and it's you know, 12 degrees outside, I'm like that's not really conducive to making people use public transit. And I just wonder if there's any plans in UCAT's future for building bus stops where people have some shelter while they're waiting for the bus to arrive.

Deputy Executive Rider 33:30

There are some set stops. Along certain, we do have some fixed routes. Now, you can always flag one of the buses down wherever you're at. But there are set stops. The one thing I will say that we're looking at, and we were awarded phase one through NYSERDA and are on to competing for phase two is, we're looking at doing micro transit, and it would start, at least as far as the proposal would be Kingston and Ellenville and then those would-be pilots for the rest of the county. But that it, that would be using our partner in the proposal is via, as like a rideshare, but, but, under, under UCAT. And using electric vehicles, that's micro transit, to get either people to the routes or to get them to their location, which I think will help with ridership, not needing to have a full-size bus, going through the different areas, but getting people with cars to the.

Legislator Eric Stewart 34:41

Right. But like say, I see people like say, standing on the side of 209 all the time and it just seems to me like if there was actual, you know, a shelter there for them to stand under if it was raining, that would certainly, perhaps make people more inclined to use the service.

Deputy Executive Rider 34:57

Absolutely.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 35:00

Okay, I would like to see if we can move on. Oh, sorry. Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 35:09

Sure. I just had a couple of quick questions with regards to the UCAT going green. Are there limitations to those buses? I've talked to UCAT drivers that say there's certain routes that have certain hills, the

length of the route, that there were some real issues, even with hybrid, that these all electricals, it's not really the end all because, unless I'm wrong, that right now, a large portion of UCAT routes are not even doable for electric. So, when we start talking about a percentage of buses, we hope to have be electric, we got to have an honest conversation about how many could even be electric with the, with the routes they're on? Am I wrong about that?

Deputy Executive Rider 35:51

No, no, I mean, right now, those three buses are really meant for Kingston, and then we're adding more and more. I think the technology will need to improve in order to have them do Ellenville or the Poughkeepsie run, those kinds of things. And certainly, our infrastructure, isn't there yet, as far as charging stations along the route and other. It'll be over time.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 36:13

But I think we got to keep that in mind. That's not something I hear us talking about enough when we're actually talking about policies that are requiring a certain percentage of these buses. I mean, that's, how can you even talk about that if half the routes can't even use these types of buses, it's just, I mean, we're just talking about silliness at that point without having the conversation about how many routes can even have an electric bus. With regards to it being green, when you, when I hear about the type of mining it takes for the minerals and everything else, and the destruction and the, and the carbon that's been created, even to make these batteries. And then the issue that we're going to have going down the road with the disposal of these batteries. I think part of the conversation really has to be about fill, not as much even with UCAT, I mean, we have to provide public transit, but still being smart about getting the most out of the least when it comes to vehicles. But in other departments, especially, you know, people just transporting different people, I think we have to have, we have to be looking for less and less vehicles. When, really, when you can, from a monetary standpoint and an environmental standpoint. And lastly, and I don't just want to say these things, I hope we keep following up and find out that we're putting some time and effort into getting, you know getting back to us on this, even what Eric was just saying, I've got a bus stop right out in front of my store. And it's brutal to watch people sit out there, it's right next to a homeless shelter. Most of the people that are waiting for the bus there are from the, the homeless shelter in Barclay Heights, I do think it wouldn't take much, I don't think we'd have to pay for a study, I think it's probably something we could do. And identify some locations that, that could use what you're talking about. Also, a lot of people don't want to try to flag down a bus, and sometimes people don't even know where to get the bus, and those things would make it pretty easy to figure out. You could get a bus, maybe even putting something in some of these protective little areas that have the bus schedule on there. But just some thoughts, things I hope we follow up on and keep in mind that the, you know, electric is, electric cars and buses are not necessarily the end-all it's like recycling. That does, just because we're recycling something doesn't mean there's not still a cost to the environment. And that it's you know, reusable and compostable are much better than recycling.

Deputy Executive Rider 36:43

You all know your districts well. If you have a suggestion on where a shelter should be placed, please feel free to send it over to myself.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 38:49

Maybe we could fire an email out to the whole Legislature with that suggestion. You know, if people, and maybe we identified 10 or 12 spots, that would be something to think about.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 39:00

Right.

Legislator Eric Stewart 39:01

I think that's I think that's a great idea. Thank you for that.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 39:06

Legislator Petit, I think I saw your hand. No?

Legislator Petit 39:09

I did, but Deputy Rider actually had a great response. So thank you for that. Yeah, I mean, we could, we should be putting up more of the bus stops. I believe the county had provided some for New Paltz, and there may have been one in Esopus. So, good point and a good point to Legislator Maloney about getting out a mass email, I think you'll get some good responses.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 39:36

Excellent. Okay. If we can please, to move on to Environmental Management Council update with Dave Haldeman, who's chair of the EMC.

Dave Haldeman 39:52

Good evening. I'll make this brief. There's just a few things that I think maybe you should be aware of. One, Nick I mentioned to us again at our last meeting that the Department of the Environment has a tree grant for towns within Ulster County. And there's only been one or two towns that have applied for that grant. This is for street trees or parks or whatever. And so, this is just to alert you, you can let your towns, or specific towns, know that that is out there. And that can be, the application can be reached through the Department of Environment. The second thing that I would mention is that there are several towns, particularly along the Hudson that are still concerned about the proposed Champlain Hudson Power line coming down through the river, and particularly those that get their water supply out of the river, how that's going to impact them, their legal and financial responsibilities, etc. So we're just watching that, but it's just on our radar. The other thing I had mentioned is that we had a great presenter last time, Judith Enck from, she was a former EPA Administrator, now professor at Bennington College. She is president of an organization called Beyond Plastics. And just the two or three major concerns, I think that I could pick out of that, there were many, we all know that there's a plastic problem, we all know that it's difficult to recycle anything but number one, and number two plastics. We all know that the present gas and oil industry is still pushing plastic production, in fact, building large new facilities to make even newer plastics. And so, I mean her focus is, of course, trying to get different types of packaging and reducing the flow of plastics into the system. But she went as far as to say that with gas and oil companies realizing that they may be facing some decrease in that particular product, because of changing over to electric vehicles and so forth, that what these companies are doing is seeing a, an opportunity to use more of their, their product in plastics. So that's

something to be aware of. And that information, actually, that whole presentation would be on the the site of the last EMC meeting, in case anybody wants to just glance at her presentation. That's all I have.

Legislator Eric Stewart 42:57

Manna Jo, you're muted.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 43:03

I was going to ask where it would be located. But go ahead. Legislator Stewart, you.

Legislator Eric Stewart 43:09

I just wanted to thank, thank Mr. Haldeman for joining us this evening. And wow I'm so disappointed, I missed Judith Enck's presentation to the EMC. I had a question about your tree grant for the municipalities. Does that cover the installation of the trees as well? Or is that just for, for the plantings? And kind of like, what, what scale of trees are we talking about here?

Dave Haldeman 43:40

What we have is money to, to purchase the trees and to provide some materials that go with it, some mulch and steaks and planting tubes, etc. And we're looking at, it's going to be dependent on the amount of interest compared to the budget, but we're looking at anything from a gallon bucket size up to maybe one and a half to two inches' diameter.

Legislator Eric Stewart 44:04

Okay. I'm sorry. So, so that would be just for the trees and the related materials but not for the labor to install. Right so we're, we're targeting Arbor Day planting events. But it doesn't have to be Arbor Day, it can be any time during the year. It can be any time, and well I think it's a great time to be offering this, this service since I mean the ice storm did such a number on so many trees in the area. So, so great. So thank you for that and thank you for the clarification. And Dave, I know I owe you an email, so I'll be in touch with you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 44:42

Okay, if we're caught up I'd like to go to the, oh, Legislator Maloney. Go ahead.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 44:48

I think Laura had her hand up as well. You know, I don't know if you'll know this. I don't know if the council is, has looked into this. Maybe even Mark would, would, would be able to, or, or Nick would be able to talk about this. And it might be for something to start at the end of the meeting in new business or old business. But with the cable project that's coming down the Hudson, there's, there's been some legislative conversation about a moralizing resolution to say, hey, let's, no way on IDA project. But as anyone, does anyone have any answers? As far as what are, is there nothing the county can do to, to halt this project? And I mean, and I don't know enough about it, I just want to know, the options. I'm starting to look into it. I know there's a lot of people worried about it. I will say that 6, 7, 8 years ago, when this was, this, these things were first being talked about bringing power down through here. This was, the, the a lot of environmentalists thought this was the way to go. But now it seems that we're, we have a lot of issues with it. Do we have any, any ability as a county to halt this? Or to have any say

about this? Or is this a done deal? And the most we can do is at least, you know, fight a ridiculous sounding pilot through the IDA? Do we have a legal leg to stand on? Or is this more or less a done deal, is my basic question. Either Mark, Nick or Dave, if you have any answers on it?

Deputy Executive Rider 46:18

I'll answer carefully and say, I don't think that, so the answer to both questions that you raised, I think is no, I don't think it's a done deal. But I don't think that there's anything that the county can necessarily do and say, you're not gonna, you know, build this in our portion of the riverbed, whatever, whatever we could say, I don't think we can halt it. I do think continuing to send letters, there's, there's continuing conversations, I don't know that it's definitely a done deal.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 46:53

As a county, have, have we looked into a county-filed lawsuit? Or have we actually looked into what we could legally do to halt it? Or you're just saying as, I mean, you're a lawyer yourself, I believe? Are you just saying, 'Look, I don't think, I, the way I see this?' I don't think there's anybody, have we looked at.

Deputy Executive Rider 47:12

Just knowing utility law, kind of just, it's like, it's almost like railroad, right?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 47:18

Yeah, yeah. I kind of assumed.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 47:19

It's kind of outside of our purview, but

Legislator Joseph Maloney 47:23

Alright, thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 47:24

There is a memorializing resolution about the pilot, memorializing the IDA on our agenda.

Deputy Executive Rider 47:36

I will follow up with a conversation with the county attorney to make sure that they at least make sure there's nothing that they see that we can do as far as a lawsuit. Whether that's challenging, like an article 70, IDA challenging a decision or whatever, I'll, I'll follow up with that.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 47:57

Alright. Can you check, can you at least talk to Clint? And can you also check with either Chris or David Gordon? And if both of their opinions are with you, then I, then I'm very comfortable that this is more about fighting a pilot.

Deputy Executive Rider 48:16

I'll ask Quinn, I'll ask Fawn, or somebody, you know. I can't really ask for an opinion from Legislative Counsel.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 48:24

Okay, then Fawn, could, could you get to Dave or Chris? And then, and then just to have two, two opinions and see how if they completely jive, which I assume they will? And I assume it's going to be what Mark is saying unfortunately.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 48:43

Yes, there.

Charles Landi 48:44

I just want to mention that last year sometime we had a great presentation on this whole project. And so maybe between Nick, and Nick and I, we can look back and find out when that was and if anybody wants to actually view the presentation on the project itself, it should be available.

Nick Hvozda 49:08

I'll put a link in the chat if I can.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 49:10

I would like to move into the resolutions. I don't see any other hands.

Fawn Tantillo 49:15

Sorry, we don't have any chat anymore. There's no chat.

Nick Hvozda 49:19

Oh, okay. I'll send it to you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 49:25

All right. Um, let's see resolution number 15. Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number one of 2022 local law amending the code of the county of Ulster chapter 131. Vehicles. And I'm just gonna skip to the green fleet policy in relation to strategies and goals, and there will be, this is for setting a public hearing to be held on March 15 at 7pm. Is there a motion so that, for discussion?

Fawn Tantillo 50:16

I apologize that's the wrong date. I think this is to set the public hearing in April. April 15? April 19th, I apologize.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 50:30

Um, do I hear a motion for discussion? Legislator Erner followed, seconded by Legislator Stewart. Any discussion?

Legislator Petit 50:50

I know, I'm like the sixth member here. But um, since we do have somebody here from the Department of the Environment, and since our last capital purchase of vehicles was substantially greener, would it be unprecedented to see if we couldn't get them to raise it from 20% to 30?

Legislator Eric Stewart 51:16

I think that's a great idea. Thank you, Laura.

Deputy Executive Rider 51:22

I would ask Nicholas to speak to that.

Nick Hvozda 51:25

Okay, 20% is about 50 vehicles over the next three years. We're somewhat dependent on how many vehicles we need to and can replace each year. So that's, that's one limitation. The other is the pool of available vehicles that could be replaced. So everything currently in the fleet that is not a heavy duty vehicle is, could be a viable replacement. And there are about 300 of those total that are not currently green vehicles. So increasing that number would, would be drawn from that pool of 300. Which I think it probably at least 80% might have a viable replacement in the next year or two. Does that answer your question?

Legislator Petit 52:24

Yeah, thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 52:28

I see Legislator Maloney's hand.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 52:33

Yeah, I, I like the idea. But if we're going to honestly start collecting data and looking at maybe reducing the size of the fleet, and I just worry that if you raise that number to really try to hit that number, would you be replacing vehicles earlier, just to get another green vehicle and hit that number. And like I said, there's, well if you're talking about DPW and UCAT, a large portion of their fleet is just not doable when it comes to, so I just think it's an arbitrary number, 20% is almost arbitrary. Once you start raising it just to drive to the word green, I think you'd, it becomes, it becomes a total arbitrary number at that point, and you run the risk of maybe doing fine vehicles, or replacing vehicles that you, aren't, that are still good or, or buying a new vehicle, instead of reducing the size. So I don't know, I like, it sounds good. But I didn't get an answer from Nick, that made me feel like it was gonna change anything.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 53:43

Legislator Stewart, please.

Legislator Eric Stewart 53:46

I know that the biggest purchaser of vehicles is the, you know, for the highways, but the second largest would be for law enforcement. And it seems like perhaps we could try to encourage law enforcement to you know, convert more of their vehicles to electric because I understand that there's some pushback in that area. And perhaps that could be one of our priorities.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 54:16

I think you're worried about the same thing with DPW and UCAT, that the things that law enforcement is trying to do, at times, whether it's speed, or even, you know, the reality of situations they're going to be in, their, you know, green vehicles might not be, you know, something that one feels like is putting the public and his people, you know, where they need to be as far as what the capability of the vehicle is. So once again, the two largest departments, maybe the three when it comes to vehicles, all have limitations when it comes to green. So there's just a more in depth conversation and more data, I think, that we really need to have an honest conversation about before arbitrarily saying percentages.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 55:04

Deputy Rider, I saw your hand.

Deputy Executive Rider 55:08

I will just say that we tried to kind of not push but, but tried to get the sheriff's office to, to buy more green vehicles. And they have agreed to buy more. But it is, again, that pursuit-rated, there's not a lot of options for the pursuit-rated vehicles, especially in the SUVs, and so it's difficult. I think, you know, Nick is giving deference to the committee at this point, but he and I have had these conversations. And I think his comfort level around that we're going to get to 20, I think is pretty good. When we've talked about it being higher, that comfort level is much, I will say less, as far as whether we can get there with what we're, what we should be replacing.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 56:04

So, I'm not hearing a strong will of the committee. I think our options are to vote on this, to amend this, to not take an action. And I, we do have a long agenda. So I want to see, get a sense of a committee. We opened this for discussion. Should I just close it for a vote as is? Go ahead, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner 56:47

Deputy Chair Hansut, did you? I think you might have your hand up for first, before me.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 56:52

Oh, sorry, please.

Legislator Gina Hansut 56:54

That's okay. Um, Mr. Ryder spoke on what I was going to speak on. So it's, he answered, he answered my question. Thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 57:07

Go ahead, Phil.

Legislator Phil Erner 57:09

Okay, thanks, Chair Greene. Yeah, I like the idea of, I would not like to move ahead on this. I think the discussion is showing that we have some questions and whatever action would enable us to discuss that and maybe reestablish some numbers or talk with different departments about uses and things like that is what I would support tonight.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 57:32

Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 57:34

Yeah, just a suggestion. There are firms, we always talk about studies, sometimes I agree, sometimes I don't. But there are firms that specialize in this. And when you have a fleet our size, you know, whether we could do it in house, or whether, whether we couldn't, I don't know, if we've done this recently, but it's sure a prudent thing to talk about, where you actually take, you get a specialized look and report on the use, what are these vehicles used for? How many people have driven them, how many take home vehicles, how many miles per per vehicle are being put on, and actually get a look, I mean, that's the only way if you're ever really going to have an honest conversation, we're not just going to sit here and say things that sound nice, like reducing the size of your fleet, for the environment, and for monetary reasons to get the most out of your fleet, and to still provide the best possible services you can for your county, if, you really have to take an in-depth look and gather a lot of data you have to understand there is most certainly, and this isn't anything against the executive, or anyone else. But obviously, you can always do better, how much better, I don't know, because I've never really taken a real look at it. But there are firms that specialize in this kind of thing. It would be something to talk about for us to get a real feel for and this is just as much about, this is probably more about reducing the size, in a smart way of the fleet, rather than the green aspect. But there is a green aspect to it that you could probably draw some, some good conclusions from, and use that with, when it comes to coming up with a better number. But it's something to think about, something we could even talk about, sending off to our audit committee. Our clerk does put extra funds aside, in, I believe our audit committee and these different standing committees, I always envision going to the audit committee with an idea on something to look at and then letting the audit committee go out there and do some homework on what that would look like. It's a thought. But if we're going to have an educated conversation on the fleet, making it green, maybe reducing the size, it's going to involve more than than an arbitrary number of us just saying things to Mark like we do in every meeting and hoping for the best.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 59:47

All right. All right. All right. I see your hand, Legislator Stewart. I do want to say that, I think a lot of that research was done to create this resolution. And I also want to say that I don't think there's a penalty. This is, these are setting what we consider to be reasonable goals. Legislator Stewart?

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:00:12

I was just gonna say, would it be possible for us to vote on the resolution as far as holding the public hearing? And perhaps not get into the percentages of, that we're, you know, discussing?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:00:26

And, and listen to what comes out of the public hearing.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:00:32

Exactly, yes.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:00:35

All right. There are folks. Thanks for the reminder that this is setting a public hearing. It is true, though, that generally once you set a public hearing, unless there's really good reason not to, then the Legislature, the proposed legislation does get adopted. I've just seen that pattern, but it's, there have certainly been exceptions. So Legislator Hansut?

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:01:04

No.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:01:06

Okay.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:01:07

I'll call the vote. Oh, unless Phil has something else to say.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:01:11

All right. Go ahead, Legislator Erner. And then we will call the question.

Legislator Phil Erner 1:01:15

Okay. I was gonna move that we postpone this actually.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:01:20

Right, there's a motion to postpone? Is there a second?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:01:24

I'll second it. I actually agree with Chair Greene on this, with the overall thought that most public hearings, you just go ahead and do it. But at, but the other part of it is that that becomes the norm is really not getting anything done and changing anything. And if we want to be a legislative body, that's actually going to affect some real change, and work with the executive in a real way, and be a co-equal branch of government. I think we do need to postpone things that in the past hadn't been postponed. But then we have to go and do the work. We do have to look into, if we're going to get some, some take a deeper dive, let's find out. If, if chair Greene is correct, and there was a study done, then just let me see that study. But if there wasn't, and we really don't have a good feel for where our fleet's at? Well, who's going to do it if we don't? So let's have a, let's have a, let's take a deeper dive. I'm okay with the postponement and, and if anyone could show me any real research and deep dives that have been taken into the logistics of our fleet, I'd love to see it and then understand it.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:02:30

Deputy Rider?

Deputy Executive Rider 1:02:31

Yeah. I mean, I think it's fine to postpone. I believe this is a resolution that came from us, but and we were just trying to up, we've kind of met, I think, Nick started off that we've met where the Green Fleet policy is, we're trying to double it. I don't have a problem having this further discussion. The only thing I ask is that, and I understand that it's March 3, and this was just delivered on March 1, but the

Department of the Environment did a phenomenal job on putting together the 2021 Ulster County Green Fleet report. And it's about 17 pages of statistics. And I think things that you all are looking for in this discussion, and it should have been delivered to you on Tuesday, I believe it was and it should be circulating now. So I would just recommend everybody read it.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:03:29

So right now, the motion is, the resolution is for April, setting a public hearing for April 19. We will be meeting before then, um, but I think we would need to set the public hearing now and have the discussion in, at the April meeting if there was further discussion. I don't know. Can we set the public hearing in April for April 19?

Fawn Tantillo 1:04:13

Theoretically, you can. We normally... Well, you know, you actually you couldn't because it would have to go to the Legislature for a vote. This was this is a resolution. So you couldn't, you couldn't set it for this. The, you can, you can hold a public hearing and vote on something the same night if the public hearing's before the vote, but this, you always have to set the public hearing a month ahead.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:04:40

So again, this is for public hearing. There's a motion.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:04:44

Who put this, this is from the executive or?

Fawn Tantillo 1:04:48

No, it's, it's from Eve Walter and Peter Criswell.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:04:52

Neither, neither of which are here. And there's a motion and a second for a postponement, and, and we did get it pretty late. I think it's time to vote.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:05:08

Okay, all in favor of the motion to postpone.

Legislator Phil Erner 1:05:13

Aye.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:05:13

I see two, three. Okay. All opposed. Okay, so by a vote of three to two, this is, this resolution number 15 is postponed. Okay. The next resolution. Appointing an independent and administrative hearing officer pursuant to the code for the county of Ulster. I believe that there was some late information about the possibility of using a hearing officer that the county already used. Are we, are we going to open it for discussion? Yes. Alright, let's move in second for discussion.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:06:18

On.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:06:19

Motion by Legislator Maloney, seconded by....

Legislator Phil Erner 1:06:27

Second.

Fawn Tantillo 1:06:28

Erner.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:06:29

Legislator Erner, and I saw Legislator Petit had her hand.

Legislator Petit 1:06:35

I did, thank you. Just as a reminder, the position of a hearing officer was created back in 2008 or 2009. When the, the Resource Recovery Agency had been asked to hire a compliance officer, it had been rewritten into our recycling oversight in our, our source separation and recycling laws. We at that time appointed Lou Klein, who I mean, as far as I know, he may even still be in the position he's on the Periodic Review Board. However, Al Bruno, a legislator from a previous term had reached out, and that's why this resolution has been brought forward to reappoint somebody. It is already in the code books. It's 304-25, it spells everything out in our code. So essentially, we just need to put someone in there. The current person who is working with the Board of Health is George Retter. He has experience in, you know, the sanitation and these type of law topics. Our legislative counsel Chris Ragucci had reached out, reached out but apparently Mr. Retter is on vacation. So I would appreciate it being moved forward. It was postponed last month, so we could check into it a little bit further. And those are all the details which we're at and again I apologize forwarding it to you a little bit later this afternoon.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:08:17

Does anyone else have any comments? Yes, Legislator Maloney?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:08:22

Part of the postponement was there was discussion about a different way to do it, and whether we wanted to kind of put them into a, with a, put this position in with a pool of, of what we already have, judges in the county for other, for, I think the health department, other, other things as well. Um, I think Chair Greene, you actually expressed concern about that, saying, then you're losing a, you know, kind of an expertise. Like we, that, I got the feeling that you wanted one person that was going to understand environmental law, recycling, and not just from some pool of judges. So that was one that was the main reason that it got held up. So Laura really dove in and decided that the existing language and to have kind of a separate person with some expertise there was the way to go. So we kind of went with our original thought. This was something asked for, maybe Charles Landi could, could maybe speak to this, but this was something that was asked for publicly in an article I read a couple of months ago. I brought it to Laura and, and that's where, that's where this kind of started to happen again, where

Laura researched and found that we had the existing the existing resolution, we, it was set up, all we had to do was put it up and fill it. But this was, this was something that the RRA was asking for.

Charles Landi 1:09:56

Joe, can you hear me?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:09:58

Yeah, okay.

Charles Landi 1:09:59

Yes, the RRA is in favor of this and it appears as though finally, flow control law is going to get some teeth. And they're looking forward to it. And so that's basically, and that that comes from the agency, people who are in the know, and compliance officers who know how frustrating it is to run people down who are breaking the law, and then not have any avenue of approach. So basically, that's what it is. Thanks Joe.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:10:32

I, I do want to say that, um, I can't find this in my packet, packet of resolutions. Um, but if somebody else has, has it pulled up, um, is, is there a person named? And if not, um, then do we want to wait until we actually decide on who this is? Because we're going to be appointing a hearing officer, then I think, we should know who, who that is, or, or specify how it's going to be filled. And I tried to look at the backup and I can't find it. So go ahead, Legislator Erner and then Legislator Petit.

Legislator Phil Erner 1:11:27

Go ahead, Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit 1:11:31

I was just going to say we have done other TBDs. We do have someone in mind. It's just a matter of him getting back on Monday. So Chris, again, Chris Ragucci had reached out to him. So you know, and there is an existing contract with him. It would just be coming out of a different budget line. It wouldn't be, obviously, coming out of the Health Department budget line.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:11:58

So we, if it's a TBD, we could fill, fill it up by, by amendment on the floor. Are folks comfortable with that?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:12:10

We, we were.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:12:11

Yes. Yes. Alright. So on resolution number 18. Appointing an independent hearing officer. I'd like to, if there's no further discussion. I'd like to call the question. All in favor, please signify. Anyone opposed? Motion carries. All right, resolution number 147, adopting an issuing on.

Fawn Tantillo 1:12:43

109.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:12:46

Thank you. Urging the New York State to increase the Hudson River Estuary Management line item in the environmental protection fund by \$2 million dollars. And I want to just say I was on a meeting this morning, a long meeting of the Hudson River Estuary Management Action Council and Nancy Beard is retiring after 34 years now. And Fran Dunwell is retiring this summer, after 34 years and they retraced the history, and it started as, I think \$100,000 enterprise that Fran Dunwell was director of, appointed by George Pataki, Governor Pataki, and it has grown in so many ways, and Nick touched on some of the projects that they have sponsored. So it really is an amazing program. And I'd like to take a motion to consider resolution number 109. Do I have a motion? Legislator Erner and a second? Legislator Hansut. Any discussion? And then I'd like to call the question on, all in favor of the resolution to increase the line item for the Hudson River Estuary Management program. All in favor? Anyone opposed? Okay. Motion carries, five to zero. And now, resolution number 147. Adopting and issuing a negative declaration under the state secret law by the County Ulster, by the Ulster County Legislature for the construction of a Veterans Cemetery to be located at 181 Plains Road in New Paltz. And this comes from the Veterans Service Agency. Do I hear motion for discussion?

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:15:41

So moved.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:15:42

Legislator Stewart, seconded. I need a second? If, okay, Legislator Hansut, all right for discussion. The Veteran Center? Yes, Legislator Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner 1:16:02

I thank you, I, I've come very late to this whole thing. And we passed it through health. I'm just wondering if anyone here was, who was part of the environmental review that our county had done could give a really brief summary of how that went like, 15? I don't know, like the elevator speech about it, just so I could understand a little bit more before voting. That's all.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:16:28

Yeah, so our planning department does the neg decs and unfortunately, Planner Doyle is not here. But I will say that this project has gone through a large environmental process. At one point, we did a phase one investigation and it turns out that there was some artifacts, significant to Native nations. And so we hired a consultant and, and did some of the, like laser drilling down and seeing what was there, really got a map and, and made sure that there was no human remains, etc. in the area that we're planning on creating this new Veterans Cemetery, everything came back that it was okay. And we've been working with representatives of the native nations and they've signed off, and we've gotten all the state agencies to sign off. We have a veteran cemetery at the New Paltz Rural cemetery. Unfortunately, we're running out of space there. This is across the street. And the location where it's at has been examined. And that's, I guess, your elevator speech? I can't go further. If there's other questions, I can bring them back to Dennis.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:18:07

Legislator Stewart.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:18:10

I just had a couple of real quick questions. And first of all, I mean, I looked at all the background materials, and I think the design looks really awesome. And there was obviously a lot of environmental research done. I had a couple of questions, the first one being fencing. Is there a fence to be around this area or not? I didn't see that in the drawings. I wasn't sure.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:18:38

That I'm not aware of off the follow up.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:18:40

Okay. Because if there was going to be fencing, I was going to request that it be one of those wildlife-friendly fences, like they put up around solar farms, you know, that allow small animals to go under the fence, you know, every 50 feet or 100 feet or whatever the regulation is. That was one concern. I know the county does not use herbicides. And that was, I saw that in the documentation. And I was wondering if there are plans to use pesticides at this site? I only saw herbicides mentioned.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:19:16

Now, I believe that's part of the policy. Nick, you can confirm. I mean, I think the same policy that prohibits herbicides would also prohibit pesticides.

Nick Hvozda 1:19:28

I believe so. Yeah.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:19:33

Great. And I'm asking Dennis, I don't believe there's a fence, but we will, I will note the request that if there is fencing that it be wildlife safe.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:19:45

Excellent. Thank you for that. Also, I ran a landscaping company for like, 15 years, so I was curious. The plantings that are going to be specified. I was wondering if we could, if we could, if we could specify that they use native plantings whenever possible, or is that the county's general policy? I just wasn't sure.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:20:09

Yeah, I can, we can specify that in the bids. And I believe that that is, I don't know if there's a policy on the books, but that is the kind of the procedure that DPW would go with, would be native preference.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:20:26

Great. Well, that that's really good to hear. Also, the final, my final question was the use of local contractors on projects like this, is our, is the county able to specify that the landscape architects use, or that the county uses local companies or, or how does that work?

Deputy Executive Rider 1:20:48

Not on bids, that we, it's really, it's, the state prohibits us giving a local preference. Now, if it was a larger project, sometimes we do project labor agreements, which will ensure that we're using local labor, but I don't anticipate that this is going to be of that size.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:21:10

Okay. Well, that said, I thought the drawings looked really, really great. So I thought it was really aesthetic. And I think it's a good thing. So thank you.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:21:20

And Dennis just said that the only fence is in areas that are not to be disturbed, so I am following up with him to just make sure it's wildlife safe.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:21:28

Great. Thank you for that.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:21:32

Okay, any other discussion? Okay, I'd like to call the question, all in favor of resolution number 147. Regarding the neg dec for the Veterans Cemetery on Plains Road, all in favor, please signify. Aye. Anyone opposed? Legislator Maloney, I was looking down. Did you also raise your hand? Yes. Okay. Very good. Motion carries five to nothing. And on to resolution number 154, authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a payment in lieu of, with Pioneer PV LLC for the solar energy system. Pursuant to real property, I'm sorry, tax law, section 497, and this comes from the Department of Finance. And this is indeed what we have referred to as a reverse pilot, in that solar arrays, the landowners where a solar array is installed, are exempt for, I believe it's 15 years, and because they are using services, NYSERDA has a formula by which they recommend that a upright, a payment in lieu of taxes be made instead of exempted. I hope I explained that correctly. And before I call on you, I did see, I think Deputy Rider wanted to speak, and then Legislator Maloney.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:23:56

I just, there was new members, and so I wanted to give a similar explanation then you gave, but I think you did it well. The only thing I'll caution is like, I don't call it a reverse pilot, because that makes it seem like we're paying people. It is the fact that the taxes are exempt, and this is the only way that we, or the towns get any real property tax from it. So in some ways, you're right, it's reversed, but we're not really benefiting the solar provider. They're paying us something.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:24:29

Right, right. Okay, Legislator Maloney and then Legislator Erner.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:24:34

A couple of quick questions, Mark. I remember, I actually called Phil today after his email to let him know because it is very confusing. I thought the same thing when you see pilot, and then a couple of years ago, we all learned about these kind of reverse pilots, but um, who negotiates, not every reverse pilot, I know it's the wrong, it's inaccurate, but just for the point of getting through this, who negotiates what they are going to end up paying, that comes up with the number.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:25:04

The town is the initial body that negotiates. But as Chair Greene said, there is a formula set up by NYSERDA based on megawatts.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:25:16

And are we going with that formula on this? And what how many? Give me a guesstimate of how many reverse pilots do we have right now? Going? A lot. I mean, now being back just in two, two plus years, I've probably voted to approve 10, I don't know. But um, do you know how many we have off the top of your head, or about how many?

Deputy Executive Rider 1:25:40

It would be a guess, I will say it slowed down from two years ago when you were here prior, like we, I don't remember seeing a lot, and Chair Greene's nodding her head, but I don't remember seeing a lot in the last session. Um, but I can, I can get Bert by ways and means to have a number, a rough number of how many we have.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:26:03

Thank you, and maybe we could run off up to our budget staff about that, I would just be curious to run a report and see what the recommendation was from the chart that NYSERDA gives us, and what it is, and whether it always matches that. You know, what I worry about is some towns maybe not doing a great job of negotiating as well as they could, and getting all they could out of a project and other towns doing a better job. I don't know who's doing the negotiation, that, that also sounds a little gray because you said there is an aspect of it that we do, like who is setting that, and who was making sure that everybody's being treated equally.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:26:48

I'm going to go to.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:26:49

We'll have to run out. I'll talk to our budget staff, they may be contacting you guys. It's going to be pretty easy, I think to put something like that together just to give us a chart to look at, and you know, trust but verify, let's make sure we're doing the best we can for the taxpayer.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:27:04

Um, I see all the hands. I, the order I think I saw them was Legislator Erner, Legislator Petit, and then, where'd he go? Legislator Stewart, he bounces around.

Fawn Tantillo 1:27:17

Do you want to have someone move this and second it for discussion?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:27:21

Okay, let's do that.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:27:25

I'll make a motion.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:27:26

Okay, that was Legislator Maloney followed up, seconded by Legislator Erner. And I'd like to recognize Legislator Erner to speak on this, on this resolution.

Legislator Phil Erner 1:27:39

Thank you Chair Greene. So when I first was reading the materials for this, that's when I was, I looked up the state law about the, the pilots and exemption for this type of project, which I guess is permissive. And so I learned that our county has the option to a not to tax the land at normally, or not. And by statute, I guess, and we've elected not to, and then so, we're asking for a pilot here, because, precisely because they're, they're making money from their project, and so they should pay some tax. I assume that's the reason we're doing it. But then, this, this, to this, late this morning, I got an email which I have, which all, all the committee has, I've forwarded it to you, with concerns about, of cutting of trees from the project, and also possible, well, definite proximity to the city of Kingston drinking water. And I haven't had time to follow up on on that aspect of it. And so, I, well, I would like for us to be able to take our cut of revenue from this. I don't feel comfortable moving ahead without knowing more about the project and those potential impacts. So I would actually like to, with the chair's permission, after others speak, but make a motion that we we postpone this.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:29:12

I saw a lot of other hands, but is there a second to the motion to postpone?

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:29:18

I'd second it.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:29:22

Thank you Legislator Stewart. All in favor of the postponement. Okay. Um, yes, Deputy Rider.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:29:36

I just, well, you voted to postpone it, and that's fine. But I just want to speak to one thing that, regardless of whether this passes, we don't have an ability to stop this project because that's through the town where the, that's to the municipal government where the project is, and so we don't, we don't have an approval process on whether the project, yeah.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:29:59

If I could respond to that real quick, I think, I mean, I was certainly aware of that. But the point is, and I think we need to do more of these things, only if we're going to follow up and follow through, not just to

hold things up to hold things up, but to actually follow up, but this is what could happen. The town is now going to hear, the municipality is going to hear that this was held up, and we have questions about it for environmental reasons. The next time that municipality has this in front of their zoning or planning board, perhaps they will start to think about our concerns. So I realized that we might even be costing ourselves a couple of tax dollars for a second. But I, I like that approach. We, there's a reason these things come before us. And I understand that we're not holding this project up, but we might be making the next project better by keeping this conversation going, and having the municipality realize somebody is watching. The Legislature is watching what we're doing. And they're pointing out some things that could have been done better, possibly. So I like holding it up. I like finding out more. And I hope there's a butterfly effect to this that's positive for the environment. I have something I wanted to say, but go ahead, Legislator Stewart.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:31:13

Oh, I was just going to second, basically everything that Legislator Maloney just said. I mean, I agree totally. In general, I'm a huge proponent of solar energy. But I think that cutting down, clear-cutting acres of woodland to put up a solar farm is a terrible idea. The town of Marbletown, for example, where I served on the town board for four years, in their solar law, they prohibit that specifically. They also prohibit in that same solar law, putting solar farms on prime farmland, which is something else that I think is, you know, something that should not be done. So, in addition to leveling the forest, I think it's, you know, there's concerns about runoff coming from solar panels, and being right next to the reservoir. I mean, I just think it's kind of, environmentally a terrible idea all around. So, and I, like I said, I, I understand how we're unable to stop this project, but like, it's, I agree with everything that Joe just said, so thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:32:22

I, um, I'm gonna, if I may, I'm gonna just say what I was going to say and then call on you, Laura. I think this is a very important issue that is being addressed. And I see Dave Haldeman and Legislator Petit have just signed up for the solar-mapping project that we are doing. And it would have probably prevented this project. It's, it's smack in the middle of, a, it's a core forest in the middle of forest edges. And, um, you know, unless I could be convinced otherwise, there have got to be better sites. And I think what's been happening is that developers are looking for open space, and sort of taking advantage of the fact that municipalities are not that savvy about what they need to look at, to promote a space, or to avoid or protect a space, and everything in between. And, and the solar mapping tool is, that was designed by Scenic Hudson and is being used. This is actually a, we had a cohort in the fall of 12 municipalities. And I think this time we have somewhere around 13 or 17, I haven't completed the count, that are being representative where people from the municipality are learning how to use a tool that has layers so you can see where wetlands are that you want to protect, where prime farmland is, where, where forests are. And as, as was made clear, this, this is not about approving or disapproving of the project. But I see this as a classic example of why we need municipalities to have the, have these tools available to them. And I even think that if it's possible that the executive branch could do a look before we get a pilot. The pilots go to Public Works and to Energy, Environment and Sustainability. So I do think that, that that screening should be done initially by the municipality before it ever gets to this point. But I, you know, it's similar to the checklist that's been developed. But that, I just want to put a plug in for that tool because, the person that I worked with in Rosendale, to look at our municipality,

within five minutes, was able to find the parcel, find the layers that really should have disqualified this project. And what she wasn't clear on was which body of water the author of the letter was talking about. Whether it was Kingston's reservoir, or the Ashokan. It's, it's at quite a distance. But I want to look more closely at that. And, and maybe even give the town feedback. If it's, if it's really as inappropriate as it looks. And believe me, I want to promote solar. But I want it to be done wisely. Okay, Legislator Maloney?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:34:54

Quick, quick question to you. This checklist you're talking about? Who was going to be using that?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:36:38

The checklist is.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:36:40

That you're referring to, I'm just asking for clarity.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:36:44

It's a, I'm going to ask Deputy Rider to answer who actually fills out the checklist. It comes to me and to Public Works.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:36:56

So last session, there was a requirement, Nick had created a checklist for capital projects. Last session. Um, there, there was a resolution passed that we, requiring us to submit this checklist, that's done in, with between Nick and DPW for every capital project.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:37:20

Alright, thank you.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:37:21

And now, we're required to submit it two weeks prior to submitting a resolution to you all, creating a capital project.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:37:30

Just food for thought, what if we required this, a solar checklist like this, for all municipalities. It's law that they have to, that these reverse pilots have to come through. If we can't mandate it, we can suggest it, send it off to all the municipalities, it kind of forces them. And we should look into whether we can mandate that they are, but that they, we might not be able to mandate that, we're under a different, you know, their home rule in our, but we're an extension of the state. But it could be a suggestion that we send out to all municipalities. And they will know that when they put in for, what we're calling reverse pilots tonight, that this checklist, we want accompanied, and it kind of forces the municipality to start looking at it this way, or they might not get these taxes if the Legislature doesn't like the environmental impacts of the solar array that they just allowed. So it'll force them to be a little more responsible with their, with their planning, zoning, with approvals, and maybe make them a little more aware of what they should be looking at. I've talked to a lot of supervisors. There are supervisors, like

Mike Baden, who I have all the respect for in the world and trust that he is doing this on his own. But I have talked to other supervisors that this is not crossing their mind. And this will force it to cross their mind.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:38:54

Legislator Erner, and then Legislator Stewart.

Legislator Phil Erner 1:38:59

Thank you Chair Greene. I just wanted to answer one of your questions. It's, it's by the Binnewater reservoir.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:39:06

It's by the which?

Legislator Phil Erner 1:39:07

The Binnewater, that's, that's where this project would be, but besides Kingston's Binnewater Reservoir.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:39:18

Okay, I'll look for that. And it seemed to me that I didn't see a smaller water body off to the east when I looked on the map, but I wasn't sure whether that was a drinking water supply. And I will look carefully at that. Thank you, and Legislator Stewart.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:39:41

Very quickly, I just wanted to second to what Legislator Maloney said, I think it's important for the county, this committee to step in when a municipality, who we see is doing something egregious. I mean, obviously some of the towns are far more environmentally-minded than others. And I think it's our job to make the ones who are less environmentally, environmentally-minded to be more so. So thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:40:13

We'll be repeating this training again in the fall. And, between now and then, again, we hope to go to the Supervisors Association. And I will say the Planning Departments were very helpful in getting the word out. And I think we have 30 people registered from, I believe it's 17 municipalities. So by the end of this five-week, so it's a 10-week session, it's five sessions, every other week, for 10 weeks. By, by mid-May, we will now, we will have essentially, you know, close to 30 municipalities trained to use a tool that promotes wise solar siting, and changes them from being recipients of our proposals to actually becoming proactive and developing solar in their community, both on their own municipal properties, but by encouraging sites that are ideal for solar, or at least good for solar and, and letting people know, if a project is proposed, that would do essentially more harm than good. If you're going to be taking out trees, which draw down and sequester greenhouse gases, you're going to be taking those out to put solar, and it's really not a fair trade-off. And also, we, we do have farmland to protect, and we do have wetlands, and other resources, and historic resources. So anyway, um, any, we have.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:42:12

Chair, chair, Mr. Haldeman has his hand up.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:42:14

Oh, I'm sorry. Please go ahead, Dave.

Dave Haldeman 1:42:18

Just in January, a man from the department of, the DEC, Department of Forestry was our presenter, and if I recall correctly, he was saying that the goal from the Department of Forestry standpoint is anytime you're in a forested area, and you're going to allow for a development in there, you want to try to preserve as close to 40% of the trees as possible. I just pass that on to you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:42:49

To, to leave 40% of the trees in the area? Okay, um, so there's a lot to be done in this regard. Please, Deputy Rider.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:43:05

I don't want to prolong, I just request that, um, we are able to see the letter that, that has been circulated. It has, it'd help us out to know what the complaints about this project are. Thank you.

Legislator Phil Erner 1:43:18

I'll send that right, right away.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:43:22

And, you know, I did what I could between this morning and now, to verify it. And I used, we used the tool. I was driving and I asked Penny to take a look. But it's, it's a really valuable tool. And, you know, I'm hoping that the Department of Environment will take a look at it, if you haven't already. Because, you know, it's actually a tool that can have many applications. But it's particularly designed for solar siting. Alright. Um, if I'm not mistaken, we agreed to postpone? Is that the action we took?

Fawn Tantillo 1:44:11

Yes, you voted on that already. It's postponed.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:44:14

Okay.

Fawn Tantillo 1:44:18

I will update you, the Resolution 108, for any of you that didn't know, was passed unanimously at the Economic Development Committee, but I'm sure you want to. It's not for you to vote on tonight, but it's on your agenda for your discussion.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:44:33

Okay. And that's resolution number 108. Yes, ma'am. Urging the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency, UCIDA, to deny Transmission Developers, TDI, payment in lieu of taxes for the Champlain

Hudson Power Express in the county, and what I'd like to ask is that we focus on the fact that this is a pilot agreement. And I, I would request that we don't spend, it could easily be an hour or so debating the pros and cons of the of the Champlain Hudson Power Express. Chippy, as it's called. I do know that in my day job, I work for Clearwater, and there were such strong feelings pro and con, that all we could do is make some recommendations for studies and so forth. And, you know, honestly, I'm gonna say, if Clearwater couldn't take a position, I, I'd be surprised if this committee can. But I do think it's important to focus on the request, which is a pilot agreement. And so I request that the comments be focused on whether or not it makes sense to issue a pilot on this project. Any comments?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:46:22

Did we open for discussion?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:46:24

Yeah. And Fawn, did I understand you that we are not to vote on this resolution?

Fawn Tantillo 1:46:34

That's correct. This resolution has already been passed, and it's going to the floor at this point. You are not listed on this resolution as a, as a committee for approval. But Vicky asked me to put it on here for your discussion. Just so that you're all aware of it.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:46:53

All right. I see Legislator Maloney's hand, was somebody else starting to speak? All right, we'll go from Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:47:04

Um, I don't think anyone that knows anything about the IDA and their, their mandate, and general municipal law, that'd cease where a project that already started, and has very little, you know, gain for the, for the county. I'd be shocked if this wasn't dead on arrival, but I'm totally supportive of trying to make sure that we're watching and we have our big concerns about this pilot. You know, secondly, just, chair for your own protection, did you, when you're, you just started out by saying you were working on this in your day job. We, I think you got to be careful and maybe get, maybe get Chris or David's opinion whether or not you should abstain or not. And it's not like you said, this is a memorializing resolution. I think it's gonna pass, but just, you know.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:47:57

As a matter of fact, I think your point is well taken, and I would ask Deputy Chair Hansut, I should have thought of this ahead of time and prepared you, but would you lead this discussion, and I will stay out of it? Because Clearwater, it is an issue that Clearwater has taken up, and I'd rather err on the side of caution.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:48:26

Absolutely. So is there any discussion on this resolution? Again, it is only discussion. We're not voting on it. But um, does anyone have anything? Okay. Legislator Stewart?

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:48:45

I was just gonna say, I don't see how this benefits the county. And I think environmentally, it sounds horrible. So, those are my comments.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:48:56

Thank you. I can't see everybody here. But let me go down.

Legislator Petit 1:49:01

Deputy Executive Rider has his hand up.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:49:04

Yes.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:49:05

The only point I want to make is that I would be careful with assumptions on what the IDA would do. Because I believe almost every county IDA up and done the Hudson has given this project a pilot. If you just Google CHPE and pilot, you will see a slew of news articles with ideas giving pilots. So I mean, I think if you want to prevent a pilot, this is a smart, memorializing resolution.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:49:32

Mark, thanks for that. And it's insane to me, but I talk to former members of our own IDA, and I mean, nobody thinks it's appropriate but that is, it's insanity.

Legislator Petit 1:49:43

That's very interesting.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:49:44

Even better, yet, Phil for this.

Fawn Tantillo 1:49:47

I believe this is the only section where it goes in the river though, too, right?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:49:53

And it just, it goes, it only comes out of the river that I know of, around Haverstraw. It's in the river from, basically from Canada to Haverstraw, comes up, out around, and then goes back into the river and crosses down to Yonkers.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:50:15

Legislator Erner, did you have your hand up?

Legislator Phil Erner 1:50:19

Yes, I did, Deputy Chair Hansut, thank you. I've, as you all know, I'm a co-sponsor of this, and have made comments in various public forums, but just as this being my, I understand why it's not in our committee, but as our home, my home, one of my home committees, and I just want to say that I had

lived in a community in Dutchess County that had a similar, similar story where the pilot was proposed for what folks, for a power project that did not provide any, any real substantial benefit to the community. And this is something we're gonna keep, we're gonna keep seeing until we live in a different society that I'm hoping we're helping to build here in this body, but to be honest, it's, it's something we just have to be vigilant about for the time being, and there's, there, there's no justification for us giving, giving away money. I'll just leave you with that.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:51:39

Giving away money to wreck our environment.

Legislator Phil Erner 1:51:41

Exactly.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:51:44

Legislator Petit?

Legislator Petit 1:51:46

Thank you. And thank you, Legislator Maloney and Legislator Erner, for sponsoring this, along with Legislator Hansut, and I'm hoping we get everybody else to sign on. It's, um, it surprises me, and thank you, Deputy Rider for telling us that every IDA up and down has approved this. I thought, silly me, IDAs were supposed to reward, you know, even though a lot of it is welfare for the rich, organizations that were coming in and making improvements to the community, and hiring permanent jobs and all this other great stuff. You know, these, these folks are, are probably a billion dollar company. They're, they're doing extensive damage by digging seven foot, eight foot trenches, while one of them is going to be 50 to 100 feet from our Esopus water intake. They're saying that turbidity should die down after four days. We don't even know if our water tank can hold four days worth of water. And that's if the turbidity dies down. And you know, as we know, because GE was allowed to do what they wanted, you know, a lot of the silt in the bottom of the Hudson has got PCBs in it. So you know, again, if anything, this company should be offering us a host community benefit. For the impacts it's going to have on us, our drinking water supply and our environment. I mean, they they did it in Plattsburgh when they put in that hydroelectric plant, and you know, in return Plattsburgh's electric is very low. So I just, yes, I really support this resolution.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:53:31

And real quick, what about this project wouldn't happen without a tech, without a pilot? I mean, it's insane. That's the whole point of the IDA ultimately, is to create jobs that wouldn't be created, if not for this tax benefit. I mean, it's just insane that, on its face.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:53:51

And and if we're still looking for signatories for this, I would like to include my name too.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:53:57

Thank you, and Deputy Director, Rider.

Deputy Executive Rider 1:54:03

I'd like to just clarify my comments. I should say many IDAs have improved. I can't say that every single one. I did say that. But there have been many IDAs have, and you can just kind of do a Google News.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:54:17

Okay, Thank you for that clarification. Anybody else?

Legislator Phil Erner 1:54:24

For your information, Legislator Stewart, I think you're on, you're on there already.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:54:29

Oh excellent, okay, thank you for that Legislator Erner.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:54:38

All right. Ah, Chairwoman, I think that was, I don't think there's any more comments on this.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:54:47

Okay, thank you. Um, let's see, any new business? Yes, please? Legislator Maloney?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:55:00

Yes, something we postponed in Health is something that is quite environmental as well. And anybody that wasn't at the meeting, Laura and I have put up a mandate on all the large pharmacies for a drug drop-off box. It was something the state kind of wanted to do, and then kind of back out of it and left a kind of an opening for the pharmacies to get around it in their 2019 law. And they gave them, they made it an option. Basically, they said, you have to have a plan to get rid of medication, old medication. And one of the things you can do is a drug drop off box, one of the things you can do is provide a \$2 envelopes that people can put one thing that no one's doing. So besides, a lot of, especially young people first getting addicted on opioids by an an old control med in the cabinet of a family member or something, it certainly does that. But there's a lot of environmental data out there about these medications now being flushed, or thrown out and buried and leaching into water and they're testing the fish and everything else and finding certain levels. It's really not, it's, it's, I think this is just as environmental as it is good for, you know, the drug problem, the addiction problem that we're having. So that's coming down the line. So what we're doing is basically mandating it for the big, the big pharmacies, there will be discussion about another one, maybe providing, and helping the smaller pharmacies. But I don't know if anyone had any questions. We do, we got to clean up the language as a couple of things. It was very legal, because the state, we are building upon what the state did. So there's a lot of legal language in there that we had to, some of it cut and paste, some of it move out. So you know, there's, it needs to be cleaned up a little bit. The basics are there. And I've talked to some, some lawyers up in Albany from the Health department. I worked with Chris Regucci on this, and he feels very comfortable with it. And I think this is something that we may even see other counties do once we do it. I think we might be the first county to build upon what the state did and outright mandated in New York. It's been done in other places. But I think it makes a lot of sense. It doesn't cost that much money. And the pharmaceutical manufacturers will be paying for any cost that's in the state law. So the pharmacies go to the state, the state knows the breakdown of what their percentage of the

market is in New York State. And they pass a kind of bill, Pfizer and everyone else. So it's kind of a cool thing. That way, though, it was a lot more to add into the language of the resolution.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:57:52

And, okay, go ahead. Legislator Stewart. No? Okay. Um, I do want to say that there has. I see your hand.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:58:07

I'm sorry. I was gonna say I think it's a great idea. There's one concern that I had that I was, wonder if that had been addressed. And that was issues of security. I could see how perhaps these boxes could be subject to theft or, you know, for people trying to get the drugs that are inside. I was just wondering if that concern had been addressed.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 1:58:30

But, these boxes are made to be impenetrable. They're like, mail, the mail slots, once you put it in, there's no getting, or when you drop money off at an outside thing in a bank. They're, they, so that I have not heard being an issue. And they're on camera, inside the pharmacy, near, usually right near where the pharmacy is, or where the pharmacists are. So I have not, it's a thought that I had, but it was, it was quickly, I was quickly made comfortable.

Legislator Eric Stewart 1:59:03

Right. Thank you for that.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:59:05

Alright, let's see. Legislator Hansut and then Legislator Erner. Thank you for being patient, Legislator.

Legislator Gina Hansut 1:59:15

Legislator Maloney, thank you very much for that. That is very important. And I think because a lot of places right now where people can bring their prescriptions, or whatever, are the police departments, but some people aren't comfortable going into them. So I think this is much needed. I know my husband went through, I had chemo drugs here, and I had, during COVID, such a hard time finding a place, and he was a diabetic that would take certain things. So hats off. Thank you.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 1:59:49

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner 1:59:53

Sure. Yeah, on this one, we voted to postpone it We heard some things about alternatives like bags that can destroy it, but then what happens to the substance in the bag, and if the bag can work, that seems like a great idea to have it distributed along with the medication in the first place. But in general, I feel confident that we're going to clean up the language and get, get this moving. So thank you, Legislators Maloney, and I guess, Laura left, but thank you. I had, I had another topic I wanted to just bring up, if I might.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 2:00:39

Can I just say something on this topic before you do? And that is that, um, there is new state legislation on what's called emergent contaminants and drinking water supplies have to be testing for various different contaminants that can get into drinking water and, and if these things are just flushed down the toilet, they often pass through water treatment facilities, and do get into water and can, at minimum, there's a, you know, a cartoon of, of a fish drinking a cup of coffee in the morning, because for so many people, the caffeine goes through this waste water treatment facility. So having this proper disposal is, is really valuable. Please go on to your next topic.

Legislator Phil Erner 2:01:41

Thank you Chair. And, um, this relates to an email that I sent out very late. So I'm just gonna mention a couple of key points and see if folks want to have any discussion or not, I know it's late. But when after the ice storm, we kind of jumped right back into business and I would have liked to, and so maybe this is, this is my opportunity to just pause for a moment. And, and some some lessons that I think pertain to our work on this committee involve, how do we, how do we keep warm in the winter? How do we know that we're going to all be warm and recognizing some of us are not warm every night. But for those who normally are? It was a it was a, it was a dose of, wow, this is like a basic thing that for most of, most time, you would think we would know how to, what we, how to keep warm, but we had to scramble and figure things out. And one big lesson for me was about how dependent our heat is on an electrical grid that's, if it can be out for three or four days, I know the storm was not a normal storm, but we can expect more storms like that, I think. And, and the question of the, the, the utility company's, Central Hudson's role in whether how, how, how quickly power could be, could be restored, given the scenario. So just to not rehash everything in that, in that email. But again, my, my concern is, how do we, we know we have to get off fossil fuels, for the most part, for various reasons, and how do we, if electric is the way to go, how do we make that reliable? And if that's not like, what are, what else? I'd love for our committee to explore what, what really is going to meet our basic needs in the, in the way that serves seven generations, let's say?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 2:03:53

Hi, I would like to suggest that I had an aha moment. Rosendale was one of the warming centers, and we have solar, but what we don't have yet is battery storage. And I think that for all of the warming centers, and in the summer, they would be cooling centers, but you know, places where people go for shelter in an emergency, should be priority. And also first responders should be priority for basically microgrids, where the solar generates the electricity, and that happens every day. Sometimes it's more electricity, sometimes it's a little less, depending on, on the weather. But, even year-round, solar works, and, but it does need a battery backup system so that it works 24/7. And I just want to say I did a deep energy retrofit on my house, and it stayed warm for several days. After a while, because it was so bitter cold. But even more important, and if anyone knows what a promoter I am of renewable energy. But even more important is these building retrofits. And I know that there's a program coming through ARPA, and so forth. And I also just want to say that every time we are switching over by either doing a building retrofit, or installing solar, or installing battery storage, those are training opportunities. And we have a wonderful, very active Department of Employment and Training, that have been coordinating kind of a Green Career pathway. But for a lot of these ARPA, for projects, where there are building

retrofits, I hope that we can see that as a training opportunity as well. It's been on my mind. So yes, please.

Deputy Executive Rider 2:06:17

I just want to second some of your points. And I do think, to answer your question, I think building codes that require solar and battery backup, in the future on new construction is, is gonna be a key to getting us there, and ensuring that everybody stays warm, even if the power's out. Because, yes, even in the winter, solar works. And if you have, you know, battery storage is getting better and better. And I think, in the next few years, it'll get to the point to where you'll be able to store a day's worth of, you know, electricity and, and hopefully, keep everybody warm, and also just help get everybody, or get as many as we can off the grid generally.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 2:07:06

We have one last under old business. Let's see, the climate smart committee meets. I think we have a full compliment. And I want to thank Legislator Stewart for agreeing to serve from Public Works. And we're doing a lot of different things. And it's, it's a really excellent network as well as an opportunity to brainstorm about things that the county can do. And I think I did mention that we're working with the Ulster County Fair as his Department of Environment, and hopefully the UCRRA will as well. Anything else at this hour? I have all kinds of notes and things circled, but, oh, I do know that, the one thing I did also want to bring up is refrigerant management. I had a constituent let me know that they went to, because they did an energy retrofit and installed air source heat pumps in that case, they didn't need their air conditioners anymore. So they were old, and apparently, the program that Central Hudson had to take them back and actually pay, and then properly remove the Freon, they said that that program no longer has funding and I have to look into that, but they took it. They went on the website and found the first place on the website and went and tried to deliver their two air conditioners and the employee that was taking them took the money, I think was \$5 each, and then the person, because the person didn't speak English, just pantomimed, you know, be sure you take out the the Freon or whatever refrigerant was in there. And the employee said no, and indicated that they just cut the line. That means we have to go back to the DEC, and surely its the DEC's job to enforce. I don't believe that, you know, would come under compliance or enforcement from the county. I think that's really DEC, but it, it's pretty serious because the older ones release Freon and then the newer ones release greenhouse gas, materials that are very high in greenhouse gas. Okay, that was the last thing I had on my mind. And it's late and I appreciate everybody's time, attention, and good thinking. Any last minute words?

Legislator Joseph Maloney 2:10:31

Can I just be a yes on the minutes? That's the only thing I, did I miss the minutes?

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 2:10:35

Oh, thank you. Excellent. Yes. Okay. And with that, I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Joseph Maloney 2:10:45

Motion.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 2:10:46

Motion by Legislator Maloney

Legislator Phil Erner 2:10:49

Second.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 2:10:49

Seconded by Legislator Erner. All in favor, please signify. Thank you all for seeing this through. It's been a long night. Okay.

Legislator Eric Stewart 2:11:05

All right. Thank you, folks. Good night.

Chairwoman Manna Jo Greene 2:11:07

Good night. Thank you.

Legislator Gina Hansut 2:11:08

Thank you.