

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

DATE & TIME: July 19, 2022; 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Student Life Center, SUNY Ulster, Vanderlyn Hall, Stone Ridge
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Manna Jo Greene
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn A. Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators Gina Hansut, Phil Erner, Joseph Maloney and Eric Stewart
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Kathy Nolan; Deputy Executive Marc Rider; Director Dennis Doyle, Planning.

Chair Greene called the meeting to order at approximately 5:02 PM

Chair Greene asked Legislator Stewart to report on the Town Supervisors and Mayors meeting that she and Legislator Stewart attended and share the feedback regarding the resolution requesting ARPA funding of \$2 million for up to 20 municipal projects.

Legislator Stewart reported that eight or nine of the supervisors spoke strongly in favor of the resolution and had no issues with the wording or the requirement for municipalities to provide a 50-50 match.

Resolution No. 351 - Authorizing The Department Of Planning To Submit An Application To The New York State Climate Smart Communities Grant Program For Renewable Energy Equipment At The Golden Hill Housing Site – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Ulster County Planning Department to submit an online application through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application to the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program for renewable energy at the Golden Hill low-income housing site for up to the category maximum of \$2,000,000 with match to come from Penrose.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to DISCUSS Resolution No. 351**
Motion Made By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: The committee discussed details of the proposed grant with Deputy Executive Rider and Director Doyle clarifying that for the purpose of the grant the project met the NYS definition of public housing. They stated that no county funds would be used for the matching funds; Penrose would be responsible for matching funds; the matching funds would be calculated by the difference between the cost of traditional energy equipment and the cost of upgraded renewable energy equipment; the county will own the energy equipment funded by the grant such as solar panels.

Legislator Maloney expressed serious concerns about any grant for public housing going to a project of a developer who stands to make a significant profit. He felt this was part of an ongoing effort to subsidize this project with public resources and was disappointed the grant could not go toward a similar project in traditional publicly owned housing elsewhere in the county.

Legislator Nolan understood the concerns of using public funds judiciously and spoke of how this project fulfills a public purpose. She discussed the benefits of public - private partnerships that offer a big benefit to the public and especially when the public puts in very little. She suggested each legislator must weigh the public benefit and decide.

Legislator Stewart clarified that the County had assurance that the purchase and sale agreement was amended from a 30-year to a 40-year guarantee the development would remain “affordable housing”.

Deputy Executive Rider explained that the applications for this housing would be done locally in an effort to reach current Ulster County residents. There was a brief discussion of how this was accomplished in other housing projects.

Legislator Erner was prepared to support this grant application and reminded members that if the grant is awarded, Legislators would have the opportunity to decide if they want to accept it. He said he spoke to Chair Bartels who agreed to a presentation on the entire project for the legislature and the public and was interested to see what the totality of the contract with Penrose included.

Voting in Favor:	Legislators Greene, Hansut, Erner and Stewart
Voting Against:	Legislator Maloney
No. of Votes in Favor:	4
No. of Votes Against:	1

Disposition: Resolution **APPROVED**

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

Motion to Adjourn

Motion Made By:	Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Erner
No. of Votes in Favor:	5
No. of Votes Against:	0
Time:	5:23 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: August 4, 2022