

**Health, Human Services & Housing Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: October 11, 2023 – 4:00 PM
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Uchitelle
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan (arrived at 4:18 PM), Petit and Stewart
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Hansut & Sperry; Josh Ratner, CEO, Thomas Scaglione, VP Gov't. & Community Relations – WMC Health Network/HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley; Deputy County Executive Contreras; Deputy Commissioner Wood– UC Department of Social Services; Commissioner Smith & Deputy Commissioner Gibney – UC Department of Health; Commissioner McDonald & Deputy Commissioner Williams – UC Department of Mental Health; Director Doyle – UC Planning Department; Director Koppenhaver – UC Office for the Aging; Russel Wiser, RN, Diana Fitzgerald, RN & Janet Strominger – NYSNA/HAHV; Rokosz Most – HV 1; Donna Schlachman, Kathryn Eberlein & Trine Boode-Petersen – Rise Up Kingston; Greg Kelly, Matthew Hanzaoni, LMSW, Rosemary Quinn – members of the public

Chair Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

Motion No. 1: **MOTION to APPROVE the Minutes of the September 6th Meeting**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Legislator Erner stated that he did not have a chance to review the minutes and requested that the approval be delayed to the next meeting. Legislators Stewart and Corcoran withdrew their motions.

Chair Uchitelle welcomed HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley CEO Josh Ratner and gave him the floor to make a brief presentation.

Mr. Ratner gave a brief history of Westchester Medical Center, started in 1917 largely in response to World War I and the Spanish Flu. The center pivoted based on the changing health needs including: tuberculosis, AIDS, Ebola, COVID, monkey pox, etc. The WMC network covers the Hudson Valley and includes the Margaretville Hospital in Delaware County, and hospitals in Ulster, Orange, Rockland and Westchester Counties. WMC also receives patients from other regions in the state depending on patient care needs and staffing, totaling around 12,000 transfers a year.

WMC provides community benefits, often serving as the largest employer in a community. Data was shared on the patient treated, stats on serving as the number one provider of neurosciences and trauma, as well as a leader in pediatric services, tertiary care and behavioral health services. The Hudson Valley area is divided

into three regions with services tailored to the needs of the communities: Northern including Delaware, Ulster and Dutchess; Western including Sullivan, Orange and Rockland; Southern including Putnam and Westchester. WMC looks at community needs and focusing on baseline acute care, emergency department services, orthopedics, inpatient medical surgical beds, and how they can create Centers of Excellence which will assist with physician recruitment. In Ulster County WMC is focusing on cardiovascular services, neurosciences, women's health and trauma. Behavioral health and substance use treatment services are a priority on both sides of the river with a focus on reducing duplication and optimizing quality. WMC is focusing on reducing the number of emergency ambulance patients that are transported out of Ulster County by developing a trauma center, emphasizing interventional stroke services and interventional Cath Lab.

WMC broke ground on the redevelopment of the 20-bed inpatient behavioral health unit projected to be finished in the first quarter of 2024. Psychiatricians and nurses as well as patient care techs are being actively recruited. There is a renewed focus on the emergency department which accounts for ~90% of hospital admittances as well as improving patient physician experiences and engaging surgeons to offer more surgical interventions and elective surgeries.

WMC future investments include expanding behavioral health, additional imaging and neurosciences, a biplane room for stroke assessment and treatment, interventional neurosurgeons recruiting, and a trauma program. WMC is also focusing on community engagement working with Tom Scaglione is the Vice President for Government and Community Relations. They offer a mobile coach that is a licensed medical clinic providing health and wellness screenings, provide health care in collaboration with the O+ Festival.

Chair Uchitelle opened the floor for questions from Committee members and other Legislators in attendance. Legislator Stewart asked about WMC's relationship with SUNY Ulster's nursing program. Mr. Ratner responded that he has a meeting with them the follow day and that WMC is focusing on the employment pipeline to fill many vacant positions including nurses, nurse assistants, patient techs as well as other support staff in the food service, house keeping and maintenance departments. He added that the creation of the Mary's Ave satellite campus of SUNY Ulster was part of a vision almost 10 years ago to create a walkable healthcare innovation education district. He added that WMC is holding a job fair on the 19th.

Legislator Petit asked if there was a plan to expand the inpatient mental health and substance use beds that were lost in 2022 and if WMC was reaching out to the employees who were let go due to COVID. Mr. Ratner responded that they will be reaching out to everyone who was either relocated or whose position was eliminated to let them know of employment opportunities. He stated that the inpatient mental health unit would be opening by the first quarter of 2024. He added that they will be working with the county's stabilization center and offered that there is greater need for outpatient services. He stated that the number of individuals that return six or more times in a six month period represent 75% of the mental health patients. He stated that the Center for Excellence is to be able to subspecialize to address the multiple determinants of health including eating disorders, depression, suicidal tendencies, etc.

Legislator Erner asked how the mental health services offered in the new unit compare to the services previously offered. Mr. Ratner responded that they would ostensibly be the same but in a renovated and modernized facility which meets code and provides greater patient comfort.

Legislator Stewart asked for additional detail on the healthy village concept. Mr. Ratner explained that the Kingston Hospital Broadway Campus is envisioned to provide a combination of services provided by the WMC health network, as well as leveraging the community college's Kingston satellite campus to encourage Ulster residents to graduate from High School, receive vocational training and gain employment locally. He added that some services envisioned for the Broadway village would center around other social

RESOLVED ...

- Hosting ~~picnics~~ **events** for children with special needs and their families, to connect them with local agencies and organizations that serve residents with special needs;

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions or discussion on the amendments and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the amendments.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Amendments ADOPTED**

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were further questions or discussion. Legislator Petit asked to be added as a co-sponsor of the Resolution. Chair Uchitelle requested that members contact the committee clerk if they would like to be added as a co-sponsor. Hearing no further questions called for a vote in favor of the Resolution as amended.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

Resolution No. 569 – Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Funding From The New York State Office Of Mental Health For A 4.0% Cost Of Living Adjustment For Eligible Programs - Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2023 budget to accept an additional \$94,588 in NYS OMH COLA funding for the UC Department of Mental Health.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 569 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 570 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With Access: Supports For Living Inc. To Provide Mental Health Services To The Community At Golden Hill Office Building – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair to execute a lease agreement with Access: Supports For Living Inc. for 207 ft² at 239 Golden Hill Dr at a cost of \$11/ ft² for a total cost of \$2,277 for the term of the lease from November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2028.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 570 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Commissioner McDonald for background. Commissioner McDonald informed the members that the space serves as a home base for them to answer calls, complete paperwork and update databases, etc. Chair Uchitelle commented that the Legislature has many conversations surrounding the cost of leasing adding that the county often charges less than it pays on leases.

He asked if there were further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 568 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Continue The Tobacco Enforcement Program – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair to execute a contract with NYS DOH to provide funding in the amount of \$63,765 to establish and enforce compliance checks for all tobacco retail dealers and vendors from April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024.

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 568 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Dr. Smith who explained that the program serves to satisfy part of the NYS Public Health Law. She explained that the county has received the grant for over a decade and funds investigations into retailers ensuring tobacco products are not sold to individuals under 21 years old. She briefly described the penalty structure. Legislator Stewart asked if the enforcement effects nicotine gum sales. Commissioner Smith responded it did not. Legislator Erner asked about ceremonial tobacco, adding that it is permitted to be grown under federal law. Commissioner Smith responded that the program only pertains to tobacco sales.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	7
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	RESOLUTION ADOPTED

Resolution No. 563 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$126,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Purfoods, LLC D/B/A Mom’s Meals – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Mom’s Meals in the amount of \$126,000 to extend the term of agreement through December 31, 2024 for home delivered meals for UC OFA clients with special dietary needs arising from health or religious requirements or ethnic backgrounds.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 563 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By:	Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Erner

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Koppenhaver who advised the members that the vendor provides different types of meals such as vegan, diabetic, allergy related which are not available through Gateway. Legislator Nolan complimented the program citing their own allergies and the complications they present. Legislator Erner questioned eligibility for the special diet meals. Director Koppenhaver responded that anyone who is a client of the home delivered meals program is eligible. Legislator Stewart asked home many people were in the program. Director Koppenhaver responded about 40 people are in the program. They receive 10 meals delivered bi-weekly. Legislator Stewart if there were any clients in emergency housing. Director Koppenhaver responded that she was not aware of any requests from any client in emergency housing. She added that individuals on Medicaid do not qualify for the program. She added the program is growing in popularity. Legislator Erner confirmed that growth explained the increase over 2023.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against:	None

Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 558 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$275,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Community Foundations Of The Hudson Valley – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Community Foundations of the HV in the amount of \$275,000 to develop and deliver a grant program, titled “The Ulster County Food Security Grant”, to benefit UC’s emergency food providers for the term September 1, 2023 -June 1, 2025.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 558 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Litwin for some background. Director Litwin explained that the contract goes along with a previous Resolution through the ARPA committee for the implementation of The Ulster County Food Security Grant program. He added that Community Foundations is familiar with the management of grants of this size.

Legislator Petit asked if only established emergency food providers qualify or if nontraditional providers could qualify, e.g.: a food truck. Director Litwin responded that it is a grant program for non-profits. Legislator Stewart asked if they had a relationship with Rondout Valley Growers as a food provider. Director Litwin was unsure. Chair Uchitelle asked about he scoring criteria and the designation of one county appointee. Director Litwin responded that the county was comfortable with the expertise of Community Foundations but wanted the county to be a participant throughout the grant.

Legislator Erner asked if the program would cover the intent in Resolution No. 127, introduced by Chair Uchitelle, to provide meals to individuals in emergency housing. Director Litwin responded that it was a start and that it puts in place a mechanism for submitting input and recommendations from program participants. He added that the grant is funded through ARPA and will therefore sunset but hoped that additional funding opportunities would be available for its continuation. Chair Uchitelle stated that part of the reason he hasn’t pushed for adoption of Resolution No. 127 is that contract agencies are already struggling to provide the meals they need to already. He added that a ground-up approach to identify non-profits not traditionally partnered with the county could develop a patchwork of organizations that could eventually contribute to the larger goal of ensuring everyone on Ulster County has access to meals.

He if there were any further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 562 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$74,000.00 Entered Into By The County – HR&A Advisors, Inc. – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with HR&A Advisors, Inc. in the amount of \$74,000 to develop a comprehensive affordable housing outreach and education program specific to the Town of Woodstock for the term November 1, 2023 – December 31, 2024.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 562 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Director Doyle who explained that the contract would help the Town of Woodstock identify opportunities for affordable housing in the town including assistance with zoning statutes. He added that their work would serve as a template for use in other towns. He advised the members that the department was working with the Towns of Rochester and Wawarsing for additional work with respect to the housing smart communities funding, as well as drafting a contract for work with the City of Kingston. He explained that those contract would not be before the Legislature as they totaled less than the \$50,000 threshold. The members briefly discussed how towns can sign up for the services.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 564 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$171,391.92 Entered Into By The County – VMC Consultants Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with VMC Consultants totaling \$171,391.32 to extend the term of agreement for transportation management services for the Early Intervention and Preschool programs through December 31, 2024.

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 564 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Deputy Commissioner Wood who explained that the service is for busing preschoolers. She added that there would be an RFP for the service in 2024.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 565 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$100,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Industrial Medicine Associates, P.C. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Industrial Medicine Associates, P.C. in the amount of \$100,000 to extend the term of agreement through December 31, 2024 for substance abuse assessment, testing and treatment monitoring services for individuals applying for or in receipt of public assistance.

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 565 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Deputy Commissioner Wood who explained that the service helps determine employability and if an individual is not employable referral to substance abuse and/or alcohol abuse treatment services. Chair Uchitelle asked how this Resolution related to a July Resolution for similar services. Deputy Commissioner Woods responded that the July Resolution was with Emergency One and was contract for Family and Children Services primarily for individuals with open CPS and ongoing foster care service cases. The current Resolution is for temporary assistance clients for employability issues. The members briefly discussed at what point during an application for temporary assistance the testing is used.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 566 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$70,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Nicholas Kamen – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Nicholas Kamen in the amount of \$70,000 for behavioral health clinical services consisting of mental health screening and assessment services for UC DSS specifically in conjunction with the Child Protective Services and Preventive units from December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024.

Motion No. 12: **Moved Resolution No. 566 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Stewart

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Deputy Commissioner Wood who explained that the contract is for a behavioral health specialist who asses clients coming through child protective services that may need referral to substance abuse treatment or residential services.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 567 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$86,047.00 Entered Into By The County – Liberty Resources, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves a contract amendment with Liberty Resources, Inc. in the amount of \$86,047 to extend the term of agreement for Trauma Specialist Case Management Services through December 31, 2024.

Motion No. 13: **Moved Resolution No. 567 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized Deputy Commissioner Wood who explained the contract is for coordinated children's services for high intensity adolescents really, that they're trying to not place in care.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were further questions or discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 468 – Amending The 2023 - 2028 Capital Improvement Program - Amending Capital Project No. 645 – Renovation Of 21 Elizabeth Street – Elizabeth Manor Emergency Housing

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends Capital Project No. 645 to defund the project expect for \$200,000 already expended for architect and engineering renovation planning services.

Motion No. 14: **Moved Resolution No. 468 FOR DISCUSSION**

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

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle stated that he had not heard from the sponsor on a request to advance the measure or take any other action. He asked Deputy County Executive Contreras for an update on the project. Deputy County Executive Contreras responded that a request for statements of qualification was issued in search of agencies interested in taking over the project who have experience in renovating houses and creating affordable housing, or emergency, supportive or transitional housing. Chair Uchitelle reminded the members that the Resolution would defund the project and his personal feeling would be to hold off on taking that action while the request for an outside agency plays out. Legislator Nolan agreed and stated their opposition to moving forward until an alternative pathway is presented. Legislator Petit echoed the opposition.

Chair Uchitelle asked Deputy County Executive Contreras if there would be more information the following month. Deputy County Executive Contreras responded that there should be additional information in a few weeks. Legislator Stewart asked how the pivot to an outside agency would save the county money. Deputy County Executive Contreras explained the various costs the county would no longer be responsible for.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any further discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Resolution No. 596 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2023, A Local Law Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Establish The Office Of Housing Counsel, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 14, 2023 At 7:20 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution set a public hearing on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 At 7:20 PM to provide the public with an opportunity to offer comment on Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2023

Motion No. 15: **Moved Resolution No. 596 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle recognized legislator sponsor Legislator Erner who provided the members with background for the introduction of the law. He advised the members that ARPA funding provided to Legal Services of the Hudson Valley to provide legal representation for eviction cases identified gaps in services for certain

populations. He advised the members that NY City has had an office of housing counsel since 2017 and Westchester County just recently established one. He added that there is legislation at the state to create a statewide office. The legislation proposes the establishment of the office under the Public Defender with a separate appointee of the Executive in charge of the unit consisting of two attorneys and a paralegal. He continued by stating that the office would offer a basic consultation to anyone sued for eviction. He briefly discussed the income eligibility criteria.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there were any questions. Legislator Nolan commented that although they completely endorse the goal, they were uncomfortable moving forward with a public hearing and preferred bolstering the current contract with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. They added that the county could coordinate with the immigrant services community to contract with an additional vendor if individuals could not qualify for services through LSHV. They added that the current contracted service model appears to be less expensive than creating a new department.

Legislator Petit commented that she had supported the creation of the department to ensure permanence but was surprised by the financial impact. She added that people have reached out to her who were told by LSHV that they could not tale their cases because of funding and caseloads. Legislator Nolan state that they did not object to exploring the approach but did not support moving forward to a public hearing until more information and data on the number of people in need of the service and information on unmet needs through LSHV, as well as the right size and amount to create the Department.

Chair Uchitelle asked if the Executive branch had any comments. Deputy County Executive Contreras stated that she agreed with Legislator Nolan and would like granular information on need, adding that the unanticipated and significant addition to the operating budget was a concern as well.

Chair Uchitelle commented that based on conversations and information shared in the Low Income and Affordable Housing Working Group he felt this was the direction to county should head in. He added that there remains a large gap in housing displacement services and, while he respects and values the services contracted agencies provide, there is a difference when services are provided in house. He stated that he would support a public hearing while the information requested was gathered.

Legislator Erner advised the members that LSHV is headquartered in Westchester County and it was his understanding that they spoke in favor of the law at the public hearing there. He briefly spoke about reports of representation for eviction cases in City of Kingston court. He encouraged the members to support moving forward with the Public Hearing.

Motion No. 16: **Moved to Postpone Resolution No. 596**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any discussion on the postponement. Hearing none he called for a vote in favor of postponing the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Lopez and Nolan
Voting Against: Legislators Erner, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 4

Disposition: **Postponement FAILS**

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any further discussion. Legislator Lopez stated that he generally votes in favor of public hearings, but is concerned that the public should understand exactly what they are going to get. He added that if there are some questions that may change the way the public perceives the law he felt it was an injustice moving forward without addressing those issues.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any other discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: Legislators Corcoran, Lopez and Nolan
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 3
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 423 – Establishing A Policy To Reform Social Services – Temporary Assistance – Housing

Resolution Summary: This Resolution makes numerous requirements for the Department of Social Services including: methods for communication with clients, 24/7/365 hours of operation, improved waiting areas, transportation plan for TA recipients, compensation for clients for time in application interviews, establishing additional TA shelters, penalties for refusing to house TA clients, monthly reporting, assured TA for all applicants.

Motion No. 17: **Moved Resolution No. 423 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Corcoran
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked Legislator Erner if he had any updates on his conversations with the administration and any amendments to offer. Legislator Erner responded that there has been progress and expressed his gratitude for some improvements included in the budget including playground equipment for children waiting and a housing homeless office. He added that the administration is looking into whether some services could be offered 24/7, or offer weekend hours. He was not prepared to offer any amendments and was okay with postponing the Resolution.

Motion No. 18: **Moved to Postpone Resolution No. 423**

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any discussion on the postponement and hearing none called for a vote in favor of postponing the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 425 – Establishing A Policy To Liberalize Access To Public Spaces For Survival

Resolution Summary: This Resolution opens for public use all county property suitable for unhoused people to use as temporary homes or shelters.

Motion No. 19: **Moved Resolution No. 425 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Chair Uchitelle asked Legislator Erner if he had any updates on his conversations with the administration. Legislator Erner commented that the right to housing should be discussed and questioned what it would cost the county to advance the legislation and allow people to use public property. He stated he looked forward to reviewing the space study and reemphasized his request that taxpayer funded facilities be made available to taxpayers to fulfill their basic needs. He added it was an unusual but not unprecedented approach and stated that he would be okay with postponement.

Legislator Stewart complimented Legislator Erner for bring new approaches and ways at looking at issues facing people. He added that he did not believe that opening county buildings, warehouses or garages to public use is the right solution to the emergency housing crisis. Legislator Nolan commented that the proposal has the potential to harm more people than it helps. They added everyone wants to solve the problem, but felt revisiting the work of the homeless, temporary and emergency housing working group to investigate tiny homes, tent communities or other approaches that can also provide the security, sanitation and other services and protections necessary.

Legislator Erner commented that he understood the reluctance to support the legislation, adding that he had a comment after the motion to postpone. Chair Uchitelle confirmed his motion to postpone.

Motion No. 20: **Moved to Postpone Resolution No. 425**

Motion Made By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:

Legislator Erner asked the members by a show of hands if they have every lost a home against their will and whether they approached DSS for assistance afterwards.

Chair Uchitelle commented that one of the challenges to navigating emergency assistance are the regulations in place to protect the people in that environment. He added that he did not feel comfortable opening up county property in the absence of confirming that people are going to be held in good care.

Chair Uchitelle asked if there was any further discussion and hearing none called for a vote in favor of postponing the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Stewart and Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **RESOLUTION POSTPONED**

Chair Uchitelle moved on to Resolution No. 127 under Old Business on the Agenda and requested no action be taken on the Resolution adding that in light of the emergency meals grant program he would consider withdrawing it.

Resolution No. 127 – Establishing A Policy To Prioritize Meals For Ulster County Residents Living In Emergency Housing

Resolution Summary: Establishes a policy requiring the issuance of a Request For Proposal (RFP) on behalf of Ulster County to seek a vendor who shall assess need and prepare and deliver meals daily to all residents placed in Emergency Housing hotels and motels within Ulster County.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Chair Uchitelle advised the members the committee clerk would be reaching out to department heads to coordinate discussions on their portions of the 2024 Proposed Budget. He added that a special meeting may be required to complete the conversations depending on the volume of Resolutions submitted for consideration in November. He asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:30 PM
Respectfully submitted by: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Minutes Approved: November 6, 2023