

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

DATE & TIME: August 3, 2022 – 1:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting, Meeting ID: 834 9887 6937,
By Phone (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit & Uchitelle (left at 2:21 PM)
ABSENT: Legislator Corcoran
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Clerk of the Legislature Fabella, Commissioner McDonald – UC Department of Mental Health, Commissioner Iapoce, Deputy Director Riley – UC Office for Aging, Director Doyle & Senior Planner Lord Farmer – UC Planning Department, Nathan Litwin & Ashley Long – UC Resilience & Recovery, Deputy County Executive Contreras – UC Executive’s Office, Suzanne Herbert - Esopus

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the July 2nd Regular Meetings

Motion By: Legislator Lopez

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes APPROVED

Chair Walter recognized Planning Director Dennis Doyle and Senior Planner Kai Lord-Farmer to give the members an update on the County’s Housing Smart Communities initiative. She added that their work closely ties into the discussions in the housing working groups, notably the Middle Income and Affordable Housing Working Group led by Legislator Lopez which has been focusing on working with municipalities for smart housing, both zoning changes and other kinds of incentives.

Planning Director Doyle thanked Chair Walter and the members for the opportunity to talk about the housing smart communities initiative. He advised the members that a Senior Planner for housing position was included in the 2022 adopted budget and asked Senior Planner Lord-Farmer to briefly introduce himself.

Senior Planner Lord-Farmer introduced himself to the members stating that he grew up in Woodstock and Rosendale and moved to California where he pursued studies in city and regional planning and transportation engineering. He added that he has experience in climate change, mitigation adaptation, as well as housing and land use policy and lead the City of Sacramento's Climate Action Plan.

Director Doyle advised the members that the housing smart communities initiative grew out of the county's housing action plan and utilized the state's model for climate smart communities. He advised the members that a website to provide tools and information for municipalities. He added that the county would like to have municipalities to establish a housing coordinator position at the local level or housing coordinator liaison at the town board level and agree to join the program.

He advised the members that some town level actions they would be encouraging included: streamlining approach to development approvals, short term rentals, accessory dwelling units, adopting an affordable housing action plan at the community level and incorporating into comprehensive plans, streamlining creation of housing overlay districts, housing rehabilitation programs. He advised the members that the Planning Department has requested county funds to help with the implementation and was also looking to issue an RFQ for consultant(s) to help communities, through the Planning Department, do the work.

Legislator Nolan thanked the Planning Director and Senior Planner for the information and asked if they could briefly explain a housing overly district. Director Doyle explained that they try to work with municipalities to identify where they want to locate housing and streamline the procedures to amend zoning statutes in those areas.

Chair Walter commented that requests for this type of assistance to municipalities was one of the conversations she heard in Legislator Lopez's working group. She what the timeline may be to be able to offer that level of assistance to municipalities. He responded that the Planning Department has some ability to offer assistance to municipalities at the present time. He added that they intend to issue the RFQ in the near future. Chair Walter stated that they were hearing from municipalities that they wanted the county to have a central guiding role in this area and was glad the Planning Department was heading in that direction.

Legislator Uchitelle stated that Senior Planner Lord-Farmer was at the low income and affordable housing working group and was well received. He added that a number of good questions were asked and that he and the participants were optimistic for needed changes to address housing. Chair Walter encouraged Legislators Lopez and Nolan to invite Senior Planner Lord-Farmer to one of their working group meetings.

Director Doyle advised the members that they were aiming to launch the housing smart communities website in early September. Legislator Petit asked where the website would be. Director Doyle responded that they envision it to appear separately from a department, similar to the Transportation Council.

Chair Walter asked if there were any other questions, and hearing none thanked Director Doyle and Senior Planner Lord-Farmer for their time.

Resolutions for the August 16, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 139: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2022, A Local Law Enacting A Drug Take Back Program in Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, September 20, 2022 At 7:25 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2022 on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 At 7:25 PM

Motion No. 2: **Moved Resolution No. 139 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion:

Legislator Petit thanked Chair Walter for reaching out with comprehensive questions. She added that she could forward responses she received on updates at the state level with implementing the drug take back program. She stated that she would offer to pull the resolution and redraft with Legislator Maloney.

Disposition: NO ACTION TAKEN

Resolution No. 200: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Evictions, To Be Held On Tuesday, September 20, 2022 At 7:15 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2022 on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7:15 PM

Chair Walter turned the meeting over to Deputy Chair Lopez.

Motion No. 3: Moved Resolution No. 200 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Legislator Uchitelle advised the members that he would be requesting no action be taken on the resolution again this month. He added that he was optimistic that the law could be debated again as early as September when a new Ethics Board is seated and the provisions and clarification in the Ethics law are in effect. He stated that the fate of the Albany legislation may be known at that time as well. Legislator Erner added that he believed the City of Kingston's law has also been challenged in court. He added that the legislature should consider requesting state action.

Disposition: NO ACTION TAKEN

Resolution No. 340: Funding ~~Capital Project No. 600~~ ARPA Food Security And Access - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This resolution commits \$350,000 in ARPA funding to convene an Emergency Food Working Group as well as to complete a Food System Resilience Report through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County which would help to ensure adequate healthy food supply to those residents in need of assistance on a day-to-day basis as well as in emergency situations.

Motion No. 4: Moved Resolution No. 340 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Legislator Petit commented that she did not favor committing money for studies, stating that money should go directly to food pantries who understand the need and how to leverage the funds. Legislator Erner agreed adding that he would prefer direct support to farms, farm workers, pantries and food service. He added that the ARPA Committee took no action on the resolution. Legislator Nolan stating the project was good but the budget was too high for the study. Ve suggested reducing the amount for the study or keeping the funding amount the same and adding distribution to food pantries to the service.

Deputy Executive Contreras advised the members that the Executives Office agreed that looking at ways to provide more funding for direct service was a better path forward. Chair Walter stated that she agreed with the comments about prioritizing direct aid adding that Cornell, Family of Woodstock and many other organizations in the county already know where the needs in the county are.

Director Doyle stated that they heard the legislature and were working to reduce the amounts and infrastructure that were taking away from funding for direct assistance.

Motion No. 5: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 340
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

The members discussed whether the resolution should be withdrawn or substantially amended.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

Resolution No. 401: Amending Capital Project No. 598 – ARPA - Community Wellness Hub, Crisis Stabilization Center Renovations, City Of Kingston – Amending The 2022 Capital Fund Budget — Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends Capital Project No. 598 to increase funding in the amount of \$175,000.00 for a project total of \$2,175,000, to fund design services for the renovation of a Community Wellness Hub

Motion No. 6: Moved Resolution No. 401 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 402: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$158,850.00 Entered Into By The County – Pomarico Design Studio Architecture, PLLC – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Pomarico Design Studio Architecture, PLLC in the amount of \$158,850 for architecture and engineering services for the Community Wellness Hub for the period 9/1/22 – 8/31/23

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 402 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Legislator Erner asked for clarification if the architect’s work would provide a renovation the cost to renovate the building. Deputy Executive Contreras responded yes. Chair Walter stated that the work necessary to make the space what they want would be a considerable amount and would require architectural services to complete. Legislator Nolan added that the firm appears to have a broad range of experience, stating that the look of the center should not feel like a medical facility, or institutional.

Deputy Executive Contreras advised the members that a non-institutional feel to the center was discussed during interviews and the firm indicated that would be prioritized in their work. Mental Health Commissioner McDonald agreed and state that a welcoming feel upon entry was a primary focus in development.

Chair Walter requested a tour of the building once a plan was conceptualized, but not necessarily finalized to allow the members to offer any thoughts.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Legislator Uchitelle asked if Resolution No. 414 could be taken out of order so he could participate in the discussion before he had to leave for another meeting. Chair Walter advised the members that the resolution was postponed in the Economic Development committee the prior evening and would not be considered by the committee tonight.

Resolution No. 403: Confirming Appointment Of Member To The Ulster County Youth Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Lisa Hantes to the Youth Board for a term commencing immediately and terminating on 12/31/24

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 403 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 404: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Kathy Hochman to the Community Services Board for a term commencing immediately and terminating on 12/31/22

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 404 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Legislator Nolan commented that ve has known Kathleen for years and she was an excellent appointment.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 405: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board's Persons With Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Kathy Hochman to the Community Services Board's People with Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee for a term commencing immediately and terminating on 12/31/25

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 405 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 407: Amending The 2022 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program - Establishing Capital Project No. 645 – Renovation Of 21 Elizabeth Street – Elizabeth Manor Emergency Housing – Amending 2022 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Finance And The Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022-2027 Capital Program to establish Capital Project No. 645 and provides funding for Architect & Engineering renovation planning services in the amount of \$200,000.00

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 407 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Legislator Petit stated that she wanted to have solar and heating pumps included in the building. Legislator Erner questioned why the amount for the Capital Project did not match the amount for the contract. Deputy County Executive Contreras explained the capital project amount includes a percentage for contingency. Legislator Nolan stated that he supports efforts for the greening of the facility but wanted to see the resolution moved forward because the housing situation is urgent.

Chair Walter advised the members that she had asked for a more detailed breakdown of the costs. She recognized Recovery and Resilience Director Litwin if he had more details. Director Litwin walked the members through a spreadsheet with greater detail. The members asked for clarification on the projected project total. Chair Walter asked if that amount could be clarified before the Ways & Means committee meeting.

The members briefly discussed the how the house was envisioned to be used boarding house, shelter, etc. and what reimbursements from the state would be available based on the usage. Ongoing operation costs, and county ownership of the building were also briefly discussed.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 409: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$180,000.00 Entered Into By The County – LaBella Associates, D.P.C. – Department Of Finance And Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with LaBella Associates DPC in the amount of \$180,000 for architecture and engineering services for renovation of the building and property at 21 Elizabeth St for the period 8/16/22 – 12/31/22

Motion No. 12: **Moved Resolution No. 409 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 410: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports For Medication Assisted Treatment And Peer Support For The Jail Population – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the contract amendment with New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) for \$160,000 in increased funding for Medication Assisted Treatment and Peer Support for the jail population as per OASAS State Aid Funding Authorization dated July 14, 2022

Motion No. 13: **Moved Resolution No. 410 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 411: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$92,500.00 Entered Into By The County – The Hudson Valley National Center For Veteran Reintegration, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with The Hudson Valley National Center For Veteran Reintegration, Inc in the amount of \$92,500 to extend the term of agreement for veteran peer to peer support services through 12/31/22

Motion No. 14: **Moved Resolution No. 411 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 412: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$92,500.00 Entered Into By The County – Jewish Child Care Association Of New York – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Jewish Child Care Association Of New York in the amount of \$92,500 to increase the amount for foster care services provided through 6/30/22

Motion No. 15: **Moved Resolution No. 412 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Legislator Erner asked if members have the opportunity to visit the facilities. Legislator Nolan stated that staff and leadership of these programs had been invited before the committee in the past. Commissioner Iapoce stated that Legislator Erner could contact one of the congregate care facilities and he imagined his request would be accommodated.

Legislator Petit asked for clarification on the dates of the contract. Commissioner Iapoce explained the reason for the retroactive increase of the contract to pay outstanding invoices.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 413: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$61,536.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. D/B/A Gateway Hudson Valley – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Gateway Hudson Valley in the amount of \$61,536 to extend the term of agreement for case management services for home delivered meals program through 12/31/23

Motion No. 16: **Moved Resolution No. 413 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Legislator Uchitelle asked why the terms of the contract do not align with the terms for the actual meal delivery through Gateway. OFA Deputy Director Riley responded that the two contracts had separate RFPs and the case manager started at a different time than the meal delivery contract.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 414: Authorizing A Right To Cross The Right Of Way Owned By Ulster County Of The Ulster And Delaware Railroad Corridor Near Mile Point 4.8, City Of Kingston To The Hudson Valley Housing Fund Company Inc. – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute the proposed right to cross the Ulster And Delaware Railroad Corridor Near Mile Point 4.8, City Of Kingston To The Hudson Valley Housing Fund Company Inc. solely for the purpose of affordable housing and open space, providing that the grant of access and required improvements are in keeping with the safety and protection of the County’s railroad corridor and the rail operations associated with it.

Discussion:

Chair Walter stated that the resolution was postponed in Economic Development. Legislator Uchitelle asked if additional information from that committee had been requested or what the reason was for postponement. Legislator Nolan responded that ve was at the meeting and that questions revolved around concerns that the project is in a flood plan and questions on how a negative declaration could be declared in that instance. Ve added that there were also concerns about language in the resolutions that implied the legislature supported the project. Director Doyle added that the members expressed a desire to have language reflect only their position on the right of way and not on the project itself.

Disposition: **NO ACTION TAKEN**

Chair Walter moved on to Old Business on the Agenda and a discussion on the housing working groups. She stated that she would like the groups to be prepared with Resolutions for the committee’s review in November and adoption in December. Legislator Uchitelle stated that timeline was feasible and advised the members that the low income and affordable group doubled their meetings so they could also be prepared in time for budget requests. Chair Walter thanked him for the reminder of the budget timeline and reminded the members that unless they are looking for a 2024 budget initiative, those proposal should be ready for October’s committee meeting.

Legislator Nolan agreed that fall was a good target. Chair Walter asked that she and the committee clerk be given some lead time to know what kind of time needed to be reserved for the discussions, or if a separate special committee meeting needed to be scheduled.

Legislator Erner advised the members that a few of the concepts the low inf=come and affordable housing group was working on included: working definition of affordable housing, preventing housing displacement, creating or making available low income, affordable housing, housing quality, revenue sources.

Legislator Lopez said some great ideas are coming out of his working group and he thought they could come up with 1-3 possible resolutions by November. Legislator Nolan stated that the Emergency, Transitional and Homeless group was redoubling their efforts on emergency transitional housing.

Chair Walter complimented everyone on their work and shared that she was working on an RFP to provide legal services for those facing eviction, and drafting a policy for foreclosed properties.

The members briefly discussed the City of Kingston Land Bank and the proposed County Land Bank.

Chair Walter asked the members if there was any other business and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 2:37 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler

Transcript prepared by: Senior Legislative Staff Tantillo

Approved: August 3, 2022

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Chair Eve Walter

So, welcome to the start of the Health and Human Services and Housing Committee for August 3rd. Thank you all for making it on this special time so that those who want to go to the fair tonight are able to go to the fair. We'll start with an approval of the July 6 regular meeting minutes.

Legislator Phil Erner

I'll move it.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll second.

Chair Eve Walter

So, Lopez, second, Nolan. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Okay. The next, we have a smart communities update. So, Planner Doyle came, and we have Kai here as well, too. This ties into conversations specifically that were happening. I know, I believe in Legislator Lopez's workgroup of, but probably in several others, of the role the county could potentially play in terms of the municipalities and working with municipalities for smart housing, both zoning changes and other kinds of incentives. So, I'll hand it over to you Dennis and Kai, whoever.

Director Dennis Doyle

Thank you, Chair Walter, appreciate it. And thank you to the committee for giving us a time to, some time to talk about the Housing Smart Communities Initiative. So, why don't I, I'd like to explain this, but I want Kai to introduce himself, the legislature and the executive put into the county planning department's budget for 2022 a position, a senior planner positions are devoted to housing, and we brought Kai on board for housing, for housing issues, and I'll let Kai explain a little bit of his background. And then we'll go into a discussion with respect to the Housing Smart Communities Initiative. Kai.

Kai Lord-Farmer

Yep. Hey, so nice to meet everyone. As Dennis mentioned, my name is Kai Lord-Farmer. I am the new senior planner in the county planning department primarily focused on housing and standing up and administering the Ulster County Housing Smart Communities Initiative. Just a little bit about myself, I grew up here, first in Woodstock, and then in Rosendale, and then went away to California to learn as much as I could and go to grad school for city and regional planning as well as transportation engineering. And I've been working in California for the past five or six years on climate change, mitigation adaptation, as well as housing and land use policy. First for a consulting firm, and then leading the city of Sacramento's Climate Action Plan. And yeah, I'm happy to be working back where I grew up. And please feel free to email me and ask me any housing-related questions or about the Housing Smart Communities Initiative.

Director Dennis Doyle

Thanks, Kai. So, the Housing Smart Communities Initiative grew out of the county's housing action plan. And it literally, basically tried to utilize the state model for the Climate Smart Communities' program that the state has and apply that to housing. And we've been working with a great advisory group that was left over from the housing action plan on this work and looking at the initiatives that were in the original housing action plan, building a minimum required actions, and also looking at ways that we can incentivize those actions through a point system to essentially achieve what we would call a bronze, gold, silver and platinum. The, we're also working with a website design consultant. And we have, as recently as this morning, had discussions with that consultant in terms of a beta website that is out there that explains the program, takes a look at the actions that are available within the program, and then begins to look at those minimum requirements that are of import. The number one thing that we're asking communities to do is to pass a resolution and establish a housing coordinating position at the local level or housing coordinator-liaison at the town board level and agree to join the program. And then, within the program themselves, there's a whole series of actions that they can take to essentially raise their level of participation similar to what happens in the Climate Smart Communities program. And those actions range from adopting a streamlined approach to our development approvals, doing work with respect to short term rentals, adding work as it relates to becoming more liberal with respect to accessory dwelling units, adopting an affordable housing action plan at the community level and incorporating that into their comprehensive plan, streamlining the, creating a housing overlay district, and also doing work with respect to housing rehabilitation programs. So, it's all of the things that you would think of that a community could do to affirmatively provide for additional housing and particularly additional affordable housing. And that's what the housing smart community program is trying to accomplish. And if you look within the housing action plan, you can see those elements that are part of the housing community program. That's a very short discussion in terms of what the program does, I

will tell you that we've requested funds at the county, for the county planning department to help communities implement that, in particular, the funds would be used to develop to work with the communities on their housing action plans, so that we would pay for those housing action plans, we would run those programs out of the county planning department with an advisory group at the local level, rather than essentially grant those funds to a community to do their own plans, we would control the plans at the county planning department level, we'd also work with them in terms of doing certain things to their zoning statutes, and pay for those to work for those amendments to the zoning statutes. And we're looking to issue what we would call an RFQ to bring consultants on board to help us do that work and to help communities do that work.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Legislator Nolan?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you, Chair Walter. Thank you, Planning Director Doyle. And welcome to Senior Planner Kai Lord-Farmer. This all sounds great. And most of what you said, I understand from our prior work on housing, I don't think I'm familiar with a housing overlay. And so I wondered if you could just describe what that is. I understand overlays for aquifers and other things. What goes into a housing overlay? And how does that help us?

Director Dennis Doyle

What we would try to do is work with communities in their zoning statute to identify areas where they want housing to be built and allow a streamlined procedure within those areas, increased density bonuses and provide incentives for housing in those overlay districts. So, that's one way that you could look at an overlay district and it would work in that fashion. It's similar. Think of that, it's a reverse of restriction, of a restricted district, like an historic overlay district. That would be the reverse of, it would be the reverse of that. And what we're trying to do is get the communities to focus on trying to figure out where they want development to occur, and then pushing and affirmatively asking for those developments to occur. In addition, we have worked with communities to actually have a conversation with them with willing landowners to issue Requests for Proposals similar to what the county did for Golden Hill. We have a template now that's out there, we've provided that template to the town of Marbletown, to issue an RFQ with willing landowners in cooperation with communities to get a concept plans and development proposal for affordable housing projects. We're also beginning that discussion, quite frankly, with the Town of Olive. I know that's an odd community to think about, but the Town of Olive actually has a development process parcel that's on route 28. And there's some interest both within the landowner and with the town to essentially go through the process of going through the idea of issuing an RFQ and bringing developers in similar to exactly what we did on Golden Hill. So, we provided those templates, we'll work with any other community. We're out there with, talking to those communities about that.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Other people have questions? So, I have one or two. In the meeting that I was at that was Legislator Lopez's workgroup. The conversation came up of basically recognizing one, that municipalities are all very different and in different places in this process, and whether it's better that a

municipality has their own person helping them rewrite their code, or whether it's better to have a centralized county person who can then help all of them. And it was interesting, because it actually did come down to a county person as the preference, at least within that working group. And so, if you can help understand, especially so that that message can get brought by each of these, our legislators, to their housing working groups, what would, you mentioned doing an RFP for consultants that would then come in, but if you could just describe in the simplest terms, what that would exactly look like for a municipality? What would we be offering in this picture? And then related to it, a sense of the timeline of this implementation?

Director Dennis Doyle

Sure. A couple of things, I think it's important to recognize that it is, in my opinion, it is important for some centralized assistance, call it a concierge approach, to be available to municipalities. That does not mean that municipalities are going to accept a one size fits all approach. So, these types of discussions are more like, I call it kitchen table types of discussions with municipalities. Where you go in, you basically say, What are you trying to accomplish? Here are things that we know have been accomplished and successful elsewhere, we can help you write the zoning statute, or put some ideas on the table for you, so that you don't have to pay the, you don't have to pay for doing that. I will tell you that local attorneys will generally take model statutes and rewrite them significantly, if not toss them over the shoulder and start over. But the idea is essentially to bring some technical experience and knowledge that can go out and talk to these municipalities and reestablish contacts with them as it relates to housing. When can we do that? I would say as soon as now.

Chair Eve Walter

So, which comes first, though, like so you go to a municipality? They say yes, I would love some help in doing my zoning, then RFP goes out to get experts to do this, or like, how is that process supposed to work?

Director Dennis Doyle

We would intend to issue what they call an RFQ or an SMQ statements of qualifications and qualify consultants. And then we would work with the municipality to develop a work plan for that consultant. With some givens. I mean, the example I would give you is, is that we would want to make sure that the discussions that we're having with the municipality are in line with the goals that we've set within the Housing Smart Communities Initiative, so that they would be on board. So, the thought being is is this is like pre-qualification. And then you would basically ask that those consultants for a quote to do the necessary work within the municipality. So, we would, would go in, have a conversation with the municipality, say this is what a scope of work looks like for the municipality, come back and say, okay, here's the scope of work. Say we qualify one or two or three consultants, have them quote that scope of work and then begin work with the municipality and use the municipality as a, we would have a advisory group from the municipality that would essentially participate in all those discussions to a final product. I would say that the county planning department is very familiar with this. We do this with respect to the Ulster County Transportation Council on a regular basis. We've always worked with municipalities on particular studies, whether it be in Saugerties in New Paltz, or in Kingston, or the most recent study that we're starting in the Town of Ulster on Route 9W corridor. we're very familiar with this process, and more than capable of working with that.

Chair Eve Walter

Great.

Director Dennis Doyle

Kai, anything you want to add.

Kai Lord-Farmer

Yeah, I was just going to add one more thing, Eve, to your question about the benefits of having it somewhat centralized is that although the communities are different, and there needs to be a unique approach to each community, I think there's lessons learned. And so having some centralized knowledge about what each municipality is doing and sharing what's going on between municipalities will be of great benefit for everyone.

Chair Eve Walter

Absolutely. I would also just let you know that when that conversation occurred, part of it was also, it's not so much a lack of trust for the, on the local level, but a sort of, a sense of, it's more likely to be seen through if the county has this sort of more guiding role, rather than just saying to municipalities, hey, here's an RFP, we'll help you hire a planner, you know, leaving them off on their own, felt uncomfortable. And these are people from those communities that were expressing that they would rather the county had a hand in it.

Director Dennis Doyle

It was very uncomfortable to us, Chair Walter. It was very uncomfortable for us to essentially look at that and say that we're just going to provide funding to the municipalities and hope that they get it. Right.

Chair Eve Walter

Right. Agreed. So, I would ask legislators, think about, if you don't have a specific question, to think about questions that members of your working group might have for Dennis and Kai. Like, what would they ask right now? So, that you can bring that information down to your working groups. Legislator Uchitelle?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I just wanted to share that Kai was at our working group for the low-income housing. And I think it was really well received. There were some great questions from the group. And I just want to say I'm really excited about the team moving forward on this and optimistic that we'll see some of that kind of sweeping change that we know is needed for housing.

Chair Eve Walter

Oh, that's great. So, and Legislator Nolan and Legislator Lopez, have you invited Kai to your working groups?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

No, I'm just meeting Kai for the first time today. We'd love to have him join us. I'm heading up the working group on emergency and transitional housing.

Deputy Chair Craig Lopez

Sure, yeah, join. Yeah. We as well look forward to you coming in and speaking with our group. So, yeah, but I think it's good idea. Great way to move forward.

Chair Eve Walter

Terrific. Anybody else?

Director Dennis Doyle

Just one other piece of information. We would anticipate launching a website with respect to the Housing Smart Communities, sometime in probably early September. With respect to that, we're going through beta right now, I'm hoping that you'll, it is like any kind of project, when you launch these things, you're going to find individuals that essentially have other comments, et cetera, et cetera. And we're working back with a number of groups, to take in those comments and a number of housing professionals to look at what this looks like. We would welcome feedback on the website, it's going to be organic, it's going to be able to be changed. And it provides a means for communities to upload information. It's going to provide background information on all of the things I talked about, for example, what is the housing overlay district? and then it's going to provide the necessary incentives that the county is willing to provide, given what we know in terms of the county's budget, that I currently have in my in my budget, and what we've requested, and certainly Kai's availability. The thing that you can think about is what other incentives is the county willing to offer, relative to get people to be, to move forward with respect to becoming a housing smart community? And then the next question is, what types of disincentives is the county willing to consider to essentially also ask people to become housing smart community members? And some of the things that have been talked about and floated about is, quite frankly, sales tax.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Petit?

Legislator Laura Petit

Oh, I think part of that my question was already answered by Director Doyle and that was where would this webpage land? Would it be under the Planning Department? Or was it going to be under our housing authority? And in the future, as you know, as we get it in place, because I'm really hoping that our housing, our land bank, or Land Trust, whatever we're calling it, you know, will come about, that we'll be able to break out and turn this more into housing development. You know, sustainable housing is wonderful, but that in itself may scare some communities off, it sounds more like it's a climate smart project than actually getting housing built for, for our residents.

Director Dennis Doyle

From my perspective, I would think that that's not the case Legislator Petit. We're really focused on affirmatively, having communities affirmatively move forward with respect to housing, getting housing

constructed. It's modeled after a climate smart community, but the actions within it are not anywhere near what we're talking about as it relates to climate smart community. The other thing is, is that there's a branding here that's ongoing with respect to a Housing Smart Communities Initiative. And this initiative originally is focused on municipalities. Right. But it's easily transferable to a Housing Smart Communities Initiatives as it relates to, this is what the county is doing, this is what others are doing. So, you can start to see, if you start to brand this, it becomes a little bit more, not a little bit, but a lot more broader. But we're focused right now on municipalities. But we're also, want to go back as your committee, your various committees finished their work, to basically say, these are the things that the counties are going to doing. And right now, the proposed landing page for this would be under the county planning department. We're thinking that maybe what the discussion would be as we move it up, so that when you look at the counties undergoing a complete review of its website, and hopefully that that work will be, that work is going to start very shortly. And we're thinking about ways that we can move it up. So, that's you don't find information buried under departments, you find it out as as a major policy initiatives. And it's out on the website in a different format than it's currently used in. And I would urge the Legislature to start to begin to think that their website needs to reflect their priorities. And the website should reflect the priorities that you're working on. And if housing is one of them, it should be prominent within the website. It may be housed in a landing page somewhere in the county, but you can get there relatively simply. And the example I would give you is the Ulster County Transportation Council is listed separately on the county's website and it goes to its own landing page. Your Tourism website does the same thing. Your Board of Elections website does the same thing. I'm hoping that you'll be impressed with the website when you see it. It's quite, it's quite different graphically, and ease of finding things on it, then the current website is

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you, I guess on that, Deputy Executive Contreras.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yes.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, that, can just bring that information back the idea that of once this housing website is established that our main county website, really, it become something that's very easy for people to find, not buried, but have a presence on the land, on the primary landing page, when it's ready. That would be great. And Director Doyle, what would be helpful also, as we move into the 2023 budget, is if you can help our committee have a sense of the budgetary items that are very specific to this initiative, because sometimes when we see the budget, and we just sort of get a planning board budget, planning departments budget, it's hard to extract what elements are really what's, you know, for the RFP, the expected for the consultants for the website, whatever it is, it'd be very helpful for us to see what the project budget for this initiative is as its own thing, in addition, that we can protect it and know what parts of your budget are related to it. So, that would be really great.

Director Dennis Doyle

And we'll be able to do that, Chair Walter. We are going to be able to give you a programmatic breakdown of the things that the department is doing, whether it's transportation, housing, special

projects, or agriculture, etc. You'll have a programmatic breakdown of the budget in terms of where the money is going.

Chair Eve Walter

Wonderful.

Director Dennis Doyle

And that will include not only from a staff perspective, but also from a professional services perspective as well.

Chair Eve Walter

Perfect. Thank you. Any other questions before we move on? All right, so we're gonna start in on our resolutions. Thank you again, Director Doyle and Kai, you're welcome to stay or go as you may wish. So, let's start with Resolution 139. Setting a public hearing on proposed Local Law number four, enacting a drug take back program for Ulster County.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

A motion to discuss.

Chair Eve Walter

So moved Nolan, second?

Legislator Phil Erner

(inaudible) Legislator Erner. Legislator Petit?

Legislator Laura Petit

Thank you. I did go back. And thank you Chair Walter for reaching out and submitting very comprehensive questions to some of the updates in, on what's going on with the current drug takeback program. I did read the responses and I can forward that, if that's okay with you, to this committee, and maybe even promised to do that before, I'm sorry. But I kind of found, because this is a third-party vendor. They were a little ambiguous and kind of saying well, of course the elected officials will get all kinds of outreach information and honestly, I don't think we're the ones that need to be educated so much. It has to get it out to the public. But with that, I mean still see problems with the state, which I would like to address in a new resolution. So, what I'm going to offer is that we, we pull this one. And then Legislator Maloney and if I could get Legislator Nolan to, to help out to, you know, we would like to revisit this. Because they, again, they were focusing more on the mailings, the mailings, and I just don't think that's efficient or simple enough to get everybody to return their unused pharmaceuticals.

Chair Eve Walter

Right.

Legislator Laura Petit

But yeah, so thank you, you know, again, for carrying this for so long. And for reaching out. Again, that you had a great list of questions. I just don't feel like they answered them.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, thank you. So, the meetings are ongoing. There's another one set. Again, this is a list that doesn't just include me, but probably others. I think Deputy Executive Contreras might be cc'ed on it. And then many other counties, many other health departments from different counties are all a part of this. And so they're continuing to meet as they unravel what the plan is, exactly. I will say I'm happy to say that my local Tops had a disposal right next to their pharmacy, even before this was all put into play. So, that that was good news. I just saw it recently. Okay, so then that will take care of, and for the next resolution, I'm handing it to Deputy Chair Lopez.

Chairman Lopez

No problem. All right, we've got Resolution 200. Setting a public hearing on proposed local law seven, a local law amending the code of the County of Ulster in relation to evictions. A move for discussion?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Move it.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I'll second it.

Deputy Chair Craig Lopez

Okay, Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Thank you, Deputy Chair Lopez. So, I will ask again for, for no action, but I will take you know, a minute here to just say I am optimistic that we will debate this in September, I believe that's when our Ethics you know, our new Ethics Board is seated, and all of the changes that happen which, you know, obviously don't all relate to this at all. But hopefully everyone is comfortable debating this in September. I realized that part of the conversation that we'll have at that time will include the fate of the city of Albany legislation that's different than ours, but perhaps worth discussing the ways in which it's similar and could come against similar, you know, similar challenges. But I'm, I'm really looking forward to having these conversations. And I'll just say it, because ever since I introduced this exactly one year ago, people have been reaching out to me, not just from my district, but from all over the county. And I do my best always to have our staff at the office, redirect that outreach to the folks who, you know, the representatives for that constituent, but it is brutal out there. Everyone knows someone who's getting forced out of our community, and I appreciate everyone being ambitious, when we get the chance to debate this about how we might actually be able to change the dynamic out there for our constituents. And with that, you know, I'll ask for no action to be taken.

Deputy Chair Craig Lopez

All right, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I, just to add a bit to that. I've heard that the City of Kingston has been sued as well. And the city of Kingston's law is not quite the same as Albany's, but we're in the same Judicial District, here in Ulster County. I, too, hope that when September comes, we'll pass and pray. We'll pass this through and pray that it doesn't meet the same possible fate. But if it does, then I think we can take action, such as send a letter to the state, and ask them to pass it statewide, because that's what we're hearing from, from the Albany case, that the state might supersede the localities. Thank you.

Chairman Lopez

Right, anybody else? All right, well, per the request to the sponsor, we will take no action, and I'll hand it back to the Chair.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Okay. Resolution Number 340. Funding ARPA Food Security and Access, Department of Finance. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Laura Petit

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan, second Legislator Petit. Discussion? Legislator Petit.

Legislator Laura Petit

Thank you. I was looking through the resolution, and you know, as stated in last year's, at last month's meeting, I'm uncomfortable providing that amount of money for a study. As qualified as Cornell is, you know, and I grew up using all of their services and support them now, I just I don't feel like \$350,000 to go towards a studies what we need. We actually have somebody who's part of this call right now, who runs Hunger is Not an Option, which is a food pantry in Esopus, and you know, that kind of money could keep food pantries running for decades at, you know, the minimal pennies per pound that they spend. Not only that, but things are going up. Butter was \$40 a case, now it's \$120 or \$140, if you can get it. Eggs are almost \$200 a case. I mean, I would just rather see this type, this amount of funds get forwarded, you know, or put into additional grant funding, so that the, the food pantries throughout the county could put in for it. You know, likewise, you could go to the Hudson Valley Food Bank, or any of these pantries, and you can get the statistics and have it get pulled together. It's certainly not a \$350,000 study.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Others? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I want to agree with Legislator Petit. I believe that the work we might ask Cornell to do here is already their work in a sense, maybe they could, we could figure out a way for them to get the information to us without having to pay. If we are going to spend these funds, I would prefer direct support for farms, farm workers, pantries, and food service, the, which we have a resolution, number 400, that deals with some of that on the farm side, that perhaps we could tack this on to. I also want to note that this got a 69% score in the ARPA Committee and the committee didn't take any action in their last meeting on this.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Others? Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you, Chair Walter, I appreciate those comments, and I tend to agree with them. I think that the project is good, but the budget is too high for what we need from them. And that either, we're just reducing the budget on this and letting this go forward or else, keeping the budget the same, but building in distribution to food pantries of some sort would make this a much more attractive and beneficial program. So, I am not completely opposed to it at this level. But I think the arguments about the administrative or research needs as opposed to the direct on the ground needs are well taken.

Chair Eve Walter

Others. So, I would say, I. Oh, sorry.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Oh, I think we're all on the same page with that. We're in agreement that we need to start looking into ways to provide the food more directly, instead of through this thing, so.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Yeah, so I guess I would agree, I would not vote, I would not vote favorably. If we were to vote on this today. I think that just speaking to what Legislator Petit brought up. I think that not only is Cornell Cooperative, but many organizations that serve these populations, including Family of Woodstock, and others, know exactly what we need to do with this. And that if we had an RFP out that said, you tell us what you want to do, and how much it will cost, then we could just pick which ones, and pay for it and get it done. I recently, our now clerk, oh my gosh, what's her name, Jay? Chelsea just completed a very comprehensive analysis of our situation here, plus others have looked at it. So, I think that we know, there's a lot of solutions out there, it's time for us to just focus on the solution. So, I would say, I don't know, we could either postpone this, or we could vote it down. If we postponed it, it would be with the expectation, I think from what I'm hearing, from other legislators, that this gets majorly revamped. The other option is that we vote it down and then they start fresh with it.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Or take no action?

Chair Eve Walter

Well, I guess it's I mean, I don't know if that's different from postponing it necessarily. But because either way would allow them to make amendments. But the other choice I guess it's a question of how different the new one would be but Deputy Director Doyle, go ahead.

Director Dennis Doyle

Thank you, Chair Walter. Appreciate the opportunity. I just so you know that we heard the legislature loud and clear relative to its concern as it relates to the amount of dollars that were being expended in terms of absent direct assistance, we're looking at a model that we've used for the what, the what is called a continuum of care model, which is essentially providing a substantial amount of money for directly assistance, but also bringing the providers together so that we have a central, a central place where we understand what they need, and continue to continue to respond to their needs over a longer period of time. So, the food security group that we were talking about is going to be trimmed down substantially. And then we move to essentially provide for a means to bring them together and provide direct assistance with everyone that everyone that's involved in that understanding where that direct assistance is going, not just us. But all of the pantries and food providers understanding and, and asking them where their needs are, where their needs, needs aren't. That's, that's the sort of the gist is we don't want to lose the idea of bringing them together. But we understand that the legislature's focus is on providing direct assistance you. And I'd say it's similar to the Opioid Task Force. These people can come together, there doesn't have to be money to get them together, they are all have a vested interest to come together and work together and communicate how to do this the most reasonable way to hit as many people across the county. So, but I guess the real question is, Deputy Executive Contreras, is whether the amendments, the changes that would need to be made are so substantial, that it's better to start fresh, or whether you feel like you could use the current sitting resolution and, and over a month, make the necessary amendments. Of course, either way, it would need to go back to ARPA if it's ARPA funding. Because I would assume the intent and is going to be very different and not the intent. But the specifics will be very different. But before you answer that, I'm sorry, Legislator Petit, did you want to add something?

Legislator Laura Petit

To follow up on something you had said a little earlier, I would be more comfortable if this was an RFP for say, pass through funding. So, Cornell could run a food distribution type program, with, you know, a lot of focus on nutrition and perhaps even budgeting, but you know, that that would be a great way to involve them with their skill set. But yeah, I agree with you as well, if there's not a substantial change as far as what we're asking for, and the money that we're paying out. And, you know, I don't know how much we can fix this.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator, Nolan. Thank you,

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I suggest that we postpone this at this point. And if the Executive's and ARPA team decide that they'd like to withdraw it, they can do that between now and the next cycle. So, I would make a motion that we postpone this.

Chair Eve Walter

Thanks. Before we second it, can I just, can we just hear from Deputy Executive Contreras just where, where they're thinking, I have no issue either way, I just want to let's get the full...

Deputy Executive Contreras

I agree with that. I think that's a good path forward. Because I know that we have been saying that we're gonna do some further work on this. But I don't know that we're at the point where we want to say we're withdrawing it completely. I know, Deputy Executive Kelly has been taking the lead on it. So, I think it's a good idea for us to go back and kind of discuss it.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, and then just the other add on with the postpone is that brings it to a month from now, which is not an issue. Whether you will have that whole new plan in a month or not, we'll have to see whether you're going to be asking for another postponement. The difference between withdrawing it is then you don't have this timeline as of a month from now. But again, it the timeline might be a good thing, because it'll push it but you know, just, just keep us informed of where it's going to be when we come up with it again. Okay. So, is there a second for the postponement?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle? So, all in favor of the postponement?

Committee Members

Aye.

Legislator Phil Erner

All right.

Legislator Laura Petit

I, I did have the Director of Hunger is not an option. She asked if she could ask a question or would you rather...

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, I only because I've set a precedent prior on a request of Legislator Erner and had told him that this wasn't the place. But because this is, has been included on this. There would be the opportunity at our legislative session during public hearing, to express the, you know, intent and concern or questions, but I don't want to have a different reaction response to one constituent versus a previous constituent where I had said that this wasn't where we were going to invite, you know, converse, those conversations, but nothing personal towards anyone. And I would say that whichever individual that was, you know, please use our public comment during the legislative session, because it's also not just this group that needs to hear the importance of where we should be going with this, but the full

legislature, this is just a small group. And so, you know, I hope that you will come to that and in just a mere two weeks and let everybody know what thoughts and concerns are in terms of this. Okay, so do we vote on that? We did. Right. Okay. Thanks. Next we have resolution. Maybe I'll we'll do a separate, Resolution 401, amending capital project 598, community wellness hub for crisis stabilization renovations in the City of Kingston. A motion to discuss.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle. Second Legislator Nolan. Any discussion? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. I'm sorry, we, we didn't we haven't blocked this. It's we're just on for a one right now. Is that right?

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah, I was going to block it. But because for two slightly different and there was a question related to it. I felt like I will just keep them separate. So, we're just on 401 right now.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay. I don't have any anything to add. Thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. Anyone else on 401? All right. All in favor of Resolution 401.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstained. Okay. Unanimous. Resolution 402, approving the execution of a contract for \$158,850 with Pomarico design studio architecture motion to discuss legislator you should tell second legislator Petit discussion. Legislator Erner, you have something on this one?

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah. So, we're basically we're hiring the, this architect, who I believe I have family, personal relationship with the family just to say. And then we're going to learn how much it'll cost to renovate, to do the renovation by, by doing that, by the architect will tell us basically is that or? Yes, that's it. Okay. Great.

Chair Eve Walter

I will add that the, the design and work that will be necessary for the crisis stabilization would require an architect no matter what to draw the plans of what it would need to look like the upstairs areas, which are office spaces would need less of it. But to get the crisis stabilization center looking like we would want it to would need a pretty considerable amount of gutting removing taking space out and rebuilding. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yes, thank you. Chair Walter. This firm looks to have a very broad range of portfolio of experience and in the, in the space. I would just say at this point, I would encourage us to communicate a desire not to have the Crisis Stabilization Center look overly medical. And so, you know, there probably be other points along the way to, to have some input. But among their, their portfolio, they do go nearly the full range. And I'm hoping that we'll, we'll have the more inviting, less medical type of designs, at least for most of the building. So, thank you for letting me put that in.

Chair Eve Walter

Deputy Executive Contreras.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yes, we definitely agree. And I think that was explicitly discussed during the interviews, and they describe that it would be non-institutional, welcoming, warm space. And I think that they've prioritized that in their work in the past. I don't know if Commissioner McDonald wants to add anything to that.

Director Tara McDonald

Only that we share in that as our mission and goal for it to feel welcoming as soon as you walk through the door. So, absolutely.

Chair Eve Walter

So, on that that's a great point. Legislator, Nolan, thank you. It would be wonderful, you know, we got a tour originally of the building, the higher before purchasing it. But once a plan is either conceptualized or, you know, not necessarily finalized. Perhaps there's a way that you can invite members of this committee and we can go back to that space and hear what the thoughts are of the layout because I know for myself, I have ideas of what I think what I've seen have worked, and obviously Legislator Nolan and maybe others. So, it would be really appreciative. I think if there's the opportunity for us to be in that space and hear the thoughts about how it might be laid out. Just the first floor, the crisis stabilization, like where it's entrances compared to the Broadway versus the side and all the other interior layouts, that would be terrific. Okay, great. So, all in favor of Resolution 402.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Oh, sorry, Legislator Uchitelle, you have a question.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I was I was gonna ask a question. Once we finish the vote.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. So, let's... so all... Any opposed? Abstentions? All right. Unanimous.

Legislator Phil Erner

Excuse me Chair Walter. I'm not sure if I can if I should abstain for appearance of impropriety to vote just because as I men

Chair Eve Walter

Will you make money off of this?

Legislator Phil Erner

No.

Chair Eve Walter

Then you're okay.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, I'll vote yes.

Chair Eve Walter

We all know, we are in a small county. We potentially know architect's firms. As long as you will not make money off of it, as long as you are not being paid by this architectural firm.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thanks.

Chair Eve Walter

Yeah. Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

We're, so we're done with that resolution.

Chair Eve Walter

We're done with 402. Okay.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

I was going to ask, I just realized that 414 is on our agenda is the last item. I would like to participate in that but I have a conflict in about half an hour that I'll have to leave so I would ask to take it out of order.

Chair Eve Walter

It was postponed in Economic Development, so we do not have it on our agenda any longer. So, you're good. Okay, so moving along. We have Resolution 403, confirming the appointment of member of a member to the Ulster County Youth Board. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second, Uchitelle. Any discussion? All in favor of Resolution 403?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstain? Unanimous. Resolution 404, confirming an appointment to a member of the Community Service Board. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Legislator Laura Petit

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second Petit. Any discussion? All in favor of 404.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstained? Unanimous.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

President Walter, I just I just want to say that I think this is an excellent appointment, known Kathy Hoffman for decades and really pleased to have her step forward for these positions. This resolution and the next.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Speaking of the next Resolution 405 confirming appointment of a member to the Community Service Board for Persons with Developmental Disability Subcommittee. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second, Uchitelle. Questions? Discussion on this? Legislator Petit and then we have Erner.

Nolan. Second Uchitelle. Any discussion on this one? It's the same point that was made previously, I assume. Okay, all in favor of Resolution number 405?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed? Abstentions? So moved. Resolution 407, Amending the 2022 to 2027 Capital Improvement Program, establishing a capital project for the renovation of Elizabeth St. Elizabeth Manor. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So moved.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Legislator Laura Petit

Thank you. I would, well, I don't know if Legislator Erner would like to go ahead because we had a similar conversation this morning.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Erner?

Legislator Phil Erner

No, go ahead.

Legislator Laura Petit

Okay. It's just as we're putting in these, these buildings given you know, there is a climate crisis along with a housing crisis. I am hoping, I want solar to be put or and or a heating pumps into this building so we can reduce the cost and make it, you know, climate wise and environmentally a nicer building to live in. And that's the only point I have. I'm really happy to see that this project is on our agenda.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Erner and then we have Nolan.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thanks. Just trying to clarify. I know, we're on 407. But it looks like the capital fund budget would be about 200k for this and we'd bond and then I guess we'll talk about the next resolution when we when we get to it, but it's, it's not for the whole amount, I guess, right?

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yes. Sorry. May I?

Chair Eve Walter

Yes. Go ahead, Deputy Contreras.

Deputy Executive Contreras

I believe there's usually a small contingency built in, just a difference between what the actual architectural fee is and the capital project in case there's any changes.

Legislator Phil Erner

Okay, thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you. Yes, I appreciate the comments from Legislator Petit for the greening of this facility if possible. But I support moving forward with it now with for this project and then doing that as...after we have people in it, because the housing situation is equally urgent, and I do believe we can go back and do some retrofits. We should, however, alert the architects during the process that we have that intention, and I'm sure that's the intention of the project team.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. So, I had the question during, or I made the request to the Deputy Executive during the chairs meeting of getting a better understanding of the breakdown. We had gotten an initial more broadly stroked, this is the cost, this is the expense, but we wanted a little bit more detail. So, I believe, Nate, do you have? And Jay, you can share your screen just to let us see. Part of the question was whether this money was included in the idea of renovations being a million, is this part of that million? So, if you could just break us? Where are the amounts?

Director Nathan Litwin

Sure.

Chair Eve Walter

Acquisition? Yeah,

Director Nathan Litwin

Yeah. All right. So, this, understand, please, that this is not maybe your typical development budget, which is why I call it a development projection. Because I think it's as, it's we're getting to the point of harder numbers. But there is a process to get there. And so, I thought it just as important to break it up into the steps of the process. I think the easiest one to understand is what's already been approved. So, the acquisitions there, we closed last Friday 700,000 has been expended and Ulster County is owner of the property. And now we're getting into predevelopment. The committee has met there. And, and a committee recommended awarding to LaBella. That contract is for 180,000, we have a 10% contingency, and the scope of services is in the draft contract, they're going to do a lot of the things that are necessary for us to settle on the value fully evaluating the building. And I know a lot has been done. Obviously, there's due diligence and acquisition. But it goes even further, we'll double there has been some look into environmental that was done by the previous owner, but we will make sure that's complete and full. And basically, just a whole series of services and evaluating what's going to be necessary to get us to our schematic design drawings are and then eventually our hopefully our full construction design drawings and all the pieces and parts of that. So, that's what..

Chair Eve Walter

So, can pause you just for a second, just before you scroll further, Jay. So, you in the original plan, it said renovations are estimated at 1 million. So, can you just answer is 200,000 of pre-development a part of that 1 million that we were originally told were renovations. So, you got to break down from Marc dated February 23 2022.

Director Nathan Litwin

Yeah, and I...it is the initial cost that's needed to get for all the documents necessary.

Chair Eve Walter

But it's a part of the 1 million that we were told for renovations and not a separate line. Whoa. Okay. I mean, we'll have more to ask. But let's just stick with these lines first. So, Legislator Petit.

Legislator Laura Petit

Thank you. I thought, I mean, if we're looking at what are we looking at it is it is 200,000 towards I hear I'm trying to scroll up, it's not my screen. It generally, a project, the engineering costs are 10% of that. So, if we're looking at 200,000, it would be \$2 million project. Isn't, Isn't that right, So, we looking at more like 2 million should do the renovations on it.

Director Nathan Litwin

And I can't answer that because I don't have full construction documents. I think I can say that...here could be a larger number for the renovations than \$1 million. But I don't I don't have I'm not an estimator. So, I and I don't have construction plans. So I don't know.

Chair Eve Walter

So, I'll just ask Deputy Executive Contreras, prior to Ways and Means, because I think in this committee, we're talking about the concept and importance. But in Ways and Means it is actually, y is important for us. The real question was, was that \$1 million proposed renovation? Is this inclusive of

that 1 million are not? What Legislator Petit is bringing up and what you know, Nate is saying is that maybe it wasn't 1 million. It might be two. So, let's, let's have the real answer to that, if possible for Ways and Means of, you know, being able to take the February 23 memo, and really breaking it down as to what the proposed renovations are. And again, whether this is the amount for proposed and now renovations will be 800,000, or two legislative parties. Are they 1,800,000? Just...

Deputy Executive Contreras

Got it. Yeah. If I'm hearing correctly, I don't know if it might be the case that we don't know exactly what the renovation will cost, because that's what the architect and engineer goes in and assesses is that what the...

Chair Eve Walter

Well, I'd rather not a guess I'd rather maybe take time and talk to Marc because he presented this menu memo not to say he knows better than but you know, it means have a real breakdown, because we were given an expectation. And it's not I'm very supportive of this project. But uh, you know, we're given an expectation that we're told a million dollars to renovate. If that has changed, we want to know, I'm not saying it ends things, but it would we want to know whether it's expected to be more as February 23. wasn't that long ago?

Deputy Executive Contreras

Got yeah. And then look into that. And sorry, when is Ways and Means? Is it on Wednesday?

Chair Eve Walter

Yes.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Because Marc is away until Wednesday, but I'll do my best.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. We may postpone it, then we have two Ways and Means to go. But that it would be helpful to have that. And related to it. And maybe you're getting onto it. So, I'll pause on my question. Let Nate finish the rest of the page.

Director Nathan Litwin

Sure. So, I just did not miss the point like it is important that number one, and this is how I'm thinking as a developer in this role. I mean, we are project management, but kind of putting my development hat on, we need a source of cash flow. Obviously there. I know, it's been put out to the legislature that there are two grants for the SAM funds and for HHAP. But we don't have those sources of monies in hand currently, they will take time to get and we're pursuing that. But that's why the bond is necessary. So, we actually have a cash flow so we can keep the process moving, get ourselves to construction documents. And really know the project know what's going to be demolished know what's going to be recreated know how we're going to renovate this building, which is going to lead us I think, to clear cost projections is where I'm hoping to go. So, when we look at this part C for renovations, we will need all the construction documents. And in that in hand, there will be the demolition, we have received a

wonderful offer of in-kind services from the Bruderhof community so, so that should be a cost savings. But you know, we need to evaluate how much of a savings and then I put I kind of turn this as amended capital project 645 anticipated because obviously, the, the resolution in front of the committee is for creation of 645 as a capital project for the predevelopment for the architect and engineering services. With more documents, better numbers, and a hopefully eventually an award for a general contractor. We anticipate coming back to the legislature with another resolution to amend the capital project. And that's, that's kind of the mechanism for, for moving through this process that we're looking at. And I just kind of trying to mark out those steps. So, then with operating, I did talk to Mike lapoce this morning, who's very helpful. And I was able to get down that we would you know a number that I could use for budget purposes of how that operating would look, what the source would be. And so I think we have something put together for the projection on how much the per diem could be.

Chair Eve Walter

And I asked a question on that one, too. So, in the original memo, it it spoke to you know, revenue if used as a shelter for 35 would be 1.3. But if it's as a boarding house, it will be less, so and then if operated as a family shelter New York State would pick up 100% of the operating costs. So, is the decision to use it as a shelter for 35 Or maybe 37 but not as a boarding house?

Director Nathan Litwin

My understanding is to use it as a shelter for families.

Chair Eve Walter

So we can go with the 1.3 approximately, and that it was 100% that New York State would pick up 100% of the operating costs?

Director Nathan Litwin

I'm not I might have to defer on that I'm not... I've understood that it would come through Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and a federal source. Whether or not New York state is a pass through, or there's some other way that that's been looked at, I don't know.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, so I don't need to hold this time up. But for Ways and Means it specifically says that New York State would pick up 100% of the operating costs. If we could just have clarity on that for the Ways and Means meeting, whether we would have any continuous operating costs, or whether it's expected to be completely covered by New York State reimburses, or any others. Legislator Petit.

Legislator Laura Petit

Thank you. On this one. I mean, he had mentioned if it's a boarding house, and we're running into this throughout the county, if it's a boarding house, they get something like \$200-\$250 extra per person. And then the individuals who are there do not have access to food stamps, which is causing issue with not just the quality of food, but when they actually are able to eat. So, I think a shelter may work out better as far as that goes. Also, I'm assuming that we're not going to be directly operating it that will, will go out for a vendor. If that's the case. It says it's 166,072. But does that mean that the vendor will take over the whole building once it's completed? Does? Are they able to come back with a better

price? Since we've rehabbed the building and basically been taking care of any of the maintenance issues that come up, you know, that I'd like to see clarified as well.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, Jay, you could stop sharing the screen. So, I'm just gonna say that. Again, I completely support the project. I do still have these questions and issues that haven't had clarity. So, when I will vote in favor at this meeting, but I don't want to hear it Ways and Means when I asked these questions again, "Well, Health Human Services and Housing voted unanimously. So, they were all good with it". So, I'm voting "yes" with the caveat that these questions and issues will be answered. Not because I'm totally, you know, feel ready for it. Deputy Executive Contreras.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yes. I just wanted to clarify Legislator Petit's question on the operating. Do you mind restating that? Sorry, just to make sure I understand.

Legislator Laura Petit

Oh, yeah, sure. Because it, that looks like the the general price that we pay for, for somebody for emergency housing, you know, in general, and most of the other, I believe, are owned by someone else, whether it be a hotel, or whether it's a family shelter, whatever. So, since this is going to be a county-owned building, this, there's several, this will continue to be a county-owned building or we transfer title, or will it be a triple net lease on it, so that the person operating the facility will also be doing all the maintenance and the upkeep on it? So, yeah, thank you. And that's just I agree with, with Chair Walter, I absolutely. I'm going to vote yes on this. I just want to make sure that as more resolutions keep coming through for financing that I'm able to understand and answer any questions that may come up.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. Any other questions on this? All right. All in favor of Resolution 407?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstain? All right. Resolution 409, approving the execution of a contract for \$180,000 entered into the county LaBella associates. This is the architecture related to this. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Move it.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second, Uchitelle. Any discussion on this. Okay, all in favor of Resolution 409?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? All right. Resolution 410, amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to accept an increase funding from New York State Office of Addiction services for medication treatment in the jail population. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Legislator Laura Petit

(inaudible)

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Legislator Uchitelle. Second, Petit. Any discussion on this? Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you. Chair Walter. I just want to say that I am going to go ahead and vote on this proposal. This is funding from New York State to Ulster County. I am the voluntary Chair of an organization that might be qualified to bid on the subsequent disbursement of those funds and implementation of the program. But at this stage, I think, any financial relationship to me and this, this resolution is quite remote. I did put in a call to Chris Ragucci to see if he had any thoughts on it. But this is my recollection of the prior advice that I've gotten on these kinds of proposals. Since this is just Ulster County accepting the funding. There's not a direct connection. But I wanted to clarify that for the record in case anyone else had a question.

Chair Eve Walter

I mean, I will say it will likely pass if you abstain. This committee. So, if you are in doubt, feel free to abstain. Legislator Petit.

Legislator Laura Petit

Thank you. Well, again, just to follow up on that. I mean, I'm on Ulster County Community Action. I think we have other members who are on, you know, RCAL and on and it, doesn't it we don't have a financial benefit to it. Again, there's such a small volunteer pool and we are really public servants, all of us. So, I'm glad that there was a disclosure, but I yeah, I'd go for it.

Chair Eve Walter

Again, up to you, Legislator Nolan. It will pass likely this committee, one way or another, I'm assuming. So, unless anyone wants to express concerns or objections to this before we vote to let legislator Nolan... no? All right. So, I would say well, you're pretty safe if you've want to err on the side of caution. But I'll leave it to you. We're waited with bated breath to see what you'll do. So, all in favor of resolution 410.

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Opposed? Abstained? All right. Resolution 411, approving the execution of a contract amendment for 92,500 enter to the county for Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Move.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Second.

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan, Second, Uchitelle. Any discussion. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. Just looks like we're getting some extra state funds here. This is a number 92 and a half k that seems to match the next resolution. Is that what's happening?

Chair Eve Walter

Well, this one is an extension of term for six months. I think these are two different... They are two different, they just happened to be the same number.

Legislator Phil Erner

Is the is the money coming from the money is coming from the state though, it says 100% state

Legislator Kathy Nolan

is going to two different organizations, providing different kinds of services.

Legislator Phil Erner

Yeah, okay. Thanks.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. Any other questions on 411? All in favor 411?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? All right. Unanimous. Resolution 412, approving the execution of a contract also for 92,500 entered by the county for Jewish childcare Association of New York. This is

Department of Social Services. This is both federal state and county money. Just, just for clarification. Motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I'll move it.

Legislator Laura Petit

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second, Legislator Petit. Any discussion on this one? Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you. So, I see this as a long, historic distinguished association we're dealing with here. Do we, have we or do we have the opportunity to go visit their facilities and check in? I know, they're kind of faraway Westchester, the Bronx Brooklyn.

Chair Eve Walter

Com... sorry, Legislator Nolan, do you want to go before the commissioner or

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Well, to provide a little context in history when I was previously in the legislature, we did invite in some of the staff or leadership of some of these programs to present their programs to us at various times. A site visit is another possibility. But I wanted to mention that we had gotten a little closer connection and a little deeper understanding of the, what the programs provide through that mechanism. And also through county staff that work very closely with, with these organizations. So, I agree with the idea that we get more information and just wanted to put something other than site visits on the table as part of the way to do that.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you, Commissioner Iapoce. Do you want to add anything?

Deputy Director Judy Riley

No, not specifically, other than to say that clearly there is receptivity to site visits, Legislator Erner. If you want to contact any of the congregate care facilities that we utilize and make arrangements for something of that nature. I'm sure that they would accommodate your request to do so.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. Any other question on 412? Legislator Petit.

Legislator Laura Petit

Just on the on the period of service. That's going to be extended to 12/31/22?

Chair Eve Walter

Deputy Executive Contreras?

Legislator Laura Petit

I have an older resolution. I don't know if it was changed.

Deputy Executive Contreras

This one is being extended to June 30, 2022. Oh, this is the one you had asked about. Right. Legislator Petit? Yes. Okay. So, I clarified with Vicki today and it is correct. It's just amending that portion, because that's the only portion of time that the new rates are applicable to.

Legislator Laura Petit

Even though it's we're already a month beyond that date?

Chair Eve Walter

Yes.

Legislator Laura Petit

Okay, I'm not getting it. But everybody else is saying.

Chair Eve Walter

I think I find in this committee we're often getting money for things we've already done. That seems to be the general trend in human services and health.

Deputy Director Judy Riley

Right, I can provide some clarification, Legislator Petit. The placement of this child at the congregate care facility ended up being through the end of the school year, which was June 30, 2022. We had an underlying contract with them with a not-to-exceed amount of \$49,000. That had to be increased retroactively so that we can then pay for the invoices we will receive because the placement of the child at the facility went through June 30, 2022. We will be entering into a new contract with them for any children that we potentially placed there that will go from 7/1/2022 to next year.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, any other questions with 412? All in favor of resolution 412?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstentions? All right. It's unanimous. Resolution 413, approving an execution of a contract amendment for \$61,536 entered into by the county with Gateway Industries to the Office of the Aging. A motion to discuss.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

(inaudible)

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Nolan. Second, Uchitelle. I know Legislator Uchitelle, you at some questions. Were you able to get the answers?

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

(inaudible) No, I haven't heard yet. But I'm curious, perhaps if someone can help me understand why the term for this is different than the term for the actual meals program with case. Like, I understand this is for case management. But it's case management around the program, providing meals and I believe that program, the contract is up in mid-2023. Whereas this extends to all of 2023.

Deputy Executive Contreras

Yep, you're correct. Judy Riley is on from Office of Aging. So, she's our Deputy Director. And she confirmed that this contract is totally separate from the one for the actual meals. So, I'll kick it off to, to Judy to elaborate.

Deputy Director Judy Riley

So, both those contracts had separate RFPs. And they are the case manager was started at a different time than when the meals, you know the nutrition program. contract was started. They are not, you know, one doesn't rely on the other at all. They're totally separate. You know, this case management position is this person in our office who deals with our OFA clients and does, you know, house visits and does assessments and get some on the home delivered meal program. The nutrition programs totally separate. So, they're totally they're two different RFPs. And this is just a third year of that RFP for the case manager position.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Any other questions? All right, all in favor of resolution 413.

Committee Members

Aye

Chair Eve Walter

Any opposed? Abstained? All right. It's unanimous. Resolution 414 was postponed in Economic Development. Sorry, Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Yeah, I realize we don't have to necessarily discuss it formally. But I'm curious if we can hear what the, if there was information that was being requested for 414 or what the background is on the postponement.

Chair Eve Walter

Is anyone here on Economic Development? Legislator Nolan, do you want to give us a quick background?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Yes, thank you. I'm not on the Economic Development committee, but I was there for the entire meeting because of a resolution that I have in front of that committee. If there's somebody else who's better positioned to speak to this be fine. Deputy Director Doyle from planning was there. Basically, the questions revolved around the concerns of the legislators on that committee that the project is a project that is in a floodplain for senior housing, and disagreement with the City of Kingston planning board on giving the project a negative declaration under its SEQR review and questions about how we could, as a county legislature, legislature kind of sign off on a planning board's determination that we find objectionable. And this is a request for an easement for egress and ingress to this senior house, proposing senior housing project that would require potentially filling in quite a bit of wetlands in order for the construction to go forward. And so, the request to Deputy Director Doyle as I understood it was to see if there was a way that, to... I think that the question was around amending the language of the resolution, so we did not appear to be in support of the project. For some legislators, it probably went further than that. And I doubt that any language would allow them to feel that they could vote in support of this project. However, the county could potentially have some liability if we don't move forward in a way to, to address this easement with a Housing Authority group that has shown that it will take entities into court to get what it wants from them.

Chair Eve Walter

Director Doyle, do you want to add anything?

Director Dennis Doyle

No, I think, I think Legislator Nolan was, was a succinct summary. I the only one thing I would correct. And that is, is that the, the applicant has done the necessary studies, so that we're not really talking about wetland disturbances, they're gonna avoid wetland disturbances. But there was a discussion about wetlands. I think the key in my mind, if you want to simplify this is the legislators at that meeting seemed to want to disassociate themselves from saying that they didn't think that the project had a significant environmental impact, as determined by the city. And the difficulty with that is, is that you're granting your granting a right to cross for that project. And SEQR basically says, You, you, you, you can either say, we're not interested in granting the right to cross or if you're going to grant the right to cross, you're going to have to make some determination with respect to the environmental impact of the

project. And that's, I think, the catch 22, that the legislature is finding itself in. Wanting to basically say, we only want to make a decision on the crossing, but not on the project. But yet the crossing is for the project. And that's the difficulty that we're going to try to we're going to have that conversation with both the legislative attorneys, I know that the Chairwoman was indicating she was going to talk to legislative counsel, I've had that conversation with, with legal counsel. With the county attorney, and then we're going to do some research ourselves. But I'm not seeing a clear way that the legislature can disassociate itself from the impact of the project, if that's what they're granting the easement for.

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

So, thank you for that, Legislator, Nolan and Director Doyle. I just asked you if this isn't my district, and I would love to be kept in the loop for conversations to the extent that it's appropriate to do so. Thank you.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, thank you. Next, we have old business. So, we have the housing working groups. I just want to say I, you know, that when these were originally created, there was a hope that in perhaps in about six months, we would have some draft resolutions that this committee could then look at and explore and discuss together. So, that would put it as November for having some draft resolutions. Does that seem like a reasonable timeline to those of you who are chairing those working groups that we would have 1, 2, 3, and it could be one or three or two resolutions, like proposed resolutions by November have not necessarily formally submitted in November, but like, pre submitted for pre put on our old business agenda for us to look at and talk about, and then for potential submission in December? Legislator Uchitelle.

Legislator Abe Uchitelle

Thank you. I believe it's totally feasible. I think we can at least for the group that Phil and I have been heading up. I think it's feasible to either do it sooner than that. We've also we doubled the number of meetings that we had for our group. So, that might be why, and I will also add that I think a number of, you know, I suspect that a number of the proposals will have budget impacts that will, you know, as soon as the budget conversations begin, they'll be part of that. So, I'll just align the timing there. And then the last thing I'll say is, I have to head out because I have a conflict. And I really appreciate it.

Chair Eve Walter

So, much. Thank you. So, that's a good point, if you do if it is a budgetary consideration for 2023, the sooner obviously, we'll need those a lot sooner. I just don't want to put an unreasonable pressure on any of you. But that is a good point unless it goes into budget 2024, or it's somehow an alternate use of other types of funding. So, Legislator Nolan,

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Thank you, Chair Walter. I think that it also might be helpful, either, instead of not instead of, but prior to, for us to bring conceptual points from, from those groups, and discuss with the other members of the

full committee, where those concepts could potentially lead to resolutions. And I think you've been open to us doing that all along the way. But I think to aim to try to do that, by the fall is a good target. And that will move us toward that idea of having specific resolutions in November.

Chair Eve Walter

That's great. And what I would ask, um, that is just to keep, to keep things organized. And to also, you know, in respect for the fact that our committee meetings can be very long, it'd be very helpful if you have a way of letting me and J know, before our meeting, here are two items, three items that we would like to bring up, and then any kind of background that we should be looking at before that meeting, so that we're a little more informed on, on giving our input rather than us just using that meeting to ask you questions, you know, it would give us a chance to actually do it. And then that way, we can also make sure they get on the agenda and get the time that they need. So, any you know, even if it's just within four days of the meeting to let us know, that they they'll be added to the agenda. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

Thank you, I'll just mention so that it's set in a in a formal public forum here some, some concepts we're working with leading toward policy recommendations. Is that all right? Sure. Yeah. Okay, thank you. a working definition of affordable housing. And this is again, just for the low-income affordable group that Abe and I are heading up a working definition of affordable housing, preventing housing displacement, creating or making available low income, affordable housing, housing quality, enacting specific protections and investment for and investments in communities historically, and or currently displaced, marginalized and or remaining vulnerable, owing to social and economic causes as well as government policies. And then finally, revenue sources.

Chair Eve Walter

Great, thank you. Anyone else want to share anything from their working group? No pressure, I didn't prepare you for it. So, it's up to you?

Chairman Lopez

No, Well, I I agree with all of that, I think that we've got a really good working group. Yeah, and there's some really good ideas that are coming out of it. So, if we can come up with, you know, one, two or three possible resolutions by November, you know, I think it's possibility so, ya know, and I look forward to our to our, our next meeting, unfortunately, you know, we had a little bit of a an issue getting everybody together last week, but yeah, I think yeah, moving forward, we'll be all be on the same page. But we've got great people that are working together that are, you know, coming up with some really good ideas. So, I think all of that's possibility.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Legislator Nolan, did you want to add anything?

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I was prepared to give a short update. Commissioner Iapoco, at our last meeting, you know correctly really pointed us, our subgroup, to the fact that we need to focus on emergency and transitional housing. The county is doing a lot of work in the affordable housing space. But this emergency

transitional housing is really complicated and yet needs to remain a focus and not feel satisfied with moving forward just on affordable housing. So, we're going to redouble our efforts in that in our working group.

Chair Eve Walter

Can I just ask a question just because I don't remember? So, for Legislator Erner, you, yours is emergency transitional housing or yours was yours was, Nolan, Legislator Nolan, all along? Okay.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

they are doing affordable housing and we're doing emergency.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay, great. Great. Thank you. Oh, sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

But we have, you know, we receive updates on what's happening with affordable housing. And it can sound like we're moving forward. And we are for that. But we continue to have really urgent situations and funding streams that are changing this summer for some of the emergency housing. And so we've been having conversations outside of the working group trying to address some of those issues. We did have several members from the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network join our meeting, and they were brought some helpful information. We're discussing housing types and whether there can be, you know, some benefit for using alternative housing types in emergencies. That doesn't seem to be the, the, the a large part of the solution that we would like to rely on. But we'll continue to work on that. And happy to bring the new senior planner, Khi, into those conversations. We also flagged that as a kind of longer term, that there may be an overlap either with affordable housing or in our group with agricultural housing that was brought forward by the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network.

Chair Eve Walter

Interesting.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

So, we are having important discussions, they're not yet at the level of moving to recommending a policy or bringing forward a resolution. They might however, route from result in some conversations in the Executive's office was stepping in to help deal with funding streams for emergency housing that are, have previously been in place, but are timing out.

Chair Eve Walter

Great. Appreciate it. I'm really excited to you know, I'm really happy to hear and see the progress that the working groups are doing. And I'm looking forward to it. I just want to a couple of updates on things that I've been doing also related to conversations that I'm hearing in previous legislative meetings and from some of these working groups. So, one is I'm working with our clerk's and and the Executives office for an RFP for an organization to provide eviction services or legal services for individuals facing eviction. And so, that that hopefully, that RFP will be going out soon, and then I'll be putting forth a resolution specifically to fund that. But and then the other one was, I had after conversations with

Legislator Erner, was looking into adapting our policy on dealing with properties that are up for foreclosure only to discover no such policy existed. So, I'm working with the Chair on a policy so that that we have something to make amendments to it, should we want to we need a basic policy first in place. And so that should ideally be in front of you all for next month. Hopefully, so that one's happening. Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

Just want to say that I doubt very seriously that we'll need to make amendments to the newly proposed policy that you're gonna bring to it. I hope that you will incorporate all the benefits of these committees, but they don't,

Chair Eve Walter

Yes, no doubt, I guess my point being is sometimes things do keep changing. Like for example, we don't have a land bank, but we you know, we're there... and, and you the ideas that we do grow and evolve and change or our need changes. So, you know, having something in place that should we ever need to amend. But yes, without a question. You know, it's important to incorporate these issues. I just feel like the sooner we actually get a policy in place, the better. Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

I have a quick thing about the land bank since you just mentioned it. So, I had not been aware until this past week that the state is really frowning upon the county getting another land bank while the City of Kingston has one. And I know I had taken it on myself, I finally spoke with the head of the Kingston city land bank very briefly today, who told me that their position since 2020, has been, has remained consistent, which is that they're, they're open to that they want to see a proposal from us in the county, how that would work. You know, open to what? Open to incorporating that into a County Land Bank, potentially. So, they just want to see how that would look from our point of view. And as I did say, is very brief conversation with Mike Gilliard, but I intend to have another one or if Planner Doyle you wanted to follow up or whoever maybe the chair, maybe Chair Bartels since it was her resolution, but just wanted to share that that little information that I got.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. I definitely recommend you speak to Chair Bartels. I will say that that is not the information that she received and others have received that the state is frowning upon it. That is not accurate from the work that she had done with the state. It is true that they typically prefer one per county, but they, at the same time, they did encourage we apply. So, I just want to, because we were also previous before you were elected, informed regularly that the state, state didn't want us to. And we found out that that was not accurate. But I definitely would recommend talking to chair apartotels further about it, because it has that history, including that misinformation. Of course, you know, the state doesn't necessarily they'll say "yes", or they'll say "no," but they were completely encouraging us to apply.

Legislator Phil Erner

One, one more thing right along those lines, if I might.

Chair Eve Walter

Sure.

Legislator Phil Erner

I in the same conversation, Senator, Senator Hinchey was part of that conversation and she pointed out that there's some \$50 million pot of which we could have access potentially, to some of that funding for our land bank efforts here in our county.

Chair Eve Walter

Thank you. Director Doyle.

Director Dennis Doyle

Just a quick, quick thing one is, is that we I have a conversation with with the head of the Kingston land bank Michael Gillard every other week generally, to discuss where they're at and what they're doing. And, and we've been, we've been exchanging, exchanging information, particularly with respect to some of the houses that the county had pulled for, for purposes, and we're also in the process of issuing the Housing Development Corporation is also in the process, as requested by the legislature of issuing a request for Expression of Interest relative to those houses that should go out, hopefully by next week. And then the last thing I would, I would say is that that \$50 million is eligible, they've changed the rules. It's not just eligible for land banks anymore. It's called the Legacy City program, and the Legacy City program would now be available to others besides just, just to the land banks, it's also available to nonprofits as well. But you have to meet certain criteria. It's not every house. And in general, looking outside of houses, looking outside of Hamlet's and villages, the Legacy City program does not, from what I can tell, looking at the at the requirements, does not apply. But I was just curious whether you're mean, the the application, I assume for land bank, from the county has been up in front of the SD for a number of months now. I'm just curious whether anybody's heard anything.

Chair Eve Walter

I think you should talk to Chair Bartels. I mean, we didn't take the time to follow up to have an answer. So, I don't know. I don't know if any of us have are aware of where its status is currently. But we certainly can explore look into it. Let you know. Okay, for New Business: Director Dawson wasn't able to come. We're hoping, I was hoping to follow up on the usual plan where we hear from our directors about what they're looking forward to in 2022, so that were prepared for their budgetary changes or requests or add ons. So, hopefully, he'll be able to come. There is a standing original proposed resolution that was drafted by Legislator Erner, I think related to exploring the auction proceedings for housing. I know that that the, our attorney is looking into what's allowed what's not I also in my previous conversations with Legislator Earner was this idea that it's much easier to allocate proceeds to a specific thing as opposed to something called "housing" because then what, what line item does it actually go into? So, I'm, I assume what is happening in the working groups will probably speak to what those specific things could be that the money could be allocated to. I don't know if you there's anything else you want to add to that, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Phil Erner

No, thanks.

Chair Eve Walter

Okay. So, I think it's still ,it's still here. It still exists in our ether. We just, it's being massaged and hopefully, soon we'll have something a little bit more specific that we could actually vote on. I think it's, you know, conceptually really important. For sure. Okay. Anything else that I'm missing? All right. Before I do it, I just want to say to those of you are going to the fair have fun. I'm a little jealous, although I'm happy that I'm here at the shore. I have a vanilla milkshake on me. That's my vote vanilla if they ask for a vote, just for milkshakes. And with that, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Kathy Nolan

I move it.

Legislator Phil Erner

(Inaudible)

Chair Eve Walter

Legislator Nolan. Second Erner. All in favor,.

Committee Members

aye.

Chair Eve Walter

All right. Have a wonderful day, everybody. Thank you for taking the time.