

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 6, 2020 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 921 0859 2673
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Heppner & Parete
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Greene, Sheriff Figueroa – UC Sheriff’s Office, representative of the Mid-Hudson News

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the April 15, 2020 regular meeting

Motion By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Heppner, Parete & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the May 19, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 183: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With Various Municipalities For The Operation Of U.C.E.R.T (Ulster County Emergency Response Team) – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Woodstock, Town of new Paltz, and SUNY New Paltz, and any additional municipalities, for participation in UCERT for the term January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022.

Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 183 FOR DISCUSSION
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Heppner, Parete & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 184: Requesting The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature Apply For A Department Of Homeland Security Grant For The Port Security Grant Program-FEMA – Sheriff’s Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute a reimbursement grant application for the Department of Homeland Security Grant- Port Security Grant Program in the amount of \$25,000 for the purchase and installation of an upgraded navigation system.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 184 FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Fabiano
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Heppner, Parete & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Walter updated the members on the Criminal Justice Reform Task Force.

See attached transcript.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:23 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: June 3, 2020

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LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Heppner & Parete
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Greene, Sheriff Figueroa – UC Sheriff's Office, representative of the Mid-Hudson News

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.

Chairwoman Walter: Can everybody hear me?

Committee Members: Yeah. Yep.

Chairwoman Walter: Oh, here he is. Great.

Sheriff Figueroa: Good evening, everyone.

Chairwoman Walter: All right. Great. Perfect timing. Hello.

So, as soon as John connects to audio. I think we could get started.

Legislator Heppner: I'm good to go. I should be.

Chairwoman Walter: Other John. Legislator Parete, you connected to audio.?

Legislator Parete: I hope so.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. All right, so I'm going to call the meeting to order.

Motion to approve the April 15 meeting minutes.

Legislator Fabiano: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Walter: Second.

Legislator Haynes: Second Heidi

Chairwoman Walter: Dean moved. Heidi seconds. All in favor.

Committee members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Oppose? Abstain?

All right, so we have two resolutions today. The first one is Resolution Number 183 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-municipal Agreement With Various Municipalities For The Operation Of U.C.E.R.T (Ulster County Emergency Response Team) – Ulster County Sheriff.

So, Sheriff Is there anything you want to. I mean we you, it was pretty thick, the submission, so a lot of information is there, but is there anything, briefly, you want to make sure we know about this?

Sheriff Figueroa: So, we kind of revamped some of the stuff on here. Because one of the things that we're looking to do with you U.C.E.R.T. is to make it an accredited emergency response team, along with the other participating partners. There's going to be a standard operating procedure, that'll also be attached to this, and be brought before you folks, with a risk assessment matrix.

And what that risk assessment matrix is, is similar to that of the New York State Police. For example, it's going to tell you whether or not it's a good idea to use U.C.E.R.T. for a particular operation. So, for example, if the individual has a history of being violent. Does he have a history of having weapons? Or, and fighting law enforcement or absconding. So there's a there's a matrix, that's put together and has been refined by the New York State Police, and we're going to use that matrix for our U.C.E.R.T. And that'll be part of the standard operating procedures that I will bring before you at a future date.

Chairwoman Walter: So, I see your municipalities are Woodstock and New Paltz,. Were you planning on involving other municipalities in the future?

Sheriff Figueroa: We put it out to the local Chiefs, at the Chiefs Association meetings, if they want to become members of it. We use the Cooper standards which are pretty high. So, like for example, probably not for you because you're in shape. But, a mile and a half in 10 and a half minutes, is... You know, you have to do 34 push ups, and then you have to do 40 sit ups in a minute just to get accepted onto the team. And then there are other prerequisites that that come with the training. So, not everybody wants to do this. You really have to be in shape. And we do put it out there, and the agencies that want to partake are the signing members of the agreement. And so far, those are the only town PDs that have a volunteer, but it's open to other law enforcement in the County.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, so, and then the funding, there's no cost. So, is it with more municipalities, you get more supplies, or how does how does that work?

Sheriff Figueroa: We as the County, we purchase the basic equipment for the individuals. And if they, and usually there's a set number on the team, I believe right now, it's 16. I don't know what we have right now, actually, on team. I'll have to get back to you. So, when somebody leaves, that equipment goes to the person that comes on.

Chairwoman Walter: You can only have 16?

Sheriff Figueroa: Right.

Chairwoman Walter: Other questions.

Legislator Parete I'd just like to know if the Sheriff does those sit-ups?

Sheriff: I do actually.

Legislator Parete: Alright. (Laughter).

Sheriff Figueroa: I still run. I still run the Newburgh Beacon Bridge. But I do the funky chicken for the last mile, you know, kicking myself. Get a little extra.

Chairwoman Walter 09:59

I forgot to take a motion to discuss. A motion to discuss?

Legislator Haynes: I'll move it.

Legislator Fabiano: I move for discussion.

Chairwoman Walter: Second? Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano: Yep.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. Any other discussion? All in favor of Resolution Number 183?

Committee members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter Opposed? No oppose. Abstain? No abstentions.

Okay. Next we have resolution 184 request the Chair of The Ulster County Legislature to Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With Various Municipalities for the Operation Of U.C.E.R.T (Ulster County Emergency Response Team) – Ulster County Sheriff

Sheriff Figueroa: Yeah, so the US Coast Guard that grant is a. I believe it's \$25K. I think we're looking at us \$22,000 of it. And it's a... Can I speak?

Chairwoman Walter: Oh, I'm sorry. A motion to discuss.

Sheriff Figueroa: Sorry.

Chairwoman Walter: I'm going to take that from Fabiano as a motion to discuss. Second?

Legislator Fabiano: Motion to discuss. I want to make a motion and move it.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, well let's talk about it first, but... Okay. We'll get there. Okay, go ahead, Juan, sorry

Sheriff Figueroa: So, it's an upgrade to replace a 12-year old, outdated and unsupported navigation system, that lets everybody in the area of operations on the Hudson River, communicate with each other. And that's with the Port Authority, Port of New York and New Jersey. And, of course, the Port of Albany.

Chairwoman Walter: So what happens if you don't get this money? Or, is that not a problem?

Sheriff Figueroa: Say again?

Chairwoman Walter: What happens if you don't get this funding?

Sheriff Figueroa: I think we're pretty much going to get it, because we work hand in hand with the United States Coast Guard, and they're all using the Ray Marine system to communicate, navigate through the Hudson River. And we still have the old Garmin system. So, they actually advised us to put it forward so we can get an upgrade.

Chairwoman Walter: Alright. So, we have a motion to approve... I mean sorry, all in favor?

Committee members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter 11:55

Okay/ Opposed? Abstain? Alright. So, so moved.

Any new business?

Okay, old business. I just wanted to give a little bit of update on the Criminal Justice Task Force that was formed from a Resolution back in 2019.

The Task Force has met together twice, with a couple of subcommittee meetings. One of the primary focuses right now, is on restorative justice. And they're envisioning a model where they train pockets of groups, across the County to be able to do restorative justice sessions. And they'd be working with the District Attorney at... So, they're conceptualizing it. They are moving forward in the conceptualization.

I wanted to bring attention to this group. I had made the offer to explore potential funding for, to expand restorative justice in the County. And I found a Department of Justice grant, and it looks perfect. And I felt like we had a really clear potential model. And there's a requirement that we have to be... There's a whole requirement now added to these, several of these grants, through the Bureau of Homeland (Security), is that we have to give information about immigrants. And New York State has protections.

And so, we're kind of being blocked from being able to submit for some of these national grants. You all recall that the District Attorney lost his funding because New York State has, you know, will not share immigrant information with the federal government.

And so, I just wanted to call your attention to it. With Juan's suggestion, I'm going to let our State legislators know, and Delgado know about this. But I just thought I'd share it with you that we are going to be restricted on several criminal justice funding streams as a result of these new requirements.

That said, is there any other old business? All right, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Parete: So moved.

Chairwoman Walter: Parete. A second.

Legislator Fabiano: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Walter: All in favor?

Committee members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Opposed? Abstain? All right, thank you. Have a good evening.

Sheriff Figueroa: Thank you, everybody.

Legislator Haynes: Bye.

Legislator Fabiano: See ya, Sheriff.

Legislator Parete: Everybody stay healthy.

Sheriff Figueroa: Take care.