

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

DATE & TIME: February 3, 2022 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 812 4611 9309
By Phone Dial (646) 558-8656
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Abe Uchitelle
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Nettie Tomshaw, Legislative Employee
PRESENT: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Joe Maloney, Sheriff Figueroa & Sheriff Tech Warren Whitaker- UC Sheriff’s Office, District Attorney David Clegg, UC Emergency Communications/Management Everett Erichsen, Director Nancy Schmidt & Deputy Dir. Valerie Naccarto – UC Probation, Deputy County Executive Chris Kelly, Director Jim Voutour and Jesse Lowe – Axon Representatives

Chair Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM.

Legislator Uchitelle welcomed committee members and attendees to the first committee meeting of the year and proceeded with round table introductions. See attached transcript.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the December 3, 2021 Meeting of the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee**

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the February 15, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 12: Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Ulster County Fire Advisory Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution appoints and reappoints members to the UC Fire Advisory Board, Banks, Scherrieble, Ecker, Greer, Kiernan, Kneeter, Henebery, Lee, Planz, Quick, Ryan, Wilhelm, Rice, Soul, Legislator Petit, Legislator Ronk. Term Expires 12/31/23.

Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 12 FOR Discussion

Motion By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 53: Establishing Capital Project No. 616 - Axon Body Camera Purchase, Amending The 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program, And Amending The 2022 Capital Project Fund – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes Capital Project No. 616 for Axon Body Cameras. \$588.5K. A bond resolution will be required.

Motion No. 3: Moved Resolution No. 53 FOR Discussion

Motion By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 55: Amending Capital Project No. 482 – Countywide Radio System - Department Of Emergency Communications / Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends Capital Project No. 482 for the ongoing countywide radio system making necessary improvements, continuous training, sustainment and further development of the governance structure. Serial Bonds \$540.7K.

Motion No. 4: Moved Resolution No. 55 FOR Discussion

Motion By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 84: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Services, Office Of Interoperable And Emergency Communications, For The 2020 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant – Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Emergency Communications / Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute an agreement with the NYS Div. of Homeland Security and EM Services for the 2020 Statewide Interoperable Communication grant.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 84 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 81: Approving The Memorandum Of Agreement Between The County Of Ulster And The Ulster County Deputy Sheriff’s Police Benevolent Association, Inc, For The Years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 And 2024 – Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes a memorandum of agreement between the county and the UC Deputy Sheriff’s Police Benevolent Assoc. Inc. collective bargaining agreement for the period 1/1/2020 through 12/31/2024. \$678K reduction in unassigned fund balance.

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 81 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 82: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$521,000.00 Entered Into By The County – J&J
Sass Electric Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the execution of a contract with J&J Sass Electric Inc. for the jail CCTV system upgrade. \$512K, 100% County, Term. 2/1/22 – 12/31/22.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 82 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 83: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$16,807.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – New York Communications Company, Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment #1 with New York Communications Company, Inc. adding seven (7) radio packages to the Criminal Division lease. \$16.8K, 100% County, Amended Term 2/1/22 – 12/31/26.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 83 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 85: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services For Participation In The Crimes Against Revenue Program – District Attorney

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute an agreement with the NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services to participate in the Crimes Against Revenue Program. \$143.6K, Term 1/1/22 – 12/31/22. If funding is eliminated, the program will also be eliminated.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 85 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 86: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The
The
New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services Funding Of A Gun Violence Grant – District Attorney

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute an agreement with the NYS Div. of Criminal Justice Services for \$50K for the Gun Violence Grant for the period 4/1/21 – 3/31/22.

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 85 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 87: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Amend A Contract With The
New
York State Office of Victim Services For Funding Under The Victim And Witness Assistance Grant Program –
Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to amend a contract with the NYS Office of Victim Services increasing the contract amount by \$107.6K for a total contract of \$2,347,548.00.

Motion No.11: **Moved Resolution No. 87 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 88: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Division of Criminal Justice – Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Program – Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to execute a contract with the NYS Div. of Criminal Justice – Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Program to continue services by extending the contract period from 10/1/20 – 9/30/22 and increasing funds by \$75.4K. Total amount \$150.9K.

Motion No. 12: **Moved Resolution No. 88 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hansut

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 89: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Approve Execution Of A Contract

With The New York State Office of Victim Services For A Victim Of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Program: Attorney Services - Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to approve execution of a contract with NYS Office of Victim Services for VOCA – Victim Assistance Program. 100% Federal \$280K, Period 10/1/21 – 9/30/22.

Motion No. 13: **Moved Resolution No. 89 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 90: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Legal

Services of the Hudson Valley – Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the execution of a contract with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley for domestic violence cases. \$50K 100% county, Term 1/1/22 – 12/31/22.

Motion No. 14: Moved Resolution No. 90 FOR Discussion

Motion By: Legislator Hansut
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 91: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$230,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the execution of a contract amendment #1 with Family of Woodstock Inc. extending the term of agreement and increasing the not-to-exceed amount for operation and implementation of the alternative to juvenile detention project. \$230K, 100% county, Amended Term 1/1/22 – 12/31/22.

Motion No. 15: Moved Resolution No. 91 FOR Discussion

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 92: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$119,460.00 Entered Into By The County – New York Communications Company, Inc. – Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the execution of a contract with New York Communications Company, Inc. for a radio equipment lease. \$119.5K 100% County, Term 3/1/22 – 2/28/27.

Motion No. 16: Moved Resolution No. 92 FOR Discussion

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Hewitt, Lopez, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

New /Old Business – See Transcript

Adjournment

Chair Uchitelle asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none. See attached transcript

Motion Made By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:24 PM

Respectfully submitted: Legislative Staff, Nettie Tomshaw
Approved: March 3, 2022

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Chair Uchitelle

Thank you so much Nettie. I'd like to call the Law Enforcement and Public Safety meeting of the new term. And what I'd like to do is I'd like to start by introducing, first our guests, and then we'll introduce the legislators on the committee, and then the legislators. And we have one legislator who's joining us, outside of the committee. We're grateful to have him. But I think it'll be good to go around. And these are a lot of the same players that will, that we'll see in in the meetings ahead. And if it's all right, the representatives from Axon will just hold off on you guys until we get to your item on the agenda, which happens to be the second item, so you won't have to wait for too long. So why don't we start with Sheriff Figueroa. We'll just introduce who we are, what department. And we'll try and keep it pretty short, because we do have another meeting that follows this one so we have to stay on schedule.

Sheriff Figueroa

Oh, good evening, everyone. I want to congratulate our new members of our legislature. I look forward to working with the new public safety Chair and members. So thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. And we can go next with the district attorney.

District Attorney Clegg

Well, I echo what our sheriff said. It's a great pleasure to work with a new committee, who I have great respect for. And I look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you, Director Erickson. You can go next.

Everett Erichsen

Hello, everyone. Congratulations as the sheriff and district attorney have said. We look forward to working with everybody. There are a lot of good things coming up. So I'm very excited to work with you guys.

Chair Uchitelle

And which department are you?

Everett Erichsen

Director of Emergency Services.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. And then next, we'll go to Director Schmidt from probation, and you can then pass it to your deputy.

Director Nancy Schmidt

Sure. I'm Nancy Schmidt. I'm the probation director. And I'm here with Valerie Naccarto, our Deputy Director. We operate the probation department as well as oversee the Restorative Justice Center.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Valerie, you're welcome to add anything if you'd like.

Valerie Naccarto Deputy Dir. Probation

And now that that's all right, thanks, Nancy.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Thank you so much, and Deputy County Executive Kelly?

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

Sure, so Chris Kelly, Deputy County Executive. Many of my departments, including emergency services, probation, public defender, all reside within this committee. So I'm sure we'll be working together on a lot of things. And I'm very excited about 2022 and what we can get done together. Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Thank you so much. And then let's go around the committee. Just introduce yourselves and which district you represent. And we'll start with Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Thank you Chair Uchitelle. I'm excited to start another session or term on the Law Enforcement Committee. I represent the town of Woodstock and West Hurley and Glenford in the town of Hurley.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright, great. And actually, I should have started with Deputy Chair Hansut. So Gina, why don't we go with you next.

Legislator Hansut

Hi, thank you. I'm Gina Hansut. I represent district 10, which is large part of the town of Lloyd in the northern end of Marlboro. And I am very honored and excited to be on the Law Enforcement and Public Safety committee.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. Alright Legislator Hewitt would you like to go next?

Legislator Hewitt

Thank you Legislator Uchitelle. I represent district 21, the town of Rochester and East Wawarsing. I've been learning a lot already. Thank you, Sheriff Figueroa for meeting with me and starting to get me on an educated path. And thank you Nettie, for sharing the packet for all of the history of the committee. I'm looking forward to working with you all.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Thank you and Legislator Lopez, you can go next.

Chairman Lopez

Yeah, I represent the towns of Shawangunk and Wawarsing, 14th district. And I'm actually looking forward to serving on Law Enforcement. I've been here 10 years and there aren't many firsts after 10 years. So I'm really looking forward to working with everybody and, you know, doing some good stuff.

Chair Uchitelle

And Legislator Maloney last but not least.

Legislator Maloney

Yep. District 2 Saugerties, just hanging out. I didn't see the agenda yet. I was looking for it, but I didn't see it if we could send that out. So I missed it. But I'm just waiting on the next meeting and hanging out.

Chair Uchitelle

Great, Nettie can you make sure that legislator Maloney gets that.

Nettie Tomshaw

Yes.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you so much. All right, and I am Abe Uchitelle a representative from district 5 in Kingston, and I am the Chair of our Law Enforcement Public Safety Committee that we are all among tonight. So thank you so much for being here. And we will get our meeting started here. I believe Nettie, you've whatever we need to do with attendance. I'll let you guide me on that.

Nettie Tomshaw

Okay, surely.

Chair Uchitelle

I don't know if we need to do we don't need to take role right. You have the attendance?

Nettie Tomshaw

You have five present, zero absent.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Thank you so much. All right. I will take a motion to approve the December 1, 2021 meeting minutes and transcript.

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

Do I have a second?

Legislator Hansut

I'll second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right second from Deputy Chair Hansut. Any discussion on the minutes? All right. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, the minutes are approved unanimously. We do have a couple of representatives tonight from the Axon Body Camera company. If you don't mind, as I mentioned earlier, we'll just hold

for just a second because I think it'll make sense to take that with the resolution, which is the second resolution.

Chair Uchitelle

So with that, we'll go into Resolution No. 12, which is appointing and reappointing members to the Ulster County Fire Advisory Board. Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

And a second?

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

That was a motion from Legislator Heppner, second from Legislator Hewitt. And then before we discuss I just going to share that this is the list of representatives that was presented to us from the fire advisory board. So I don't expect it to be too controversial. But if anyone has any discussion, I'll entertain that now. All right, seeing no discussion. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed?

Chair Uchitelle

All right, Resolution 12 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, now we get into a Resolution No. 53. Establishing Capital Project No. 616, Axon body camera purchase, amending the 2022 to 2027 Capital Improvement Program and amending the 2022 capital project fund for the Ulster County Sheriff. Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

Move it.

Chair Uchitelle

And do I have a second?

Legislator Lopez

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, there's a motion from Legislator Heppner, a second from Lopez. Alright, so as we get started with this discussion, I would like to give the opportunity to Sheriff Figueroa to frame the conversation. And then perhaps we can hand it to the representatives from Axon who we're very grateful were able to join us tonight.

Sheriff Figueroa

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank the representatives from Axon for joining us this evening. I know that they're pretty busy. So let's really talk about the issue at hand. And that is that of the body cams. Now, the sheriff's office did go into agreement, three months of me being in office in March of 2019, with the Panasonic body cams. That was a program that was started in 2018, but was actually submitted for resolution in 2019. Those particular cameras had a three-year warranty and their warranty is up.

Sheriff Figueroa

But let's talk about what happens since the initial part of purchasing those cameras. We had the law in April 2019. About a month later that changed for discovery. And of course, the bail reform act was also put in place. Then in 2020, we had the murder of George Floyd and we had the reimagining policing in Executive Order 203. So our public expects more from law enforcement and in particular transparency. And being the particular product that we have now the Panasonic's have exceeded and we've had issues with them. We are looking to change and go in a different direction with data of Axon. It's about \$900 bucks to replace these. We've already had issues with them. Just you guys recall what happened last week. There was an individual breaking into the jail rather than leaving the jail. In reality what he was doing was looking to have an appointment and which he didn't have with the sheriff, and when he couldn't see me, he decided to break in through the back of the jail. A deputy responded, he ran into the woods and kicked the deputy and the Panasonic fall off. I'm telling you to story because that's one of many issues that we have with this Panasonic. The Panasonic camera was damaged. When we went to take the SD card out of it to get the information off of it, we couldn't. Because we have, we don't have the proprietary program to access it. We would have to do a purchase order and submit it to the vendor to get it replaced and get the information off that. That is not acceptable for the line of work that law enforcement does today. And that's why we're looking to change.

Sheriff Figueroa

And we did a lot of review of the several products in November and December, actually October, November and December of last year. And we didn't have enough information enough research done to

submit it in the budget last year. So that's why we're submitting it this year. And the cameras even though that we did purchase them, these cameras are leased. And I'll let the Jim Voutour talk about what Axon brings to the table. But more importantly, because we spent money in purchase these cameras, we initially had them and we still have them in each housing unit in our facility but not assigned to individuals because we didn't have enough. And in most jails, the pods and folks that are in the jail don't have body cams, but in this office, we do. Even though they do have flaws, there's two different jobs involved here. One is that law enforcement that goes out and the information gets submitted every single day to the district attorney's office. And we have a discovery clerk that does that. Whereas in corrections, when something happens and the camera is there, and there's a policy in place for the entire office of when to activate or not activate the camera. So we won't be wasting the money with the Panasonic cameras, we're just going to change that to be used in the correction side. And it's a way to at least be able to give every single correction's officer an assigned camera. And eventually at some point, we're going to have to look at moving that way as well with the correction side. But because we still have so many that are somewhat operational, we want to move that into corrections. I'm gonna let Jim Voutour takeover of what the cameras can and cannot do and the importance of evidence.com and how they relate to transparency and really the 21st century of policing that we're on now and what our public demands of us of transparency. Jim?

Jim Voutour

Thanks. Sheriff. Just by introduction, guys, my name is Jim Voutour, Director with Axon. I've been with them for two years now. Last year I consulted and came on full time as a director. I previously to that I served as the Sheriff of Niagara County, the elected sheriff for three terms, on the other end of the state. So as a sheriff, I was a big fan of Axon. I used Axon tasers, Axon cameras, as I think the first (inaudible) in the state of New York back in 2011, to put cameras on my deputies in the road patrol. And since then the office of Sheriff in Niagara has deployed them in the jail as Sheriff Figueroa stated, which is, to me just a complete necessity today. I luckily left before Executive Order 203 came out. And a lot of these instances that you talked about came out. But the fact is it doesn't change that cameras are just a necessity for law enforcement today. They do not only protect police officers, but they protect the citizens that we protect. Especially in the jail, you'll find that once cameras are deployed, there's just a lot less resisting arrest. And quite frankly, these cameras vary occasionally, but do catch the exact type of police officer that we don't want wearing the badge in our agencies as well. So transparency is a big thing, especially an Executive Order 203, and Ulster County, you know, is obviously aware of that, and is willing to comply with that.

Jim Voutour

And I just found that my cameras at my agency just really told the story. And if you go back, real-quick piece of history, his fingerprints came out about 1903. And we kind of expected fingerprints to convict crimes juries expected it. And then right around 1986 is when DNA really came out. And juries because of crime shows on TV now really expected to see DNA to convict criminals. Well, this is the third piece of the puzzle is cameras. And cameras are expected by citizens. They're expected by media. They're expected by juries. Everybody knows that they're out there that they're available, and they expect to see

them. And the last thing you want to do is, and I know that you have a camera system now and the sheriff talked about the issues he has with it. But the last thing you want to do is have some type of an incident in your county and have everybody coming to you saying, let's see the body camera footage, and you don't have that to display.

Jim Voutour

So if you have any further questions with it, that's just a little bit of background on why I've been a big supporter. I had the honor to serve with Sheriff Figueroa for a couple years before I retired. We've been good friends ever since. And I work with sheriffs all over the country. I work with probably 10 or 12 sheriffs just in the last six months in the state of New York, where these systems were deployed, that have been very successful. Saratoga is a great example. Niagara, of course, is a great example. Erie County has just put cameras all throughout their jail. And we're going to see that trend really take off this year with cameras in the jail because it protects corrections officers but it protects inmates as well.

Sheriff Figueroa

Thanks, Jim. I just wanted to add a couple things about the Axon product. The City of Kingston Police Department, I believe is having a contract with Axon. The New York State Police has a contract with Axon and what's great about that is whenever - there are triggers that automatically, and we have a policy whenever you're interacting with the public that you have to have the camera on. But there are triggers that set the camera off automatically as well, which our present system does not have. If a weapon is removed from the holster, if the weapon is removed from the Taser holster, the camera automatically goes on not only for members of the UC County Sheriff's Office, but if we're working with the City of Kingston Police Department on a case or the New York State Police, any one of those agencies. If they pull out their weapon, everybody's camera within 20 feet, I believe is 20 feet will automatically - 30 feet.

Jim Voutour

It's more like 50, but we say 30.

Sheriff Figueroa

So that's an important aspect of what we're looking to do here, and what the public expects us to do. And Jim, I want to thank you for coming on. And we'll open it up for any questions.

Chair Uchitelle

Legislator Heppner did you have your hand up?

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, just quick question. So does this - will this impact any bit in terms of storage of video?

Sheriff Figueroa

That's a great idea. So right now we are using server space. And we have to actually purchase. And Warren, if you want to get into the service stuff in a minute, I'll let you talk about the issues that we have with our servers and the duplication of storage. We would have to store it on our servers, and then we have to transfer it over to the DA's office, they have to put it on their storage. Now it goes into evidence.com. And, Jim, if you could talk about that briefly, evidence.com. I appreciate that. Because I know you have a way of explaining that.

Jim Voutour

Sheriff if you don't mind, I'm gonna defer to Jesse because he's more the expert on how the system works. I'm more like you. I know that it works. But we can't really talk. I mean, I know a lot about it, but Jesse knows a lot more than me. So I'll let him explain the evidence calm.

Jesse Lowe

Sure. Good evening, everybody. My name is Jesse Lowe. I am the state of New York account manager for Axon for agencies, between about 51 and 100 sworn. So I'll tell you a little bit about evidence.com - that is our digital evidence management system. It is cloud based and hosted by Microsoft Azure in their secure gov cloud. So it's been certified by multiple different agencies, that it is secure. And we are allowed to use it to store your data. For sharing between agencies, it's very simple, they would just go to that video or picture or whatever piece of evidence that they're storing up there. And they can just basically click one button to share it with a - either the prosecutor share with another agency, share it to the media however they want. And then all that is very audited, everything you do every click, you take his audit every time you share, something's audited. And it's also locked down permission based where you know, the sheriff can only give a couple people permission to do those shares. So videos aren't going where they're not supposed to go. And I'm here to answer any other questions. The contract we have in front of you today does include unlimited storage for all video footage that comes from an Axon camera.

Sheriff Figueroa

Thank you, Jesse. Hey Warren, talk briefly about our issues with our storage with the Panasonic system.

Officer Whitaker

Yes sir, good evening everybody. I'm Warren Whitaker, technology coordinator for the sheriff's office. I'll just speak on what happened over the summer. Our discovery coordinator had come to us, and she said, "Warren, I haven't seen this video from this car for like three days. I wonder what's going on." We didn't get alerted from the server. Turned out that we were running out of space. It had to do with other backups. So our redundancy was doubling. So we had saved it more than twice. Well, we didn't realize that was happening. So we ran out of space. We thought we lost the video. Luckily, we didn't. I think with evidence.com that takes that out. We don't have to worry about space because we have unlimited supply.

Sheriff Figueroa

Thank you, Warren.

Sheriff Figueroa

Any other questions?

Officer Whitaker

Yes Sir.

Chair Uchitelle

Anyone else? Legislator Heppner, and then Hewitt.

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, just more of a point is, you know, from serving the previous governor, during his was the police task force and reimagined mandate. I served on that in my local community. And the biggest thing that we saw as a struggle in terms of equipping local police departments within the county, in our town, was not the cost of the actual cameras, but the cost of the storage. The sounds are very promising. And I'm very encouraged by it. But and especially the idea of consolidating within local police departments within, if they can, you know, one point access amongst local departments, and so on. And also if there's ways that we can help offset the cost of storage to local police departments. I think would be they, you know, worthwhile look.

Chair Uchitelle

Legislator Hewitt, and then we'll go to Lopez.

Legislator Chris Hewitt

Thank you. I'm wondering how many cameras this contract comes with? And what the warranty looks like.

Jesse Lowe

Sheriff you want me to cover that?

Sheriff Figueroa

Absolutely.

Jesse Lowe

Okay. So this contract comes with 62 cameras. The sheriff had asked for 60 body cameras. We include a spare camera for every 30 cameras that are purchased through Axon. So that way, if there's an issue with the camera, if to damage the line of duty, you know, if it just happens to break any sort of way, they have two spares on site at all times. So no one ever goes on duty without a camera. As far as our warranty, we have what is called our tap plan, which is a technology assurance plan. It is a five year no questions asked full warranty on every camera that we are including, including the two spares. That also comes with a brand new camera every two and a half years of the five-year contract. So they'll get the shipment of

cameras on day one. Approximately 30 months later, we'll ship them another set of cameras. And you also get another set at the end of the contract. Part of the reason behind that is after about, you know, same with your cell phones after about two and half years, you see the battery life won't be as good. You know it's not going to hold the charge like it used to. If two years into it, if one year into they have a camera hey, this one gets used a lot. This deputy worked a ton of overtime, the battery's dying, we'll just swap that out no questions asked through that full warranty. And then the other thing to mention is with this program, you're also locking in the pricing for your cameras for five years. So if our next set, you know, this is our body three, it's our current generation camera, if the body four is out in two and a half years, if you move forward to the Axon, the office would get the body four. They wouldn't get another version of this in two and a half years and in five years they would get the brand new latest generation camera instead of getting the older version, you know, five years from now, which would make it you know, at that point probably seven years old.

Chair Uchitelle

Legislator Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

With the storage on evidence.com, is the foil process different or do you go through the same channels?

Sheriff Figueroa

I believe it's still the same. The foil process is going to be the same, you requested and obviously there's some mitigating factors if there's an ongoing case or something like that. But a criminal case that may affect that particular criminal case, but if the normal process will be in place. By the way the Sheriff's app has a foil form in it. So if you want to download the Sheriff's app, you'll see all the stuff that's on there. Just a quick plug sorry.

Chair Uchitelle

I was accustomed to the apps.

Legislator Hewitt

Sheriff I was a customer, of the sheriff app too, and it's a great app. Jess, I'm not familiar with their contract. I do at the resolution front of me, but does their contract include redaction.

Jesse Lowe

So it has our standard redaction, so redaction software where whoever is handling those FOIA requests has the ability to basically draw boxes or click on faces. We do have another more advanced redaction software that I don't believe is included in this contract. That is AI and cloud based where I'd automatically will find faces, license plates, and in car computer screens or any computer screen and automatically go for that video and blur those out. It saves, you know, endless hours of time. If you are getting a lot of

FOIA requests Sheriff we would recommend possibly amending this and adding that. And we can we can speak about that as well. And that can also always be added later.

Sheriff Figueroa

So the purpose of that redaction would be if somebody gives your social security number, date of birth, if there's a witness. You don't want that being turned over to - and it's obviously that will be approved by the district attorney who's here, because he's the one who has the ultimate say on the redactions.

Chair Uchitelle

Any final questions for the Sheriff or the representatives from Axon?

Legislator Hewitt

I have a quick question?

Chair Uchitelle

Yes, Legislator Hewitt. Go ahead.

Legislator Chris Hewitt

Because the SD cards couldn't be accessed on the old cameras, I'm wondering if Mr. Whittaker and his team in technology have the right to repair a camera or access an SD card if that was necessary?

Chair Uchitelle

Yeah, go ahead.

Sheriff Figueroa

Axon or Panasonic.

Chair Uchitelle

I think he's asking about the Panasonic cameras, and

Legislator Hewitt

No the Axon.

Chair Uchitelle

Oh the new ones. The new ones. Okay. Jess go ahead.

Jesse Lowe

Awesome. So we do not have removable storage in our body cameras, because of incidents like that, where it comes out when it gets shrapped, or comes loose. So our storage is secured, you know, basically soldered

to the board in here. If there is an issue like that, as part of that warranty process that camera will be shipped back, and we will do everything we can to get that off there for no extra cost.

Legislator Hewitt

Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Yeah, but I think the issue that we're having with the Panasonic unit is it's out of warranty, which is why we can't get the data off from the incident on Friday. Just take that as an example. All right, any final questions? Otherwise, we'll call a question. All right. Seeing no further questions, all in favor of Resolution 53?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, it passes unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you so much. I imagine at this point, the folks from Axon probably have better places to be but if you do want to hang out, you're more than welcome to it as a public meeting.

Sheriff Figueroa

Thank Jim.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you for your time.

Legislator Hansut

Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright, we'll move on to Resolution No. 55. Amending Capital Project No. 482. county wide radio system, Department of Emergency Communications, and Emergency Management. Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

I'll move.

Chair Uchitelle

And a second?

Legislator Lopez

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay. All right, that was moved by Heppner and second by Lopez. Before we get into discussion, I'd like to give Director Erickson an opportunity to kind of explain where we're at in the process of implementing the countywide radio system.

Everett Erichsen

Thank you, Chair. Um, so the county wide radio system is we're looking at the interoperability of fire police and EMS across the board on the to extremely large project running in parallel with the government operation center. So, looking at this over the past five or so years now, since the capital project was open, we've acquired it, we've secured a lot of grants that we've been putting into the capital project. And so far, if we go back through the resolutions that have been approved by this committee, the prior committees, we purchased in 2018, we submitted just under 525,000 for subscriber units. In 2019, it was just under 576,000 subscriber units. In 2019 there was 477, that just over 477,000, which we did. The Marlboro site, subscriber units and the design of the Saugerties tower that the contract for the Motorola contract was executed at just under 8.5 million. We He secured the \$6 million grants, and 2021. And we just - were working currently on spending the first portion of that 6 million on consultant services, communication equipment, the Saugerties tower construction, consoles, 911 phones, updating the 911 phone system.

Everett Erichsen

And then we have that 2.8, which is the second part that we're going to be working on moving forward. And then tonight, we have that 540,000, which is the (inaudible) tech consultant, equipment personnel. The backup piece app currently that we need to update the equipment in there as well. This whole project started off at a \$20 million project for the radio system itself. And we were able to move that down to that 8,475,000 for the radio system. So there's a lot of moving parts. It's very dynamic, I think, after one parallel with the, with the construction of the government operation center, we cannot take the radio system and put it in our current facility. It just - and we have to build up the towers. So that's why it's a very dynamic process. But it's moving along very well. Steve Peterson, my predecessor has been working on these grants. I've been very successful with them. He's currently still working on them he's with us part time, and he's managing those grants for us.

Chair Uchitelle

Great, thank you so much, Director Erickson. Does anyone have any questions, points of discussion? And I'll just note that the following resolution that we're going to address in a moment is being taken - it's in the agenda in this order, because it specifically is one of those grants that director Erickson just referenced.

And I will say I was grateful to hear that Steve stayed on to help us sort through all of this because this has got a, the narrative arc of this whole process is long and complex.

Legislator Heppner

Absolutely.

Chair Uchitelle

Well, if there's no further discussion, I will call the question. All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. Any opposed? All right. Resolution No. 55 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution No. 84. Authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communication for the 2020 statewide interoperable communications grant, amending the 2022 Ulster County budget, Department of Emergency Communications and emergency management. Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

So moved.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. Second, please?

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, so that was moved by Heppner second by Hewitt. Director Erickson, is there anything that you'd like to speak to on this topic? Before we discuss?

Everett Erichsen

Unless you have any specific questions? I do not. I mentioned that before my report. So

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Thank you so much. Does anyone have any questions? This is, you know, this is accepting grant money for the basically this whole project. So taking money and always a nice thing, right. All right. If there's no further questions, I will call the question on Resolution number 84. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right. Resolution No. 84. is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

We move on to Resolution No. 81. Approving the memorandum of agreement between the county of Ulster and the Ulster County Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Amending the 2022 Ulster County budget. Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

So moved.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you, Legislator Heppner. Do I have a second?

Legislator Hansut

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Second from Deputy Chair Hansut. Any questions or points of discussion? I'll just say I spoke today with the new PBA president. His members seem very happy. I spoke with Sheriff Figueroa about this. I understand the county is very happy. You know for a lot of the newer members of our force. This is the first time they'll ever be in a contract. We've been playing catch up for a long time. And I in addition to the sheriff, I definitely commend the county executive's office for catching us up on a lot of these contracts with the union. So thank you for that. If there's Yep, Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

I just - you said it perfectly Chair Uchitelle. But for the record, I want to commend all sides. This is a good step forward.

Chair Uchitelle

Yeah. And I'll also add, if it's alright. You know, one of the things that I'm beginning to understand better about our sheriff's office and just the state of policing is how important it is that as we work to improve policing, and protect our community, and you know, continue to improve, it's really hard to do that when

you have trouble retaining your employees in the police force. We've been a training organization that trains, Sheriff's for other police forces that pay more for too long. So hopefully, this is gonna help us. You know, be able to change that, and really keep people in this community. So if there's no further questions, I will call the question on Resolution No. 81. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright, any opposed? Great. Resolution number 81. is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

We'll move on to Resolution No. 82. Approving the execution of a contract for \$521,000 entered into by the county with J&J Sass electric, Ulster County Sheriff. Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

Move it.

Chair Uchitelle

Do I have a second?

Legislator Lopez

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay. All right, we've moved by Heppner, second by Lopez. Any discussion questions? If there's no discussion, I'll just say, you know, this is the contract, fulfilling the amount that was already included in the capital budget. And I'm very happy to say that the contract is going to an Ulster County contractor, an Ulster County vendor and I know that we put this out to RFP and vendors from all over the place responded. And it's always nice to keep it local.

Chair Uchitelle

And a constituent of mine as well. So

Chair Uchitelle

Very good. Excellent. That's what we like to hear.

Legislator Chris Hewitt

Chair Uchitelle I appreciate the little brief description. Because I wasn't sure what this was for. Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Sure. Sure. No problem.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. So if there's no further discussion, let's call the question on Resolution No. 81. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, Resolution No. 81 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

We will move on to Resolution No. 83. Approving the execution of a contract amendment for \$16,807 causing the aggregate contract plus amendment amount to be in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County, New York Communications Company Inc. Ulster County Sheriff, can I have a motion to discuss please?

Legislator Heppner

Move it.

Chair Uchitelle

Can I have a second?

Legislator Lopez

I'll second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, so that's a motion by Heppner, second by Lopez. Discussion? So this is for the portable, I believe this is the portable communication devices, the radios to add more to our inventory. And I know that there was, so I'm going to I'm going to address this because this came up in our chairs meeting. I know that there were questions about the you know, whether this was corresponding with increasing the number of members in a particular division that you know, didn't you know that's why we would need the additional radios, that's not quite what this is about. But this is something that needs to periodically happen from my conversations with Sheriff Figueroa. And it is something that's absolutely necessary. So I hope that programmatically, we're able to address any, and actually this is a good opportunity for you to mention. In this committee, we want to be able to address any programmatic questions about anything that any of our departments are requesting. When we - this is obviously a purchase, it's going to have to go through Ways and Means we don't want Ways and Means to have to ask the programmatic questions that are really

our responsibility to ask. So my hope is that if anyone has any programmatic questions, we're able to get them sorted out here rather than passing it along to Ways and Means. So understanding why you know, the additional portables are needed. You know, that's something that we have a responsibility to do here. And my understanding is this is absolutely necessary. So hopefully, we won't put Ways and Means in a position of having to ask those same questions. And as a member of Ways & Means Legislator Heppner, I just asked that you relay the (inaudible) of this discussion when this comes up.

Legislator Heppner

I'm not on Ways and Means.

Chair Uchitelle

Oh you're not oh I'm sorry. Well, in any event, I will pass this along. Nettie. If you would please pass it along to the folks.

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, I believe that's the proper function of the clerk.

Chair Uchitelle

That's a good reminder. Thank you, Jonathan. All right. If there's no further discussion, I will call the question on Resolution No. 83. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, Resolution No. 83. is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

We will move on to Resolution No. 85. Authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for participation in the crimes against revenue program. District Attorney. Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

Move it.

Chair Uchitelle

Can I have a second.

Legislator Lopez

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, move by Heppner, second by Lopez. And as we start the discussion, I would like to give the district attorney an opportunity to give us a brief overview of what's happening here. If you would District Attorney, Clegg and you are on mute.

District Attorney Clegg

All right, thanks. So this program has been going on for quite some time in our office. And what it does is try and reinforce the prosecution side of people who try to defraud the county at any level with respect to social services. There are also crimes against other finance issues such as taxes, etc, that we try and prosecute at the highest possible level. So this is money that comes in, that supports one of our ADA positions that we designate for the majority of that work to make sure that these kinds of programs are enforced at a high level.

Chair Uchitelle

Great, thank you, District Attorney Clegg. Are there any questions or items to discuss for the committee? Or anyone else? All right. Seeing no other questions, we will call the question on Resolution No. 85. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed?

Chair Uchitelle

All right, Resolution No. 85 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

We'll move on to Resolution No. 86. Authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, funding of a gun violence grant, District Attorney. May I see a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

So moved for discussion.

Legislator Lopez

I'll motion.

Chair Uchitelle

Can I see a second?

Legislator Hewitt

Second?

Chair Uchitelle

Great. So that was moved by Lopez seconded by Hewitt. District Attorney Clegg, if you want to give us a quick overview on this, and I'll just add, it says gun violence grant, it's gun violence prevention grant, just to be super clear.

District Attorney Clegg

Exactly. We call it "focused deterrence." We want to stop people from getting involved in gun violence to begin with. And most of the focus of this grant will be trying to keep at risk youth from getting into the world where they're either dealing with guns or drugs, or both, and an impact in our community in an unsafe way. We are -we intended to use some of this money to work with Sheriff Figueroa on the AVERT program that we are starting up in this county. And the AVERT program, once again, is something that tries to determine the violence before it actually happens to work with the youth that are at risk to reach out to the people in the community that may be involved in gangs or drugs or both, and try and interrupt and deter them from pursuing that. So that's something that the sheriff and my office are working together on. There's also a SNUG program that is starting up in his county. And we are going to be involved in supporting that program as well. Which again, is a focus deterrence with peers, reaching out into the community, people who have been there done that reaching out to people who are heading in that direction, and trying to deter and dissuade them from going there. In addition, we want to do some of this work with improving the trust and the involvement of the community with a law enforcement community. We're not sure exactly what we're going to use that for yet. My thought is that a basketball three on three tournament may be where we're heading, and getting law enforcement people and I think our sheriff may be able to shoot I'm not sure he can add to that if he wants too, but you know, and in doing that also bringing in all the social services, opportunities and job training, events, etc. So it's something we're going to be exploring. Tay Fisher is somebody that I know, since my coaching career that has been involved in a bunch of tournaments. So that's one of our projects that we're going to try and put together. So anyway, that's what we're doing with this money.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Share Figueroa. Would you like to add anything?

Sheriff Figueroa

I would and thank you, Mr. District Attorney. And this AVERT was actually if you folks can remember we started along with the county execs office. We did a news conference in Midtown, in regards to this diversion program. AVERT stands for Anti Violence Effort Response Team, and I have a detective Mario Taliaferro, who's going to be running that and he's already started. And it focuses on folks we don't have

any current cases on. And it's a big deterrent, even if the folks you know, don't want to cooperate with us. And we know that they have weapons. The likelihood of them using the weapons of violence drops significantly. So this program, there's so much to talk about, when we get to it, but we won't be able to do it without the passing of this resolution. I want to thank the DA.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Any discussion. Legislator Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Thank you. When Sheriff Figueroa and I talked about events, and possibly Midtown, maybe barbecue or food based event like pizza, I'm more than happy to help with that. And I've never seen the word interrupters can either District Attorney Clegg or Sheriff Figueroa explain that a little bit.

District Attorney Clegg

I'm happy to do that. So interrupters, you know, you talk about how do you deter the at-risk youth in our community for crossing the line. They may already be crossing a line. But if we can reach out to them, and communicate with them and build relationships with them and give them opportunities for other things like job training or services or further education, and let them know at the same time that we are paying attention to them, because they're on our radar, and some information has come to us that they may be doing at risk activities, all of that is combined in this focused deterrence, you know, effort that we're involved in. That's what AVERT is about. That's what we need to try and work with in our community. There's a lot of different programs in our community they're trying to work with at risk youth. And there's not enough of them. And we could do more. And so this fund is going to be used for that purpose.

Sheriff Figueroa

If I can add Mr. District Attorney. It's really going the extra step. It's not just waiting for someone to commit a crime and arresting them and putting them in jail. We're actually trying to change their behavior. By having a communication and reaching out, let them know that we do care about their futures. By having a summit with members of gangs and discussing how people were killed in our community and having loved ones that lost folks in or you know, young people in a street crime or violence, you know, violent crime that occurred in the street, and having that discussion and giving them the opportunity, whether it's a housing issue, employment issue, education, issue, to, all at one time when we and we're going to have at least two of these summits. And it's just going the extra mile to say, hey, we are looking at trying to figure out why your committing a crime in a violent way. And we want you to stop that behavior. And here are your options.

Chair Uchitelle

Great, thank you so much. Any other questions or discussion?

District Attorney Clegg

If I could? I just didn't get an answer from the sheriff about whether he can make a three-point shot or not.

Sheriff Figueroa

No, but I have pretty sharp elbows. I'm a good defender.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright, we're gonna have to sort this one out on the court. So with that, if there's no further questions, I'm going to call the question on Resolution No. 86. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, Resolution No. 86 is adopted unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay. Resolution No. 87. Authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to amend a contract with the New York State Office of Victim Services for funding under the victim and witness assistance grant program, Department of Probation. Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Hansut

Moved.

Chair Uchitelle

Do I have a second?

Legislator Heppner

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, that was moved by Deputy Chair Hansut second by Legislator Heppner. Any questions, discussion? Maybe we can - Director Schmitt, if you don't mind giving us a just a very brief overview of the program.

Director Nancy Schmidt

Sure. Thank you, Chairman. The Crime Victims Assistance Program is a division of the probation department. And they are a separate entity that is over on Pearl Street. Their funding has been primarily from a grant from the Office of Victim Services. And this is -we're in the grant cycle right now. This is

just adding money to the award that we had previously been given. And this is accepting revenue that funds almost our entire Crime Victims Assistance Program.

Chair Uchitelle

Does anyone have any questions? All right, well, that makes it easy. With that we will call the question on Resolution No. 87. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, Resolution No. 87 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Move on to Resolution No. 88. Authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a contract with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice, sexual assault crisis and prevention program Department of Probation. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

May I have a second?

Legislator Hansut

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, so that was moved by Legislator Heppner, second by Deputy Chair Hansut. Dr. Schmidt, if you don't mind giving us a quick overview of this one.

Director Schmidt

Sure. This is a much smaller grant, but also one that we have received annually for many years. It not only funds response to sexual assault, but it funds some prevention work. So part of what we do with that is educating people in the community about awareness and behaviors to be aware of. One of the things that the crime victims program offers is like training to bar staff on looking out for situations that are high risk, and we've provided that throughout the county. Also, in this grant, we use funds for our 24-hour hotline that is a response to any crime victims but particularly for sexual assault. Any other questions on that one?

Chair Uchitelle

Any questions? All right. Well, if that's there's no other further discussion, I will call the question on Resolution No. 88. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right. Resolution No. 88. is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution No. 89. Authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to approve the execution of a contract with the New York State Office of Victim Services for a Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Program Attorney Services Department of Probation. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

So moved.

Chair Uchitelle

And a second please.

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright, that was moved by Legislator Heppner, second by Legislator Hewitt. Dr. Schmidt, if you can give us just a quick overview.

Director Schmidt

Sure. This is also a Office of Victim services grant this is to accept revenue that is utilized for legal services for victims. The agency that has done that work for us is Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, but this is at this moment we are just looking to accept the award.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay, great. Any questions from the committee? Or anyone else? All right, seeing no further questions or discussion, and we'll call the question on Resolution No. 89. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right. Resolution No. 89. is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

We will move on to Resolution No. 90. Approving the execution of a contract for \$50,000 entered into by the county Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Department of Probation. Can I have a motion to discuss please?

Legislator Hansut

Motion.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. A second please.

Legislator Heppner

I'll second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. So that was moved by Deputy Chair Hansut, seconded by Legislator Heppner. Director Schmidt if you don't mind giving us - is this actually what I ask is this the contract that fulfills that. Okay, so never mind, if you don't mind just giving us an overview. Okay.

Director Schmidt

Thank you. It's interesting that they are next to each other, but they are not what -they're not connected. So many years ago, the legislature put \$50,000 in our budget to award a provider of legal services specifically for domestic violence victims. And we have maintained that over the years, we've done RFP and bids for that legal services, and Legal Services of the Hudson Valley was awarded that. And so this is the contract with them for \$50,000, which is budgeted in specifically for victims of domestic violence.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. Any questions? Any points of discussion? All right. With that we will call the question on Resolution No. 90. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, Resolution No. 90 is adopted unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution No. 91. Approving the execution of a contract amendment for \$230,000. entered into by the county with Family of Woodstock in the Department of Probation. Can I have a motion to discuss please?

Legislator Heppner

Move it.

Chair Uchitelle

May I have a second please?

Legislator Lopez

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay, great. So we've got moved by Legislator Heppner, second by Legislator Lopez. So I don't know who's best to just give an overview of the amendment, but either Director Schmitt or Deputy Exec. Kelly, I'll let you decide who should who should jump in here.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

I fully defer to the expert Nancy Schmidt.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay, great.

Director Schmidt

So annually, we have been contracting with Family of Woodstock for restorative justice services. And that began after an RFP in 2018, which allowed for I think it was two years with three one year amendments. And this is one of the amendments. We expanded over the years to include in this contract the... So we now we have the Restorative Justice 180 program, which is for juvenile delinquents. We have Restorative Ulster, which is the program that comes out of cases from the DA 's office that are 18 to 26year old's. restorative justice in four school districts, restorative justice, not a lot that is guided towards this. But if there's a community based incident in which it doesn't fit into one of our other categories, we might respond with that. And the last one is we do restorative justice for technical violations of probation. So Family of Woodstock has the contract and the expertise to provide that restorative justice programming. They have also been providing, I think we're going on two years now training to the community and any county agency that asks for it. They have a monthly training, and then they'll also be tailored to particular departments training.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. So I do have a question. Just to start off to clarify, this is kind of why I had posed to Deputy Exec. Kelly. Is this related to the living wage law or no?

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

No, actually, yeah.

Chair Uchitelle

That was confusing in the chairs meeting. So that was where questions I wanted to address. So it's not.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

So no, when I when I spoke with Nancy, the base wage on this was already \$16 and change when the contract originated. So this is not affected by that.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay, great. So Nettie, if you could please make a special note about that, because that is going to be the first question asked at Ways and Means and I want that information to be passed forward. So with that, does anyone have any questions for Director Schmidt or about the topic in general? All right. With that, we will call the question on resolution number 91. All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed?

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution No. 91 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution No. 92. Approving the execution of a contract for \$119,460 entered into by the county with New York Communications Company, Inc. Department of Probation. May I please have a motion to discuss.

Legislator Heppner

So moved.

Chair Uchitelle

And a second, please.

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

That good. Great. So that was moved by Legislator Heppner, second by Legislator Hewitt. Director Schmidt, if you don't mind giving us just a quick overview here.

Director Schmidt

Sure. Our department is a law enforcement agency in which many of the probation officers which are peace officers, when they go in the field will carry police radios. We do arrests, we do warrants, there are things you know, in the community that exists that we have to respond to and be in communication rapidly with other law enforcement agencies. At this time, the radios that we have are - you have to carry a separate radio to communicate with Kingston police and the other police agencies. And so there's two handhelds for our staff when they're in the field in their operating anywhere near Kingston. This converts us to one dual band radio. And so it's a five-year contract, we will get all new radios with both on the one radio.

Chair Uchitelle

Great, thank you so much. And I'll just note for the committee or for anyone who might not be familiar in the resolution packet that includes backup. The details such as like how many radios and so forth, is in the Attachment A which is at the end of that boilerplate contract language you see in every county contract, there's that separate Attachment A with the vendors, letterhead. Any questions? Discussion, I will just note, this is the same vendor through which we're getting the cameras -not cameras, the portable radios that Sheriff Figueroa I mentioned earlier.

Chair Uchitelle

And this I will foreshadow that this will not be the last time we see resolutions contracting with this vendor. It is it is going to come up a lot in this committee. So I hope you like approving these, or maybe not, and you have every right to ask tough questions. That's why we're here.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. Well, if there are no further questions, I will call the question on Resolution No. 92. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, resolution number 92. is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

With that. We will go into new business. There's one item that I wanted to discuss before I bring that up. Does anyone have any new business they would like to bring forward? Okay. The one item that I would want to put in everyone's minds is obviously this committee is tasked with interfacing with some of the offices that are really on the frontlines in our community interacting with the public. And they really have

a true brick and mortar presence in our community, whether it's the Law Enforcement Center, Probation, the Emergency Communication Center, the Fire Training Center. So what I'd like to do in the months ahead, particularly for the new members, and which includes myself, this is my first meeting as a member of this committee, I'd like to schedule us to visit some of these locations and to look around and to really understand how it all works. It is hugely helpful when we get these resolutions every month to actually know where these are going to be where these radios are going to be used, you know, the Black Creek system, we can see it in, you know where it's going to be installed at the Law Enforcement Center. So I'd like to schedule those. We'll work with the clerk to coordinate everyone's schedule.

Chair Uchitelle

One idea that I do want to throw out there, and I request that you give this some thought and please reach out to me, if you have feelings one way or the other. I'm considering scheduling our next law enforcement meeting or whenever COVID is in a more reasonable place, and we're meeting in person again, once we're meeting in person, I would like to schedule one of our law enforcement meetings to take place at the Law Enforcement Center. I think it would be a great thing to be able to be in that space I've toured, I've been there multiple times. And it has made a significant impact on me in the way that I think about particularly our corrections division. So please reach out if you have any thoughts about that. Or you're welcome to jump in here. I see that Chris, you have your hand up. So if you want to jump in?

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

No thank you for that. And I think that's a fantastic idea. I really do. And I think that I know the sheriff's not on but if the DA is on, I think it would be really helpful for us and kind of telling our day to day in the departments of what the work that we're doing. I know that you guys see a bunch of the resolutions that Nancy went through tonight. And that's just a snippet of all the work that she's involved in. It's not just about the punitive in the probation and sentencing part. It's about all the work that we're doing to try and prevent people from that stage of, you know, of the system. So I really think that's a great idea, and anything I can do to help facilitate, please let me know 100% on board.

Chair Uchitelle

Great, thank you so much. And I'll also add, and then we'll go to Director Schmidt. I'll add that these invitations will be open to the full legislature. So obviously, I, you know, feel strongly that folks on this committee should see it, but we'll make sure that both caucuses are invited as well. Nancy.

Director Schmidt

I was just going to offer the Restorative Justice Center as one of the locations for our committee meeting.

Chair Uchitelle

I think that that's a great idea. That's a great idea. Yeah, we will definitely, we will definitely do that as well. Hopefully, we will all be meeting in person again soon. I'm really looking forward to it. I don't know if you guys can tell but I really need human interaction. All right. Any other new business? And there

should be no old business because this is our first committee meeting. So with that, I will take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Hewitt

Motion so moved.

Chair Uchitelle

All right motion by yep, so Nettie you got that? Who was the motion?

Legislator Heppner

A Legislator Hewitt, and I second it.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright great Legislator Hewitt motion second on Heppner. All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Legislator Heppner

Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right. Thank you so much. Good first meeting guys. We finished six minutes early. We're going to be that functional from here on out. All right.

Committee Members

Thank you, everybody. Take care.