

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

**DATE & TIME:** December 9, 2019 – 5:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** KL Binder Library, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Office Building  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Deputy Chair Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr.  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Bartels, Collins, Haynes (arrived at 6:04 PM) & Heppner  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Eckert  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Sheriff Figueroa, Under Sheriff Benjamin – UC Sheriff's Office, Director Schmidt – UC Probation, Director Peterson – UC Emergency Management/Emergency Communications, Deputy County Executives Marc Rider & John Milgrim – UC Executive's Office

Deputy Chair Ronk called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM.

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**Motion No. 1:**               **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the October 23, 2019 Special meeting**

**Motion By:**               Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Collins

**Discussion:**             None

**Voting In Favor:**       Legislators Bartels, Collins, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:**       None  
**Votes in Favor:**       4  
**Votes Against:**       0  
**Disposition:**           **Minutes APPROVED**

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**Motion No. 2:**               **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the November 13, 2019 Regular meeting**

**Motion By:**               Legislator Collins  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:**             None

**Voting In Favor:**       Legislators Bartels, Collins, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:**       None  
**Votes in Favor:**       4  
**Votes Against:**       0  
**Disposition:**           **Minutes APPROVED**

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**Resolution No. 459:** Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With Various Municipalities For The Operation Of U.R.G.E.N.T. (Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team) – Ulster County Sheriff

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chair to enter into inter-municipal agreements with municipalities for the operation of URGENT for April 1, 2019 – December 31, 2022.

**Motion No. 3:**                   **Moved Resolution No. 459 FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:**                   Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Collins

**Discussion:**

Chairwoman Bartels advised the members that she spoke with the Sheriff regarding her concerns with the use of juveniles as confidential informants. She stated that the Sheriff has made changes to the informant policy which address some of her concerns, primarily their use as confidential informants in narcotics investigations. Deputy Chair Ronk advised the members that they would be voting on the Resolution as originally submitted, explaining that the proposed amendment before them was no longer being considered.

Sheriff Figueroa advised the members that his office was still finalizing the informant policy, adding that it is more restrictive than that of his previous employer, the NYS Police. Deputy Chair Ronk thanked the Sheriff for his work on the policy and asked if there was any more discussion on the Resolution, and hearing none he called the question.

**Voting In Favor:**           Legislators Bartels, Collins, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:**           None  
**Votes in Favor:**           4  
**Votes Against:**           0  
**Disposition:**           **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 535:** Imploring The State Of New York To Immediately Amend Or Delay Implementation Of Bail And Discovery Reform Laws That Will Endanger The People Of New York And Reverse Decades Of Bipartisan Progress In Reducing Crime

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution asks the NYS Legislature to amend or otherwise delay the implementation of recently enacted criminal justice and bail reforms.

**Motion No. 4:**                   **Moved Resolution No. 535 FOR DISCUSSION**  
**Motion By:**                   Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Collins

**Discussion:**

Deputy Chair Ronk stated that he has had many members of law enforcement, including many District Attorneys' Offices, reach out to express concerns with the implementation of bail reform measures

enacted by the State Legislature. He added that he and the Resolutions other sponsor, Legislator Woltman, felt that it would be reasonable to ask the the state to delay implementation of bail reform in particular, until a proper plan could be put in place to deal with bail reform, the end of custodial arrests and discovery reform at the same time. He added that he believed communities will not be made safer in the end.

Legislator Heppner stated that he respectfully disagreed with Legislator Ronk, felt changes to bail reform in New York were long overdue and believed that implementation of bail reform measures in Ohio, New Jersey and other states proved to be successful. Deputy Chair Ronk agreed that common sense bail reforms are warranted, but commented that the current list of crimes was too extensive and problematic. He added that there were a number of concerns expressed by law enforcement agencies that have not been addressed. Legislator Bartels stated that she also respectfully disagreed with Legislator Ronk and informed the members that Washington, DC has had virtually no cash bail for decades with few incidents, as has Kentucky. She added that the cost of not implementing the changes was steep, effects so many peoples' lives, and seeks to correct a punitive system based solely on an individual's ability to pay. She emphasized the importance of the county in taking an active role to ensure effective implementation.

Deputy Chair Ronk stated that he felt that there will be unintended consequences, largely because law enforcement was not consulted. Legislator Heppner stated that these reforms are long overdue, will result in savings to taxpayers and have been enacted in both Democrat and Republican majority states. Legislator Collins stated that he believed the reforms were necessary, but added that there will be struggles when implementing.

Sheriff Figueroa stated that he agreed reforms were necessary in order to correct economic injustices, but commented that law enforcement was excluded from discussions, adding that the Sheriff's Association has concerns, especially pertaining to victim's safety, and have lobbied the state legislature to amend the law. Deputy Chair Ronk asked if there was any more discussion on the Resolution, and hearing none he called the question.

<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Legislator Ronk
<b>Voting Against:</b>	Legislators Bartels, Collins & Heppner
<b>Votes in Favor:</b>	1
<b>Votes Against:</b>	3
<b>Disposition:</b>	<b>Resolution DEFEATED</b>

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**Resolution No. 536:** Amending Capital Project 482 – Countywide Radio System –Department Of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution amends Capital Project 482 to reflect a proposal received by the Department of Emergency Services for the buildout of the new Public Safety Radio System from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$8,475,000.00.

<b>Motion No. 5:</b>	<b>Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 536</b>
<b>Motion By:</b>	Legislator Heppner
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:**

Deputy Chair Ronk recognized Director Peterson to explain the project. Director Peterson informed the members that the project is to improve and upgrade the current system countywide. He added that the state recently announced additional funding to go towards the project. Deputy Chair Ronk stated that the upgrade has been a long time coming and will go a long way to improving communications within and between police, fire and EMS. Legislator Haynes complimented Director Peterson for his many years of work in advocating for the improvements.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Collins, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 562:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Legal Services Of The Hudson Valley – Department Of Probation

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment in the amount of \$264,984 with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley to extend the term of agreement through September 30, 2020 and increase funding for holistic legal services for crime victims.

**Motion No. 6:** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 562**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Haynes

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Collins, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 575:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Motorola Solutions, Inc. – Emergency Management

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$8,475,000 with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for emergency communications system upgrade for an estimated time of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

**Motion No. 7:** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 575**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Haynes

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Collins, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 576:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Goosetown Network Services, LLC – Emergency Management

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$165,180 with Goosetown Network Services, LLC for radio tower lease on Overlook Mountain in for October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2025.

**Motion No. 8:** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 576**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Collins

**Discussion:**  
Director Peterson explained that Overlook Mountain was sold to Goosetown.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Collins, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** **Resolution ADOPTED**

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**Resolution No. 577:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Motorola Solutions, Inc. – Emergency Management

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$64,663.20 with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for repair and maintenance of the fire and EMS radio system from December 1, 2019 through November 30, 2020.

**Motion No. 9:** **Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 577**  
**Motion By:** Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Collins

**Discussion:**  
Director Peterson explained that the contract was for maintenance and repair of equipment they currently have.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Collins, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5

**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution ADOPTED

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**Resolution No. 578:** Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Motorola Solutions, Inc. – Emergency Management

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$64,756.20 with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for support and monitoring of 911 telephone system from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

**Motion No. 10:** Moved to ADOPT Resolution No. 578  
**Motion By:** Legislator Heppner  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Haynes

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Collins, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 5  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution ADOPTED

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Deputy Chair Ronk advised the members that monthly financial reports were available for review in the OneDrive and asked if there was any other business. Hearing none;

### **Adjournment**

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

**TIME:** 6:10 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk  
**Minutes Approved:** February 5, 2020