

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

DATE & TIME: December 2, 2020 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 951 1647 5270
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 Petit, Mid-Hudson News

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes & Transcript of the November 4th Meeting

Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None

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

Resolutions for the December 15, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 444: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services – Project GIVE – District Attorney

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute an agreement with the NYSDCJS on behalf of the District Attorney’s Office in the amount of \$80,525.00, for participation in a twelve-month joint county crime reduction Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) program for the period commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Resolution No. 445: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services – GIVE Initiative – Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute an agreement with the NYSDCJS on behalf of the Department of Probation in the amount of \$52,000.00, for participation in a twelve-month joint county crime reduction Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) program for the period commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Resolution No. 468: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services – GIVE Initiative – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to execute an agreement with the NYSDCJS on behalf of the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$25,295.00, for participation in a twelve-month joint county crime reduction Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) program for the period commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Motion No. 2: **Moved TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 444, 445 & 468**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
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: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Motion No. 3: **Moved Blocked Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript

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

Resolution No. 449: Amending Capital Project No. 519, Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades – Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends Capital Project No. 519 to increase the funding available for design services for boiler replacement at the UCLEC in the amount of \$54,000.00.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 449 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: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 460: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$596,016.00 Entered Into By The County – New York Communications Company, Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$596,016.00 with NYCOMCO for Criminal Division radio equipment lease for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2026.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 460 FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Haynes

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Fabiano, Haynes, Heppner, Parete & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

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

See attached transcript.

Chairwoman Walter asked the members if there was any new or old business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Fabiano

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

No. of Votes in Favor: 5

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:26 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler

Approved: February 3, 2021

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

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Petit, Mid-Hudson News

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM.

Chairwoman Walter: So we'll call the meeting to order. A motion to approve the November 4th meeting minutes and transcripts.

Legislator Haynes: I'll make that motion

Legislator Fabiano: I'll second it

Chairwoman Walter: Haynes. Second by Fabiano. All in favor?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Great. Opposed? Abstain? Great. All right. We have five Resolutions. Resolution Number 444, 445 and 468, though slightly out of order, are all a part of the regular, the GIVE project GIVE, which relates to reducing gun related violence. And, yes?

Legislator Heppner: I'll make a motion to combine them.

Chairwoman Walter: Yes. A motion to block. Okay, do I have a second.

Legislator Haynes: I'll second, Legislator Haynes.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, all in favor of the Block.

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Great. And then a motion. Any, motion to discuss?

Legislator Haynes: Oh. I'll make the motion.

Legislator Heppner: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Walter: Just in case, just in case. Is there any discussion? All right. I'll, sorry, Legislator Fabiano, did you want to?

Legislator Fabiano: No, I'm good. Thanks.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, so all in favor of Resolution number 444, 445, and 468?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. That's unanimous. Great. So let's move on to, I've gotta get this. Okay. So now we're Resolution Number 449, which is amending the Capital Project 519. For the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center energy upgrades. And this is, this is related to improving their boilers.

Legislator Fabiano: I'll move it

Chairwoman Walter: Okay.

Legislator Haynes: Second, Haynes

Chairwoman Walter: Terrific. Any discussion on this? All right, all in favor of Resolution No. 449.

Committee Members: Aye

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. That's unanimous. And last Resolution 460 approving the execution of a contract for \$596,016. And this one is the dispatch for the radio for the Criminal Justice Division. We previously approved the dispatch for radio for the other divisions. All in favor of Resolution 460.

Legislator Haynes: I'll make the motion

Chairwoman Walter: I guess I'm assuming there was no discussion. Okay. Legislator Haynes moves for discussion. Heppner seconds. Any discussion? All right, all in favor Resolution 460.

Committee Members: Aye

Chairwoman Walter: Okay, terrific. Criminal Justice Reform Task Force. I have just a couple of updates. The, the subcommittee that's focused on centralized arraignment is continuing to move forward. Again, they have to, the work is at this point with the judges on getting their full buy-in to participating. But there seems to be some strong feelings, so hopefully we'll be getting a Resolution in front of this group, maybe next month or the month after to make our county. It's a Resolution that, to get approval from a state level to make our county centralized arraignment county. So, but that's, that's not in front of us now. It will be coming up and, any questions about that? Yes, legislator Fabiano?

Legislator Fabiano: Now, when you say centralized arraignments, does that mean that you'll be taking some arraignments out of the local town and village courts, or are you ...

Chairwoman Walter: Only in off hours. So the idea is in the middle of the night, when someone is arrested, a judge has to get up and go to court. And what they've found was some judges won't do it. So they'll actually transport the person to another municipality, where the judge will wake up in the middle of the night. And also, one of the issues was, it was very challenging to make sure that there was a public defender available when these calls happened in the middle of night. So what other counties have done, namely Broome, is they create a centralized place which they're proposing to use the jail which is what they've been using for virtual courts during COVID. And that the judges would work on a cycle. So rather than any particular night being woken up at two, you would know your schedule, and you would be available just those days.

Legislator Fabiano: I see

Chairwoman Walter: So normal court hours, totally the same in their municipality. But because the, the original law was that you could not be a judge outside your municipality, this got approved by the state a couple of years ago to do, to have centralized. So we just have to get, get, go through the process of, of getting permission to be a centralized arraignment court, county. And then we can implement this overnight centralized arraignment process.

Legislator Fabiano: I like that, because it is a good idea, because a lot of judges don't want to get up at two, three or four o'clock in the morning. [inaudible] If they want a rotating list, that's fair for everybody. And there's no loss of revenue for the towns. I mean, you know, when the court proceedings starts for that charge, then it goes back to its hometown. Correct?

Chairwoman Walter: Right. Unless, sometimes, if the person needs to be held, the jail is right there because it has the capacity. So it solves quite a few problems. There's challenges like the transport if you are transporting from pretty far away. But it seems that the Sheriff's office is. is open to helping support that transport process. And it sounds like, you know, the waiting around that happens anyway. And the time that goes into that, having this kind of model will help create efficiencies where it might create a few extra challenges. Legislator Heppner?

Legislator Heppner: Yeah, you actually just brought it up too, the transport issue was the, one of the questions I had. Just because for example, Woodstock, we only have, you know, two cars on in the night, which, you know, this time of year isn't that bad, but during the summer and stuff like that, that would be, you know, kind of burdensome. So if the Sheriff's office is willing to help out. That's definitely a good thing.

Chairwoman Walter: Yeah. And it also, one of the things that came up in the subcommittee was, and I don't know, Woodstock, I'm not, I can't name names, because I don't know them. But, you know, if conceivably, the Woodstock judge was one of those who refused to get up anyway, they were transporting to another town. Anyway, they were taking ...

Legislator Heppner: I think the judges will love it. I think just from talking to both judges in Woodstock over the years. And I also think it'll help possibly recruit more people to run for judge that might have not been as willing because of their family lives or schedules.

Chairwoman Walter: Right, exactly.

Legislator Heppner: But are very qualified.

Chairwoman Walter: You don't know what night you're gonna be called in the middle of the night.

Legislator Parete: There were a lot of judges that loved getting up in the middle of the night. And they would drive miles, knowing that they would get up.

Chairwoman Walter: And those judges can certainly volunteer.

Legislator Parete: They loved doing it. They loved it.

Legislator Heppner: And they're still doing the virtual arraignments, Correct?

Chairwoman Walter: They are. And which is, so the nice part is, is that sort of allowed the preparation of the space in the Sheriff's building, to have courts. And so it's, they've been able to identify that it was possible. I don't know if you all saw but originally, we had a Resolution to move the 911 there, and that would have not allowed us to be able to do this centralized arraignment at the Sheriff's. But now the proposal is in the Capital Plan is to move 911 to BRC so that opens up the space as well.

Legislator Fabiano: Very good

Legislator Heppner: Sounds good.

Chairwoman Walter: The, the next, the discrimination, the police discrimination. There is a, there's going to be a countywide event being held. The dates haven't been determined. But the, Dr. Ed Lawson from SUNY New Paltz is going to be working with any municipality that is interested in participating, to explore, to utilize a model where it's using actual data from the law enforcement to identify where the real, where the problems are, and what solutions might need to be. But a data centered approach, including existing data on arrests, but also surveys and interviews and that kind of thing. And so Dr. Lawson is going to model it using the Sheriff's data and, and, but invite municipalities across the county. The Sheriff's, the Police Chiefs across the county have been aware and are very interested in being a part of this. To really identify ways that they can more easily just understand, you know what's going on in their municipalities. But you know, problems before they become real problems. So when I have the date from that, we'll share it with everybody. It, they'll be, it'll, obviously gonna be by zoom. They were hoping to do it in person, but that's not gonna happen so people could be participating from across the county. And that's it with the justice reform Task Force. Is there any new business? Any old business?

I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Fabiano: I'll make that motion.

Chairwoman Walter: Okay. Fabiano. Second by Heppner. All in favor?

Committee Members: Aye

Chairwoman Walter: Have a good night. Thank you.

Legislator Fabiano: Have a good night. Bye-bye.