

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

DATE & TIME: April 7, 2022 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meetings, Meeting ID: 865 1401 4873
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 Maloney, Sheriff Figueroa UC Sheriff's Office, Director Everett Erichsen, Steve Peterson -UC Emergency Communications/Management, Director Nancy Schmidt UC Probation, Chris Kelly Deputy County Executive, Legislative Conf. Sec. Laurie Lichtenstien

Chair Uchitelle called the meeting to order at 5:19 PM.

Motion No. 1: **Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the March 3, 2022 Meeting of the Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee**

Motion By: Legislator Hewitt
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Lopez

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 April 19, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 170: Confirming Appointments Of Members To The Traffic Safety Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointments for Thomas Polk and Louis Klepner to the Traffic Safety Board. Term to begin immediately and expire 3/31/2025.

Motion No. 2: **Moved Resolution No. 170 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. 171: Appointing Member To The Ulster County Fire Advisory Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Robert Bloom to the UC Fire Advisory Board. Term expires on 12/31/2023.

Motion No. 3: **Moved Resolution No. 171 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
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. 172: Appointing Member To The Ulster County Fire Advisory Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Aaron Kopaskie to the UC Fire Advisory Board. Term expires on 12/31/2023.

Motion No. 4: **Moved Resolution No. 172 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. 189: Establishing A Policy Prohibiting The Housing Of Incarcerated Individuals Transferred From Facilities Outside Of Ulster County, The “No More Incarceration For Profit Policy”

Resolution Summary: This resolution establishes a policy prohibiting the housing of incarcerated individuals transferred from facilities outside of Ulster County.

Motion No. 5: **Moved Resolution No. 189 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. 190: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Department Of Justice For Asset Forfeiture – Ulster County Sheriff’s Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair of the UC Legislature to enter into an agreement with the Department of Justice for asset forfeitures.

Motion No. 6: **Moved Resolution No. 190 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. 191: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$588,533.58 Entered Into By The County – Axon Enterprise, Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract for \$588.5K with Axon enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of body cameras and related equipment, software and cloud storage space. 100% County, Contract term 6/1/22 – 5/31/27.

Motion No. 7: **Moved Resolution No. 191 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Hansut
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. 192: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$985,163.00 Entered Into By The County – Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract for \$985K with Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp. to upgrade Black Creek Super Display Touchscreen control system at the UC Jail to implement the Windows 10 Operating System and migrate from the existing Vicon CCTV (closed-circuit television) platform to a Bosch Video Recording and Management System. 100% County, True Lease, Amd. Term 5/1/22 – 10/31/22.

Motion No. 8: **Moved Resolution No. 192 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. 208: Approving The Memorandum Of Agreement Between The County Of Ulster And The Ulster County Deputy Sheriff’s Police Benevolent Association, Inc. On Behalf Of The Ulster County Deputy Sheriffs’ Superior Officers’ Unit, For The Years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 And 2024 – Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves a memorandum of agreement between the County of Ulster and the UC Deputy Sheriff’s Police Benevolent Association, Inc. collective bargaining agreement for a period beginning January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024 and amends the 2022 Ulster County budget.

Motion No. 9: **Moved Resolution No. 208 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. 193: Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services And Create One Part Time Mental Health Specialist Position - Department Of Probation

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022 UC Budget to accept funding from the NYS Office of Children and Family Services to create one part-time Mental Health Specialist position for the Department of Probation. The grant funding period being October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2024 \$48,2K annually, 100% Federal.

Motion No. 10: **Moved Resolution No. 193 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Hewitt
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. 194: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$601,140.04 Entered Into By The County – New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation – Emergency Management

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment #2 for \$601K with NYS Technology Enterprise Corp. extending the term and expand the scope of work for project management services through the implementation of the new Public Safety Communication System upgrade. 100% State. NYS OGS, Amd. Term 3/1/22 – 6/30/24.

Motion No. 11: **Moved Resolution No. 194 FOR Discussion**
Motion By: Legislator Lopez
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**

New /Old Business – See attached transcript.

Adjournment

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

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

TIME: 6:11 PM

Respectfully submitted: Legislative Staff, Nettie Tomshaw

Approved: May 5, 2022

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Chair Uchitelle

Great, thank you. All right. I'd like to call this meeting to order, our April 7th meeting of Law Enforcement and Public Safety. As our first order, I'd like to entertain a motion to approve the March 3rd meeting minutes.

Legislator Hewitt

I'll make the motion.

Chair Uchitelle

Motion Legislator Hewitt. Can I have a second?

Legislator Lopez

I'll second.

Chair Uchitelle

Second Legislator Lopez. Any discussion? All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? The minutes are approved unanimously. All right, we can go into resolutions.

Chair Uchitelle

I'd like to entertain a motion for Resolution No. 170. Confirming Appointment of Members to the Traffic Safety Board. Do we have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Lopez

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. Do we have a second?

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright. Motion from Lopez, second from Hewitt. Anyone from the executive's want to just frame this for us? And then we'll open it up to any questions. Although I think with this, you know, most of us were expecting this.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

I don't believe Marc's coming on. Yeah,

Chair Uchitelle

That's fine if it's alright, with the committee I'll frame it because I think this this came from the conversations from last time.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

I believe this is Lou Kleckner and Tom Polk be added to the Traffic Safety Board. You know, I believe based on feedback that we shared, when the Traffic Safety Board resolution appeared before us last month. Personally, you know, I'll say I'm very happy with these two members being added. But I'm curious if anyone has any questions or concerns.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright. Well, I'll just say thank you to the executive team for responding to our request that we have folks from the pedestrian and cycling community at it, and these two definitely fit that bill. So I'm very happy with that. So if there's no further discussion, I'll call the question. All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, Resolution No. 170 passes unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution 171. Appointing a Member to the Ulster County Fire Advisory Board. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Hansut

Motion.

Chair Uchitelle

Can I have a second.

Legislator Lopez

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay. All right. Motion from Legislator Hansut, second from Legislator Lopez. Any discussion on this? All right. If that's the case, then I will call the question. All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, motion 171 passes unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Very similar resolution coming up next, Resolution 172. Appointing a Member to the Ulster County Fire Advisory Board. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

All right motion from Heppner.

Chair Uchitelle

Can I have a second?

Legislator Hansut

I'll second it.

Chair Uchitelle

Second from Legislator Hansut. Any discussion? All right, I'll call the question all those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? Alright 171 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution No. 189. Establishing a Policy Prohibiting the Housing of Incarcerated Individuals Transferred from Facilities Outside of Ulster County. The No More Incarceration for Profit Policy. Can I have a motion to discuss.

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

Can I have a second?

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

So moved by Legislator Heppner, second from Legislator Hewitt and I'd like to go to the bill's sponsor, or the bill's author I should say to get a little bit of background. Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Sure, I'm going to say a couple of things, tell you where I'm at. I'm definitely open for discussion - a quick discussion tonight if anybody's willing. I have talked to Sheriff Figueroa. And I think I would have been looking for a postponement for a month anyway, so we could wrap our heads around and have some discussion, especially in Caucus. Once again here we are. We haven't even had a caucus to talk about these things. I think we need to be caucusing more, but that's for another day. First, I'd like to say that I thought me and Sheriff Figaro had a great conversation. And I've sat back my own opinion and watched over the last couple of years and watched the sheriff really stay in his own lane. He deals with the jail, the road patrol, he's not looking to be in and do anybody else's job. And I've watched some county wide elected officials, I think sometimes go out there. And I think the sheriff really handles it well. And I have a lot of respect for him and the way he carries himself. And we've had some good exchanges.

Legislator Maloney

That being said, I do think that a policy such as this, I am, I mean, we are the elected the legislature is the policy making body but we're creating - we couldn't be creating a policy that is strictly over at the jail. So I think I need to be as I craft this very cognizant of that and working with the sheriff and hearing them out before ever going to a vote. And hopefully, having them on board, especially considering the fact that this has been his approach. And I want to publicly say that, that is the first sheriff in my lifetime that's come that's come along and moved us towards a policy such as this. I do think overall, creating a a major revenue stream off incarceration is not the way to go. I think it ends up taking you to places in an approach that that has consequences that are not intended but almost morally wrong.

Legislator Maloney

It's I also believe it's economically wrong. And I think if we fairly crunched the numbers through the years, this is I think there's more years than not that we've lost money. So to the taxpayer, I think this is wrong. And it's created an unsafe work and, living environment for county residents that are incarcerated and the CEO's that are working there. When we're talking about some of the people we brought in from some of these federal places. It's uh, you know, it creates gang issues. There's weapons that I know have been more likely to be found at some of these federal inmates. So I think there's a lot of different reasons to have this conversation and move towards a policy like this. I feel very good about it. It's something I was very public about when I ran and got positive feedback from people on both sides of the aisle, I'd say 100% positive feedback. I didn't come across one person, I put it on my mailers, I talked about it in a debate and I had people contacting me. And it wasn't just, you know, Democrats, it was Republicans and Democrats that for all the reasons I mentioned.

Legislator Maloney

One amendment I will be making is and something that came out of the conversation with Sheriff Figueroa was that there's times where law enforcement ends up incarcerated for a time and they end up being obviously, you don't want them always there's reasons that that they don't want to be in their own county. So that's something jails do for each other. And I don't want to take that ability away, especially considering the fact that some of these incarcerated law enforcement have families and they shouldn't have to travel any further than they need to. So I would amend that for us to be able to do that. And I think it's a rare occasion that happens, but it makes sense. That's all I have to say on it. Tonight. I will be talking to everyone more. I'll be talking to Sheriff Figueroa again. And if anyone else has any comments, maybe I'm sure the Sheriff does, I'd love to hear.

Chair Uchitelle

Yes if it's alright with the committee, I'd love to go to - Legislator Lopez do you mind if I go with the Sheriff first?

Legislator Lopez

Sure.

Chair Uchitelle

Cool. All right. Sheriff Figueroa, if you want to kind of share your thoughts on on this.

Sheriff Figueroa

Well, good evening, everyone. And thank you, Mr. Chair, and I did have a good conversation with Legislator Maloney. Obviously, there's some things that I don't necessarily agree with. But I do have an open mind, I understand the intent of what he's trying to get at. And, obviously, the flexibility of both the importance of the sheriff having flexibility and public safety issues in the future is a major concern for me and this office. But I'm open minded, and I'm looking forward to working with the legislature to get something that's going to work for everyone.

Sheriff Figueroa

But I also know that adding an extra layer, when the sheriff needs an ability to do something quickly, he's not whoever, whether it's me or the future, isn't gonna wait a month to talk to the legislature to get something done when there's a public safety issue at hand. And obviously, those are concerns that I know that we can work out with, and I'm looking forward to working with Legislator Maloney and the folks on this committee, somewhere where we can all feel comfortable with what the intent is, which is making money off an incarcerated individual, which I agree, is not something that any of us should be doing. There obviously are instances where we have to do it. But I am, again, open minded. It's not the policy of this office to solicit folks that came in except for during the pandemic, which I had a great conversation with Mr. Maloney about and he's aware of that. And I will be happy to share with you in the future. But I look forward and working with everyone to get something that we can all agree with and live with. Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Great Legislator Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

And thank you, Chairman. I guess this question would be for the sheriff. I see the resolution has a caveat for transfers required by law, or court order. However, does not have one for contractual obligations, if any. Does the county have existing contracts with other facilities that would have to be terminated or modified if this policy were to pass?

Sheriff Figueroa

We do have contracts with the federal government, however, it's at the decision of the sheriff whether or not we would accept any inmates. And at this point, this sheriff will not be accepting anyone due to the staffing levels at the jail and a little history besides the pandemic. We had a hiring freeze, a promotion freeze, and retirement incentive, and less and less people interested in doing this job. So it makes it difficult to, you know, to bring anybody in, for the purposes of - it was never really a profitable thing. And I agree with Mr. Maloney on this, because it's \$22 million a year to run the jail. But it did offset some of the costs of the taxpayer. Of course, we're always looking to see if it's an emergency that the pandemic comes up in the future that we would have to keep an open mind for something like that, because we didn't know where we were gonna go. Thank God, we made it through there.

Sheriff Figueroa

But I do understand the intent of not bringing incarcerated folks from outside the county to make money. My staffing levels cannot afford to - we just can't afford to have extra bodies years anyway, I remember reading in the papers, and I'm sure those that have been around for a while realize that when the jail was built. This jail was built to bring in board ins. But you know, Greene County lost its jail. It was shut down by the state commission of corrections. And that's why green county inmates were here.

Legislator Lopez

Okay, so if there aren't any kind of - there could be reciprocity agreements, though, right with other facilities as well, that would have to be come to a conclusion before he moved forward with this as well are at least part of the process. Correct?

Sheriff Figueroa

And when I was elected to Sheriff pulled it out, and it was completely complete politics at that time. When the new sheriff got elected in he didn't want his folks to go way up to Albany. So we of course, accepted them here. And things like that do occur from time to time for the benefit of bordering counties. And I just want everybody to keep an open mind relating to that. But as far as actual up to date contracts, I don't think there are any of them at this point, other than those that are done with, you know, with individual counties regarding boardins and the State Commissioner of Corrections, actually are the ones that authorizes that. So it's not something that is done solely by the sheriff, the State Commission on Corrections has to authorize that.

Sheriff Figueroa

Yes, sir.

Legislator Lopez

Okay, thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. Anyone who hasn't spoken yet will have any questions or points of discussion and then we'll go back to Legislator Maloney. Okay, Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yeah two things. It didn't sound to me like there was a whole lot. I think we're the intent of this. And we'll make sure it's written tightly that anybody that's here now is not going to be booted out. We don't like to use the phrase grandfathered in anymore, but there'll be grandfathered into our jail. And I think there's, I don't know 10 or so. I believe the number I got was \$70 a day is what we get. Many of these people end up in the psych ward at times, which means one CO is going with them. That's a lot of overtime. We're feeding them we're transporting them. When you start really crunching the numbers at \$70 a day. I mean you end up running overtime a handful of times and we're running a ton of overtime regardless, but this is driving overtime as well. The the wear and tear on our COs and what they're going through when you have you know 20 something people on Easter coming in for a double and this is nothing on the sheriff.

Legislator Maloney

You know when you know these men and women are going to work. I think you had an officer pass away at the jail. I mean, this is intense what these men and women are going through it is the hardest job in the county, and I think this adds to it. And whether it's a \$22 million annual budget to run that jail or whatever, \$70 a day. And if you're running overtime because of it, not to mention feeding transportation and all these other things, then it doesn't - I don't believe it offsets that, but that's a financial discussion and debate for another day. But, um, I appreciate what everyone thought. And I do think I don't think there's I didn't I haven't, I didn't hear much contractual, that we'd have to sounds like that we'd have to deal with there. I didn't hear that the sheriff say that but

Sheriff Figueroa

I just would like to add that as far as we only have five females from Greene County, because the Greene County Jail is brand new, and it hasn't been approved for female usage at this point. So we only have

five of them. We do get every now and then one on one. But we also have our own 150 prisoners that are all one on one as well. For example, there are 32 to 48 cells in a given housing unit. If we have 20 females, and we add five to it, that's not a major cost, for us, per se, because whether you have five females that belong to us or 20, we still have to, you know, man that and post that housing unit 24/7. So I look at it in that aspect of it. Transportation, of course, is something that does occur from time to time, but we also transport our own folks. And so that's just part of the - as far as the dangerousness the issues that we've had on my tenure have been pretty much the same. Even when we did have the federal inmates that came in, it didn't exceed any previous years. It is a jail. And there are dangers that come with working at a jail. And everybody that works here knows that. But I do agree with Mr. Maloney that this is one of the most dangerous jobs, and by far the toughest job in law enforcement. Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Deputy Chair Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Legislative Maloney, if you could just maybe elaborate a little bit if you can, on just what were the major concerns or the complaints of those COs that you haven't mentioned yet really. Like I understand the safety. Was there anything else that came to light that was a big concern for them?

Legislator Maloney

I think the COs feel like it's driving overtime, which is which is their biggest issue, which is, look, we just I think we just hired five new CO's. The Sheriff is hiring everyone he can everyone he's allowed to everyone, you know, and I think we've just had five COs quit recently. So it's like, it's an impossible thing he's dealing with. And I have heard from COs that they felt especially the federal inmates, they've also stated sometimes some, even some of the Greene County inmates they've gotten have gone to the psych ward, which has driven overtime. I mean, it's a real, but I think if you polled the COs, I don't know if you'd be at 100%. But I haven't talked to a CO that is for boarding outside of the county.

Legislator Hansut

All right, thank you.

Sheriff Figueroa

You know, and I appreciate the - it's always good to have several sides of the story, totally different when you're sitting, operating and managing the Office of Sheriff and I want to be I want to be clear here though, and very, very careful that the operations of this office is done by the Sheriff and not to COs or their unions. And I think that's a concern of mine. When they do that they have a chain of command and issues that they want to bring up. They can bring it up through the chain of command. And we try to answer every and all that that occurs. Unfortunately, this type of job does require mandatory overtime. And when they swear - when I give them the oath of office, they know what they're getting into, they get explained. And they know that there are times you're going to be working mandatory overtime and staffing levels because of what happened last couple of years, have been devastated. And it's just been tough. And I just want everybody to keep an open mind about that. Because it's been tough being CO back there. There's no other way around that. I'm not looking to bring any either now or in the future. I'm not looking to bring any, you know, inmates from outside. I did the Greene County thing that I think is a good thing

as a bordering county because I would hope one day that if we run into an issue like that, that they would do the same for us. And I wouldn't want to send my inmates because they closed the jail because the leaky roofs here up to Albany and having the poorest people in the county drive up to Albany and visit their families up there. I rather take them to Greene County. And so that's why it's important to have an open mind when we sit down and discuss these really important issues.

Legislator Maloney

I would like to quickly say that these conversations have predated, you know, I've gone to high school with, I play softball with CO's. A lot of the conversations I've had, were years ago about these federal inmates and what they were dealing with, but I don't really look at it as a chain of command when a guy's done, you know, three doubles in a row, and he shot and, um, and he's at a softball game, and he's, you know, mentioning that he shot because he's done three shifts in a row. It's just, it's not like, you know, I wouldn't be, you know, I don't, you know, to have any talk about chain of command or whatnot, I think it's pretty healthy the conversations that I've had, and I don't think, I don't think they've undermined anything in any way. And I hope I don't, I hope I don't hear, you know, that, you know, that there's COs now being you know, that are gonna, that you're gonna go around and start trying to figure out who's talking to legislators or something like that.

Sheriff Figueroa

I would never do that. That's not the way I operate. But I want to make it clear to the legislature that these people work for me. I know they're your constituents, but they work for me. You're my oversight, and I work for the people of this county as a whole. And there is a certain amount of understanding of what a paramilitary organization is, that's what this is. That's why we have ranks. That's why there's mandatory overtime. That's why we have to do the work that we do. This is inherently a dangerous job. If it wasn't, you know, I would tell you, it wasn't. But that's not true. It is a dangerous job.

Legislator Maloney

Agreed. And that's why I don't think they are, I don't believe their contract, and I'm sure you'd like to see him get a better contract. I'd like to see them have the same exact contract as the road patrol. You know, and that'd be something I'd be willing to fight for. And it hasn't happened. And, you know, and a lot of those conversations that I've had lead me to being very loyal to those COs and thinking that they're not getting enough. And I know you agree with that.

Sheriff Figueroa

I do.

Legislator Maloney

I wish our county executive agreed, and the rest of my colleagues agreed.

Sheriff Figueroa

I definitely believe that they're definitely different jobs. But I agree that I don't like for them to feel like they're second class citizens. Because to me that they're not. This is one office, that's why we went to the one uniform instead of having two uniforms when I took, you know, when I took this job, and I saw

that, and, but they did okay, in the last contract, to the biggest contract they ever had in the history of this office. And I'm pretty proud of the work that we did to get that done.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright, Deputy Chair Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

I just want to say I think this is a great conversation. And I think one of the things that as we go forward with this is that we have to look at if there is special situations, and that's what's going to happen. Like, I don't think a couple of years ago, any of us expected to live through this pandemic, or see what a pandemic was like, for the long time that we were in it. But we never know what's going to happen. Sickness can happen in jails, you know, with, the inmates with the staffing, like the sheriff just said, a roof leak. You know, anything can happen. So we have to be very careful. I think that there can be situations where we can't almost be all or nothing. So we just have to be cognizant of that.

Chair Uchitelle

Legislator Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yeah how would this affect alternative outlets to send Ulster inmates should circumstances require that to be done?

Sheriff Figueroa

And that's why we gotta we have to talk about that. When we sit and discuss what is it that we want the resolution to look at the end. But you're right, that is an issue. I have six folks that are boarded out right now. And again, it's whether it's the, the psych hospitals that they're at, or it's because the individual needs to be housed in a different facility, because of maybe they're related somebody here or work here. So yes, we got to be careful about not shutting down our, you know, our possibilities. And that's why it's important that that flexibility, be in there. If you are going to do a resolution as if there's got to be flexibility for the sheriff to be able to make decisions and not go to the legislature that meets once or twice a month when an ESD has to make that decision now, and that's why it's important to understand that there's got to be some sort of flexibility built in here.

Legislator Lopez

Sure.

Chair Uchitelle

Any other discussion? I'd like to say before we move on from this and I would ask also if the sponsor is alright with it that we would take no action on this. I think that's probably the right thing rather than a postponement, although I'm open to either but before we get to that, I'll just say you know, I do support this. I think that having a no more incarceration for profit policy should be our policy. And I'll just say, you know, I appreciate the need for flexibility. And I definitely look forward to discussions about how to build that into this legislation.

Chair Uchitelle

You know, Sheriff, you mentioned the, you know, tying the hands of a future sheriff. And I will say to that, you know, they say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, I would say maybe one step further than that is when we enshrined in your policies of law, it might be an even more sincere form of flattery. And I think that this is something that you've done the right thing on Sheriff and, you know, much as I might not like it, you might not be Sheriff forever. There might be a day when you decide to, you know, take your boat and actually spend some time out there and, I would want this policy in place, when that time comes with the flexibility to handle whatever, whatever the future brings. So, with that, I'm thinking the best course of action is to take no action on this.

Legislator Maloney

I'm okay with no action, so it's not against my will.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Okay. Alright, so then we can just move on. Resolution No. 190. Authorizing the Chair of the Legislature to Enter Into an Agreement with the Department of Justice for Asset Forfeiture, Through the Ulster County Sheriff's Office

Chair Uchitelle

Do I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Lopez

I'll move it.

Chair Uchitelle

And a second?

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright moved by Legislator Lopez, second by Legislator Hewitt. Sheriff, do you want to just frame how this works?

Sheriff Figueroa

So the asset forfeiture is usually done by the federal government once in a blue moon, it's done by the state government. And we obviously, these are assets of illegal proceeds that were done in criminal cases. And that's why it's got to be approved by the legislature.

Chair Uchitelle

And my understanding is we really don't have a choice in the matter. You know, whether asset forfeiture is a topic that we feel passionately about or not, that's my understanding. Does anyone have any questions or concerns points of discussion? All right, we'll call the question all those in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, that is 190, passes unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Moving on to 191. Approving the Execution of a Contract for \$588,533.58 Entered Into by the County With Axon Enterprise Inc, through the Ulster County Sheriff's Office. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Hansut

Motion.

Chair Uchitelle

Motion from Legislator Hansut. Can I have a second?

Legislator Hewitt

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

Second from Legislator Hewitt. All right. My understanding is this simply the contract that we paved the way for by amending the capital budget last month. Sheriff Figueroa is there anything - this is just basically as simple as that.

Sheriff Figueroa

This is from the contract management side to get the contract done. Hopefully, it's important that we do it this month. So thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Yep. Yep. Great, any questions.

Sheriff Figueroa

It's the body cams.

Chair Uchitelle

Yep. Any questions or concerns? I'll call the question. All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, that is 191 passes unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Resolution No. 192. Approving the Execution of a Contract for \$985,163 Entered Into By the County with Black Creek Integrated Systems Corp. Through the Ulster County Sheriff's Office. Can I have a motion to discuss.

Legislator Heppner

Move it.

Chair Uchitelle

All right, that was moved by Heppner, seconded by Hewitt. Sheriff, I believe this is the same sort of deal.

Chair Uchitelle

And a second.

Legislator Lopez

Second.

Legislator Hewitt

Chair Uchitelle that was the second by Lopez.

Chair Uchitelle

Oh, sorry second by Lopez, for Nettie so thank you. Any questions or concerns on this one? All right with that I will call the question all those in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, the resolution is unanimous. All right.

Chair Uchitelle

Moving on to Resolution No. 208. Approving the Memorandum of Agreement Between the County of Ulster and the Ulster County Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association Inc. On Behalf of the Ulster County Deputy Sheriff's Superior Officers Unit For the Years of 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, and Amending the 2022 Ulster County budget. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Heppner

Motion.

Chair Uchitelle

And a second?

Legislator Hansut

I'll second it.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. So second by Hansut, and I think that Lopez again for the motion?

Legislator Heppner

That was me.

Chair Uchitelle

That was, oh Legislator Heppner. All right. Thank you. All right Sheriff, do you want to frame this? Or I don't know, who -would you be the best to frame this or?

Chair Uchitelle

We talking Resolution 208?

Chair Uchitelle

Yeah 208. This is the PBA Superior Officers.

Sheriff Figueroa

This is the commissioned officer's union, which is separate from the PBA. But they work hand in hand, and this is their contract.

Chair Uchitelle

Yep, anything from the - yep Chris.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

So this is five members and typically, once we finish the negotiations with PBA, and settle those contracts, what we do is try to mirror the same terms. So I think the overall impact for these employees is about 300 or so \$1,000, over the term of the contract, but when we went into the negotiation, we made sure that it was mirroring what we gave the other units within the sheriff's office.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. And I have a question, do they have leadership separate from the leadership of the full PBA unit in the sheriff's office?

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

So yeah, it's a special it's a special grouping of the upper management within the sheriff's office. So when we negotiate this was with Altieri.

Sheriff Figueroa

Captain Altieri, who is the chief of basically the captain of the Criminal Division, and he runs a criminal division, and it's his three Lieutenants and a Detective Lieutenant.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

One detective - Detective Lieutenant.

Chair Uchitelle

Any questions, concerns or points of discussion from anyone on the committee? All right. With that, I'll call the question. All those in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? Resolution 208 precedes unanimously.

Chair Uchitelle

Moving on to Resolution 193. Amending the 2022 Ulster County Budget to Accept an Allocation of Funds from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and Create a One Part Time Mental Health Specialists Position in the Department of Probation. Can I have a motion to discuss?

Legislator Hewitt

So moved.

Legislator Heppner

I'll second.

Chair Uchitelle

All right. Great. We got a motion from Hewitt, we got a second from Heppner. Nancy, do you want to frame the context here?

Director Nancy Schmidt

Sure, I'd be happy to. So this is specifically in our Crime Victims Unit. They received an award from the state. It's COVID money pass through the federal through the state. It has specific requirements, how it can be used. It's specifically around sexual assault victims. And one of the things that we really see a need for and people are probably aware of that there's a shortage of mental health services, and to have someone on staff part time that we can immediately connect our clients with then provide trauma informed services and counseling. We do crisis counseling, but the more in depth, specialized trained staff to do therapy with clients, we would have on staff only for the period of the grant. And that's about two years and a few months.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you, Director Schmidt. Any questions from the committee? All right. Well, with that I will call the question on Resolution No. 93. All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, Resolution 193 is unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

Moving on to Resolution 194. Approving the Execution of a Contract Amendment for \$601,140.04 Entered Into by the County with New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, Office of Emergency Management. Can I have a motion to discuss.

Legislator Lopez

Motion.

Chair Uchitelle

And a second.

Legislator Heppner

I'll second.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright. So that was a motion from Legislator Lopez and a second from Legislator Heppner. Director Erickson, can you give us some background here?

Director Erickson

Sure. This contract amendment is specifically for NYSTEC that is assisting us with the review and implementation of the radio system project. So, as you're aware, we have our Motorola design project. And we've been working with NYSTEC, for the review, that was the initial contract. And now we're amending it to go into the next portion of to go through specifically, work on collaboration, developed overall project implementation plan, verification, validation of the specifications, and then monitoring the activities throughout the project, do quality assurance, and then review, and then basically help us turn the system on in 2024. And additionally, you know, throughout the term of this contract, they would help us with state grant opportunity guidance.

Chair Uchitelle

And this is all against Capital Project 482. Is that right?

Director Erickson

That's correct.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay, great. Any questions from the committee? So I appreciate the spreadsheet that you shared with us earlier, which is why I was, you know, drawing that connection with Capital Project 482. So this, what we're looking at here, with the backup that was provided is you know, we've got the item of the Motorola contract, and then the addresses that are under that, those are the sites of specific aspects of the implementation?

Everett Erichsen

Those are our towers. So some of those are owned by us. Some are not, you know, some were just co-located on those towers. So you have the Motorola contract, which was a design, using a VHF system, and a ten-tower system. We currently are on a six-tower system using low band radios, which is an obsolete system. So we need to upgrade some of the equipment, upgrade certain towers for microwave pass to meet our needs. Some towers need to be completely built out. And that lists all them. As you see we've been very successful with Steve Pearson in receiving grants. We're going to continue to put in for those grants. But you know, as you're aware, you know, we have to receive them, but we also have a project that we need to complete. So just trying to be transparent with that.

Chair Uchitelle

And this contract is for the project management. So if we were to consider how this contract falls into the context of the towers, and in the larger Motorola contract. This fits within the larger Motorola contract?

Director Erickson

So the first portion of this contract, which was just under \$43,000, back in July of last year, that we approved, you approved. That was the review of the design contract. This 601,000 is an overall of the 480 42 program from you know, the completion of the review, moving forward to we turn the system on in 2024.

Chair Uchitelle

So there shouldn't be any other project management or design review. Like there aren't gonna be any more professional services contracts to see us across the finish line here. Is that right?

Director Erickson

Yeah, I would - this for the rest of our project.

Chair Uchitelle

Got it. And this is all within what we budgeted. Meaning this, the price tag on this contract was expected and is in budget.

Director Erickson

Correct? Yep. And we're using grant funding to pay for this. This is \$144,000 and change is all grant funded.

Chair Uchitelle

Okay. Deputy Executive Kelly.

Deputy Executive Kelly

Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Everett. So I just wanted to - two parts and this is something that Everett educated me on and Steve has. So this project really started in 2011 and 2012 with a study that was commissioned on our existing radio system, which originally that study and Everett please jump in at any point where it said that to replace everything with a certain type of radio system would be approximately 28 to today's cost to build a tower at a million apiece roughly to like 32 - \$33 million for full build out.

When Steve was in charge, and they started to get into the details and get further into system selection, instead of going with, I believe it was a 7800 frequency and going with high band, the high band has more interoperability with other systems, and is also cheaper and more efficient. So it did bring down the overall project cost at that time. So when this originally started out some of that visioning was a much larger in scale, and that's \$2,012 estimates, which would probably be significantly higher today.

Deputy Executive Kelly

So through securing grant funds through working through the project, now they're going through the site tower selection. We have been able to trim those costs. There is a point though, that because of the terrain of Ulster County, when you start getting up into Shandaken, especially, and even in some of these other kinds of valleys within the mountains that don't have good coverage, we could see a second phase that we're currently going to be looking at where there could be an additional six tower locations, looking in Shandaken, but also looking in the Rosendale area where there might be a need for additional coverage. So part of the work that they're all doing, and this is kind of Steve's full time, part time job in retirement, is analyzing all of this, and making sure that the system that we build out now will have the interoperability, and will have the proper coverage. So more to come. But I have to say that, based on the initial assessment of this project, the cost has come down significantly. So there has been a lot of iterations of it. And I am working currently with our budget team and the financial analysts to make sure that the appropriation levels are lining up with the actual spend on the project, because there have been a lot of different amendments on the project. So that works ongoing and Everett please correct me if I stepped on any wrong mines here.

Director Erickson

You're pretty much on point sir.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

I'll take it. Thank you, sir.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Any other questions from the committee? I'll just say since we've got it looks like we've got Steve Peterson listening in here. Thank you, Steve, for continuing - Peterson sorry. Thank you, Steve, for continuing to be part of the team here to get this across the finish line. I'd imagine there's some kind of personal attachment to seeing it across the finish line as well. And we really appreciate it.

Steve Peterson

Thank you, Chair, I appreciate that. It's a it's a good team to work with Director Erickson is fantastic to work for, as well as Deputy County Executive Kelly. It's good team. And I'm looking forward to make an making it all come true.

Chair Uchitelle

Great, thank you. All right. Well, if there's no other questions, so I will call the question on Resolution No. 194. All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Any opposed? All right, 194 passes unanimous.

Chair Uchitelle

We don't have any old business. I asked for a couple of things to be added into new business. The first I think I actually got an update on since then, but just so that it's for the record of a committee. I had asked for an update from the county executive's office on the ATB plan timeline. And Chris, I think he just said it just went to RFP. Is it that one? Was that a different one?

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

So the questions that Legislator Walter through the former chair of the committee asked, one was with regards to request to fill for the sheriff's office for professional standards, which were both signed prior to that meeting.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

The second part was on the jail re-entry RFP because the legislature did pass a policy requesting that RFP last August. That has been sent out and we expect responses by 4/29. So that process is also underway.

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

Legislator Walter also asked, and the committee asked about 18-B. So as part of Hurl Herring, we hired as part of a mandate we hired an 18-B kind of assigned counsel administrator and we're under a mandate to create a program where if there's a conflict and the public defender's office cannot defend a client. The judges will assign in a private attorney. What we're implementing now, and one thing I'd asked the committee is to have our assigned counsel administrator come to this committee and provide an update on this. Because what we're doing is taking from currently the criminals and kind of the Justice Court side, those appointments that typically go to the attorney's kind of favor and creating a pool where we equitably distribute these 18-B cases. And we've made significant progress to that end, and we'll be moving towards family court to implement that same process in May. And I think it would be great if you guys could hear from Jim Lynch, our assigned counsel administrator, who has been really plugging away. The last question on that was, it was approved for him to have an administrative assistant. And we didn't fill that position last year. And that was the call of the assigned counsel administrator, who didn't feel as if, as he was creating the program that he had that need at the time. He has since filled out the request to fill and we're at a point where he feels comfortable that the workload is established where we'll look to fill that position as well.

Chair Uchitelle

So we can expect at a future meeting we would hear from where we would have Mr. Lynch's guest?

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

Thank you. And I'll probably coordinate with Legislator Walter, you know, we've kind of started this conversation to make sure that it's a time when shouldn't be present as well. And thank you, and actually future -does anyone have any questions about that before I move on?

Deputy Exec Chris Kelly

Absolutely. So you tell me when it feels appropriate to have him come present and give you an overview of the work that his office is doing? He typically, because of the nature of his work, he doesn't have resolutions that typically - he doesn't have a resolution really, like that's the crux of it. So when you guys want to reach out to Mr. Lynch, that that's perfectly fine. I'm glad to set it up.

Chair Uchitelle

The next item is actually about future meetings. So we were supposed to meet this month at the Restorative Justice Center. Obviously, this month, didn't go exactly as planned as, as related to COVID, as has often been the case. Rather than push everything, just back a month. I'm thinking and I think I kind of mentioned this previously, that I would like to get us into the Law Enforcement Center. I'm thinking it might make sense to just put off visiting the Restorative Justice Center for the time being, do it maybe in the summer, and hold our April plan to go to the Law Enforcement Center. Particularly mean, number one, I think it's an important experience for all legislators on this committee. I know that there's legislators besides just those that are on the committee that are interested in going to that, you know, having having a kind of look into the facility, and especially in light of the conversation tonight around Legislator Maloney's resolution on the out of county boardins. I think it would make sense to do that. So that's the plan. If anyone has any questions, you know, let me know. But I'm saying tonight, next month, we're gonna meet at the Law Enforcement Center, assuming that we're going to be meeting in person. We'll plan on a, my thinking is we'll plan on a start time. That's, you know, consistent with this start time, however, there are a couple of other moving pieces, that especially people that might have committee meetings right after this, which I know is at least one person on the committee. So that's, that's kind of, you know, please reach out to me and Nettie, regarding scheduling and Sheriff Figueroa with you.

Sheriff Figueroa

I just wanted to know what date you're looking at. Because I gotta check my schedule to make sure I'm gonna be here.

Nettie Tomshaw

May 5th. It's the first Thursday of the month, May 5th.

Sheriff Figueroa

I will be in Buffalo, but I should back. So I should be here. I'll just double check.

Chair Uchitelle

I mean, okay, why don't we talk because if we had to move the date, we have flexibility with that. Obviously, you'll be an important part of that. That moment there when we when we are on site. So let's make sure in the next week or so that this is a date that works for you. And if it's not, then we'll communicate about what's the best course of action to take.

Sheriff Figueroa

Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Thank you. All right. Does anyone have any other new business and there's one last thing I want to mention before we close? Nothing else? Alright, so I just want to say, you know, I really appreciate the conversations that we've been having in this committee and the way that I've been able to kind of manage as chair the flow of a very organic flow of conversating, where we're not necessarily going through the chair to speak to, you know, from a legislator to the sheriff, and then we'll get a response. And I haven't really been playing a very strict traffic cop, which is my goal. And I think this is - it speaks to the committee and that, you know, and the legislature in general that we do pretty well with that kind of conversation. But I will mention that, it's only because we handled it so well, that we're able to do that. And if anyone ever feels that they would prefer a more kind of regimented conversation, if they're not able to get the get a word in or if I ever feel like the conversation is getting a little bit out of control, there's too much cross talk, you know, we will have to go to be more deliberate about getting called on and wait until the you know, wait until the next time you get called on to give a response. However, right now, I've been feeling really good about the conversations we're having on this committee. And I'd love to keep it kind of organic. So I just wanted to mention that. I see that I recognize that it's a choice that we're making to be organic. And I hope that we, you know, it keeps flowing like that, because I'm really enjoying this. Legislator Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Thank you. I just wanted to let everyone know that Legislator Erner and I did a tour of the Public Safety Office. I wanted to learn more about public safety. Because we focus a lot on law enforcement so far. So we got to know the staff and the offices and it's not traffic safety, just so our fellow legislators know, it's about keeping our employees and assets of the county safe with trainings and insurances and things like that. And so I'll try to inform you all if anything comes up. Thank you.

Chair Uchitelle

Great. Thank you so much. Yeah, and if anyone has any, you know, there's obviously a lot that this committee covers that we don't always hear from so if anyone has any interest in, you know, checking out more of our county workforce or any operations, please keep me in the loop. I'd love to participate or help facilitate or, you know, extend the invitation to other folks to the extent possible. All right. So with that, I think we can take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Hewitt

Motion to adjourn.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright.

Legislator Lopez

Second.

Chair Uchitelle

All in favor.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Uchitelle

Alright. There was a motion from Hewitt a second from Lopez and it was unanimous. We are adjourned. Thanks, all.

Committee Members

Thanks, everybody. Good night, everybody.