

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : April 2, 2014 – 5:30p.m.
LOCATION : Ulster County Community Action Agency, Community Room, 70 Lindsley Ave.,
Kingston, New York
CHAIRMAN : David B. Donaldson, Chairman - Present
RECORDER : Janet Salanitri, Adm. Assistant, SUNY, Ulster Co. Community College
LEGISLATORS
PRESENT : Legs. Donald Gregorius, Lynn Archer, Mary Wawro and Craig Lopez
OTHERS
PRESENT : Kenneth Crannell, Deputy Ulster County Executive;
Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College;
Michael Lamoree, Executive Director, Ulster County Community Action Agency;
Skit Rabbino, CASA;
Victor Melville, Observer for League of Women Voters;
Carl Brown, Board Member, U.C. Community Action Agency;
Theresa Brundage, Assistant to Leg. Lopez.
QUORUM : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:30 pm

MOTION #1

Text of Motion : To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee of March 5, 2014
Motion Made : Leg. Wawro
Seconded : Leg. Archer
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Lopez, Leg. Archer and Leg. Wawro.
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 5
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : The motion to approve the minutes of this committee meeting of July 23, 2013 were unanimously approved. Note: Leg. Lopez was not present at the time of this vote but arrived shortly thereafter and approved said minutes and voted in favor upon his arrival.

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY:

Report by : Michael Lamoree, Executive Director

Report : Mr. Lamoree gave a brief history of the building which was built in 1867 and added to in 1898. It is the old #4 school and has been used for various purposes since purchased by the county in 1973. He said that the Community Room where this meeting was being held as well as a portion of the kitchen had been renovated using the \$5,500 given by the county last year. He said ultimately his goal is to get back to preparing and delivering the in-home meals. He is also supplying forty-nine food pantries in Ulster County with many of the staples low-income and shut-ins need.

Mr. Lamoree said HEEP applications were up 10% this year and they are now out of funds. A lot of people are filing applications electronically which saves money in the long run but he thinks the personal contact is important. Chairman Donaldson said

there is a segment of the population who do not have access to the electronic format and gave an example. Mr. Lamoree said the largest group of applications are those people who have a job but still can't pay their electric or heat bill and are just a few dollars over the limit to qualify. Leg. Archer asked if he did any fund raising. He said he is an entitlement agency and therefore never did anything because always got funding from the federal government. Chairman Donaldson said you have to be very careful when you are an entitlement agency as there are a lot of things you cannot do.

Carl Brown, a member of the Board of Community Action, entered the meeting after this report and told this committee that one of the reasons he wanted to be on the Board and be involved was to get back some of the programs they previously had, such as the meals program and Job Corps.

Resolutions: Resolution #115 for the April 15, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #2 – RESOLUTION #115:

Text of Motion : Appointing and reappointing members to the Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. Board of Directors.

Motion Made : Leg. Gregorius

Seconded : Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Archer, Leg. Wawro, and Leg. Lopez

Opposed : None

No. in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : The motion to approve the resolution to appoint and reappoint members (Legislator Peter Loughran-reappointment; Leg. Carl Belfiglio; Leg. Chris Allen; Leg. Kevin Roberts; Alderman-at-Large James L. Noble, Jr.) to the Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. Board of Directors was unanimously approved.

SUNY, ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Report by : Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration

Report : Speaking on enrollment, Dean Komdat said summer is 16% down from last year; however, since our enrollment was over in the fall and spring sessions the college is still slightly over 3% of our yearly projections. He is also working on the college's 2014-2015 budget and there is a resolution before this committee this evening to set June 11th as the date for the public hearing on that budget. He will have more information for this committee prior to that time.

Dean Komdat said he just found out yesterday that the increase per FTE in the state budget is only going to be \$75.00. Our original estimate, based upon negotiations between SUNY and the Governor's Office in 2012, was \$250.00 per year for the next five years but that turned out not to be. At this time we don't know about any possible tuition increase. Chairman Donaldson said his concern is that we keep increasing tuition while the county has not increased its contribution in the past six years. He said he believes the college is an economic engine in many ways and this committee is the one that pushes that agenda and we already have one of the highest tuitions in the area. While discussing tuition rates at various schools in the area, Dean Komdat said Dutchess has the lowest tuition rate in the state, primarily because they have a very large enrollment. Another factor to be considered, said Leg. Gregorius, is the large volume and cost of chargebacks Ulster has to pay for those students from Ulster who elect to go outside of Ulster County to Community Colleges such as Dutchess County or Orange County. Also discussed was the outreach program formerly offered by the

college in Highland which was discontinued, as the college could not offer a full array of programs in such a limited venue. Leg. Gregorius also described the benefits of some of the college's programs, such as the RISE Programs and said this is one of the reasons the college is so vital to the county. The types of programs offered were also discussed. Chairman Donaldson asked about programs such as elevator repair. Dean Komdat said one of the things that keep some programs from not being developed or offered is the cost of equipment.

Leg. Gregorius asked about a realistic figure for the start of classes in Sophie Finn. Dean Komdat said the summer of 2015 was probably the best date. Leg. Gregorius asked if the move will generate more revenue. Dean Komdat said since we will be moving the population of students from the BRC to Sophie Finn he hoped to maintain what we currently have. He would have a better idea after pre-registration for the fall 2015 semester. Chairman Donaldson asked if the new location would help with the Nursing program. The Dean said Nursing is the college's most expensive program and much of the classroom work would remain at the main campus where our nursing labs are located.

Resolutions : Resolution #130 for the April 15, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #3 – RESOLUTION #130:

Text of Motion : To authorize a public hearing on the tentative budget of Ulster County Community College for the year 2014-2015 to be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at 6:30 PM

Motion Made : Leg. Archer

Seconded : Leg. Gregorius

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Archer, Leg. Wawro, and Leg. Lopez

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : The motion to authorize a public hearing on the tentative budget of Ulster County Community College for the year 2014-2015 to be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 6:30 PM was unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING:

Report by : No appearance - Resolution presented by Chairman Donaldson.

Resolution : Resolution #127 for the April 15, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #4 – RESOLUTION #127:

Text of Motion : Approving the execution of a contract amendment in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County – Health Alliance Medical Alert – Office for the Aging.

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez

Seconded : Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Archer, Leg. Wawro, and Leg. Lopez

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : The motion to approve the execution of a contract amendment in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County – Health Alliance Medical Alert – Office for the Aging (\$71,118) was unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU:

Report by : No Appearance – Two (2) Resolutions presented by Chairman Donaldson

Resolutions : Resolutions #128 and #129 for the April 15, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #5 – RESOLUTION #128:

Text of Motion : Confirming the Reappointment of a Member (Esther Taylor-Evans) to the Ulster County Youth Board.

Motion Made : Leg. Archer

Seconded : Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Archer, Leg. Wawro, and Leg. Lopez

Opposed : None

No. in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : The motion to confirm the reappointment of a member (Esther Taylor-Evans of Stone Ridge, NY) to the Ulster County Youth Board, was unanimously approved.

MOTION #6 – RESOLUTION #129:

Text of Motion : Confirming the Reappointment of a Member (Ronald Fields) to the Ulster County Youth Board

Motion Made : Leg. Gregorius

Seconded : Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Archer, Leg. Wawro, and Leg. Lopez

Opposed : None

No. in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : The motion to confirm the reappointment of a member (Ronald Fields, of New Paltz, New York) to the Ulster County Youth Board, was unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Report by : No Appearance. Resolution submitted by Chairman Donaldson. This resolution is to facilitate the acceptance of grant funding for environmental work in connection with the STRIVE project. There was no further discussion.

Resolution : Resolution #143 for the April 15, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #7 – RESOLUTION #143:

Text of Motion : Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an Agreement to receive grant funding from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation for green infrastructure elements utilized in The STRIVE Project – SUNY Ulster Satellite Campus – Department of Planning

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez

Seconded : Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Leg. Gregorius, Leg. Archer, Leg. Wawro, and Leg. Lopez

Opposed : None

No. in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : The motion to authorize the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an Agreement to receive grant funding from The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation for green infrastructure elements utilized in The STRIVE Project – SUNY Ulster Satellite Campus – Department of Planning, was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was a discussion among the committee regarding advisory committees and their roles and how members were appointed. Leg. Archer said it had also come up in the Laws & Rules Committee. Potentially if a slot was not filled within a certain time the Legislature could fill it, but she was not sure about an Advisory Board, and that would have to be researched further.

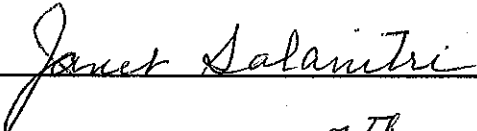
Leg. Lopez said he was concerned about voting for people to be appointed to various Boards when he had no idea who they were. He said he would like to at least have a brief resume attached in the future. Leg. Archer suggested it be brought up in the Laws & Rules Committee. Chairman Donaldson said he will be sending something up to the County Executive's Office regarding this and requested this Committee's Recorder to notify the Legislative's Clerk's Office of his intention to do so.

The Committee was reminded that the May meeting of this Committee will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at 5:30pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Kingston Plaza, Kingston, NY.

MOTION #8- ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Lopez and seconded by Leg. Gregorius and Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:17 P.M.

Dated the 9th day of April, 2014



Janet Salanitri, Recorder

Minutes Approved on May 7th, 2014