

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : July 2, 2014 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION : Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, New York
CHAIRMAN : David B. Donaldson, Present
RECORDER : Janet Salanitri, Adm. Assistant, SUNY Ulster County Community College
LEGISLATORS
PRESENT : Legs. Craig Lopez, Mary Wawro, Lynn Archer and Donald Gregorius
ABSENT : None
OTHERS
PRESENT : Kenneth Crannell, Deputy Ulster County Executive;
Dr. Donald C. Katt, President, representing SUNY Ulster County Community College;
Lee Reidy, Executive Director and Mary Marsters, Program Director, both of
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County; Teresa Brundage, Assistant to Leg.
Lopez; Victor Melville as Observer for The League of Women Voters; Manna Jo
Greene, Legislator; and Steve Massie, Director, U.C. Veterans' Service Agency
QUORUM : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT AND ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS BEING IN ATTENDANCE, CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:32 pm.

MOTION #1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Text of Motion : Resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee of June 4, 2014 and the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of this Committee and the Ways & Means Committee held on the 11th day of June, 2014.
Motion Made : Leg. Lopez
Seconded : Leg. Gregorius
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Lopez, Gregorius, Wawro and Archer.
Opposed : None
No.in favor : 5
No. Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed – Minutes of the June 4th, 2014 meeting of this committee and the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of this committee and the Ways & Means Committee held on the 11th day of June, 2014 unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY VETERAN'S:

Report by: Steve Massie, Director of Ulster County Veterans' Services.

Report: Mr. Massie said he was here in support of the Resolution before this committee to approve the creation of a full time position in his department. He said his time is taken up with case management and running the department. There was a deputy in this position at one time but that position was never filled and he would like to restore it at this time. This will also help him to pay more attention to outreach and other matters. He reviewed his current staff including the part-time drivers who go to the veterans' hospital in Albany. There is one full-time driver, one case worker and two clerks, and those are full-time positions also. Mr. Crannell said one of the

things the Executive's Office did last year was to increase the Veterans' budget. This was due to the increased cost of burial plots and internment in the veterans' portion of the New Paltz Cemetery. He said any veteran in Ulster County is entitled to a burial plot. This also covers some of the construction expenses for the Patriot's Project. He said the funding for this position start as of September 1st, but may increase in the future. Leg. Gregorius said this position was necessary before and it is necessary now. Both he and Leg. Archer questioned the financial impact budgeted appropriation of \$22,403 for 2014 and it was confirmed that was the figure as pro-rated for this year. Mr. Crannell said this is a management position. The Executive's office looked at available positions in civil service but it didn't fit into any of those slots. Mr. Crannell also noted that if any of the Legislators who were unable to attend today's dedication of the veteran's house would like to go over and see it within the next two weeks they should contact him.

Resolution: Resolution No. 251 for the July 15, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #2:

Text of Motion : Creating one full time position and amending the 2014 Ulster County Budget – Veterans' Service Agency. Note: Chairman Donaldson advised the Committee that the text of the resolution had been amended to remove certain language, to wit, in the sixth Whereas clause "pending New York State Civil Service Commission approval" is removed as said approval has been received.

Motion Made : Leg. Gregorius
Seconded : Leg. Archer
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 5
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #251 as amended, unanimously approved.

SUNY, ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Report by : Dr. Donald C. Katt, President

Report : President Katt distributed a breakdown of the dollar amounts associated with changes to the 2014-2015 proposed college budget and said the college appreciated the assistance of the County Executive's Office in working out these figures so the college will not have to increase tuition next year. He said the college had to take the funds out of the Unappropriated Fund Balance. Since there is only about \$150,000 in that balance we hope our enrollment figures stay good. The president said right now we have about twenty-two FTEs more registered for fall over last year at this time.

President Katt said the college has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the former Pier I facility in front of Walmart in Kingston for our Business Innovation Program. This will be for some programs currently using the Business Resource Center which will not be able to use Sophie Finn. This Lease will have to come before this committee for approval at a later time.

Regarding the proposed renovations to Kelder Center which are being financed by a portion of the proceeds of the President's residence, the NYS Dormitory Authority, a NYSERTA grant and the College Foundation, President Katt said there are some financial concerns. The County Attorney said the college cannot do the work in-house and has to have a general contractor

who has to post a performance bond. Because of this we now estimate the cost to increase by about \$50,000 which means only the external work will be bid at this time. We originally hoped to complete the whole project with the funds we had. The President said the College Foundation may end up putting some more money into the project, and it may take longer to complete.

Chairman Donaldson said he is concerned with the low fund balance the college is carrying. President Katt said it is too early to tell how much we will be able to add to the fund balance this year (as of August 31, 2014).

Leg. Gregorius asked the status of the water coming in from High Falls. President Katt said the college attorney is working with NYS DEP to get approval. Both town board have given their approval; however, we are still working with the private landowner. It looks like we will be starting actual construction next spring. He also said hopefully the college will be able to complete some of the capital projects we have had on the list for many years, including the sprinkler system. He said relying on well water is not recommended and thankfully we have not had any fires. Chairman Donaldson asked about campus housing and what the number of beds would actually be. As of five years ago, said President Katt, the figure was 250 beds. Since that time, there is only one remaining Board member still on our Board of Trustees and basically if we were to reconsider housing, we would have to start from scratch with our new Board members and investigate the efficacy of such a project.

Chairman Donaldson presented Resolution #225 "Establishing a Policy to Survey Ulster County residents Who Attend Community Colleges Outside of Ulster County" for discussion. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell said this is not a new issue. In 2013 the Commissioner of Finance questioned the County Attorney about possibly attaching a survey to residency certificates. Mr. Crannell distributed copies of the County Attorney's memorandum of November, 2013 setting forth her opinion that to request a survey at the time a Certificate of Residence is requested may have an adverse effect on the applicant and for that reason and for other reasons, it was her opinion that to request or suggest such a survey would be contrary to law as well as to the spirit of the law. Leg. Archer asked Mr. Crannell if he would like to work with this Committee to see if there is something that can be made available when someone comes in for their Certificate of Residency or if there is some other way. Mr. Crannell said he would be happy to set up a meeting with the County Attorney and the Commissioner of Finance. Leg. Archer asked President Katt how the college has handled this. President Katt said the college had mailed separate letters to students and the rate of return was about 50%. Mr. Crannell said the County Attorney has some real concerns. Leg. Archer suggested not attaching it to the Certificate but just handing it to the student. Chairman Donaldson said this is something that has to be done and he will talk to Cappy Weiner, the Legislature's attorney, about it before next months' meeting.

Resolution : Resolution No. 225 for the July 15, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #3 – MOTION TO TABLE RESOLUTION #225.

Text of Motion : To table Resolution #225 (Establishing a policy to survey Ulster County Residents who attend Community Colleges Outside of Ulster County).

Motion Made : Leg. Archer

Seconded : Leg. Gregorius

Voice Vote : Yes

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

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Motion to table Resolution #225 unanimously approved.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ULSTER COUNTY

Report by : Lee Reidy, Executive Director and Mary Marsters, Program Director

Report : Ms. Reidy said her office has been trying to do more electronically and have also been working on budget requests. She distributed copies of the summer 2014 issue of The Current as well as several flyers on different programs of CCE. She said they just received the grant funds from the NYC DEP Ashokan Watershed and will be hiring an Environmental Planner who will be working in the Shokan office. They will also be hiring another educator for that program and the county will be handling the hiring for that position, which will be reporting to the Planning Department. This position will be a benefit not only to Cornell Cooperative Education but to the Environmental Counsel, Soil & Water and many other agencies.

The Family Consumer Science program has changed to Healthy Communities and is working with the SNAP education program. We have been working with these programs for the past 16 years and they are for people who are eligible for food stamps. This is a program that covers seven counties. Chairman Donaldson asked if they bring in more than one person at a time when they do education programs. Ms. Reidy said they try to do groups and also go into the schools, especially those schools that we know have the target population.

Ms. Reidy said 4-H Youth Development will be working the Ulster County Fair starting on July 28th. Also, she said, we don't have the supervisory staff to take on any more youth members, although we do have a big mentoring program with middle school students. Ms. Reidy said CCE is not so much changing its focus as it is expanding its reach to include the sciences, Math, Engineering and Technology.

There was a discussion of the former Gill Farms and its current use, as well as the upcoming Harvest Festival, which will be held September 21st and 22nd. Discussed was the New World Foundation and the Nobles Foundation and their effect on the local economy. Also discussed was the Farm Incubator program being developed and she believes they have already enrolled five people. Leg. Archer asked whether there was any contact with some of the "boutique" farms that have sprung up in the area. Ms. Reidy said Cornell Cooperative has the largest agricultural program in New York State and works with all farms in Ulster County and in many of the neighboring counties.

Resolutions : None

ULSTER COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

Report by : There was no report. Chairman Donaldson presented the Committee with fourteen (14) proposed resolutions authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to execute agreements with the various towns in Ulster County regarding summer recreational programs held under the auspices of the Ulster County Youth Bureau. Chairman Donaldson said the funds formerly came from the State directly to the Youth Bureau; now the State sends them to the County and the County passes them out to the various towns. Leg. Archer asked how the dollar amounts are computed. Chairman Donaldson said the figures come from the Youth Bureau and are calculated based upon number of programs, participants, etc. The second resolution #250 is to amend the County Budget to accept additional monies from New York State Office of Children & Family Services covering the Youth Development Programs and the runaway and/or homeless children's services.

Resolutions : Resolutions No. 236 – 249 for the July 15, 2014 session of the Legislature
Resolution No. 250 for the July 15, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #4 – TO TREAT RESOLUTIONS #236 THROUGH #249 AS A BLOCK MOTION AND VOTE ON SAME:

Text of Motion: To authorize the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature of Execute the following Agreements for the Ulster County Youth Bureau:

1. Resolution #236 – Town of Esopus for the Summer Recreational Program;
2. Resolution #237 – Town of Hurley for the Summer Recreational Program;
3. Resolution #238 – City of Kingston for The Environmental Education Program, The Summer Recreation Program and The Rondout Center Program;
4. Resolution #239 – Town of Marletown for the Summer Recreational Program;
5. Resolution #240 – Town of Marlborough for the Summer Recreational Program;
6. Resolution #241 – Town of New Paltz for the Summer Recreational Program and the Job Placement Program;
7. Resolution #242 – Town of Plattekill for the Summer Recreational Program;
8. Resolution #243 – Town of Rochester for the Summer Recreational Program and Youth Employment Referral Service;
9. Resolution #244 - Town of Rosendale for the Summer Recreational Program;
10. Resolution #245 - Town of Saugerties for the Summer Recreational Program;
11. Resolution #246 - Town of Shawangunk for the Summer Recreational Program;
12. Resolution #247 - Town of Ulster for the Summer Recreational Program;
13. Resolution #248 - Town of Wawarsing for the Summer Recreational Program; and
14. Resolution #249 – Town of Woodstock for the Summer Recreational Program.

Motion Made : Leg. Gregorius

Seconded : Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote : Yes

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

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolutions #236 through #249, treated as a block motion and voted upon as such unanimously approved.

MOTION #5 – RESOLUTION #250:

Text of Motion : To Amend the New York State Office of Children and Family Services 2014 Resource Allocation Plan, Amending the 2014 Ulster County Budget – Youth Bureau

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez

Seconded : Leg. Archer

Voice Vote : Yes

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

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #250 unanimously approved.

FAMILY OF WOODSTOCK/ YOUTH BUREAU:

Report by : No Report – Chairman Donaldson presented a resolution to approve a contract in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County regarding Family of Woodstock’s Family House Program. There was no discussion, except Leg. Wawro advised she had a conflict and would abstain from voting.

Resolutions : Resolution No. 252 for the July 15, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #6 ON RESOLUTION #252:

Text of Motion : Approving the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000.00 entered into by the County – Family of Woodstock, Inc. – Youth Bureau

Motion Made : Leg. Archer

Seconded : Leg. Lopez

Abstained : Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Archer, Lopez and Gregorius

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 4

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #252 unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

After polling the committee members and others in attendance, it was decided to return to the original meeting time of 5:00pm. Chairman Donaldson said the next meeting would be on August 6, 2014 at 5:00pm at Ulster County Community College

ADJOURNMENT MOTION #7:

There being no further business before this committee, on motion duly made by Leg. Lopez and seconded by Leg. Gregorius and carried, Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Dated the 8th day of July, 2014

Janet Salanitri, Recorder

Minutes Approved on August 6,2014