

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** November 1, 2017 – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** SUNY Ulster, Howard C. St. John Business Seminar Room, Clinton Hall  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman Wawro  
**RECORDER:** Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk, Ulster County Legislative Office  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Delaune, Deputy Chairman Donaldson (5:15 PM), and Chairman Wawro  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Lopez (Legislator Schwartz Berky called into the meeting via phone)  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive, Chris Nguyen- Vice President for Administrative Services, Ulster County Community College, Margie Menard- Director, Library Association, Kara Lustiber, Library Association, Julie Kelsall Dempsey, Library Association, Merritt Minnemeyer- Grants & Funding Manager, Arts Mid-Hudson, Jeff Rindler- Director, Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center, Brooke Nelson- Executive Director, CASA, Lydia Reidy- Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Pam Stocking, Library Association, Melanie Forstrom, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Chairman Wawro called the meeting to order at 5:17 PM and the pledge was recited.

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Chairman Wawro asked Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. to address the committee. Merritt Minnemeyer began by briefly discussing the services that Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. provides to county residents. Merritt Minnemeyer brought Jeff Rindler, Director of the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center to share his experience with Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. Jeff Rindler stated that Arts Mid-Hudson has been a great collaborator and partner to the Center. Merritt Minnemeyer shared statistics with the committee; these statistics were included in the Arts Mid-Hudson proposal. Margie Menard also shared that Arts Mid-Hudson has worked with the Library Association and the Library Association has been well supported by Arts Mid-Hudson.

Chairman Wawro acknowledged that Arts Mid-Hudson is proposing a ten percent budget increase, but asked for a dollar amount. Merritt Minnemeyer stated that Arts Mid-Hudson is requesting \$78,750.00 for 2018. Merritt Minnemeyer stated that they do a lot with a small staff and their resources, but they are reaching capacity. Legislator Delaune stated that he is aware of the wonderful job Art Mid-Hudson does. Deputy Chairman Donaldson stated that the money given to the Arts in the past (2007/2008) was significantly higher, and then the money that was given to them was literally cut in half due to a budget crisis.

Chairman Wawro asked SUNY Ulster to address the committee. Vice President for Administrative Services Chris Nguyen began by updating the committee on enrollment. Enrollment is up five percent from last year. The College has been able to set aside about \$500,000.00 to increase the fund balance. This increase will allow the College to meet the five percent threshold mandated by

Middle States. Vice President Nguyen reported that the Pfeiffer Lab for Innovation & Technology renovation is complete and the ribbon cutting ceremony took place on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The leach field project has also been completed. On behalf of President Roberts, Vice President Nguyen thanked the committee for all of the support they provide to the College.

Chairman Wawro thanked Vice President Nguyen for his presentation. Chairman Wawro added that it was good news that the fund balance is up and complimented the College on the work they have done to achieve this.

Chairman Wawro asked Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to address the committee. Brooke Nelson, Executive Director addressed the committee. Executive Director Nelson began by introducing herself to the committee. Executive Director Nelson stated that CASA is requesting an increase of \$ 3950.00. Executive Director Nelson stated that last year CASA received \$36,000.00 and this year they are asking for \$39,950.00. Executive Director Nelson briefly explained what CASA does. Executive Director Nelson explained how the additional funds will help CASA recruit and train more volunteers. Executive Director Nelson reported that the fall class begins next week and there are 12 volunteers signed up to attend. Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked what the requested increase would help fund. Executive Director Nelson explained that the increase would help fund advertising, promotion, training supplies, and staff to support this program. Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked how many advocates CASA has currently. Executive Director Nelson stated that right now there are 15 advocates. Executive Director Nelson reported that CASA is serving less than ¼ of the children it could be serving, adding that her role is to build this program. Chairman Wawro added that ideally, every child would have this benefit. Executive Director Nelson added that she has really been focusing on community outreach. Deputy Chairman Donaldson added that he is always impressed with CASA and believes they provide an unbelievably good service, adding that saving one child from going into a placement it saves \$100,000.00 per year. Deputy Chairman Donaldson added that he has always been a strong supporter of CASA. Executive Director Nelson thanked the committee for their support over the years and added that CASA received a grant for “overnight bags” as most of the children come with their belongings in a plastic shopping bag. This grant will allow CASA to purchase duffle bags for these children.

Chairman Wawro asked the Library Association to address the committee. Director of the Library Association Margaret Menard began by introducing herself and Kara Lustiber, Julie Dempsey, and Pam Stocking. Director Menard added that they are four of twenty. Director Menard added that there are twenty libraries that belong to the Association. Director Menard shared how the funding is used and the services provided. Director Menard added that no one library could provide all the services, so by combining they are able to bring all Ulster County residents the same services, no matter where they are located. Director Menard explained how the money they receive is leveraged. Director Menard stated that this year they are asking for an increase to pay for BrainHQ. This product is being requested by the library patrons. Last year the Library Association received \$74,250.00 this year they are asking for \$79,725.00. Deputy Chairman Donaldson added that the Library Association has been receiving \$74,250.00 for the last few years with no requested increase. Director Menard stated that they would like to expand services and are asking for about \$5,500.00 more than in previous years. Deputy Chairman Donaldson pointed out that back in 2007 they Library Association received about \$130,000.00. There was a brief discussion regarding how the funds used to be distributed, as compared to how they are currently distributed. Director Menard

shared that a recent studies shows that millennials are more likely to use their libraries compared to other age groups. Director Menard stated how appreciative they are of the funding they receive. Deputy Chairman Donaldson stated that the County likes that all the funding for the Library Association goes towards programs/services.

Chairman Wawro asked Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County to address the committee. Melanie Forstrom began by explaining what the additional \$40,000.00 would be used for. Melanie shared that the Tech Wizards funding has been cut, and there will be no federal funding for this program. Chairman Wawro asked how much funding they had previously received for this program. Melanie stated that the funding is about \$35,000.00. Melanie added at the height of the program they received about \$46,000.00, and it has been funded as low as \$30,000.00. Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked why the funding for this program has been cut, and Melanie explained that the funding came through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and believes that the federal government's priorities are changing. The Tech Wizards program is in 47 of the 50 states. In New York State there are about nine sites, and it was decided that there could only be two sites (Broome County and New York City). Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell asked how many children are served by this program. Melanie stated that about 40 children are served by this program, half from Kingston and half from Ellenville. Melanie added that the Ellenville youth seem to be impacted more as there not very many opportunities for after-school programs or a community center. Executive Director Reidy added that this program has not been consistently funded, so Cornell Cooperative Extension has been looking to find different ways to fund it. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell asked what kind of outreach has been done, especially in regards to the Kingston City School District as well as the Town and Village of Ellenville. Melanie shared that she has been trying to get a meeting in Ellenville and has already met with the Principal of Miller Middle School where the program is currently being held. Melanie shared that youth involved in the program have asked if they could fundraise to help raise money for the program. Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked the age of the youth involved in the program. Melanie shared that the youth range from 5<sup>th</sup> graders to high school students. Melanie shared that this program focuses on STEM; it is geared towards students who are underrepresented (young women and students of color) in STEM, to gear them towards science, technology, engineering, and math. Executive Director Reidy added that when Cornell Cooperative Extension wrote their proposal for the 2018 budget this program was not part of the request, but the request did include funding for more after-school programs like Tech Wizard. Executive Director Reidy shared that Cornell Cooperative Extension just completed their civil rights audit and the findings showed that the 4-H programs across the State are not as integrated as they would like us to be, and work needs to be done to attract more underrepresented groups. Discussion ensued regarding the push to expand the 4-H program. Executive Director Reidy explained what the \$350,000.00 that Cornell Cooperative Extension receives from the County is used for. Executive Director Reidy thanked the committee and the County for the support they have received and stated that Cornell Cooperative Extension looks forward to working with the County in the future. Executive Director Reidy reported that the new Director has been hired, and Executive Director Reidy will be retiring as of January 31, 2018.

Chairman Wawro briefly discussed the Public Speaking program and what an honor it was to attend, and then see those same children at the Ulster County Fair. Adding that it is amazing to

watch them grow and develop. Chairman Wawro stated that some of the children in the public speaking contest went on to State and inquired about how they did.

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**Motion No. 1:**            **Moved to Approve the Minutes of the August 7, 2017, meeting**

**Motion By:**            Deputy Chairman Donaldson

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Delaune

**Discussion:**

None

**Voting In Favor:**        Legislator Delaune Deputy Chairman Donaldson, and Chairman Wawro

**Voting Against:**        None

**Votes in Favor:**        3

**Votes Against:**        0

**Disposition:**         Minutes approved

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Resolution for the November 14, 2017, Session of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee

**Resolution No. 419:** Approving the Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- Dittus, Kathleen H.- Office For The Aging

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000.00 entered into by the County- Dittus, Kathleen H.- Office For The Aging

**Motion No. 2**            **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 419**

**Motion By:**            Deputy Chairman Donaldson

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Delaune

**Discussion:**

Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell stated that this is a two year contract. Deputy Chairman Donaldson verified that it would be for legal services.

**Voting In Favor:**        Legislator Delaune, Deputy Chairman Donaldson, and Chairman Wawro

**Voting Against:**        None

**Votes in Favor:**        3

**Votes Against:**        0

**Disposition:**         Resolution adopted

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**Resolution No. 420:** Approving the Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- Gateway Community Industries - Office For The Aging

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000.00 entered into by the County- Gateway Community Industries- Office For The Aging

**Motion No. 3**                    **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 420**  
**Motion By:** Deputy Chairman Donaldson  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Delaune

**Discussion:**

Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked if this is for the Meals on Wheels Program. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell stated that this is a component of the Meals on Wheels Program.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislator Delaune, Deputy Chairman Donaldson, and Chairman Wawro

**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 3  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted

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**Resolution No. 438:** Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2017, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 7 Of 2008 ( A Local Law To Provide An Exemption From Real Property Taxes For Real Property Owned By Veterans Who Rendered Military Services To The United States During The “Cold War”), To Be Held On Tuesday, December 12, 2017 At 6:15 PM

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution approves a public hearing to be set to discuss Proposed Local Law No. 10.

**Motion No. 4**                    **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 438**  
**Motion By:** Deputy Chairman Donaldson  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Delaune

**Discussion:**

Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell stated that this would make the current exemption permanent. Fawn Tantillo added that currently, property owners have to renew every ten years, this proposal would make the exemption permanent, with no renewal required.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislator Delaune, Deputy Chairman Donaldson, and Chairman Wawro

**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 3  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Resolution adopted

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**Resolution No. 439:** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With Required Assurances For The NY Connects Program With The New York State Office For The Aging.

**Resolution Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a grant application with required assurances for The NY Connects Program with The New York State Office For The Aging.

**Motion No. 5**                      **Moved to adopt Resolution No. 439**

**Motion By:** Deputy Chairman Donaldson

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Delaune

**Discussion:**

None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislator Delaune, Deputy Chairman Donaldson, and Chairman Wawro

**Voting Against:** None

**Votes in Favor:** 3

**Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Resolution adopted

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Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked to discuss the budget appropriation requests. The committee supported the Arts Mid-Hudson request. The committee supported the CASA request. The committee supported the Library Association request. Deputy Chairman Donaldson brought up the Cornell Cooperative Extension request and suggested that Cornell Cooperative Extension meet and discuss their request with the County Executive. Legislator Delaune added that the request is “pretty hefty”. Discussion ensued regarding the request. Chairman Wawro added that the “tech part” was not included in the request they submitted last month. Deputy Chairman Donaldson asked Ken Crannell to reach out to Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Fawn asked for clarification on the budget amendments coming from the committee for CASA and Mid-Hudson Library Association. There was a brief discussion on where they money should come from. Deputy Chairman Donaldson pointed out that at this point it cannot be determined, and they will have a better idea once the budget process unfolds.

Chairman Wawro asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

**Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Delaune

**Motion Seconded By:** Deputy Chairman Donaldson

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 3

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**TIME:** 6:13PM

**Respectfully Submitted: Danielle Wayman, Program Assistant, Ulster County Community College**

**Minutes Approved: December 19, 2017**