

**Laws & Rules, Governmental Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 14, 2021 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 933 5414 9048
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Bartels
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Roberts
& Ronk (arrived 6:05 PM, left 6:28 PM)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Clerk of the Legislature Fabella, Legislators Greene & Petit, Legislative Counsels Ragucci & Cueva and Minority Counsel Pascale, Commissioner Quigley & Deputy Commissioner Fuentes – Board of Elections, Deputy County Executive Milgrim

Chairwoman Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE Minutes & Transcript of the May 17, 2021 Meeting**

Motion By: Legislator Roberts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris, Heppner & Roberts

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the June 15, 2021 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 242: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 3 Of 2021, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 7 of 2014, A Local Law Respecting the Outdoor Restraint of Companion Animals, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 13, 2021 At 6:00 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 3 of 2021 on Tuesday, July 13th at 6:00 PM.

Motion No. 2: **Resolution No. 242 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 3: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 242 WITH PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AS AMENDED IN PRESENTED FORM**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: See attached transcript
Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris, Heppner, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 244: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2021, A Local Law Authorizing Participation In The Hunting Pilot Program For 12 – 13 Year Old Deer Hunters, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 13, 2021 At 6:15 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2021 on Tuesday, July 13th at 6:15 PM.

Motion No. 4: **Resolution No. 244 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris, Heppner, Roberts & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 283: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into A Lease Agreement With Higginsville Station, LLC For Board Of Elections Office & Storage Space - Department Of Public Works – Buildings And Grounds

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to enter into a lease agreement with Higginsville Station, LLC for Board of Elections office and storage space from January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026 for a total estimated cost of \$726,397.45.

Motion No. 5: **Resolution No. 283 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 6: **Motion to AMEND LANGUAGE IN THE LEASE ACCOMPANYING Resolution No. 283 as presented**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 7: **Motion to AMEND LANGUAGE IN THE LEASE ACCOMPANYING Resolution No. 283 to reflect renewal at “the mutual consent of the Legislature and Higginsville Station, LLC”**

Motion By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris, Heppner, Roberts & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Amendment ADOPTED**

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris, Heppner, Roberts & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED WITH LEASE AS AMENDED**

Resolution No. 284: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 5 Of 2021, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 3 Of 2019, A Local Law Establishing The Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board And Providing For the Qualifications, Examination, Licensing And Regulation Of Electricians In Ulster County, New York, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 13, 2021 At 6:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2021 on Tuesday, July 13th at 6:10 PM.

Motion No. 8: **Resolution No. 284 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**

Motion By: Legislator Heppner

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris, Heppner, & Roberts

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 288: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2021, A Local Law Amending Various Provisions Of Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Include Mandatory Food Scraps Composting By Large Generators

Resolution Summary: This resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021.

Motion No. 9: **Resolution No. 288 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris, Heppner, & Roberts
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Bartels moved on to American Rescue Plan funding under Old Business on the agenda and reminded the members that the Chair had asked for proposals be sent to him b Friday, June 18.

See attached transcript.

Chairwoman Bartels asked if there was any other old or any new business; and hearing none.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Roberts

No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:35 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Minutes Approved: July 19, 2021

**Laws & Rules, Governmental Services Committee
Regular Meeting Transcript**

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PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Bartels
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Gavaris, Heppner, Roberts
& Ronk (arrived 6:05 PM, left 6:28 PM)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Clerk of the Legislature Fabella, Legislators Greene & Petit, Legislative Counsels Ragucci & Cueva and Minority Counsel Pascale, Commissioner Quigley & Deputy Commissioner Fuentes – Board of Elections, Deputy County Executive Milgrim

Chairwoman Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Chairwoman Bartels

All right. Welcome, everyone to the laws and rules and government services committee meeting June 14. I call the meeting to order. Clerk Mahler, Can you please take attendance?

Deputy Clerk Mahler

Chairwoman Bartels

Chairwoman Bartels

Here

Deputy Clerk Mahler

Deputy Chair Roberts

Legislator Roberts

Here

Deputy Clerk Mahler

Legislator Gavaris

Legislator Gavaris

Present

Deputy Clerk Mahler

Legislator Heppner. I see him. And Legislator Ronk. You have four present one absent.

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay. I'll entertain a motion for approval of the May 17 Meeting Minutes and transcript hopefully everyone had a chance to look at them.

Legislator Gavaris

So Moved

Legislator Roberts

Second

Chairwoman Bartels

Moved by Roberts seconded by Legislators Gavaris. All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye

Chairwoman Bartels

Is there any opposition? Passes unanimously. Moving to resolutions. Resolution Number 242, Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number three of 2021. A local law amending local law number seven of 2014 a local law respecting the outdoor restraint of companion animals to be held on Tuesday, July 13 2021, at 6pm. We have the sponsor Legislator Petit joining us tonight. Thank you for being here, Legislator Petit. I'll open the floor. Well, I'll entertain a motion.

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it

Legislator Gavaris

Second

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay, great. Thank you. That was Legislators Heppner and Gavaris. And on the subject, are there any questions or maybe Legislator Petit, can I hand the floor to you to maybe make an introduction and say a few things?

Legislator Petit

Sure, thank you. I was, I wanted to confirm that our Counsel had made an amendment, a recommended amendment, along with the county attorney and our Legislative Counsel. I just wanted to make sure that that did get in there. It's section two, it's the last eight words of section two are being deleted, then the last sentence will be moved up to section one. And then that clarifies the intent of the law. This law was passed in in 2014. It has worked well. But there's still, were some gray areas. So at times, it made it difficult to enforce. With the input of, you know, several different recommendations from Counsel. I think we've tightened this up, and the executive director of the Ulster County SPCA will be at the public hearing to speak further on it. It was originally to include confinement, but we decided that confinement in and of itself is a very detailed legislation. And that should be made separately and at a different time.

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you and, and all the members it was circulated but you can see the changes that Legislator Petit referenced are in red on the screen right now. So, we will be including those in the adoption tonight when moving into a public hearing. Are there any questions? Does anyone have any questions on the on the issues or on the changes? I don't see any hands. I don't see all of you, but so if someone does? Okay, there we go. Okay, great. So, I'll enter, do we need do we need to make a motion to include this change or no, it's just as presented?

Deputy Clerk Mahler

You have a motion to discuss. So, I would appreciate a motion to adopt the resolution with the local law as presented as amended.

Legislator Heppner

I'll make a motion to adopt the local law as amended.

Legislator Gavaris

Second

Chairwoman Bartels

Seconded by Legislator Gavaris. Legislator Ronk, I see you there. Do you did you want to weigh in at all on resolution 244, 242, which is a local law amending local law number seven respecting outdoor restraint of animals.

Legislator Ronk

I just feel the need to say for the record that I'll be voting to move it. I'll be voting tonight to move it to the floor. But I feel I feel the need after some comments have been made about other votes for public hearings that were unanimous where there were questions or issues with the law when it came for adoption that this is just based on the public hearing and makes no commitment towards voting for it when it comes for [inaudible]

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay. All right. Are there any other comments? Then on, on the resolution? All in favor? Aye.

Committee Members

Aye

Chairwoman Bartels

Opposed? Hearing none passes unanimously. Thank you, Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit

Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels

Moving on. Resolution Number 244. Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number 4 of 2021. A local law authorizing participation in the hunting pilot program for 12 to 13 year old deer hunters to be held on Tuesday, July 13 2021, at 6:15pm. I'll entertain a motion.

Legislator Gavaris

I'll make the motion

Legislator Ronk

Well

Legislator Heppner

I'll second

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay, Legislators Gavaris and Heppner. Is your hand raised Legislator Ronk? do you want to introduce the resolution as a sponsor?

Legislator Ronk

I mean, you know, I think it's pretty self explanatory. The state budget allowed for this pilot program. It's important to note and remember that in order to be able to hunt the 12 or 13 year old has to have a licensed, experienced adult with them. So contrary to some of the things that have been said by interest groups that oppose that opposed in the state budget and oppose the law. You know, we're not sending 12 and 13 year olds out in the woods alone to hunt.

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay, noted. Are there any other comments on the resolution? Legislator Heppner?

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, and I would also just add further clarification that this is strictly for whitetail deer. This does not exceed into other licensing. So, I just want to make, that's some of, misinformation that was going around as well, that this is strictly for whitetail deer.

Legislator Ronk

That's good clarification. Thanks Jon.

Legislator Heppner

Yep, and I support it.

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you. So, on the resolution, all those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye

Chairwoman Bartels

Opposed? Passes unanimously. Moving on. Resolution Number 283, authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into a lease agreement with Higginsville Station, LLC for Board of Elections office and storage space, Department of Public Works, Buildings and Grounds. Entertain a motion for consideration.

Legislator Ronk

I'll move it

Chairwoman Bartels

Legislator Ronk. Seconded by?

Legislator Heppner

Second

Chairwoman Bartels

Legislator Heppner. On the issue. We have both Deputy Commissioners here. Legislator Ronk did you want to?

Legislator Ronk

I do. You know, I'm gonna. Yeah, I'm gonna be a no on this resolution tonight and on the floor. It, to me this, this is admittedly from the Executive's office not the final solution for the board of elections and is in fact, a short term solution. You know, I feel like if we if we need to work on a short term solution, the short term solution would be space for the machines and the machine techs, which does not have to remain in the City of Kingston. You know, whereas our front facing board of elections, you know, operation has to stay in the City of Kingston.

You know, I understand that there's a concern about when shovels are going to be in the ground up at the jail, and they'll have to move the machines and the machine techs. But everybody concedes that the most logical solution long term in county property is for the board of elections, front facing staff to move into the county office building. And I know that there are several dominoes that have to fall before that's a possibility. But this is just way too much money to spend on a short term solution.

And one thing that keeps getting forgotten, I think, when we when we play musical offices with, with all of our county departments is that there's a tangible, really high cost to move these offices. And I really just don't see the utility in in

this move. I understand that, you know, it's a good space, you know, if we were planning on renting in perpetuity, but I don't think that that's the plan. And that's not been the plan that's been relayed to me by the Executive's office. So for all of those reasons, I'm going to be a no, I think it's too much money. It's a bad bet for the taxpayers.

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay, and we have both, both Commissioner Quigley and Deputy Commissioner Fuentes here with us today. Would either of you like to speak to the issue?

Deputy Commissioner Fuentes

Um, this is Jen Fuentes. I just wanted to say, you know, as a matter of efficiency, one of the reasons for our move is it's essential that we begin to work in the same space so that we can best utilize the staff that we have. There are downtimes that are different for our machine techs than it is for our clerks and we would be able to better utilize the staff that we have if we were all in one space. Already as we head into it, we're in the midst of early voting, we are making trips to the to check in with our poll pads and our machine techs, and it's just a lot of wasted time to get to the equipment. And sometimes we need quick answers. And the idea of driving, you know, any extended period of time to get to our equipment, or to talk to two of our essential staff is not an efficient use of our time.

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you, Commissioner Quigley, did you want to add anything?

Commissioner Quigley

I would just like to add to as a department head, knowing that this was this has a timetable to it. I felt the urgency to come up with a solution. I will admit this, I mean, this is this is honestly the dream solution because of what Ashley and I went and found that solved any and all of our current needs and concerns. Is it the perfect solution? I would leave that to the Legislature as you guys are our guiding principles on what is best for us. But as a department head, I really felt that we had to go out and find our own solution as the timetable didn't fit properly for us to be able to just move on a whim or with less than six months' notice. And I feel that you guys will definitely get your value out of this investment. And if there's any questions that I can help answer, I will be available to answer them.

Chairwoman Bartels

Legislator Heppner, and then I have [inaudible]

Legislator Heppner

Yes. Through the Chair, if the Deputy Executive wouldn't mind, John, do you have any more information per the conversation, we spoke briefly this afternoon? Actually, not even, this evening almost about it. But could you clarify, some efforts are being made to extend the longevity of the release of the lease, you know, ensure more protection? You know, on our side.

John Milgrim

No, absolutely.

Chairwoman Bartels

Deputy Executive Milgrim, if I could pause you for a second and ask that Clerk Mahler share the screen because we did put together some language which I was going to bring up as a potential amendment today. But Deputy Executive Milgrim, you can, you can explain.

John Milgrim

Sure, if I may. And with all due respect to everyone, this was this proposed lease as is. While it does serve a short term, desperate need for the golden hill site and move out of there. It also has the potential to be a longer term solution. There are, as Legislator Ronk mentioned, many moving parts to all the departments and the limited spaces that we have, that are county facilities. And this this facility did turn up at a very opportune time. At a fair, fair market

rate. What we ended up doing in the last short period of time, we did negotiate again with Higginsville to be able to extend the lease and include two, five year options beyond the current five year term.

So that if this space ends up being not just a part of a holistic move of variety of departments with some ultimate goal, we can keep it for a longer term. The county law 215 limits our leases for space to five year terms, it doesn't limit our ability to include options on those leases. So I did recommend a some fairly simple language to be included in the resolution, allowing us to finalize a lease which I like, to finalize the lease that would reflect this, which I believe could be done by tomorrow's legislative session. And if you just bear with me for a moment, I can give you a little bit more on those terms. Although you see

Chairwoman Bartels

We do have the language on the, on the screen. Can everyone see the language in red?

John Milgrim

Is that clear for everyone? Essentially, Higginsville Station has agreed to this, where they would base it on a CPI, New York/New Jersey CPI from the Bureau of Labor Statistics using the fifth year of this first term, essentially as the first year backing it up to the first year. So, the first option would start at that fifth year price with the CPI built into first five years and then continuing from there if that makes sense to everyone?

Chairwoman Bartels

I'm going to read it out loud just because Ken's on the on the phone, so I don't know how readily he can see it, it says resolved that ...

Legislator Ronk

I can read it

Chairwoman Bartels

You can? Okay, sorry, I just want to make sure. Okay. So, this was a concern that I had. And I know others voiced as well, the idea that if this space ends up being something that we'd want to have longer term that this is the moment to be negotiating the terms of extensions. I'm glad we got some language and some agreement in there now. But I also to, to Ken's earlier point, I do think that if this isn't the long term plan, I think we, we need to be having that conversation. Pretty, pretty swiftly. You know, we need to make a change immediately. And I feel like this is this is a five year investment at least. But if there's going to be an alternative, I think that that needs to be explored fairly quickly as well. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thanks. You know, I'm comfortable with the amended language. You know, I don't mind voting for the amendment. However, the amendment doesn't guarantee that we have the option to get, the Amendment guarantees that as long as the property owner and the county both want to move forward, we have the option. Again, I don't know that, you know, I don't know that this protects us in any way other than just telling us exactly how much this is going to cost us more every year over, you know, a potential 15 year period.

You know, I just go back to, I don't think that the time to have the conversation about these space needs is now I think that the time to have these conversations about the space needs is a couple years ago. And you know, you and I have had this conversation, we've had this conversation, the committee, and the Executive's office, which is the is the organization that handles all the buildings and grounds for the county and negotiates leases, etc, etc, hasn't solved the problem. The board of elections Commissioners came up with this solution. And I understand this definitely works for them. If I were them, I'd be supporting this plan too. And with all due respect to you know, Deputy Commissioner Fuentes, while, while it may be optimal to have all facets of the operation in one location, it's not necessary. I think necessary is the wrong word. I think, I think it's useful.

And I think that if we had county property that allowed for that, that would be a good option. But here we are spending hundreds of 1000s of dollars of taxpayer money, you know, you know, over a period of five years, we're spending more than \$700,000 on this when we could potentially move both sides of the board of elections into county owned property, and the taxpayers would be saving that money. And I would be more than happy to put you know the amount of fuel and staff time that it would take to go from the county building the South Manor or from the county building to the BRC or from the county building to another piece of county property within this within the Kingston-Ulster area up against, you know, the 100 ... 101, \$150,000 a year that it's going to cost us to go into this space.

I think this is a very poor financial decision for the taxpayers. And there's, there's no amount of talking about the amount of time it takes to go from Wall Street to the jail or from you know, or from the county office building to South Manor up against that.

Chairwoman Bartels

Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes, thank you. Deputy Executive Milgrim. Can you just clarify and I'm sorry, if I misunderstood you? Did you say that this five year cap because, you know, per Leader Ronk's points, you know that it has to be within the agreement to have, of both the lease both parties of the lease to institute that option. Is that because of, did you say it was a county law that keeps us at five years? Or is it general municipal state law that keeps us at five years because I felt like earlier when we discussed it was a state general municipal law.

John Milgrim

Clinton originally said gen, general municipal law but then he corrected himself it's county law 215, is what the ...

Legislator Ronk

Yeah, it's New York State county law we can't, we can't lease, we can't lease or from or to anybody for longer than five years is why in the past we've transferred properties to the IDA to do longer leases like with the Catskill Mountain Railroad. Their 25 year lease, you know, so that's absolutely the law. My point is that the extensions, you know, are not at our sole discretion, the ex, the, the extensions are at the mutual discretion. So, if this company finds somebody else they want to lease to, they can tell us to scratch after five years.

Legislator Heppner

You know, I share that concern.

Chairwoman Bartels

I do too. It's a, it's a point well taken. And obviously, the ideal would be to have extensions at the county's sole discretion, which is what we've been advocating for in conversations in caucus, etc. If this is the plan to move into a rental property, particularly given that, you know, the economics of the situation, like, now is the moment to have this negotiation. I'm happy that we have this language tie, tying it to an indicator, at least at the least. But I recognize that it is, it is an equation of the least I see that. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Thanks. You know, I, I just think that the, the, the ideal, to me, this is this is not, not on the general plane of ideal. I think that ideal would be, you know, working together to, you know, move the board of elections, you know, as soon as we can on to county on property, which is something that we've been talking about, since I've been a Legislator, you know, this is the 14th year that I've been a Legislator, and we've been talking about moving the board of elections on to county on property. And, you know, we always used to have, you know, half hour long debates about the lease on the, you know, the current office, and, and that it costs too much money. And, you know, here we are, you know, tying ourselves into, you know, and even digging ourselves into what I see is even bigger financial holes, when we

don't have to, because the, the, the time sensitive portion of this is the machines and the machine techs, not what we have going on, on Wall Street.

Chairwoman Bartels

Deputy Executive Milgrim

John Milgrim

Just to add to the discussion, this was, you know, initially the idea of this space did come from the commissioners. I know, they've raised that. Since then, however, we did ask DPW to do a full analysis of the immediate or most immediate department needs, with a, you know, the lookout on to future years. They did determine as to their best expertise, that this was the most cost effective and efficient move for the Board of Elections at this current time. So, it's not just driven by the commissioners, it was backed up by a study that was done by DPW.

Chairwoman Bartels

Are you raising your hand Legislator Ronk?

Legislator Ronk

No

Chairwoman Bartels

No? I mean, I can say that I, I share many of Legislator Ronk's concerns, and I also share the historical memory of the conversations and the debates going back for an extended period of time, probably my entire time here as well. So it's a, it's, it's a at the moment for me, it's a reluctant and frustrated yes, on this, but and [inaudible] give me more to think about in terms of pulling me back to the place that I was over all these, the course of these years. Anyone else like to weigh in? So, on the resolution, all those in favor?

Deputy Clerk Mahler

I don't have a motion to amend it yet.

Legislator Heppner

I'll make the motion to amend.

Chairwoman Bartels

Wait, okay, sorry. Thank you. Thank you. Counsel?

Christopher Ragucci

Yeah, sorry to interject. I just was reading the proposed amendment as it was on the screen. And I just would suggest that we change just a few of the words. It references the approval of both parties, or mutual consent of both parties, I would suggest that we say upon prior approval of the majority of the members of the Legislature and eliminate the reference to parties.

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay. John, any thoughts on that?

John Milgrim

I mean, if, if I may there, though, counsel, the both parties would be the county and the lessor

Legislator Ronk

I think that the Counsel's concern is that, you know, the County Executive could be considered a party when the Legislature are the ones who approve leases.

Chairwoman Bartels

Yeah, let's, let's make the change.

Legislator Ronk

I don't mean to put words in Chris's mouth.

Chairwoman Bartels

No, I definitely think that's what the concern was. So, let's make that change.

Christopher Ragucci

Or we could say upon, you know, parties to the lease or members of Legislature and Higginsville Station LLC.

Legislator Heppner

I amend my amendment as reflected unless there's any other issues.

Legislator Ronk

I'd like it to read what Chris had just said between, you know, members, you know, let me see here. Resolved that the lease may be renewed upon mutual consent of the Ulster County Legislature and Higginsville Station LLC.

Legislator Heppner

Yep

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay, so, Legislator Heppner's moving

Legislator Heppner

I'll repeal my, I'll repeal my initial motion and make a new motion to accept the amendment, as reflected.

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you. And thank you, counsel. Is there a second to the amendment?

Legislator Ronk

Second

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you. All those in favor of the amendment?

Committee Members

Aye

Chairwoman Bartels

Now on the resolution as amended. All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chairwoman Bartels

All right.

Legislator Ronk

Trace, I've got I've got a drop off. My phone's about to die.

Chairwoman Bartels

Okay. All right. Thank you.

Legislator Ronk

Thanks.

Chairwoman Bartels

Resolution Number 284. Setting a public hearing on proposed local law number five of 2021 a local law amending local law number three of 2019 a local law establishing the Ulster County electrical licensing board and providing for qualifications, examination, Licensing and Regulation of electricians in Ulster County, New York to be held on Tuesday, July 13 2021, at 6:10pm.

Legislator Heppner

I'll move it

Chairwoman Bartels

Second? That's Legislators Heppner and Gavaris. On the resolution, this was brought forward by the members of the board themselves as my understanding. Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, I would just say, you know, I've spoken with some board members, and you know, this exactly, you know, folks who weren't here, this was the kind of intention of creating the electrical licensing board was to really bring in the experts to kind of fill the gaps, make some adjustments, tweaks, and needs, as they saw fit, as, you know, more experts in the trade. And, you know, this is what I, in my opinion, you know, the legislative process working the way it was supposed to. So I look forward to us moving these forward. And thank the electrical licensing board, for you know, despite the pandemic, the work they've been doing, to get us to this point.

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you. Legislator Gavaris, do you have your hand up?

Legislator Gavaris

Thank you. Yeah. So, with this first pass, I think was a year or two ago. You know, I had heard about it, I was on the village board at the time, and people have reached out very upset about passing this law. And as I read into it, I also did not agree with a lot of it. But I do agree that if this is going to go forward, it needs to go forward with this process. And I'm hoping that some of the contractors who were doing this kind of work will now have a pathway to be able to get licensed and get approved through this. So I'm hoping it will start to work itself out but there are a lot of people who had businesses who lost a lot of work because they were no longer allowed to do it.

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you would anyone else [inaudible]? Okay, so I'll call the question on resolution 284. All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chairwoman Bartels

Opposed? Passes unanimously. Resolution Number 288, adopting proposed local law number one of 2021 a local law amending various provisions of local law number one of 2020 a local law amending the code of the county of Ulster to include mandatory foods scraps, composting by large generators. I'll entertain a motion.

Legislator Heppner

Move it

Legislator Gavaris

Second

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you, Legislator Heppner. Second?

Legislator Gavaris

Second

Chairwoman Bartels

Second Legislator Gavaris. On the resolution discussion? Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Oh sorry, I thought you're calling on the resolution. I was voting aye. No discussion

Legislator Gavaris

Madam Chair? I just, I made a comment, I think last time about this and I'll say it again, I think, you know, there needs to be composting bins purchased in bulk or something to make this affordable for businesses. You know, I've explored this at the hospital of buying those bins and they're quite expensive. But we're doing a composting pile here. But it's not as efficient as those bins. I know, resource recovery did one several years ago, they had a group buy. I'd like to see us really moving to explore that.

Chairwoman Bartels

Yeah, I think it's an excellent, that's an excellent point Legislator Gavaris. I'm sorry, my connection's a little bit unstable. But I think it's an excellent point. And I think it should be brought to the Environment Committee to potentially take action on through the Department of the Environment or the RRA, either through grant process or just [inaudible] hoping that that conversation will happen at that committee. And Legislator Petit has put it into the chat that that may have been a part of the RRA grant, regarding composting, and that's something we can follow up on. I'm not sure if it's the size totes that a business like the hospital, or an organization like the hospital would need, but I do think a bulk purchase is, is only smart at its simplest. So any other discussion on this? Okay, then all those in favor of resolution to 288? Aye. And opposed? Hearing none passes unanimously.

In old business, we have the American Rescue Plan funding, does anyone have anything they'd like to discuss that would be specific to this committee's work in terms of proposals that they want to bring to the Chair or through this committee to the Chair? Okay, and I'll just remind everyone, they received an email today, they're looking to, the Chair's looking to get in writing proposals. And I would encourage Legislators to whatever detail they have to put those in writing in an email, even if it's just initial thoughts, so that as a collective, we can discuss them all. And that is, I believe, by Friday, June 18th, was it? Okay, Friday. Okay, is there any new business anyone would like to discuss? All right, seeing none, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Gavaris

I'll move that

Chairwoman Bartels

Second?

Legislator Roberts

Second

Chairwoman Bartels

For a second I thought you just wanted to stay. All those in favor of adjournment?

Committee Members

Aye

Chairwoman Bartels

Thank you. Thank you all. Be careful out there in the rain if you're driving. And otherwise, thank you all for your work and your attendance.

Legislator Roberts

Good night and see you all tomorrow.

Chairwoman Bartels

Have a great night. Yes, see you in person.