

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

DATE & TIME: October 19, 2020 – 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 947 6778 4509
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Bartels
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Gavaris, Heppner & Roberts (arrived 6:21 PM)
ABSENT: Legislator Ronk
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsels Ragucci & Gordon and Minority Counsel Pascale, Deputy County Executives Milgrim & Rider, Director Whitney & Deputy Director Lovetre – UC Insurance, Director DeGasperis – UC Weights & Measures, Commissioner Wilson – UC Human Rights Commission, County Attorney Johnson – UC Attorney’s Office, Commissioners Turco & Dittus and Deputy Commissioners Quigley & Fuentes– UC Board of Elections, Comptroller Gallagher – UC Comptroller’s Office

Chairwoman Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE Minutes & Transcript of the September 14th Regular and September 29th Special Meetings**

Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris & Heppner
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the October 20, 2020 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 300: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 of 2018, A Local Law Establishing An Ulster County Human Rights Law, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 17, 2020 At 7:00 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM to allow the public to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 12 of 2020.

Motion No. 2: **Resolution No. 300 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 3: **Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 300**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris & Heppner
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 326: Appointing – Commissioner Of Elections

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of John Quigley as Commissioner of the Board of Elections.

Motion No. 4: **Resolution No. 326 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: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 343: Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Enter An Agreement To Accept A Grant From The Center For Tech And Civic Life For Safe And Secure Election Administration And Amending The 2020 Adopted Budget – Ulster County Board Of Elections

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Executive to enter a grant agreement with the Center for Tech And Civic Life in the amount of \$112,872.00 to obtain COVID-19 Response Grant program funds, for the term beginning September 22, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Motion No. 5: **Resolution No. 343 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: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 345: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) To Further Clarify Budget Modification after Adoption, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 17, 2020 At 7:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 7:10 PM to allow the public to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 13 of 2020.

Motion No. 6: **Resolution No. 345 MOVED FOR DISCUSSION**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: See attached transcript

Motion No. 7: **Motion to POSTPONE Resolution No. 345**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: See attached transcript

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Gavaris & Heppner
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 3
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Chairwoman Bartels recognized Director Dorraine Whitney to discuss the County Executive's Proposed 2021 Budget as it pertains to the Insurance Department.

See attached transcript

Chairwoman Bartels recognized Director James DeGasperis to discuss the County Executive's Proposed 2021 Budget as it pertains to the Weights & Measures Department.

See attached transcript

Chairwoman Bartels recognized Commissioner Tyrone Wilson to discuss the County Executive's Proposed 2021 Budget as it pertains to the Human Rights Commission.

See attached transcript

Chairwoman Bartels recognized County Attorney Clint Johnson to discuss the County Executive's Proposed 2021 Budget as it pertains to the County Attorney's Office.

See attached transcript

Chairwoman Bartels recognized Commissioners Thomas Turco and Ashley Dittus to discuss the County Executive's Proposed 2021 Budget as it pertains to the Board of Elections.

See attached transcript

Chairwoman Bartels recognized Comptroller March Gallagher to discuss the County Executive's Proposed 2021 Budget as it pertains to the Comptroller's Office.

See attached transcript

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

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

TIME: 7:29 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler & Confidential Secretary Lichtenstein (transcript)
Minutes Approved: November 16, 2020

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Chairwoman Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

https://otter.ai/s/IpjHGKyJRRaHxpnvxY3F_A

Chairwoman Bartels: I call the meeting to order, and we'll begin our regular business. And when Legislator Roberts comes, we'll ask him if there's anything he wants to revisit, or he can weigh in. He can weigh in with his votes. I've discussed the agenda with him already. So, I think we're in an okay place. So, let's call the meeting to order. Jay, do you mind taking attendance?

Deputy Clerk Mahler: Sure thing. Chairwoman Bartels.

Chairwoman Bartels: Here.

Deputy Clerk Mahler: Deputy Chair Roberts.

Deputy Clerk Mahler: Legislator Gavaris

Legislator Gavaris: Present

Deputy Clerk Mahler: Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner: Here.

Deputy Clerk Mahler: And Legislator Ronk. You currently have three members present; two absent.

Chairwoman Bartels: Great, I hope everyone's had a chance to look at the minutes and transcripts from both September 14 and September 29. I'll entertain a motion to accept both.

Legislator Heppner: So moved.

Legislator Gavaris: Second.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay. Is there any discussion? Does anyone want to make any changes or any issues? Okay, then all in favor of approving the September 14 and September 29 minutes?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Bartels: Any opposed? None opposed? Okay.

We're going to move through resolutions. I want to recognize and thank all the department heads for being here. I think the resolutions will be fairly quick and I want to take them first in anticipation of Legislator Roberts' arrival because I think he'll really want to hear your presentations.

So, this is Resolution Number 300: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 12 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 of 2018, A Local Law Establishing An Ulster County Human Rights Law, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 17, 2020 At 7:00 PM

Legislator Heppner: And I'll move.

Legislator Gavaris: Second.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, So, on the resolution, Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner: Yeah, so it's my understanding that the different counsels are still discussing. I don't have a current update from Legislative Counsel Ragucci. But I know those conversations are happening. At this point I'll make a motion to postpone.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay. Do I have a second to the postponement?

Legislator Gavaris: Second.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay. All in favor of postponing?

Committee Members: Aye

Chairwoman Bartels: And opposed? None opposed.

Resolution No. 326: Appointing Commissioner of Elections. I'll entertain...

Legislator Heppner: I'll move and congratulations to Mr. Quigley.

Chairwoman Bartels: Yes, we have Mr. Quigley on the line. Congratulations in advance to Mr. Quigley. Is there any further discussion? Okay, all in favor of resolution 326.

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Bartels: Resolution No. 343: Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Enter An Agreement To Accept A Grant From The Center For Tech And Civic Life For Safe And Secure Election Administration And Amending The 2020 Adopted Budget – Ulster County Board Of Elections.

Legislator Heppner: So moved.

Legislator Gavaris: Second.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, we have the Commissioners with us. Do you want to tell us anything about this grant, I know it's accepting money. So, we don't have to talk at length, but you want to just give us a little update. That'd be great.

Commissioner Dittus: Sure, this is a new grant stream that we were made aware of. It was sort of last minute, but it's going to allow us to offset a lot of part time costs. That's one of the bigger expendable items that we are taking a lot of advantage of as we've been very busy getting ready for the election in two weeks. So, we're very excited to add this to the other pools of money that we've got this year. And really use that to offset a lot of this extra help and a couple of other items. So, we'll be busy applying for our reimbursements as soon as we can, because a lot of them expire at the end of the year. So, we have a plan ready to go to get that all done. And if anybody has any other questions on the grant stuff, let us know. We're happy to address any of your questions, or concerns.

Chairwoman Bartels: Are there any questions? Legislator Heppner?

Legislator Heppner: No, I just want to commend to the Board of Elections. This has always been, you know, a crazy year across the board, but especially in regard to elections, and supporting our democratic process throughout the COVID pandemic, especially with the different changes and executive orders that have come down. And amongst all that, I can't remember a time that, it's been a few years now in Laws and Rules, there's been this many grants coming through. And I just commend them for, you know, doing the work to take advantage of those opportunities. And I think it's a very positive, you know, trend.

Chairwoman Bartels: Second that. Any other comments? Okay, so on the resolution All in favor?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Bartels: Any opposed? Okay passes unanimously.

Resolution No. 345: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008) To Further Clarify Budget Modification after Adoption, To Be Held On Tuesday, November 17, 2020 At 7:10 PM.

Legislator Heppner: So moved.

Legislator Gavaris: Second.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, so, I can say that on Resolution 345, I've spoken to one of the sponsors, Legislator Archer, and she asked that we postpone it a month while they continue to have conversations in leadership. So, I'll entertain a motion to postpone.

Legislator Heppner: I'll move to postpone.

Legislator Gavaris: Second.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, on the postponement. Any discussion?

Chairwoman Bartels: Welcome, Legislator Roberts we're on Resolution 345.

Legislator Roberts: Thank you. Sorry, I'm late.

Chairwoman Bartels: No problem. Okay, so on the postponement All in favor?

Committee Members: Aye.

Chairwoman Bartels: And now that Legislator Roberts has joined us, do you want to record your... we postponed Resolution Number 300. Resolution Number 326, appointing the Commissioner of Elections passed unanimously, but I'm sure you'll want to add your vote to that.

Legislator Roberts: Yes, I would.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, and Resolution Number 343 also passed unanimously, the BOE grant.

Legislator Roberts: You have my vote. Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Great. Thank you. All right. So, now we will move into the 2021 budget reviews. And the first that I have listed is the Department of Insurance. Director Dorraine Whitney is joining us.

Director Whitney: Hi.

Chairwoman Bartels: Hi. I'm going to hand the floor over to you to start. If you could walk us through your 2021 budget, and anything that you especially want to highlight, and then we'll open the floor for questions.

Director Whitney: Okay. Well, with the insurance budget, I typically go as tight as possible on any normal year. With the Worker's Comp Program is the biggest of the dollar amounts that we have. It's the S Fund, which is charged back. So, it ends up being a zero net.

But what I did this year was I did not budget for a lot of settlements that we would normally settle, to save a lot of money over the lifetime of a bad claim. Let's say, like, let's see if you have somebody that has more than one injury, or even just one injury, but it's very expensive. If they're very young, we're going to be on their medical bills for the life of that person.

So, what we do sometimes is we'll do a lump sum settlement just to get rid of the claims, so they're closed out for life. And over the course of the life of the claim, it can be a lot of money. I just did one a couple weeks ago, it saved, we say, we estimated to be at \$904,000 that we saved by laying out \$100K or \$130K.

So, that's the that's the biggest piece of the Insurance Department is the Worker's Comp Program. And we cover all the towns, villages, the city, the schools, county employees, the college, and many of the volunteer fire districts for the comp program.

So, it's very large, it's typically around a \$10 million dollar budget. I lowered it this year by quite a lot. Like I tried to shave it was approximately 14%. I lowered it by not budgeting for as many, like as many private investigators, let's say. We're going to have to scale it back next year. So, I just chopped it as best I could.

Ulster County is a plan of the insurance plan too as a member, I mean, and we equate to about a third of the plan, typically. So, when I shaved that Workers Comp budget also, it also was able to lower the county's premium that pays into the S Fund as well. I worked with Burt to do this to try to get it as narrow as we could without getting into trouble by running out of money.

So, the 1910 part of the budget is the unallocated insurance. And that is like a general liability, auto claims, property damage. It's lawsuits. And it's, it's a lot of insurances that are not Workers Comp or Disability. That typically, you know, I go to the attorneys who are handling the files, what's going to be ripened up for trial in the following year. So, what I do is like, we have a \$75,000 deductible on those. And if I know that six cases are coming to due, I'll just basically multiply 75,000 times six and then add in a little more for the littler claims that don't necessarily go to court. That's how I did that.

And the other thing, we do, the 9055 Section, which is part of the A Fund, that's our Disability Program, and it covers the off the job injury for county workers and college workers. We don't handle a lot of that. I mean, it's there's just not that many claims. So, I was able to shave that a little bit too. And I based it on, in part, because I know we have a big reduction in the workforce coming up. So, I just thought I'd be able to be safe by cutting that.

So, basically, Insurance Department is myself, and the Insurance Officer, Suzanne Lovetre is the Deputy Insurance Officer. Andrew Zinc is a Confidential Secretary. And Melissa Mastro was a senior Claims Examiner and she works in conjunction with our third-party administrator for the Workers Comp piece of it, and she also handles the Disability.

So, if NCA Comp is our third-party administrator, they can't really settle claims until they have our authority to do so. They can give us the recommendations and we can work things out. But we basically are very much in control of the bank. So, there's that.

And the only insurance we don't do in our department. We don't handle the health insurance and we don't handle unemployment. But pretty much we do all the other stuff. So that's pretty much it.

Chairwoman Bartels: Legislator Heppner, you're on mute Legislator.

Legislator Heppner: Thank you. Just a quick question. Because obviously in different contexts came up in speaking with the Public Defender's Office, and as well as District Attorney Clegg with the COVID-19 pandemic. And you know, the different settlements, you know, that you mentioned in the beginning of your presentation, have a lot of those been delayed? And if so, do you see them delayed into next year and to where next year, we could be facing a much higher number, because of carryover of claims that have been delayed as part of, you know, people not being able to gather and so on during COVID? I'm just kind of curious if that plays in...

Director Whitney: Yeah.

Legislator Heppner: ... to the work, you all do.

Director Whitney: Definitely, it's been a lot of delays. Because for the Workers Comp settlements that we do, we have to basically send the injured worker to our doctors, you know, so it's an independent exam. So, for like the first three months, or something that just wasn't happening, we were doing file reviews instead, just on the papers, but it did slow things down. Hearings have all been virtual this year. We don't really work with the Public Defender's Office, unless we're handling somebody in that office that got hurt.

Legislator Heppner: They were just talking about how big of a queue they had. Based on how many cases they are looking at down the road because of delay. So, I'm just curious, if next year's budget, we should be, you know, should expect a higher number, because there's going to be a lot more claims processed.

Director Whitney: I kind of think so. And I, I shaved it as tightly as I dared on this year, just based on the information I had.

Legislator Heppner: Understandable.

Director Whitney: Yeah. But yes, I do see a definite lag. And in all of the claims, not just the Comps, but everything.

Legislator Heppner: Do you have an estimate of that queue? How many of you think, or is that kind of...?

Director Whitney: Right now I'd say that now, I'd say that maybe two of the ones that I thought were going to settle this year are probably going to get dropped into January. But we can reclassify that expense at that point, if that's

when it happens. After February, we won't be able to do that. So, we could blow it up, the 2021, you know, then the following year, I think a lot of it really comes down to this. It's like, we can never predict how many accidents and things we're going to have.

Legislator Heppner: Absolutely.

Director Whitney: So, [inaudible] be stuck with just what you know, you really need to have a cushion there. Because, you know, you know, God forbid, like the UCAT bus accident, you know, where somebody died. I mean, this is still in the works. Like we're still working on that file. And that was two, it'll be three years, I think, this year.

Legislator Heppner: Yeah.

Director Whitney: Yeah.

Legislator Heppner: So, keep your answers.

Director Whitney: I'm sorry?

Legislator Heppner: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Director Whitney: No, that's, that's good. I thought you said something. But yes, I would say things have been delayed generally. But for that same reason, we have, for the S Fund, particularly, whatever is left in the pot at the end of the year goes into our contribution to the reserve, which means that it's a bank account, essentially, it's cash on hand, that would be used to pay open claims. So, there's no harm, no foul on that one. We've spent less this year in some ways because of this stuff, too. So, in the Comp Program, it's actually good because it will end up in the bank and will be used in the future. So, it reduces our open liability. So, that's a good thing. If anything, good can come of all of this.

Legislator Heppner: Yeah. No, thank you. That was very informative.

Director Whitney: Okay. You're welcome.

Chairwoman Bartels: Are there any other questions from the committee members? Legislator Roberts.

Legislator Roberts: Yes. Ms. Whitney. You said that some of the town's and the fire departments share your services with Workers Comp?

Director Whitney: Yeah, the Ulster County Self Insurance Plan, we cover most of the volunteer fire departments. We cover the county, the college, the city, seven schools, the villages, and all the towns.

Legislator Roberts: Okay. And obviously they pay their fair share?

Director Whitney: Yeah. So, we break out, we have a premium schedule that we do and the county, because we're the largest participant with the most covered lives, we are typically a third of the whole pot. So, but yes, is based on, the way we calculate the premiums, it's based on the last three years of loss experience, how much we spent on the medical and their wages. And the other half of it is calculated based on their portion a tax valuation to the whole pie. So, if the town's a smaller town, it will have a lower tax valuation, typically.

Legislator Roberts: You know, do the towns pay you? Or do they pay the insurance company?

Director Whitney: They pay us. They pay the county.

Legislator Roberts: And would show up as revenue in the budget

Director Whitney: Yes, absolutely. Yes. It's the last, if you looked on the 1720 line, it's the S Fund. The last four digits are 2222, and that would be most of it right there.

Legislator Roberts: Thank you for your time.

Director Whitney: You're welcome.

Chairwoman Bartels: Are there any other questions from committee members?

Okay, I have just two questions. One, you talked about the cut to the Workers Comp Settlements and shaving that off? How confident do you feel with that cushion, based on everything else that you just said? And the follow-on to that is would you be coming back in the event that there was a settlement that you deemed worthy, if there were, if there was no money left because of shaving it off?

Director Whitney: Well, I think, I think we have enough there that we could settle like a couple of big ones. If we had to. I mean, we could certainly settle the smaller ones with what I put in there. I'm sure of that. It's just it's typically, you never really know, some claimants, they're looking for \$300,000. You know. Some people are looking for a million dollars, some people are looking for \$60,000. So, I know we can settle some things with what I did put in there. And there's typically a little bit of a buffer. We paid the New York State quarterly assessments. And I think because the payrolls are going to be less, I think we might end up with a little more money in that line where I could take that if I had to. I think we're going to be okay, there.

Chairwoman Bartels: You know, I don't see it in the, in the budget that in front of me, do we know what the actual is year to date for 2020? What we've spent?

Director Whitney: Well, I did these reports like in June. Let me see, for which line? I mean, which side of the book?

Chairwoman Bartels: For the expense on Workers Comp in, the Awards? The S Fund.

Director Whitney: I could do a better job and get back to you in an email.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, that would be fine.

Director Whitney: So, I'll rerun reports tomorrow and then I'll have up to date numbers for you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, because I see the '19 actual is in excess of what's recommended for this year and '18 actual, I'm hoping was an anomaly because it was very significant. That was \$4.1 million in '18 actuals. But yeah, if you could get us the numbers, that would be a huge help. And then my other question,

Director Whitney: I'll zoom off, I'll do all the lines for you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Oh, that's great. Thank you. And then my other question, in terms of the personnel positions, you have you have a Confidential Secretary that looks like the position was created, is created this year, and an accountant was removed. Were you are using an accountant before and you no longer are, or what's happening?

Director Whitney: She retired, she retired. So, at that point, she was a big help to me, clerically, as well as doing some accounting with me. Now, pretty much I'm doing all the accounting in there. But it's like the paperwork. I mean, she was just great about, you know, depositing checks, all the things that have to do with New World. She was a big help with that. But she was there for about 20-22 years or something. I forget exactly. At least 20 though. So, she was really, really a big part of the office. And once she left. She did stay on for a few weeks just to try to train the

Confidential Secretary in some of that work. And what he's responsible for is answering every single insurance certificate, for every vendor, in the county. He's maintaining On Base System, which is where we see all of our insurances and our certificates. And this is for any vendor that we do any business with at all for the county. So, it's a very important thing.

Chairwoman Bartels: Was she doing that duty before?

Director Whitney: Yeah, she was and that's what she trained him in before she left, and that was about all she really had time to train them on. You know, she did a few other things, but she was only doing a couple weeks of training. And then she was gone. So, I have no idea how to do the job that he's doing right now with the certificates. I can muddle my way through it, but I don't even think my computer has access to it right now. So, actually everybody else in the office has access to that and has learned it. So, I feel good that we are cross trained that way, even though I don't know how to do it personally.

Chairwoman Bartels: But you've had to pick up the accounting duties, is that what you're saying?

Director Whitney: Yeah, I've always pretty much done the accounting duties. I was the accountant in that office. I started here in '89. And I've always just been in charge of the financials. And I just always, I always handled it with a little bit of help from Alice. She would help keep it, you know, she ends up being a big help in some of the more manual type reporting that I had to do. I'm pretty much taking that on again. And I intend to try to train, you know, different functions of it, so, that it's not just one person knowing everything.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay. Are there any other questions for Director Whitney? Okay, thank you so much. Thank you so much for coming, and providing us the presentation and I look forward to the follow up report. We may have further, we may have further questions, in which case we'll reach out to you. Aside from, aside from the committee.

Director Whitney: Okay, great. I'll get you I'll get you the new numbers. Because last time I read the report, like I said, was when I was working on the budget, so it's outdated.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, great. Thank you very much.

Director Whitney: Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay. So, the next department that we're going to look at is Weights and Measures. I see Director James DeGasperi is with us.

Director DeGasperi: I am here.

Chairwoman Bartels: Thank you for joining us.

Director DeGasperi: No problem.

Chairwoman Bartels: Walk us through your budget.

Director DeGasperi: Our personnel is really \$6,500. It really all we use it for is mostly travel, buying security seals and other supplies we need for just getting by through the year. The only other little part is there's \$250 to have my equipment tested, which I have. I try to offset the years and have my equipment calibrated by the State every year for that 250.

On the revenue side, it's all basically the same, it's about the same revenue. We raised it a little bit because with our Scanner Accuracy Law, Family Dollar decided they were going to join in. So, it gave us extra revenue, which wasn't

posted to last year's budget, which kind of helped us get us underneath that percentage back again, that we needed to get to. Other than that, everything's pretty much self-explanatory.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay do we do we have any questions? Any of the committee members have any questions? Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you very much for joining us.

Director DeGasperis: No problem. Have a great night.

Chairwoman Bartels: We appreciate your work. You too.

Director DeGasperis: Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, moving on. We have the Human Rights Commission. Commissioner Tyrone Wilson, I saw him. Oh, there you are. Hey. Hi. The floor is yours, Sir.

Commissioner Tyrone Wilson: Cool. So, my budget is, is pretty simple as well. The one thing that we did add on was for miscellaneous expense, which is, is listed as \$20,000 there, but \$5,000 of that is for outreach to the underserved population. And I think, you know, that's a, you know, that's a need. It actually helps us, you know, to get on the ground a little bit more to the underserved population. And, you know, that can go as far as you know, information, getting more information to that population, you know, being more of a reach to that population. So, \$5,000 of that \$20,000 on line item 4600.

The \$15,000, that's there is, was, is to be used for hiring a Hearing Officer, or for any type of monetary monies that we may need to hire a Hearing Officer on any of those cases, that, that would need to stand up to the lawyers and to hire a Hearing Officer to hear the case.

Everything else there is, you know, is pretty simple, you know, supplies, and you know, professional services. Conference expenses, we chopped down because we know, we do want to have more conferences, I think we need to have more conferences for people to get more familiar with the Human Rights and what we about. And, you know, and how to get in contact with us and let them know that we, that we here, and that we get a little bit more broader in the reach as far as Ulster County's concerned.

Other than that, I mean, that's, you know, that's kind of all I see that's, you know, that should be, you know, shown or spoken of as far as where we at right now.

Chairwoman Bartels: Are there. Are there any questions for the Commissioner? Legislator Roberts.

Legislator Roberts: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Commissioner Wilson: I can't hear him.

Chairwoman Bartels: Yeah, I don't... we're having a little problem with your audio, Legislator Roberts. Want to try again?

Legislator Roberts: Did I lose you?

Chairwoman Bartels: No. Now we have you, can everyone hear?

Legislator Roberts: Yeah, I'm sorry. Sir, of that \$5,000 is that... for the outreach. Is that more for Literature? handouts? mailings?

Commissioner Wilson: Yeah, it will be a focus point for us to really reach, you know, on the population. It will be for literature and handouts, the creation of handouts. Just more information that we know that we can do more of a direct, you know, direct, hand-to-hand, if need be to this population. Because usually the population, we usually catch them if something is happening, and we gather them in. So, that would be the greatest opportunity to make sure that they can have literature to take with them that they may need if anything occurs.

Legislator Roberts: Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner: Yes. And just add to Legislator Roberts, you know, question and add to the Commissioner's response. I know, you know, as a co-sponsor and co-chair, of the task force with Legislator Ronk. With our most current human rights law, I mean, in a lot of those conversations in that law, we actually expanded allocation to the Human Rights Commission. And one of the biggest, you know, goals of that, in talking to the many stakeholders that were on that task force was for exactly what the commissioner was discussing. You know, make sure that the residents of Ulster County were aware of both, you know, the somewhat new and different services and opportunities available through the Human Rights Commission because of that law. So, I just wanted to kind of add that background from the Task Force perspective.

Chairwoman Bartels: Thank you. Commissioner Wilson, are you, due to COVID, are you having a harder time in terms of outreach? Are you noticing any change in terms of the, the number of complaints or how people find you based on the challenges related to COVID?

Commissioner Wilson: Yeah, it's been, it's been challenging, but the calls haven't stopped. I think a lot of it too, has a lot to do to who I, who I am in the community. So, people who have followed me, and they know that I'm in this position. But there's people who don't know me, and who, you know, those people is who I'm concerned about, who may not know of this position, and what we do here. Because a lot of, lot of the calls that's been coming in, a lot has been somebody who even knew me or knew somebody that knows me. So, and they've been making that connection that way, and that's what I believe, been keeping the calls coming in. To be honest, there has been a lot of calls this year. A lot. And we've been, we've been going out, we've been going out meeting, you know, meeting people in parks and stuff like that, and some of that job sites, you know, outside. So, we've been finding our way, that way to really address a lot of issues that we've been, that we've been receiving.

Chairwoman Bartels: Thank you. Are there any other questions for the Commissioner? Okay, thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you for bringing your budget presentation, taking the time this evening and for all your good work.

Commissioner Wilson: Thank you all.

Chairwoman Bartels: Thank you. Okay, moving on. We have the County Attorney's Office. County Attorney Clint Johnson is joining us. Welcome.

County Attorney Johnson: Thank you, Madam Chairman, Chairlady and...

Chairwoman Bartels: The floor is yours. If you want to walk us through your budget.

County Attorney Johnson: Yes, just like everybody else. My budget is fairly simple. As everyone knows what our department is, essentially, it's an inward facing department, which is, for all intents and purposes, we are the general counsel to the, to the county. So, as you can see from our budget is overwhelming majority of it is salary.

We have for, for 2021, we have Professional Services Legal, and that is we have \$109,000 budgeted for that. And that is essentially monies that we will use for legal services, that we, that one, are not covered by insurance. And, two, if

we need to go outside and get specialty lawyers such as, you know, bankruptcy or environmental attorneys that we don't have in house, and if the county needs environmental services, legal services, and we'll go out and get those and any other specialized legal services that we don't have in house. But we try to do a lot, a lot in house.

In terms of the we have Professional Services, Other Fees. Those are fees that could run from you know, round out legal for processes from service to process, you know, [Pacer] Fees, Public Hearings. Every time we have a public hearing, that, each public hearing cost me \$600. So, we never know how many of those we're going to have per year. So, that's a lot of that. Witness fees for Family Court. So, a lot of that is, is what it is.

Travel expenses, like everybody else, we've cut down on those. Conference expenses, we've cut that down tremendously. And, you know, miscellaneous expense, memberships. Sometimes we do have, we pay for attorneys that want to be admitted in Federal Court in the Northern District and Southern District. The county has always paid for that. And, you know, periodicals, again, just miscellaneous, and postage. So, it's a fairly simple budget.

Chairwoman Bartels: Are there any questions from the committee members? Okay, seeing none, I'm going to ask a question. I noticed in your personnel position summary, the two paralegals are getting fairly significant pay cuts, are they, are you changing their hours? Or are they new people? What's happened there?

County Attorney Johnson: Well, we had they, those, the two paralegals were on an alternative work schedule. And, and one of the attorneys actually also. And when we, were through the process of cutting all the departments 10%. I had to cut you know, we had to, to just move everybody back to their regular work schedule.

Chairwoman Bartels: And the Assistant County Attorney that went from \$72.6K down to \$70K, was that the one that was on the alternative schedule?

County Attorney Johnson: Yes. Correct.

Chairwoman Bartels: And then you have one Assistant County Attorney that's going up. What is that moving to an alternative work schedule? Or what's happening with that? The last one listed? 1420, 1600. \$67,381 to \$70,358?

County Attorney Johnson: One second. That one I don't have in front of me. But, Tracey, don't think that's going up. I don't have that one.

Chairwoman Bartels: We don't have names. Our old budgets we used to have names.

County Attorney Johnson: Yeah, unfortunately. Yeah. I don't have that one. I don't have that sheet in front of me, Madam Chair.

Chairwoman Bartels: Maybe you could just get, get back to me.

County Attorney Johnson: Okay.

Chairwoman Bartels: Just get back to the committee and Jay will follow-up on the question.

County Attorney Johnson: Yeah. Would you mind just let me know what number... what line that is again?

Chairwoman Bartels: Yeah, it's 1420, 1600. It's the last in the listing in the book.

County Attorney Johnson: Okay, got you.

Chairwoman Bartels: It's a modest increase, but I'm paying attention to all...

County Attorney Johnson: Okay. Okay.

Chairwoman Bartels: All right. Thank you. Any other questions? For the County Attorney. Okay, thank you. So, thank you so much for coming.

County Attorney Johnson: Yes. Thank you very much for your time.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay. All right. So, moving on to the Board of Elections. We have Commissioners Dittus and Turco with us. Hopefully. I see Commissioner Dittus. And I know Commissioner Turco is on the line. So, I will hand the floor over to you both, however you want to handle it, and walk us through.

Commissioner Turco: Well, I personally, I don't know, it's just a typical local year budget we put in. Next year is another local year. Two elections, short of a pandemic and a bunch of executive orders, I don't see us having any problems. Any questions from your end?

Commissioner Dittus: Yeah, we structured this budget looking back at other local elections. But we're not sure what will happen. With COVID, we've been here, essential, throughout. This year has been a lot different than even other past Presidentials. We're not sure how that will affect us, going forward into 2021.

A lot of our grant funding streams expire at the end of the year, so those won't be able to be brought into the next year. So, that's unfortunate so we're trying to get a lot tangible equipment looking forward into what we'll need going forward. I know there's been talk of resolutions to help us out with part time pay and compensating staff. And I know we'll be looking at that early next year. So, any questions you guys have?

Chairwoman Bartels: I'll open questions. I think we're getting some we're getting some feedback. Jay can you mute. Everyone could mute that's not speaking. That'd be great. There we go. Okay, so for the committee members, do we have any, any questions?

Okay. So, Commissioner Dittus did touch on an issue that we, that we will be looking at as a Legislature and I know that the Executive's Office has been alerted to it, as well. Both the issue of uncompensated work beyond comp time due to, I mean, I'd like to call it the perfect storm of what we're dealing with right now, because of this election and COVID pressures, etc.

But I think we need to... I think we also really need to take a longer look. And it needs to be an informed look. Where we need to do an analysis of staffing with the understanding that this is a department that's facing many changes in terms of new regulations and more are expected to be on the way that can continue to change the demands of the office.

And so, I want to be sure that we're adequately, I want to be sure that we're adequately funding payroll and personnel for this office. And that we're doing it in a smart and sustainable way. And I also, I want to, right now, raise the issue to be on the record. Because I've been on the record and other committees on this subject, we need to be talking about space, as it relates to this department, now.

We cannot wait until the lease comes up again. And then we have the same conversation. That this is a conversation we need to be having moving forward. This is the time to start having the conversation about space and making the changes. Both in terms of the office itself, which I think we need to, this is, it needs to be an informed decision, because it's very important in terms of its connectivity and access to the public. I think the location in Uptown Kingston has been really great for that reason.

But we also need to... I know that there's going to be an issue with regard to storage for the, for the equipment. That's... it just something, I'm just I'm putting it on the record, because I don't want to get to the point where we see

that lease again. And again, we say, "Oh, we're going to be looking at this." It'll be too late. So, I think that needs to be on the radar, immediately. Legislator Heppner

Legislator Heppner: Yeah, I agree with everything you just said, Chair Bartels. And I just want to add to that. I think, you know, just to add to what we need to discuss, I think, you know, with the COVID-19 pandemic, it's exposed a lot of institutional, you know, weaknesses, I guess, to say. And there's no greater institution than voting. And, you know, the struggles in which, you know, the Board of Elections has faced, again, echoing my previous comments on the, you know, the grant fund, you know, they've done an amazing job.

But also, even pre-COVID, there's been changes. While our structure, especially in terms of funding have stayed the same in regard to the addition of early voting, and the change of, you know, primary dates. Which I think are positive things, but that also means that we have to adapt, you know, as the appropriating body.

And, I think, you know, we had had earlier discussions about additional staff. I absolutely agree with your sentiment that workers need to be paid for the work that they're doing. I think it's very important. But also, just in terms of general support, to make sure that our Board of Elections are able to deal with not only a regular year, but also to have, you know, some, you know, additional mechanisms for when we face a situation like this. Hopefully, there won't be one for many years, but you never know.

And I think it, I think it will take a discussion with, you know, all stakeholders involved. Hopefully, a very nonpartisan discussion, on how we can make sure in Ulster County that... You know, I don't want us to be just, you know, the same as all 63 counties, I want us to be leaders and making voting as accessible, and having the best, you know, setup and support as possible. And I think that's a discussion that's very timely, if not passed due.

Deputy Commissioner Quigley: Legislators, this is Deputy Commissioner John Quigley, I lost audio prior to Tracey speaking. And just want, I didn't get a chance to hear the end of Ashley. But I also just want to bring to everybody's attention that in keeping in line with what both of you guys are saying, that when our grant funding for next year comes into question for the state cycle of creating a budget, that it's going to be crucial for us to consider expending the current grants that we have, in a timely manner. Which would lead us up to having to expend those sometime before the end of March. And if we do so, one of the larger things we are considering, is the purchasing of new machines. In order for us to do that, and have room for them to be stored, we will need additional spacing as soon as possible.

Chairwoman Bartels: Do any committee members have any further questions? Okay, I, go ahead. Legislator Roberts.

Legislator Roberts: I just want to make a comment you know that I like to congratulate and thank the Board of Elections. They've all done a great job this year. It's amazing what they have done, you know, and they have brought some deficiencies to our attention. We're going to rectify them. One way or another it's got to be settled. I'd also like to...

Chairwoman Bartels: Legislator Roberts we just lost your sound. Legislator Roberts, we lost your sound.

Legislator Heppner: I think his videos delayed a little bit.

Legislator Roberts: Dude, like every time I speak, my computer becomes unstable.

Chairwoman Bartels: We heard that. You want to, do you want to back up? We lost you about halfway through.

Legislator Roberts: I don't know where I left off on but I just ...

Chairwoman Bartels: We don't have we don't have you. I don't know if you can hear us but maybe give it a moment to catch up. We've lost you again. Now you're unfrozen.

Legislator Roberts: Yeah, I'm here.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay,

Legislator Roberts: I'm not going to try that again.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay.

Legislator Heppner: But I do believe, if I can just for my time, with Legislator Roberts, I believe he was just going to make a comment thanking Commissioner Turco for his time and service with the Board of Elections. So, I will extend that message through my colleague, Legislator Roberts.

Commissioner Turco: Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Thank you. Yes, thank you, Commissioner Turco. And congratulations. Not so much in advance, now, to future Commissioner Quigley.

Can I ask that we just take a couple minutes, and maybe you could give us an update on the current state of, we don't have to go into crazy detail, but the current state of the workload, the applications that you're seeing, and the challenges that the office is surmounting and exceeding.

Commissioner Dittus: Yeah, if I can just give the update, we have on our system, about 21,000 absentee ballot requests. If you want to put that into context, in 2016, we sent out about 7,000. So it is, obviously, been a spike and those kinds of requests for voting by absentee ballot. We, to date, have sent out a little over 20,000. So, we're, we're pretty caught up. We worked through the weekend to get us to a good place. We're at our, where we should be, which is about a daily process rate. So, that's good.

Right now, we're catching up on a lot of voter registrations, so that we can build our poll book file for this Saturday, as we start early voting in our five Early Voting Centers. So, it was very helpful that we were able to work throughout the weekend with a lot of help from part time people, as well. And we're still here, as you can see, my office is in the background. And we're grinding it out. So, it's, it's all happening over here at 284 Wall Street. If anybody would like to pop in and see. You're all welcome to come and lend a hand. Maybe we'll let you stuff some absentee ballots if you have some time.

Chairwoman Bartels: Thank you. And thank you all for all the hard work. Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris: Yeah, I just had a thought, you know, and looking at the future and trying to plan for having a new space that's large enough for you to move into, is there a way for you to potentially, after elections are over, to keep track of those who come into the office, to ask them a question of how they got there? Did they walk up there? Or did they arrive by vehicle? Because my suspicion is that it doesn't need to be in the downtown of Kingston. I actually think that's harder to get to because of the parking situation, than it would be if you were outside of the inner part of Kingston, I think maybe in the Town of Ulster even or something else. Have you had your own parking lot, rather than trying to deal with the parking in Kingston. So, I don't know if that's possible?

Commissioner Dittus: We could put up like an optional survey, and have that, and people could give that to us. And that's a good idea. Thank you.

Commissioner Turco: Legislator Gavaris. I agree with you. I don't think uptown Kingston is the perfect spot. It's just too hard to get to. In Kingston, around Kingston, definitely. But we definitely need more room and easier access. One thing we could do is all our over the counter absentee applications this year, we can do some kind of spreadsheet to let you know, where these people came into the counter, where they came from to the counter, to get their

absentees. That could help a little bit. I don't know if we could do that with other similar documents. We'll try to put something together for you. Thank you.

Legislator Gavaris: Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: That would be very helpful. I mean, I've always felt and I've discussed this with Deputy Executive Rider a little bit that there that there is a natural synergy in the County Building with Department of Motor Vehicles, just knowing that people are coming in to do that work, as well. The challenge is finding the space in the County Building. But I think it's absolutely worth investigating.

Are there any other questions? All right. Thank you, Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, for attending. And for all your hard work. I know you have a couple of very long weeks ahead of you. So, if you're serious about stuffing envelopes, I'll get back to you offline.

Commissioner Dittus: Thank you, all.

Commissioner Turco: Thank you, bye.

Chairwoman Bartels: Thank you. All right. And now we are moving on to our Comptroller. Comptroller Gallagher's with us. Thank you very much for being here. I'm going to hand the floor over to you to walk through your budget.

Comptroller Gallagher: Great. Thanks for the opportunity to present tonight. And thank you Chairwoman for filling me in on what you guys were looking for in this. I was a little unclear but appreciate the chance.

So, like many of the departments here tonight, our budget is relatively simple. It's primarily driven by personnel costs. We have made some changes. Just to give you an overview of the shape of the office, it's me, a Deputy Comptroller. In normal times, a Director of Internal Audit and Control, four Auditors, and a Confidential Secretary.

We, because of the pandemic never hired a new Director of Internal Audit and Control this year. And have chosen to zero out that line for the 2021 budget. So, we will not be filling that position. But if we get a gift from Mitch McConnell, I will be back to you in a heartbeat. So, if there is substantial federal aid, I will be coming for a budget amendment, if possible.

And the result of that, the lack of that position, pushes a bunch of work on to the four auditors. We had them working under an alternative work schedule at the beginning of the year for the first quarter. I ended that abruptly when the pandemic commenced. And I have just had it approved for the last quarter of this year. They are really pushed out beyond their regular hours without the Director of Internal Audit and Control, just to get through the claims processing, bank reconciliations, and the regular work that we do. Not including trying to take a deep dive into, you know, auditing certain areas. So, that's a pretty substantial change. I think overall, it works out to be around an 8% budget cut.

The other things that I think are interesting and exciting in our budget are that we are requesting \$20,000 for computer equipment. That is actually not everything we need. And we will probably seek private philanthropy for the rest to cover this particular thing. Which is we are looking to purchase what its software called TeamMate. It is something the office has looked at many times and has never really elevated to be of importance, but it really would handle the workflow much better. And if we cannot afford the ultimate package that we want, then we will look to something else. But it really would improve the operations internally.

We kept our supply line largely the same. Professional Services, we zeroed out, we don't need that. We do have travel and conference. Please understand that we have CPE requirements for the CPA and the Senior Auditors, we've taken away the travel. So, it's been largely reduced to about \$500 bucks. Which is like if you need to drive, you know, to Albany or Buffalo for this training, or the City, fine. You're not flying to Texas. Okay, just to be clear.

And then on the miscellaneous contractual expense, it is made up of two components. One is attorney's fees. We have found in the past, before my time here, that it was very helpful to be able to hire outside counsel for certain questions.

And the second part is a redo of the website. This is a nightmare for me. If you go to my website right now, I have control over one single link. I have directed it to a Google Sheet, where I am sharing, on a regular basis, all the contracts that the county approves, as well as monthly expenditure data for every month. That is not a user-friendly way to be sharing data.

This website was last done many years ago under Elliott Auerbach's tenure and it really needs a refresh. We should be able to share much more complete data. I mean, I have huge datasets from sales tax and mortgage recording tax reports that were never able to be shared with the public. So, we're looking to bring more transparency through that method.

So, that's largely, I think, a sense of the budget. And I'm happy to answer any questions that you will have.

I will say, because Tracey, you asked me to talk a little bit about COVID. We went fully remote, all but two staff people. We really did not feel like keeping everybody in the office was safe. But we had already moved everybody to a laptop with a VPN connection and a daily video chime conference call to make sure that everybody's on the same page.

We now have people back in the office on a rotating basis. I mean, we've always been staffed, and our doors have always been open. But now we have staff coming in and out. And at the beginning, ceased sort of onsite audit work.

Really mostly following you know the advice of the State Comptroller, they are again doing audits and we have conducted audits during this period. We closed out our short-term rental occupancy tax audit, we audited the staffing and capacity of the Ulster County Jail. We were invited by the sheriff for that tour, we were going to do that only on paper. And we will be completing a few other things this year.

So, you know, it's affected us, but, and someone asked me like, "Oh, well, so you're saying it hasn't hurt your productivity?" Are you kidding me? COVID has hurt everybody's productivity. So, yes, it has affected productivity, especially being down an entire staff member. So, there you have it.

Oh, wait, let me just add one last thing. The position eliminated was a management appointed position. The positions I'm seeking increased hours for our union CSEA positions.

Chairwoman Bartels: So, just for clarification, before I open the floor for questions. In terms of the changes in salaries to the union CSEA positions, those changes, this budget proposes the alternative work schedule be permanent?

Comptroller Gallagher: Yep.

Chairwoman Bartels: And then we went from 35 to 40 hours, or 37?

Comptroller Gallagher: 37.5 to 40.

Chairwoman Bartels: 37.5 to 40. Would that put everyone in the office at 40?

Comptroller Gallagher: My deputy is not at 40 and my Confidential Secretary are not at 40.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, I'm going to open the floor before I ask my other questions. Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner: First, I want to thank the Comptroller and your office during the whole COVID pandemic, you know, the amount of information that has been coming out of your office has been extremely helpful. As well as your personal availability to myself and I know other Legislators within my caucus, and I'm sure throughout the Legislature.

I'm just, out of curiosity, so, the audit position, that you're cutting from this budget, what... so, what is... how do you... so how is that, those responsibilities... how have you been doing it? And is that how you continue to plan to do it? Or do you have a new idea going forward, as you know, you came in in a really difficult year. So, I'm just you know, out of curiosity, and just for our information. Because I've always found that to be a very important function.

Comptroller Gallagher: Yes, luckily, I have a terrific deputy. Lee is focused on, you know, sort of the accounting side. And I would say, we have split the duties of the Director of Internal Audit and Control that are strategic, right, so, that is like picking what the next thing you're going to look at is. And I have shifted certain duties to my Deputy, including the bank reconciliation, double check, and a couple of things like that.

We will continue in that way. But I have to say, I think there are things that we would be looking at, and we would be able to perform more audits in a year, both financial and programmatic. If we have that position filled. What happens now, because we generate the quarterly reports, and we're always busy with the claims auditing and bank work, we wind up into these troughs where we finish a big audit, and then we pause while we get ready to do the next one. And I think you wouldn't see a pause in that kind of work, it would just be ongoing if we had that person here.

So, you know, there are other things we'd like to look at. I mean, I'm going to use a perfect example, we sat in on the audit committee meeting, there are a number of policies, that the auditors have been dinging the county for year after year that have not been completed, we should be moving those things forward. It's not that hard. You know, and those are things that really... my team could take on assisting, if we had that position filled.

So, we're going to continue in the way that we have with Chris Quirk, the deputy and I, sort of overseeing the strategy piece, us both taking on, you know, I mean, like editing reports. You know or directing my secretary how I want things designed. It might not be like that otherwise. You know, that might be something that I would bump down. And Chris is really, you know, working with the auditors to design, what are the audit questions and the objectives in every report. That would... we would be asking the Director of Internal Audit and Control to do that before it's coming to us. So, I hope that answers your question.

Legislator Heppner: Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Sorry, I put myself on mute. Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris: Thank you. So, you mentioned TeamMate software, I'm actually familiar with it. You would actually, the person you're eliminating, hate to say you wouldn't even need them. It is a really powerful software. It has a lot of capabilities, very intuitive. And if it's set up properly, it will point things out to you that probably a human being wouldn't capture. Because it is very, very powerful software. I've seen it. I worked briefly with it. I really like TeamMate. That's definitely a very good auditing software. So, if you do get that, at some point, it will help to do these audits, you'll definitely pick up on a lot.

Comptroller Gallagher: That's awesome. I've never heard that. What I did is every time I've reached out to another comptroller's office or you know, auditor's office, I've asked them, you know, what do you use? What do you wish you use? And it always comes back to TeamMate, everybody says, TeamMate. If, for some reason we can't afford it, or make it happen this year, you know, we may get something in an interim, but I really would like to make it happen. And if I have to go beg private philanthropy for money for this, I will.

Chairwoman Bartels: How much does it cost? If I might ask?

Comptroller Gallagher: It's over \$20K. I mean, we put in like sort of what we think we should put forward as the grantee, you know, before we go out and ask. But it could be, that's, that's an estimate based on several years ago, and I know that it's more now, it could be as much as \$30K.

Legislator Heppner: If they have a pricing structure that would allow for multiple companies or entities, it might be something that the towns and villages, if there was a way to do a county buy, because it really is a good software would help every one of the towns and villages if they had access to a system like this. So, maybe it's a potential for purchasing to look at they can negotiate a deal for any of the towns that wanted to sign on to it or the villages, and they would pay into it as well.

Comptroller Gallagher: Very interesting idea, and I will talk to purchasing about that. Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Are there other questions from the committee? Okay, so I just would say my takeaway from this Comptroller Gallagher is, is one, I mean, I think a TeamMate is deserving of, is deserving of further investigation. And while I appreciate your... I don't... your... I don't know, I don't even know what to call it but the suggestion that you're going to go out to the private sector, it seems to me that if it's something that would be that valuable to the department, it's a small number in the overall of our budget.

And following on that. I'm concerned about, following what Legislator Heppner said, I'm concerned about the lack of the Director of Internal Audit and Control. I mean, I know, it's how you determined to run your department. But from the legislative perspective, it was that position that was the key person for most of the programmatic audits. And in the absence of that person, or maybe getting through the workload and instituting a permanent alternative work schedule, and instead, I'm not sure it's going to fill that gap. Especially as we head into the difficult budget years ahead, and we're going to... we in the legislature, I think are going to need the additional help in these kinds of programmatic studies. Because this has been a year where, you know, we've all been sort of taken, taken, we've taken a kind of a backstep. We've been dealing with the crisis at hand, but the longer view is going to have to, is going to have to come into play very quickly here. And so, the absence of that position gives me concern. I mean, I plan to speak to you more about it offline, because I really need to understand it better, and its implications. And I need to think about it a little, a little further as we head into the budget cycle.

Comptroller Gallagher: I really appreciate that. And that's why, I mean, I've said to the County Executive's Office and the budget folks, and now I'm saying to you guys, if there is a federal stimulus package, I will be back on your doorstep. Because I think it's really important. I mean, we've been muddling through without that person. But I really think it would be super productive to have them. And I think, you know, the kind of savings and revenue efficiencies that we're finding could be significantly increased. And so, you know, I'm hoping that we'll see a federal stimulus package, it probably won't happen until January. But we'll be back. Because I agree with you. It's really critical. And we have been collaborating with the Legislature. And I feel like the relationship, both between my office and the County Exec's office, as well as my office and the Legislative office, particularly on the finance side. There's a lot more collaboration going on, and I think it's really working to the taxpayer's benefit. So, thank you. I'll be back to you on that.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions for the Comptroller? Okay, so thank you very, thank you very much for taking the time to present for us.

We're going to move on to old business. The rules changes. We had, I think a productive special meeting. And I think we're going to... I think the best move would be to schedule probably another special meeting once we have everything aggregated in one document with notes. Would probably be a short meeting, maybe we could put it on the back of another meeting. But we'll see what the, see what the schedule looks like for next month. If we get some anticipation early on, once we get a breakout of the existing resolutions. Does anyone want to speak about the rules changes at all?

Okay. And then on to new businesses or any new business anyone would like to bring up? Legislator Gavaris

Legislator Gavaris: I'm not sure what's the appropriate place or which... right forum would best. But I guess I have a question maybe more for the deputies. Does the county currently have a resource assessment and deployment initiative going on with staffing?

Deputy Executive Rider: Say that again? Sorry.

Legislator Gavaris: Do you have any deep resource assessment and deployment initiatives going on through your office? So, assessing, you know, each department. So, I've heard tonight even, we've heard several who had needs for staffing for short periods of time, like stuffing envelopes, for example. And then you have others who are either furloughing staff, or they're re redeploying them in different ways. We've done this here at the hospital, we have a person who asked every department, what are your needs. And then we've also then gone back out to them and said, who has staff available that we can utilize in another department just to get through these intervals where you have highs and lows? There's, you know, that every departments going to have its waves. I don't know if there's anybody doing that? And if not, can we look into start doing that?

Deputy Executive Rider: Yeah, I mean, so, part of that, the assessment of need, I would say, was being done with our department heads and the Budget Office and the deputies themselves. It was forced by the retirement incentive, to look at, you know, what going forward positions are needing. As far as the short-term needs... I mean, we do have, I'll give you an example. The Recovery Service Center. And we did look at that as a way to try to assist the IS... the Board of Elections. We thought maybe they would answer some phones, because that's what we were being told was one of the concerns. It didn't work out after having a meeting with them and the BOE. But we do have a unit like that, that's able, and I'll just say, overall, when departments come to us with needs, there's really very little silos, and we're able to move people into those departments. If someone is, you know, idle and not having as much work, then, if there's another department that has a short-term need, we can easily ship that person over there. But I don't... we haven't done a study per se.

Legislator Gavaris: Well, it's not more of a study. it's more of having a person that would be the conduit for, or between the departments with needs and the departments with resources. They would, they would be the focal point. And they would take the lead on it. So, everybody knew where to go if you needed somebody, or if you had somebody that can be utilized somewhere else. And I know Ashley had mentioned tonight that they were hiring part time people to handle the workload, potentially there are resources within our own workforce that we could redeploy to handle some of those things, like again, stuffing envelopes.

Deputy Executive Milgrim: Legislator Heppner, I didn't want to...

Legislator Heppner: Madam Chairwoman, if I may?

Chairwoman Bartels: Yeah. Yeah, Legislator. I think Marc going to respond but go ahead.

Legislator Heppner: I'm sorry. Are you done? Did you have another response? Marc? Because I'm happy to wait.

Deputy Executive Rider: I'm sorry. No, part of that was [inaudible].

Legislator Heppner: Yeah, a lot of technical difficulties tonight. So, first, I think Legislator Gavaris brings up a really, you know, interesting and creative idea right now. I think it's very similar to the really good work the Executive's Office has done under the executive order during COVID. And repurposing personnel to you know, taking on some really, at times, extraordinary tasks during this pandemic. Know what, and I think that's, you know, going forward, it's a very interesting model to look at, I think, and I don't want to put words in Legislator Gavaris' mouth, but like, I think that's kind of the concept he's talking about. That ability, just in normal times, to redirect county employees to fill during situational, during different situations, you know, filling different needs. My only question, and I think it

would be a great thing to look at, and a great thing to implement. My only question would be under CSEA contracts, without an executive order, is that something that's easily done? Would a CSEA, like different, would a... contract with CSEA, like impact that ability, if there's not a standing executive order?

Deputy Executive Rider: Somewhat. But I mean, I think our workforce is flexible. I think what even COVID has shown, but I think that there would be that flexibility, even outside of COVID, is that they're willing to step up and do kind of what is in the greater good.

I will say our Innovation Team who was really crucial in setting a lot of those short-term projects up, like the Recovery Service Center, like our COVID Dashboard, other things. They were over with me, you know, late February, early March. We were living kind of at the Health Department, setting up, getting ready for the pandemic. They would really be I think, as they're going through next year, looking at [OKRs] with the budget team, some good people to kind of be in that role. Because they're looking at the different departments' needs on a kind of ongoing basis.

Deputy Executive Milgrim: Just to, if I may, just to add to what Marc said. Legislator Gavaris, some of what you're talking about is essentially handled by the Executive Deputies or Deputy Executives. Marc overseeing his departments, me with my departments. Evelyn, with her departments. And we are in, obviously, constant contact with them.

And we do, and that's one of the priorities we require from them is if there's a staffing issue that we know about it, see what we can do to try to fix it. Sometimes there is a difficulty, obviously, with job titles, switching from one department to another. But there have been instances where we've been able to maneuver internally. COVID has been just a dramatic difference from kind of any other year. We've seen emergency services almost completely merged with the health department and worked hand in hand with overlapping jobs. But the point you bring up is, I think, critically important for managing any sort of an operation, especially one of this size. And, you know, we do, here, Marc, I know does this quite a bit. I try to do with my departments, formalizing it more maybe is something worth looking at. With a potentially, obviously, a more formal analysis, but I you know, this is, this is something we do fairly routinely. Maybe not to the extent, we would all hope, just with the limits of the contracts. But I think fairly... we do get a pretty significant amount of that done right now with the tools we have.

Chairwoman Bartels: Okay, is there any other new business that anyone would like to bring up? I think that's an excellent suggestion. All right, hearing none, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn. Thank you all.

Legislator Gavaris: So moved.

Chairwoman Bartels: Legislator Gavaris and seconded by Legislator Heppner. All in favor of adjournment.

Committee Members: Aye.

Legislator Heppner: Have a good night. Thank you.

Chairwoman Bartels: Thank you all.

Deputy Executive Milgrim: Thanks everyone.