

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : November 4, 2015, 5:00pm
LOCATION : Karen L. Binder Library, 6TH Floor, County Office Building
CHAIRMAN : David B. Donaldson, Chairman – Present
RECORDER : Natasha Tagliafierro, Assistant, SUNY, Ulster County Community College
LEGISLATORS PRESENT : Leg. Mary Wawro, Leg. Craig Lopez, Leg. Donald Gregorius and Leg. Parete
OTHERS PRESENT : Alan P. Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster; Linda Marston-Reid, Executive Director, Arts Mid- Hudson; Michael Lamoree, Director, Community Action
QUORUM : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:10 PM AND TOOK ATTENDANCE. LEG. WAWRO WAS IN ATTENDANCE AT 5:15PM.

Motion #1 to Approve Minutes:

Text of Motion: To approve the Minutes of the October 13, 2015, Regular Committee Meeting.

Motion made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Parete

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motions to approve the minutes of this Committee of October 13, 2015, were unanimously approved.

Motion #2 to Approve Resolution No. 403:

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000 Entered Into By The County-UC Community College-Department of Social Services

Motion made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Parete

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #403 unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reported by: Alan P. Roberts

Resolution: None

Reported: President Roberts reported that the College just finished the yearly audit and the reports were all positive. The SUNY Annual Report was submitted and the FTE'S are down about 2% lower than budget; our fund balance is a healthy \$400,000. The expectation is to create a three-year projection on our budget and present it to the committee next month. Leg. Donaldson advised that this was good, although the fund balance is still very low. It takes time to get it to a good place, but he was happy to see the progress. President Roberts advised that he felt good about the fund balance at this stage considering the position we were in with having retrenchments last year. The College is assessing priorities, needs, resources and evaluating open positions as well as looking into the possibility of promotions.

ARTS MID HUDSON

Reported by: Linda Marston-Reid

Resolution: None

Reported: Leg. Donald asked if the requested write up was ready for the committee to review and Linda Marston-Reid advised that she was working on edits of an old contract and would present it to the committee once these updates were made.

Linda Marston-Reid advised that about 40%-50% of the balance is capacity building and that the other half brings organizations and projects that have vibrancy to Ulster County. Linda Marston-Reid advised that she would keep the committee updated and would bring the updated contract with edits to the next meeting. She also thanked the committee for their continued support. The Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) Mid-Hudson Arts and Culture Report captures data from the Mid-Hudson Counties and shows Ulster County's direct spending at \$15 million and indirect spending at \$8.5 million with an overall total impact of \$28.5 million dollars. Linda Marston-Reid advised that some of these numbers are from funds that were given to Arts Mid-Hudson by this committee. Leg. Lopez asked how that compares with other surrounding counties. Linda Marston-Reid advised that she works with Orange and Dutchess Counties, and that Ulster County is art focused while Dutchess County is more organizational in funding. Linda Marston-Reid closed by saying that events such as Kingston Arts, Saugerties Paper House, and many more help to create an economic vibrancy for Ulster County.

Community Action

Reported by: Michael Lamoree

Resolution: None

Reported: Michael Lamoree reported that Community Action is currently serving 525,000 pounds of food to 5,000 individuals; the program was also able to assist 491 individuals sign up for health insurance, 1,300 individuals were signed up for HEAP and about 90 individuals in the BACKPACK program. Community Action is looking to have a major change of direction in energyE²square applying for over \$1 million dollars in grants for trainings to help bring individuals out of poverty and produce real jobs and transportation. Community Action is looking into the trucking industry due to a lack of truck drivers there

are about 150,000 driving positions that need to be filled. Community Action believes that this is a great market for veterans. Michael Lamoree advised that Community Action has already been recognized by the city and the county but has a goal to be recognized nationally as a community facility. Michael Lamoree reported that currently the facility has the licenses to run a commercial kitchen for food preparation and agricultural initiatives. Individuals are working within the facility for about \$15 an hour for dishwashers and about \$18 for cooks; this experience opens up the idea of how a commercial kitchen works.

Leg. Donaldson asked why was the program pulled from the agriculture program from the state? Michael Lamoree advised that he was never advised as to why they were pulled from the program just that they had not followed regulations. Leg. Donaldson advised that he called up to Albany and they advised that the program had violated the agreement due to the canning of food products. Michael Lamoree advised that he on many occasions reached out to the Regional Food Bank and they never gave him a reason other than there was a regulation violation; it was never explained why. Currently, we have six agreements with local farm hubs. Leg. Donaldson stated isn't the Regional Food Bank open all year? Michael Lamoree advised that the program was not easy to work with and the Regional Food Bank wanted it to be done their way. For example, Community Action is not allowed to have individuals pick out their own food, it's to be distributed in a standard form and this doesn't work. If these people don't like the food we give them then we are ultimately throwing away as much as we are giving away. We have around 150 families that we serve in Ellenville and 100 in Highland. Leg Donaldson advised wasn't the violation due to some concern of canning products? Michael Lamoree advised that this was 100% incorrect, 50% of Community Actions budget is for fresh food preparation. Michael Lamoree advised that he asked the Regional Food Bank to supply him with documentation that showed what regulation that the program has violated.

Leg. Donaldson asked if Community Action has plans on moving? Michael Lamoree advised that there are no plans to move unless they start to grow. At this point, we wouldn't want to lose the current facility but would expand by looking at additional facilities in Mid-town and Green Kill Ave. There are conversations that are going on about within the next five years becoming one of the major manufacturers in this area. Leg. Gregorius asked would you still be making food for individuals? Michael Lamoree advised that Community Action has done about 350 meal deliveries and 150 dinners. This is what the program does once a month. Michael Lamoree advised that Community Action would like to add a café to the current facility and be able to transport seniors to any of these future locations. The current facility has a capacity of about 70.

Michael Lamoree advised that the requested extra funds were to help assist in the repair of the roof at the facility, that it would be at a cost of about \$75,000 and the desired funding would be 50% from the County and 50% from the city. If this isn't possible, Community Action would look to grants or the banks for this funding. Currently, there are some drop ceilings, windows etc. that need some repair.

Michael Lamoree advised that Community Action can operate from anywhere but that the program would like to be a community center and being in the correct location makes the difference. Kingston City Landlords' Association offering more holistic or a gamete of services. The future goal is to cook/ freeze meals and with the Dyson grant at about \$20,000 a year Community Action is going to get those people 10-15 meals a month, free.

Leg. Donaldson asked about the Community Action board rides and dinners that money from the committee is used for and yet the promotion is targeted at the City of Kingston. Leg. Donaldson said with some reach that we looked into what funding the City of Kingston supplied Community Action and a few years ago it was \$10,000, but the past few years it has been zero and these events are still focused on the City of Kingston even when they are not providing funding for this program. Michael Lamoree advised that these events are open to anyone that would like to come. The issue is transportation; the City

provides this for the events but is not willing to go outside the city to pick-up individuals and when Community Action reached out to the County we were advised that the County wouldn't be able to assist. Leg. Donaldson asked who from the County advised this? Michael Lamoree advised that Bob DiBella said it couldn't be done.

Leg. Donaldson said that Community Action used to send an individual to the Chamber meetings in Esopus and as far as Saugerties. Michael Lamoree advised that the City of Kingston has about \$28,000 in contracts with the facility and also contributes to the STEM center. Leg. Donaldson said what is the City of Kingston's financial impact on this program? Doesn't the \$28,000 come from a CDBG grant? Michael Lamoree said that we have to work county-wide and have reached out at the picnic in Ellenville and we had no one interested. We are also involved in the farm stands as well as 8 pantries that are outside of the City of Kingston.

Community Action lost \$20,000 that was not funded but our facility and our vehicles were still available to everyone that would want to use them on a 24/7 basis for free. Community Action has always been open to everyone and has never excluded anyone. Michael Lamoree advised we have the same 300 people attend our dinner events. Leg. Donaldson said that the County dinner had over 650 people and was packed. Many individuals came from as far as Ellenville and Saugerties. Michael Lamoree advised the dinner was funded with about \$8,000 of County funds and cost Community Action about \$2,000 charging individuals \$5 and couples \$8. Other events were \$10 per person and \$15 a couple. These are activities and not moneymakers more often we lose money, but it's the cost of being out there. Discussion has also begun about changing the timing of our events from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. to now be 3 p.m.-6 p.m. because individuals want to be home by 5:30 p.m.

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No.418:

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County –Gateway Community Industries Inc- Office For The Aging

Motion made: Leg. Wawro

Seconded: Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #418 unanimously approved.

Motion #4 to Approve Resolution No.431:

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County –Cornell Cooperative Extension- Department of Public Works

Motion made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Wawro

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution #431 unanimously approved.

Budget amendments discussion ensued in regards to Community Actions need for funds to repair their roof in the amount of \$75,000 and they were looking to receive half of this funding from the county. Leg. Donaldson advised this was in addition to the original requested \$21,750. Leg. Lopez advised that we don't want to set a standard that we are going to cover infrastructure. Leg Donaldson advised that the location is not the best, it is hard to reach. Leg. Gregorius said there are a lot of plans for other locations and how do you keep track. Leg. Wawro said if they are creating a program for veterans that would be a good investment. Leg. Lopez advised that Community Action advised that events that they are holding are losing money. Leg. Donaldson advised that a lot of these events are held in the city of Kingston, that they cut the programs funding, and most of these events people are not aware of. Leg. Wawro advised that she went past Community Action on a Friday night and it was very active.

Leg. Donaldson advised that Community Action wants to do a lot but can they follow through with it. Leg. Donaldson advised that in 2012 the committee gave \$11,200; in 2013 \$16,700; 2014 was \$16,700; and they are requesting \$21,750 this year plus the capital improvements amount of \$37,500. Leg. Donaldson advised the Library's funding was the same at \$18,500. Nothing with Bardavon; they asked for the same as they have been getting for the past several years. Arts Mid-Hudson from \$57,000 last year to \$68,000, looking at trying to keep some programs going, looking at the CRREO report and it shows one of the cheapest ways to create economic development. Leg. Wawro said that they have an artist tour in Saugerties on Fridays and Saturdays. Leg. Gregorius said it can be tracked by when someone purchases a map at a location. Leg. Donaldson asked how much does this cost in Saugerties? Leg. Wawro said that there is a world class artist that worked with metal that is local and involved in this tour. Leg. Wawro is going to find out more information on the Saugerties artist tour and get back to the committee. Cornell Cooperative requested \$350,000 with an additional \$50,000 to do a farm registry and Leg. Donaldson said that Dennis Doyle advised that they are not going to move forward with this \$50,000 request. Court Appointed Special Advocates program is requesting \$25,000 and they are currently at \$20,000. Leg. Donaldson advised that the committee is looking to increase the Arts Mid-Hudson and the Court Appointed Special Advocates budgets.

Motion #4- TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Gregorius and seconded by Leg. Lopez and Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Dated the 4th day of November 2015

Natasha Tagliaferro, Recorder

Minutes approved on December 8,2015