

## ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

### Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME** : May 12, 2015, 5:00pm  
**LOCATION** : Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Seminar Room,  
Kingston, New York  
**CHAIRMAN** : David B. Donaldson, Chairman – Present  
**RECORDER** : Natasha Tagliafierro, Assistant to the Dean of Administration, SUNY, Ulster County  
Community College

#### LEGISLATORS

**PRESENT** : Legs. Leg. Craig Lopez, Leg. Mary Wawro and Leg. John Parete

#### OTHERS

**PRESENT** : Kenneth Crannell, UC Deputy County Executive; Donald Katt, President, SUNY Ulster  
County Community College; Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, SUNY Ulster County  
Community College; Lee Reidy, Director Cornell Cooperative Extension; Michael Berg,  
Director Family of Woodstock; Sirena Sarders, Supervised Visitation Program, Family of  
Woodstock; Nancy Jackson, Aide to Leg. Lopez.

**QUORUM** : Yes

**A QUORUM BEING PRESENT CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:10 PM AND TOOK ATTENDANCE. Leg. Gregorius was not present.**

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#### **Motion #1 to Approve Minutes:**

**Text of Motion:** To approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee of April 13, 2015.

**Motion made:** Leg. Wawro

**Seconded:** Leg. Parete

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motion to approve the minutes of this Committee of April 13, 2015 were unanimously approved.

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#### **Ulster County Community College**

**Reported by : Donald C. Katt, President**

**Report** : President Katt reported that we are in the eleventh and a half hour in our budget formulation and advised that it is influenced by the fact that high school graduation numbers are going down. President Katt advised that we know who is registered in kindergarten and who is going to be graduating this June, but in the next 12 years we have a 15%-20% projected decline in high school graduations. A projection has been created by our Vice President and Dean of Enrollment Management on how many students will come right out of high school, how many are returning to SUNY Ulster and how many are from other campuses and these numbers make up our student body, that plus our

collegian program where high school students take college classes while still in high school make up our projected enrollment. These all fit together and show an enrollment decrease of 5% or 100 FTEs for next year. You will see a budget that is going to be less than last year and there will not be an issue where the budget is handed out on the night of the approval. A copy will be sent to the legislators shortly after it is approved by the Board next Tuesday. President Katt replied that there are some confidential personnel issues with balancing the budget. The College appreciates the pledge of an additional \$120,000 to our allocation from the County but this comes with the request of no tuition increases. The budget doesn't have a tuition increase in it, but there are program changes that reduced revenue and spending. One is in continuing education, it's a communication workers program that is better conducted by Verizon and that will be a swing of about \$300,000.

Leg. Donaldson asked about the business center Pier One building? President Katt replied we are finally ready to sign the lease and we did an add on at the last minute, a change that the County Executive was concerned about. Dean Komdat replied that the resolution will be presented to the committee in June. Michael Berg asked what impact will Sophie Finn have on enrollment? President Katt replied we hope that it will be positive; the County Executive's vision was to attract kids who dropped out of the system and couldn't make it out to the Stone Ridge campus. President Katt said we are very excited about the location and have had some productive meetings with school officials. We have kids now in collegian but now they can come to this campus and get a high school diploma and a college degree at the same time. We also are going to have a GED program and Continuing Education is going to create some courses that we can coordinate with hospital employees. Leg. Parete asked how do those numbers figure in with this? President Katt replied I think this will help us and these numbers are added in. President Katt said we see a decline in the population and this program at Sophie Finn will help the enrollment issue. Michael Berg said Family has a student success center and it teaches individuals to apply for college and financial aid, tutoring, ect., Perhaps Family and the college could collaborate. President Katt responded that the college has a program called college success and it could work with Family of Woodstock's student success program.

Dean Komdat said that the amendment to the Kelder resolution for the interior is on the agenda because the cost of the project has increased. This is at no out of pocket cost to the County and the funds are coming from the sale of the president's residence, NYSEDA and the SUNY Construction fund. The committee needs to approve the resolution because it is considered a capital project. The college would have liked to hire subcontractors to do the project with our funds but this is the way the County Attorney's office advised it needed to be done. Leg. Donaldson asked is this going to cost more money? President Katt said that it is going to cost more due to the need for the contractors bonding, that process made it more expensive and cumbersome. Leg. Donaldson said have you done it that way before? President Katt advised we did renovate two science labs on campus with a plumbing and HVAC subcontractor before, and we did it out of the operating budget not as a capital project.

**Resolution:** No. 208 for the May 12, 2015 session of the Legislature.

**Motion # 2- Resolution # 208**

**Text of Motion:** Amending Capital Project No. 405-SUNY Ulster Renovation Of The Kelder Center-Ulster County Community College.

**Motion Made:** Leg. Wawro

**Seconded:** Leg. Parete

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motion passed, Resolution #208 unanimously approved.

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**Office For The Aging-**

**Reported by:** Kenneth Crannell, UC Deputy County Executive

Kenneth Crannell reported on Resolution 206 and the contract for continued funding for meals on wheels. The County sees this as a great opportunity to create a model program. A competitive bid went out and all but one from Dutchess County were a local vendors. The County didn't choose the lowest or highest bid but fell in between, after the current vendor decided to no longer supply the product after December 31, 2014. Two renewals at \$105,000.00 for the 2015 budget and \$210,000.00 for 2016. Frozen food went from \$7.67 before to now \$7.76 per meal and hot meals went from \$8.91 to \$8.95 per meal. Many individuals prefer the weekly delivery of frozen meals because they don't have to wait at home for their weekly meals between 11am-1pm. Leg. Donaldson asked are you delivering frozen meals? Kenneth Crannell said each meal is 600 calories per day and the delivery helps create that socialization and contact for the individual and the meals are based on what the senior needs. Leg. Donaldson said many senior citizens' have care all week but don't have that on the weekends. They are on their own Saturdays' and Sunday's and maybe Saturday delivery is something to think about. Kenneth Crannell said that 350 senior citizens are served and in the last eleven months we have had 58 on the wait list. We plan to eliminate the wait list and factor in next year's retainage. Kenneth Crannell advised that the County's plans are to create a system from the top to the bottom with Volunteers that will be trained in what to look for when they are delivering these meals. Leg. Donaldson asked aren't some paid? Kenneth Crannell advised that some are paid for mileage and some are not. Each volunteer is reimbursed at .50 cents per mile and this cost is built into the contract. 95% of these senior citizens are frail and home bound and these care coordinators visit up to 5 times and this can be more than just food delivery. When these individuals are sent to the hospital their deliveries stop and they have to re-start once they go back home. These volunteers will be able to go and see them in the hospital and visit them. A lot of these seniors have no other support or family members and we want to help create a plan to get them home. No other County is doing this. It is going to cost a little more but it is going to be worth it and we hope to eliminate any wait list in the future.

Kenneth Crannell advised that there have been some questions from some legislators about the clients of Gateway and how they are involved, they will be in the kitchen with the meal preparation of the food and there is an opportunity to hire some staff and contract with the County. Kenneth Crannell reported that the RSVP program which was with the college has been determined to not fit with the mission and the college has turned back the RSVP grant and that program will be done in June. A portion of the program will be going to the Office of the Aging including a full-time and part-time position. Volunteers for RSVP service

39 agencies around the county that include staff in hospitals, reception desks, tourisms and the Heritage center in Rondout. They also provide volunteer insurance, neighbor to neighbor home bound seniors that are able to get rides to the Dr.s or shopping where a volunteer's driver is more appropriate. The grant requires to contract with a not-for profit. Leg. Donaldson advised the City of Kingston has a curb to curb service. Ken advised but this will be that the volunteer can go in and help the individual get their coat on get out of the house and get them to the car. This can help fill the gaps in the program and about 75 people use it on a regular basis. Since these volunteers use their own vehicles it has created a liability issue with insurance and we are going to contract with a non-for profit. We are still interviewing potentials and we have a small administrative fee of a couple thousand dollars but we can supply them with funds to pay mileage and do DMV checks. Small programs like the knitting club will continue right away. Leg Donaldson advised that this program ended up costing the college \$51,000 and with the budget issues. Leg Donaldson how long did the college run the program? Dean Komdat advised that more than 30 years.

There are a lot of positive things that can come from this and it will cost about \$50,000 this year for one and a half staff and will double next year and we will have to apply for the grant and I don't know if we will, it seems like a lot of the work is the reporting. Only \$50,000 of funds from fed and a good portion of that goes into that process. The County is going to look at other ways to fund the \$100,000 and I don't know how much will be county dollars.

Reminder that the veteran's memorial dedication will be May 25, 2015. There are 1,306 names on the memorial.

**Resolution:** No. 205 for the May 12, 2015 session of the Legislature.

**Motion # 3- Resolution # 205**

**Text of Motion:** Amending The 2015 Ulster County Budget To Continue The Programming Previously Provider By Ulster County Community College RSVP Program- Creating One Full Time Position And One Part-Time Position-Office of the Aging.

**Motion Made:** Leg.

**Seconded:** Leg.

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motion passed, Resolution #205 unanimously approved.

**Resolution:** No. 206 for the May 12, 2015 session of the Legislature.

**Motion # 4- Resolution # 206**

**Text of Motion:** Amending The 2015 Ulster County Budget To Fund The Senior Meals on Wheels Plus Programs- Office For The Aging.

**Motion Made:** Leg. Wawro

**Seconded:** Leg. Lopez

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motion passed, Resolution #206 unanimously approved.

**Resolution:** No. 207 for the May 12, 2015 session of the Legislature.

**Motion # 5- Resolution # 207**

**Text of Motion:** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With Required Assurances For The Medicare Improvements For Patients And Providers Act (MIPPA) With The New York State Office for the Aging.

**Motion Made:** Leg. Wawro

**Seconded:** Leg. Lopez

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motion passed, Resolution #207 unanimously approved.

**Resolution:** No. 210 for the May 12, 2015 session of the Legislature.

**Motion # 6- Resolution # 210**

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

**Motion Made:** Leg. Lopez

**Seconded:** Leg. Wawro

**Voice Vote:** Yes

**In Favor:** 4

**Opposed:** 0

**Disposition:** The motion passed, Resolution #210 unanimously approved.

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**FAMILY OF WOODSTOCK**

**Reported by:** Michael Berg, Director

**Report:** Serena Sarders reported on the status of 2014 and the first few months of the 2015 supervised visitation program. The statics for 2014 and 2015 are 331 visits for 2014 and 119 in 2015. These visits provide families with 1 hour per week of visitation with the family before family court where they are supervised with the child and the parent and a report on the interaction is given to family court. This helps avoid the issues that are going on and can give the court an outside view of the interaction between the child and the parent. Leg. Donaldson said do you work with CASA ? Mr. Berg replied no. Many sessions are requested but are not held due to the custodial parent's decision that they don't want to go forward with the visitation, it's not because we are not available and we have to reschedule. Leg Wawro asked is the court notified? Every time? Ms. Sarders replied that a report is sent 1 week before the court date and all notes and cancellation information is pulled together, it's not every time but it is done before the next court case. Leg Wawro asked can a parent request that document? Ms. Sanders replied that the judge is the only one that gets the information and the court disperses that information to the attorneys and they can provide it to the parents. The report is sent to court and it is confirmed that it was received by the judge before the court date and we assure the parent that everything is documented for the court case.

Leg. Wawro asked so the lawyers don't know ahead of time? Ms. Sarders replied the lawyers can request a copy of the report and the judge can send the report a few days before. Leg Wawro asked is there any safe guard for parents who repeatedly don't show or cancels? Ms. Sarders advised that after 3 cancellations this information is sent back to the court for review and a lot of time it is for both parents and we don't get involved in the issues. Leg. Wawro asked does it makes a difference if it's the day before or five minutes before they are supposed to be there? Ms. Sarders replied sure. Mr. Berg advised that these are not cases that involve child protective services; all other cases come to family court. Leg Wawro asked how long does visitation take? Ms. Sarders replied they vary sometimes. Leg. Donaldson asked in each session how long is the visitation? Ms. Sarders advised 1 hour per week.

Mr. Berg said we are able to have many more visits because the legislature gave the program an additional \$5,000, we are doing a lot for the \$20,000 total and we are only paying for the service that we are doing and we believe that this program is important so we try to keep the cost down. Leg. Donaldson advised it is important. Leg Wawro asked are siblings included? Ms. Sarders advised usually the court doesn't have siblings because they want to see how that parent interacts with the child but the parent can speak to the attorney and submit a petition to have that request but in some cases there is a different parent and they have to go back to court and ask for that. Leg. Wawro asked so you do it but have to have court approval? Ms. Sanders advised yes. Leg. Wawro said siblings are often forgotten and they don't understand. Mr. Berg advised that it is very important for the child to have contact with their siblings. Leg. Wawro said with CPS cases one can be in Ulster County and the other in Buffalo and their required so many visitations if the family allows, to keep that bond up. Leg. Parete asked how controlled is the environment the meeting? Ms. Sarders advised it is set up like a living room and there are cameras and its decorated during Christmas time and each parent shows up 15 minutes apart. We have the visiting parent come in first and the custodial parent comes 15 minutes later. We have access to the door and we are all trained so it makes the process peaceful. Leg. Lopez said so does it depends on the type of case and what interactions they have? Ms. Sarders said the custodial parent never has contact with the visiting parent and that is what the court is asking us to do and they go forward with counseling or what the court deems necessary.

There are 180 programs funded until December. Response to a program from Department of Criminal Justice and we were surprised that it's targeted age group of 7-15 year olds that committed a crime that if they were 18 would have went to jail. The intent was to provide restored justices and help the individual realize that what this action had done to not only them but society. Trained 25 leaders in the community and created the juvenile accountability boards. We meet with the individual and speak to them about what they had done and how it hurt their community and the appropriate response to this act and take responsibility. In 2014 we saw 56 individuals complete the program and of that 56 only one reoffended. Now to hear it will not be funded. We have access to children at a time that we can make a difference. These children need attention and need someone to help take care of them the case worker is like a parent to them. The program has been very successful. Leg Parete asked are case workers part of your staff? We have two programs, one for 7-15 year olds and the other 16 and older who have gotten into more trouble. Half time is devoted to both, in Woodstock, Kingston and New Paltz. Leg Parete asked is the older children's program going to disappear as well? Mr. Berg advised no, we estimate that the program will be between \$100,000 and \$105,000. We are going to try and raise the funds. This was a pilot program and we need to figure out how to sustain. Leg Parete program succeeded and done? Mr. Berg said you do a good job and get referrals. Leg Donaldson said the problem with the 16-20 it's a lot harder to turn them around. These 7-15 are more impressionable and have a better chance of making that change. Leg Lopez it always surprises me that the funds dry up for these successful programs. Mr. Berg said we really follow up to make sure that these individuals are successful.

**Resolution :** None

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## **Cornell Cooperative Extension**

**Reported by:** Lee Reidy, Executive Director

**Report:** Ms. Reidy thanked all for attending the meeting being held in the biggest room Cornell has. The space holds about 80 people with chairs and 40 with tables and chairs. We have our main office here in Kingston, one in Highland building on land owned by cooperative fruit growers and they run an experimental lab that work with the fruit and vegetable industry and we have 5 staff, 3 full time and 2 part time go back and forth between Highland and Kingston. We have another office in Shokan we just moved before that it was in Phoenicia and that is the office that has been in that area for 7 years and houses our environmental program and work with NYC DEP. They funded it for past seven years and our role is education working with community leaders, residents, county departments, state agencies in advancing quality of water. Keeping water clean but getting communities involved in taking care of their water and understanding their waterways is the biggest grant cooperative has. New World foundation advances agricultural only had 2 staff, 1 in Highland 1 in Kingston working with fruits and vegetables and the local economies came and had a vision of a farm hub and enhancing local products and supporting agriculture in our area. We took full advantage of their involvement 3 or 4 years ago we went from 2 staff to 8. We now have the largest staff in the regional and in the state.

Very involved in hops and it is a hot topic in Ulster County with craft beers. Always have had winery but the bad weather hurt that this year the vines under the snow were ok but anything above got hit hard. Our fruit educator is dealing with fireblight diseases with apples that are the worst thing, high humidity and no rain results in a tree having to be pulled out. Apples did ok with the bad weather but the grape crop was hit the worst.

Healthy communities program is done with low income and all are contract funded and relatives as parents program numbers are higher than many realize. It is a problem and most people don't go for assistance and they are in distress, old individuals taking care of younger ones. Leg. Donaldson said that the distilleries are taking off would the college be interested in this? Dean Komdat advised that Cornell was trying to do this. Leg. Donaldson maybe they could get the business end of the spectrum. Ms. Reidy advised that Cornell has a program and we would think about this as the startup process. Leg. Donaldson advised that they would be credit courses. A community college did the business end of the distillery and they would take accounting and other course and learn how to make the product. There is a science behind it. Dean Komdat said that it is an expensive adventure.

Ms. Reidy said we are in conversations to use the Community College to have some options for course work classes that are interest in working with live stock. We are looking to build on what we are strong in and sometimes new stuff is a challenge.

This building has been here for past 3 years and it has been a great location for us. We have our great big sign and the pictures in the front and we are getting many people coming in. Pressure canning is going on today and we have been known for it since we started. In the 70s the interest was not there, but

we found that in the past 7-8 years we are back to the basics and people are looking to eat better and prepare food better. Leg. Donaldson asked how much is the canning course? Ms. Reidy advised \$30 and you take home the food you can. Leg. Wawro asked if the class fills up do you have more? Ms. Reidy answered yes. Ms. Reidy also advised that we have certification for 10 hour course and in the food industry they are required.

**Resolution :** None

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**Motion #7- TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Lopez and seconded by Leg. Wawro and Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:30pm.

Dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015  
Natasha Tagliaferro, Recorder  
Minutes approved on June 10, 2015

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