

# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DAVID B. DONALDSON, Chairman  
TRACEY A. BARTELS, Vice Chair  
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader  
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader  
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



P.O. Box 1800  
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402  
Telephone: 845 340-3900  
FAX: 845 340-3651

## MINUTES

JUNE 16, 2020

### REGULAR MEETING

*vimeo* livestream <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>



Public Comment via Call in Studio. Dial: 205-Ulster-0 (205-857-8370)

7:00 PM

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: 7:16 PM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION:**

Led by Legislator Abe Uchitelle.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: 23 Absent: 0

### **BIRTHDAYS:**

Legislator John Gavaris, June 9<sup>th</sup>

Legislative Clerk Victoria Fabella, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

**MOTION TO DISPENSE WITH THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minority Leader Ronk motioned, seconded by Majority Leader Heppner to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. All in favor.

MINUTES  
PAGE 2  
JUNE 16, 2020

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM:**

UC Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson

Hodgson Russ LLP Attorneys

UC Legislative Clerk, Victoria Fabella  
UC Legislator Thomas Corcoran  
UC Dept. of Public Works, Commissioner Jackson

Mr. Sean E. O'Connor, Town of Kingston  
UC Clerk's Office, Ray Kowatch, Accountant  
UC Attorney, Clinton Johnson  
Burt Gulnick, Jr. VP/Secretary/Treasurer

Center For Spectrum Services

Concerned Citizens  
Hannah Frieser, Exec. Dir. Photography at Woodstock  
Village of New Paltz Clerk, Alberta G. Shaw

UCIDA, Acting Chair Faye Storms  
UC Planning Board  
Pat Courtney-Strong  
UC Planning Dept. Director Dennis Doyle  
Braymer Law, PLLC, Claudia Braymer Glens Falls

BOND Schoeneck & King

Marcus J. Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive  
The John V. Esposito Family  
UC News  
UCRRA, Exec. Dir. Timothy Rose

Suzanne VanWagenen  
Catskill Forest Association, Inc.

Article, Financial Catastrophe Small  
Towns  
Requested 10% Dept. Budget Reductions  
UCIDA Form ST-62 Fiscal Ending  
12/31/19  
Designated Newspapers for Year 2020  
Article, Modern Natural Gas Facilities  
Culvert Replacement Town of  
Marbletown  
Prior Notice Response  
Prior Notice  
Semi-Annual Mortgage Report  
PILOT Blue Stone Signature Follow Up  
Ulster Tobacco Asset Securitization  
Corp. Financial Statements Year End  
12/31/2019  
COVID-19 Update  
Virtual Telethon Fundraiser 6/25 7PM  
(19) Danskammer Emails Opposing Plant  
Email, Support Cultural Services  
Resolution No. 20 of 2020 LGBTQ  
Month  
Letter, Second Term Thank You  
Agenda 6/3/2020, Minutes 5/6/2020  
Flyer, Citizens For Local Power  
Housing for the Essential Worker Blog  
850 Route 28, LLC Request Positive  
Declaration  
Case 17-T-0816 Central Hudson  
Application  
Thank You Note  
Thank You Note  
Vol. 52, No. 10 & 11  
Expansion of the NYS Returnable  
Container Act  
UCRRA Local Solid Waste Management  
Plan, Voted 6/2/2020  
Email In Support of Sheriff's Department  
CFA News, Summer 2020

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Press Release, Chamber Address  
Executive Order Nos. 15-18 2020  
Executive Order No. 19-2020  
Executive Order No. 20-2020 and  
State of Emergency Declaration 6/11/20  
Press Release, Exec. Statement Phase 1  
Invitation, Public Safety Training Center  
Press Release, Reopen County Depts.  
Press Release, Safety Training Center  
Press Release, New Housing Initiatives  
Press Release, Outdoor Dining Initiatives  
Press Release, Zero New COVID Cases  
Appointment, Director UC Public  
Defender Office; Lauren Sheeley  
Effective Immediately

**ANNUAL REPORTS:**

UC Clerk's Office, Ray Kowatch, Accountant

**DATE:**

Semi-Annual Mortgage Report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing,  
Planning & Transit

**DATE:**

May 5, 2020  
May 6, 2020  
May 9, 2020  
May 14, 2020  
May 4, 2020  
May 6, 2020  
May 18, 2020  
April 14, 2020  
May 5, 2020  
May 4, 2020  
May 6, 2020  
May 11, 2020  
May 12, 2020  
May 19, 2020

Energy & Environment  
Law Enforcement and Public Safety  
Laws and Rules, Governmental Services  
Legislative Programs, Ed and Community Services

Public Health and Social Services  
Public Works and Capital Projects  
Ways and Means & Legislative Programs Joint Mtg.  
Ways and Means

**PRESENTATION:**

Presentation by Cornerstone, PLLC on Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Final Local Solid Waste Management Plan (LSWMP).  
(see attached transcript)

Chairman Donaldson called on Legislator Greene who spoke in support of the plan and invited legislators to the June 23, 2020 Solid Waste Planning Commission meeting to have a deeper discussion prior to the next round of committee meetings. (see transcript)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was one speaker signed up for public comment.

1. Linda Martson-Reid, Arts Mid-Hudson: (see attached transcript)

**RESOLUTION NOS: 96, 97, 129 – 143, 168, 194, 195, 197 - 207, 209 - 227, 229, 231;  
8 & 9 – WITHDRAWN; 7, 94, 96, 97, 191, 196, 208 – POSTPONED; 230 – DEFEATED;  
228 – SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS NOT MET**

**Resolution No. 7-** Adopting The Ulster County Code Of Conduct  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 8-** Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Requiring That Property Owners Of ~~Multi-Family Dwellings~~ Residential Rental Properties Located In Ulster County With Six Or More Units Have An Office In Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 12, 2020 At 6:00 PM  
*WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR*

**Resolution No. 9-** Establishing A Special Committee To Define Ulster County Housing Needs  
*WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR*

**Resolution No. 94-** Opposing A New Power Plant Facility At The Former Danskammer Energy Site In Newburgh (Orange County) New York  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 96-** Supporting New York State Senate Bill S7280 And New York State Assembly Bill A09107, Supporting The "Emergency First Responders Privacy And Protection Act"  
*POSTPONED TO NEXT REGULAR SESSION*

**Resolution No. 97-** Urging The Governor And Members Of The New York State Legislature to Reevaluate Bail And Discovery Reform Measures Included in the SFY 2020 Budget  
*POSTPONED TO NEXT REGULAR SESSION*

**Resolution No. 191-** Establishing A Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations – Ulster County Legislature  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 196-** Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Trustees Of Columbia University In The City Of New York – Department Of Health  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 208-** Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept HEALing Communities Study Funding And Create Positions – Department Of Health  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 228-** Calling For A One-Year Extension Of The Current Sales Tax Sharing Distribution Agreement Between The County Of Ulster And The City Of Kingston  
*SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENTS NOT MET*

**Resolution No. 230-** Establishing A Policy Requiring The Reporting Of All Expenditures Made By Ulster County In Relation To The Former Tech City Property  
*DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE*

**Consent**

**194 Authorizing Distribution Of Mortgage Tax Receipts Pursuant To Section 261 Of The Tax Law**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**195 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

- 197 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – James McGuinness & Associates, Inc.– Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 198 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Tyler Technologies, Inc. – Information Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 199 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way of Ulster County Inc. – Office Of Employment And Training**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(1 Abstention: Legislator Uchitelle)

- 200 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way of Ulster County Inc. – Office Of Employment And Training**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(1 Abstention: Legislator Uchitelle)

- 201 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Halwick Law, LLC – Office For The Aging**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(1 Abstention: Legislator Cahill)

- 202 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. D/B/A Gateway Hudson Valley – Office For The Aging**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 203 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Cornell Cooperative Extension Of Ulster County – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)

- 204 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Cornell Cooperative Extension Of Ulster County – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 205 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – SAFECO Alarm Systems, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 206 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Geostabilization International, LLC – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 207 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Continue The Drinking Water Enhancement Program – Department Of Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 209 Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Supplemental Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding From New York State Department of Health for COVID-19 Crisis Response – Department Of Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 210 Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Supplemental Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding From New York State Department Of Health For Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Activities – Department Of Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 211 Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The Redlich Horwitz Foundation To Support Virtual Family Connectivity Within The Foster Care Program – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 212 Setting A Public Hearing On Tentative Budget Of Ulster County Community College For The Year 2020-2021 To Be Held On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 At 6:30 PM**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 213 Approving A Voluntary Retirement Incentive For Eligible Ulster County Community College Faculty Members – SUNY Ulster**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 214 Approving A Voluntary Retirement Incentive For Eligible Ulster County Community College Professional Staff Members – SUNY Ulster**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 215 Supporting A Grant Application To The Federal Transit Administration To Apply, Accept And Administer 5307 Urbanized Area Funds And 5307 Funds Transferred From The Rural Transportation Assistance Program-Section 5311(b)(3) Under The Coronavirus Aid, Relief And Economic Security (CARES) Act For Operating Costs And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications Or Agreements To Accept Funding – Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 219 Establishing Capital Project No. 571 – Sheriff Live Scan Upgrade – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 221 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services - Project Live Scan - Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**222 Authorizing The Conveyance Of County-Owned Properties To The Original Owners – Department Of Finance**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**223 Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 3 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 2 Of 2006 (A Local Law Adopting A County Charter Form Of Government For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York) And Amending Local Law No. 10 Of 2008 (A Local Law Adopting An Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York), To Require Submission Of Departmental Budget Estimates From Elected Officials And Department Heads To The Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**224 Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 6 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Various Provisions Of Local Law No. 1 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster To Include Mandatory Food Scraps Composting By Large Generators**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**226 Establishing And Reporting The Standard Work Day For Elected And Appointed Officials**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**227 Appointing Members To The Recycling Oversight Committee**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**Non-Consent**

- 96 Supporting New York State Senate Bill S7280 And New York State Assembly Bill A09107, Supporting The "Emergency First Responders Privacy And Protection Act"**

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to Postpone the Resolution until the Next Regular Session of the Ulster County Legislature.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

***POSTPONED TO NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE***

- 97 Urging The Governor And Members Of The New York State Legislature to Reevaluate Bail And Discovery Reform Measures Included in the SFY 2020 Budget**

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to Postpone the Resolution until the Next Regular Session of the Ulster County Legislature.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

***POSTPONED TO NEXT REGULAR SESSION OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE***

**129 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Awareness, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**130 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Walker Valley Chemical Engine No. 1 For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**131 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**132 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Resource Center For Accessible Living, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**133 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The D&H Canal Historical Society For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                      NOES: 0  
(1 Abstention: Legislator Litts)

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**134 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Hudson River Maritime Museum For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

***REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE***

**135 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With People's Place For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

***REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE***

**136 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

***REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE***

**137 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

***REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE***

**138 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Cornell Cooperative Extension Association Of Ulster County For 2020 Appropriations- Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**139 2020 Appropriation For The Ulster County Libraries Program**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**140 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Imagine Better, Inc. D/B/A Don't Be A Monster For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**141 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Family Of Woodstock, Inc., For The Supervised Visitation Program For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**142 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

*REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE*

**143 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Ulster Performing Arts Center For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to Refer Resolution Nos. 129 through 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

***REFERRED BACK TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE***

- 168      Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2020, A Local Law Establishing Certain Consumer Protection Practices In Ulster County And Penalties For Violating Same, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 At 6:20 PM**

Legislator Gavaris motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend Section 2. C of Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2020, and add Section 2. H. as indicated in attachment.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 191      Establishing A Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations – Ulster County Legislature**

***POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE***

- 196      Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Trustees Of Columbia University In The City Of New York – Department Of Health**

***POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE***

- 208      Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept HEALing Communities Study Funding And Create Positions – Department Of Health**

***POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE***

- 216 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Ulster County Board Of Cooperative Educational Services To Provide A Deputy Sheriff As A School Resource Officer – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19                      NOES: 4  
(Noes: Legislators Bartels, Criswell, Uchitelle, and Walter)

- 217 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Onteora Central School District To Provide A Deputy Sheriff As School Resource Officer – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19                      NOES: 4  
(Noes: Legislators Bartels, Criswell, Uchitelle, and Walter)

- 218 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Rondout Valley Central School District To Provide Two Deputy Sheriffs As School Resource Officers – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19                      NOES: 4  
(Noes: Legislators Bartels, Criswell, Uchitelle, and Walter)

- 220 BOND Authorizing The Upgrade Of The Live Scan Equipment And Software For The Sheriff's Department, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$175,000, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$175,000 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

- 225      Calling On Westchester Medical Center/Health Alliance Of The Hudson Valley To Return Inpatient Mental Health Services To Ulster County And Calling On The County Executive To Explore Options To Expand Mental Health Services And Care In Ulster County**

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 229      Urging The Ulster County Sheriff To Implement A Policy Requiring All New Inmates At The Ulster County Jail Be Tested For COVID-19**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    14                      NOES:    9  
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

- 231      Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Local Law No. 5 Of 1991 (A Local Law Adopting A Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax) To Clarify The Tax Law's Application To Short-Term And Vacation Rentals, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 At 6:15 PM**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES:    16                      NOES:    7  
(Noes: Legislators Haynes, Litts, Maio, Petit, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)

**MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF:** Read by Legislator James Delaune.

Helen Rodelli, Milton, NY  
Mary Hurley, Carolina Beach, NC  
Christopher A. Fisher, Saugerties, NY  
Edward J. Hoffman, Kingston, NY  
Raymond J. Galvin, Sawkill, NY  
Allan Coles, Town of Ulster, NY  
Joan Knittle, Lake Katrine, NY  
Richard A. Spurling, New Paltz, NY  
Theresa F. Cafaldo Fabiano, Glasco, NY  
Joseph A. Porco, Marlborough, NY  
Peter Showers

William J. Gray, Lake Katrine, NY  
Joan S. Glosch, Saugerties, NY  
Stanley A. VanKleek, Town of Ulster, NY  
Leonidas Santouris, Kingston, NY  
Delores Cacapardo, Lake Katrine, NY  
Joseph Rougier, Mount Marion, NY  
Richard C. Schaeffer, Matamoras, PA  
John A. Mauro Sr., Sebring, FL  
George Braunstein, Orlando, FL  
Joseph F. Egan, Sr., Wallkill, NY

Motion by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Fabiano to adjourn Legislative Session.  
All in favor.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:40 PM

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Resolution deadline is Friday, June 26, 2020 at 12 Noon.

# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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DAVID B. DONALDSON, Chairman  
TRACEY A. BARTELS, Vice Chair  
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader  
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VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



P.O. Box 1800  
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## TRANSCRIPT

JUNE 16, 2020

### REGULAR MEETING

*vimeo* livestream <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>



Public Comment via Call in Studio. Dial: 205-Ulster-0 (205-857-8370)

7:00 PM

#### **Chairman Donaldson**

And call the meeting to order. Stand for the Pledge to the flag and for a moment of silence. There you go, there you go. All right. Lead us Abe.

#### **Legislative Body**

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### **Chairman Donaldson**

All right. Be seated. Certainly glad you're [inaudible]. Roll call.

#### **Clerk Fabella**

Archer.

#### **Legislator Archer**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Hear.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bruno.

**Legislator Bruno**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Delaune.

**Legislator Delaune**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Donaldson.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Present.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Haynes.

**Legislator Haynes**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner

**Legislator Heppner**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maio.

**Legislator Maio**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Parete.

**Legislator Parete**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Wawro.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I didn't hear Wawro.

**Legislator Petit**

She's here.

**Clerk Fabella**

She is there.

**Legislator Wawro**

I am here.

**Clerk Fabella**

I got it.

**Legislator Wawro**

I was muted. Sorry, here.

**Clerk Fabella**

(23) present. Nobody absent.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Very good. We have two birthdays for this month. We have John Gavaris. June 9th. And he also wins the award for the most consistent video. We have Legislative Clerk Victoria Fabella, June 22nd, who is also twenty-nine tonight.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I now would like to entertain a motion to dispense with the reading the minutes.

**Legislator Ronk**

So moved.

**Legislator Heppner**

Second.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All those in favor?

**Legislative Members**

Aye. Aye. (23-0)

**Chairman Donaldson**

There are various communications on file from the other elected officials, as well as myself, and others. And we have committee reports, are also on file.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And we now have a presentation by Cornerstone PLLC on the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency's final, local Solid Waste Management Plan.

**Mark Swyka**

Mr. Chairman, thank you. And Good evening, everyone. So, I am Mark Swyka. I'm with Cornerstone and I thank you for inviting me to be here this evening.

**Mark Swyka**

And as you may recall, in April of last year, our team provided the Legislature with an overview of the local Solid Waste Management Planning process. And now, a little over a year later, we're at the point in that process where the local Solid Waste Management Plan is being presented to the Legislature for approval and adoption. And I'm pleased to be able to provide you with today's brief summary of this local Solid Waste Management Plan.

**Mark Swyka**

Solid Waste Management Planning is a formal process required of each of the 69 planning units within New York State. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides definitive guidance for the preparation and content of local solid waste management plans. So, they're in harmony with the overall New York State Solid Waste Management Plan.

**Mark Swyka**

The State's plan, beyond waste, was codified into regulation in November of 2017. Ulster County's plan has been prepared in accordance with these regulations. Ulster County's Plan has been prepared as a collaborative effort among New York State DEC staff, the Ulster County Legislative Commission, UCRRA (Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency) and Cornerstone.

**Mark Swyka**

Representatives from each of these entities met on multiple occasions and communicated regularly in the formation, review and polishing of the plan that's been presented to you. And this plan has been reviewed and approved by New York State DEC. And the letters documenting their review and acceptance are bound into the plan copies.

**Mark Swyka**

Following acceptance by the New York State DEC, this version of a local Solid Waste Management Plan was presented to and approved by the UCRRA board. The final remaining step before the plan can be implemented is approval by the Ulster County Legislature.

**Mark Swyka**

And while the plan contains a significant body of information regarding Ulster County, and the existing management systems for solid waste and recyclable materials, the more important elements settle around, center around the forward-looking aspects of the plan, and how they will be implemented in an effort to enhance the County's environmental practices. The implementation plan stresses education programs to minimize waste generation, maximize diversion and move toward a goal of zero waste.

**Mark Swyka**

In preparation of the plan, multiple alternative strategies for waste management, processing, conversion, and disposal were screened to determine whether or not they should be given further future consideration. Notable alternative strategies included: conversion of waste to biomass, conversion of waste to ethanol; expansion of organic waste composting; organic waste anaerobic digestion; producing energy from waste, also commonly called incineration; thermal processes, such as gasification and pyrolysis; municipal solid waste composting; alternative transportation, logistics, and development of a local landfill.

**Mark Swyka**

These alternative strategies were evaluated on the basis of compatibility with existing infrastructure within the County; greenhouse gas emissions associated with long distance transport of materials; the degree of dependency on other outside entities other than Ulster County to implement the selected strategy; market dependency for end products; the scalability and flexibility of the strategy to accept varying quantity of materials in the future; as waste production decreases and waste diversion increases.

**Mark Swyka**

They were evaluated for the percent of the material stream that can be managed by that strategy and the combined capital and operating costs. So, from this assessment, four strategies were selected for inclusion into the implementation plan for further consideration.

**Mark Swyka**

The four strategies are: Material Recovery Facility infrastructure review; development of a new local landfill; development of a biomass facility; and rail transportation of waste.

**Mark Swyka**

The Material Recovery Facility infrastructure review was selected in consideration of optimizing performance of an existing asset. The review is intended to evaluate upgrades and modifications that may be made to the Material Recovery Facility to improve efficiency, optimize the separation and reclamation of recyclable materials, and improve product marketability. Specific upgrades, along with the cost and benefit of each, are unclear at this time, and will require this additional study in order to be defined.

**Mark Swyka**

Development of the local landfill was selected because this strategy, is in part, compatible with existing county infrastructure, provides Ulster County with the highest degree of flexibility and control. A local landfill is able to manage 100% of the County's present and future annual waste stream. A landfill is scalable to accept variable quantities of material. It would remove County dependency on outside entities. Eliminate greenhouse gas production from long haul transport. And is among the lowest cost alternatives.

**Mark Swyka**

Further study of the biomass strategy was selected because while requiring a new facility, that facility would be local, we'll have some compatibility with existing infrastructure. The system is reported to have ability to manage up to 70% to 80% of the Ulster County's waste stream. The system is scalable to the quantity of material projected to be managed within the county. This too eliminates greenhouse gas production from long haul transport and is also among the lowest cost alternatives.

**Mark Swyka**

Lastly, the rail transportation was selected as a strategy for review. As is it too, partly compatible with existing infrastructure. It is able to manage 100% of the county's present and future annual waste stream. It's scalable to accept variable quantities of material. Reduces greenhouse gas production from long haul truck transport, although that would be offset, long haul rail transport. But still is among the lowest cost alternatives. A final approach to be implemented in the county can be selected after each of the above noted feasibility studies are complete.

**Mark Swyka**

Feasibility studies can be performed, and the final approach selected, after Legislature approval the plan. Because in the eyes of New York State DEC, the local Solid Waste Management Plan is a living document.

**Mark Swyka**

So, while certain activities are anticipated by the implementation plan, the Agency will continue to evaluate the performance of existing systems, review and evaluate new technologies that may emerge during the life of the plan. Adapt to changes in the environmental landscape and document Agency performance against the plan's projections in the biennial plan updates that would be prepared by UCRRA every other year, and submitted to New York State DEC.

**Mark Swyka**

So, this local Solid Waste Management Plan really bears the fingerprints of all its contributors and reflects the passion of the County to be both environmentally responsible and locally responsible. And it certainly has been my privilege to work with the UCRRA board and staff and the representatives of the Legislative Commission in the preparation of this local Solid Waste Management Plan. And it's my sincere hope that this plan can now be adopted and implemented. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. I'd like to call on Legislator Greene. She wants to add a little something here. Go ahead. Legislator Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Thank you, Chairman Donaldson. I just want to be sure I'm not muted.

**Legislator Ronk**

You're on.

**Legislator Greene**

I'm not muted okay good.

**Legislator Greene**

I just wanted to say that the plan is complex. It may raise questions that we have. We don't have enough time at tonight's meeting to get to and I would invite the Legislators to join a Solid Waste Planning Commission meeting that has been scheduled for June 23rd, with the intention of trying to have a deeper discussion prior to the next round of committee meetings, including Energy and Environment. Which is

the committee that I expect that this plan would need to go to. And I also want to say that there's a lot of good work in this plan.

**Legislator Greene**

I think there's also a lot of consensus that there is not as much detail to support the opportunity for waste diversion. You know, there's language that says to minimize waste generation and maximize diversion and move toward a goal of zero waste. But unless there's also a Zero Waste Plan, you know, it would remain a goal and I think we need something more concrete. There was a group of people that represented, that came from the Legislature and UCRRA and went to a Zero Waste training in Albany. And we've started to create a Zero Waste Plan. But I want to be sure that that plan comes to fruition because my comment on the plan is that it really needs the complimentary document to focus on waste diversion.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay, so June 23rd. The meeting will be, and we'll make sure that everyone is notified of those meetings. Now, does anyone know any other legislator like to ask a brief question of any sort of Mark?

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right, seeing none, we can move into public comment. Vicky.

**Clerk Fabella**

Jay is pulling up the Call-in Studio. And we do have still one speaker signed up. Linda Marston-Reid, can you hear me?

**Chairman Donaldson**

Linda?

**Linda Marston-Reid**

This is Linda.

**Clerk Fabella**

There we go. We can hear you.

**Linda Marston-Reid**

Okay, great. I just wanted to say good evening to the Legislature and thanks for your past support to Arts Mid-Hudson for the arts and cultural funding. So, what I would like to say is the arts and cultural sector understands the dire economic place we were all in here in Ulster County. I think it's, you know, as we all find ways to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, please consider the role that the Ulster County arts and cultural workers contribute to the local economy.

**Linda Marston-Reid**

Funding from the Ulster County Cultural Promotion Fund is magnified in impact through hundreds of cultural activities, engaging with our community, drawing visitors and representing billions of dollars spent on local businesses and housing.

**Linda Marston-Reid**

We can point to just one of many examples. For instance, Mount Tremper Arts, they received a little bit of funding of \$3,000, most of which was expended on local services and labor to support public programs. Audiences and artists served by this award then spent around \$17,000, by conservative estimates, on local businesses, such as restaurants, shops, housing anywhere from Stone Ridge to Phoenicia. This five-fold return on investment is just one example of the impact this money you makes, not to mention the measurable educational and cultural opportunities that creates.

**Linda Marston-Reid**

Through Art Mid-Hudson's work, our staff helps grow the local creative economy by supporting initiatives that attract cultural tourists to our area and create opportunities for young creative entrepreneurs to start their businesses in Ulster County. These free services support the creative workers through Art Mid-Hudson's programs, mentoring, workshops, business development, and are vital to the continued economic growth we have really come to expect from having a vibrant art scene.

**Linda Marston-Reid**

In a recent survey, Arts Mid-Hudson conducted with 21 Ulster County arts organizations responding, we have learned that these organizations serve nearly 126,000 annually and employ 34.5 full time equivalent employees. The Ulster County Cultural Promotion Funding Awards are small amounts. They're also used to leverage to bring in additional outside funding that's critical to the health of the arts community across Ulster County. If cuts are necessary, I respectfully request that you consider the minimal reduction in funding. Thank you so much.

**Clerk Fabella**

Chairman Donaldson, there are no other speakers signed up.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. Are there any other speakers will make it an official request? Any other speakers?

**Chairman Donaldson**

Hearing none, let's go into the resolutions.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. The Consent Agenda. Are you running this Vicky?

**Clerk Fabella**

Yeah, I mean, we can do the vote on the Consent Agenda, first.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I will entertain a motion to accept the Consent Agenda.

**Legislator Heppner**

Moved.

**Legislator Ronk**

We don't need a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. It's just on the consent agenda, I think.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Right. On the Consent Agenda, I'm sorry.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the Consent Agenda, the Democratic caucus is a short yes, with the following abstentions: No. Resolution 199 and 200, from Legislator Uchitelle for the purpose of employment, and Resolution No. 201 for Legislator Cahill for the purpose of a family conflict.

**Legislator Ronk**

We are short yes on the Consent Agenda, with one abstention on Resolution 203, by Legislator Litts, for purposes of employment.

**Clerk Fabella**

So, the resolutions are adopted twenty-three to zero with the exception of Resolutions 199 and 200, which are adopted twenty-two to zero, with one abstention Legislator Uchitelle.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 201 is adopted twenty-two to zero with one abstention, Legislator Cahill.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Resolution 203 is adopted twenty-two to zero with one abstention. Legislator Litts.

**Clerk Fabella**

On to Non-Consent Agenda. The first resolution, 96, is supporting New York Senate Bill...

**Legislator Ronk**

Mr. Chairman, if I could just waive the reading and move that we postpone Resolutions 96 and 97 one more time.

**Legislator Heppner**

I'll second.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the postponement?

**Legislator Heppner**

We are a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The Resolutions are postponed, twenty-three to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

We have an agreement on Resolution 129.

**Legislator Heppner**

Mr. Chairman, you can go ahead, Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

No, no, I was going to do the same thing you're going to do. So, go right ahead.

**Legislator Heppner**

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to refer Resolutions 129 to 143 back to the Ways and Means Committee.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And then it's going to be a special meeting?

**Legislator Heppner**

That's to be determined.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'll second that motion. You know, but it's my sincere hope that it's a special meeting. I think that these are important things that should have their own time.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yes. I meant to say that. It's intended to be a special meeting. The time and date is to be determined.

**Legislator Ronk**

Okay.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I agree. So, on the postponement, for the referral, I meant to say.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the referral, we are short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We are also a short yes on the referral.

**Clerk Fabella**

The referral is adopted twenty-three to zero.

**Legislator Litts**

And one abstention.

**Legislator Ronk**

And one abstain, I apologize. There's an abstention on the referral for Resolution 133, Legislator Litts.

**Clerk Fabella**

Okay, so for 133 the resolution is referred or twenty-two to zero with one abstention Legislator Litts.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next Resolution is 168: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2020, A Local Law Establishing Certain Consumer Protection Practices In Ulster County And Penalties For Violating Same, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 At 6:20 PM.

**Legislator Ronk**

Mr. Chairman may I be...

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

I'll defer to Legislator Ronk.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you. There are several amendments. Legislator Gavaris. I believe was about to make an amendment. You know, there was a, you know what, I'll let him go first. I apologize. You first Legislator Gavaris.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty.

**Legislator Gavaris**

All right. I'd like to make a motion to mark-up the law, as presented, in front of you.

**Legislator Heppner**

I'll second.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Where is it in front of me?

**Legislator Ronk**

In the packet?

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay, got it. All right on the amendments. Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Thank you, Chairman. I, you know, I've been very vocal about this local law. And I was definitely opposed the local law as it was previously written, I also acknowledged that the law had many excellent components of it that are deserving of passage. I want to thank the sponsors for being willing to entertain the changes it's come it's for me, it's come a long way, I still have some concerns about the percentages. I believe the 25%, is not for me, in the definition of an unconscionable trade practice or price gouging. But in the spirit of compromise, I'm going to support it tonight to send it to a public hearing and hear what the public has to say on it. And again, I want to thank the sponsors for being willing to move on this and then I'll consider once I hear the public.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else wish to speak?

**Legislator Heppner**

I believe Legislator Gavaris did have his hand up.

**Legislator Gavaris**

I just wanted...

**Chairman Donaldson**

Go ahead, Legislator Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

I just wanted to thank the sponsor and Legislator Lopez, for working with me on this. And we did come to a good compromise. So, I'm glad we were able to make something that's better for all of us.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you. Ah ready to call for the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the amendment, we're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the amendment, we're short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. And on the resolution.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are short, yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the resolution, as amended, we are also a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The Resolution is adopted, as amended, twenty-three to zero.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 191 was postponed in committee as was Resolution 196 and 208.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next Resolution is 216: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Ulster County Board Of Cooperative Educational Services To Provide A Deputy Sheriff As A School Resource Officer – Ulster County Sheriff.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the Resolution?

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

No wait. People had their hands up they want to speak.

**Legislator Heppner**

Oh, sorry.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. I just wanted to very quickly state that my vote is a no on this only because right now there's the issue of the costs. Where although I know BOCES is paying for the costs. BOCES is experiencing financial strain at this time, as well. And the idea of an SRO is controversial. And I think that this should be looked at more carefully. And so, I just wanted to explain that. I do support these people as individuals. I just have some apprehensions, thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I don't see anyone, oh yeah, Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

I agree with Legislator Walter, I'm also going to be a no today. I have concerns that they're unseen costs. I've raised them before the cost related to the vehicles that these officers bring. I appreciate that the sheriff is willing to look at it. And I also think we should look into the issues that have been raised nationally. I've started to read some of the studies regarding the benefits of school resource officers in schools. And I think that's something that we have to go a little deeper to understand.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yes. I'm also going to be a no on this. Because right now, I think that we have a real opportunity to rethink policing including within the schools. I reached out to several people who work in the schools and pretty uniformly they had concerns with this program. And so, this is not in any sort of call to abolish, police, it's just a way to look at where resources might be better used elsewhere for things like mediators, psychologists, career counselors and mental health professionals, who are probably better suited to help our schoolchildren.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah, I just like to echo the sentiments of my colleagues and just say that I have, you know, deep concerns about SRO programs in general. This, for me has been true, you know, even prior to recent events where policing in the United States has been, you know, under a rightful examination. I spoke with the Sheriff earlier today and had a very good conversation. And I know that these are good officers that are, you know, being proposed here. Good, good Deputies. That's not what this is about. And I'm optimistic that by casting my vote, you know, in opposition of this, realizing that they'll, you know, move forward regardless, you know that this is raising the issue that we have an opportunity to really examine this program, in particular. And I believe that, you know, Ulster County can be a leader as we have been on so many issues in our history, and I will be voting in opposition of all three of the SRO resolutions before us tonight.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Yes, thank you. My children went to Rondout Valley and there were no SROs. My grandson will likely go Rondout Valley. And I just really have a concern about the first thing they see when they arrive and the last thing they see when they leave is a uniformed officer. On the other hand, we have had more incidents of violence in schools. I think what I plan to do is vote yes, this time, but also to meet with the Board of Education at Rondout Valley and encourage them, and really all of those school systems, to look at alternatives moving forward. It's very disturbing to me to think that we have to have, you know, armed police in the schools, and the message that that gives to the children, especially young children.

**Chairman Donaldson**

As a point of information. This is the one for Boices, but the Rondout Valley one will be coming up.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thanks. Yeah, I think Chairman, that folks are just trying to get their comments on all three out in this one resolution. Probably, so it's not...

**Legislator Ronk**

Yeah

**Legislator Ronk**

You know, I have to tell you that I'll be supporting all three of these resolutions as well as my caucus members. You know, I happen to know that both former Sheriff VanBlarcum as well as Sheriff Figueroa, put a lot of time and effort into selecting the officers that are going to be SROs. They're typically very, very senior or senior members who have been as members of law enforcement for quite some time. They take extensive training on how to interact in a school setting. You know, these, these three in particular, I know from years of discussing them on the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee. You know, they become more than just a uniformed police officer. They're not an imposing, you know, face at these schools. A lot of times ...

**Chairman Donaldson**

I can't hear you.

**Legislator Bruno**

We lost you Kenny.

**Chairman Donaldson**

You lost your audio, Ken. We lost your audio. Ken?

**Legislator Ronk**

Can you hear me now?

**Legislator Bruno**

Now. Yeah.

**Legislator Ronk**

Okay. Yeah, that's the good Spectrum internet service right there. So, I don't know where I lost you, but a lot of times these officers, you know, become more than just a police officer. They're a counselor. They help, you know, guide these children. They stop problems before they're caused. And, you know, it's not the imposing, you know, I'm a police officer, I'm, you know, I'm standing here with my gun. A lot of times the kids will confide in them. You know, it really becomes a safety resource there also. I mean, you know, again, there, there's a lot of facets to these folks and they're very highly trained on how to work in a school setting. You know, Legislator Greene pointed out that her children didn't, you know, have SRO in the schools when they were young. I didn't have an SRO in school. You know, I graduated in 2003. I didn't have them there when I was there either. But sometimes times change and, you know, safety needs in school settings change. And until the school districts stop asking for them, I think that we should continue to provide them.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Wawro. Legislator Wawro.

**Legislator Wawro**

I just wanted to mention that the SRO had expanded after the tragedies in the schools happened and I chaired the Safety Advisory Committee and that was one of our recommendations. And I really believe forming a relationship really makes a huge difference in these situations.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Parete.

**Legislator Parete**

I find it interesting. I didn't realize I was in the school board business now. I'm pretty close to a number of the people on the school boards and from these two districts that are listed here, not one person has come down and said, we don't want this. These folks are very sensitive to the issues that are very prominent in America right now. The Resource Officers have the ability to defuse situations. There are a recruiter for a lot that is good, and let's say, prosperous for the community. Bringing kids along and making them understand how they get benefit by joining different groups, whether they be athletic groups, art groups. They... I was a coach up here for 15 years. And it was a number of times that lads told me, hey, they got themselves in trouble and talk to the SRO, and he was able to set them straight, help them out. So, I guess I happen to think is a great idea. But I haven't had anybody from the school system telling me that it's not a good idea. And I didn't realize that we should be telling them that they don't want it. So, I'm a yes on this thing.

**Legislator Haynes**

Legislator Haynes.

**Legislator Ronk**

Yeah, I would like to echo most of the sentiment that comes from the Republican caucus. As a parent of two children who attend the Rondout Valley Central School District, had to go through a series of threats that lasted over the course of several months, by a lunatic who continued to send threatening letters to the children in the school. My daughter was in second grade, and spent months on a lockdown, in a school that was constantly under threat. Our kids today have a greater chance of being killed by school violence than fire, yet we prepare for a fire with fire drills in school. I don't believe our problem is money. I don't believe our problem is a national issue. I believe our problem is denial. And denial is the enemy. And there is no survivor value in denial. I will be voting in the affirmative for this. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else?

**Chairman Donaldson**

I don't see any, if you don't mind, I'd like to explain my vote. I mean, in a virtual step-down from my chair and Legislator Bartels takes my spot, virtually. Okay. All right.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'm the one person probably on this body that is taught high school for a quite a... I retired from teaching, just about 30 years of teaching. I taught in Hyde Park. FDR High School, very similar school to Kingston High School, smaller version. But a similar mix of students, diverse students. And, and I worked with, probably in the last six years there were s SRO's in the school. Then I retired six years ago. And six years before that, they started coming in, I think it was six or seven. And I've worked with some that are not that good, to be honest with you. But I'd say, a couple of them that were really good. In fact, one was very impressed with him that he really worked with the students, that, you know, had the most difficulties and tried to channel them in to getting into Law Enforcement, which was an interesting thing that he was doing. And, but he was very good at it. But having said that, and local communities are the ones that are requesting this at this point, and I will be supporting that. But I also feel in the future, that since we're putting some of our money and skin into this, I really think that the school boards and the community need to help choose whoever that SRO is. I think it should be set up with a committee of teachers, and students, and members of the community. They'll choose that SRO because that could be a very important aspect. You guys already know, some people talk about extensive training. I think it's really less of an extensive training, and maybe, I would have to say, a better thing, and the way our Sheriffs have chosen them, or the local police have chosen them. But as I said, at the very beginning, I've seen some that really probably shouldn't have been there. So, I'll support this because the localities are supporting this. But I

think we should put together a type of thing, in the future, that gives more directive at how these people are chosen.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And I'll call for a vote. Legislator Heppner and Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are short yes, with the following noes: Legislators Bartels, Criswell, Uchitelle, and Walter.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The Resolution is adopted nineteen to four.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 217: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Onteora Central School District To Provide A Deputy Sheriff As School Resource Officer – Ulster County Sheriff.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty, I think we spoke on the issue is anybody else that hasn't spoke? I mean, technically they can speak again on those. But as Legislator Ronk pointed out, I think we're voicing our opinion on the mindset of this whole thing. So, I don't see anybody with their hand raised. So, I'll call for the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

One the resolution, we are short yes, with the following noes: Legislators Bartels, Criswell, Uchitelle, and Walter.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're short. Yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The Resolution is adopted nineteen to four.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 218: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Rondout Valley Central School District To Provide Two Deputy Sheriffs As School Resource Officers – Ulster County Sheriff.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Well, let me call on Legislator Maio. I apparently, I do not have her on my screen, so I did not see her. And I'm, you know, please forgive me, I'll call on you if you wish to speak on this on this one.

**Legislator Maio**

Thank you, Chairman, I just wanted to say that I'm going to support, obviously, these resolutions. I'm disappointed at some of the comments that were made tonight. I think this is about education. And, you know, having our children be comfortable with police officers. This is a big thing right now, and having them be at the school, if there was some sort of violence that would happen, I'm sure everybody would wish that they had an SRO if that happened, and not be thinking about other things that are happening around us, that are unfortunate at this time. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else? Legislator Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to echo the sentiments of Legislator Maio. You know, earlier this year we voted, voted to fund almost a million dollars to nonprofits around the county. Yet the question about funding, some SROs seem to be, you know, coming to the forefront. These are our future. These are our children. They are the future of this county. And maybe we would have less issues that we have in our country today if the children felt comfortable with the police. And if they did not see the police as the enemy. And I think if they, you know, if they have the SRO in the school system, it's a safety issue. We don't want any Columbines here and Ulster County. And I think the more comfortable our young folks become with representatives of the police in this country, I think maybe that would go a long way to solving a lot of the issues we're dealing with today. I'll be a yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else? Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yeah, I just wanted to say, I reached out and I interviewed people who were recent teachers at the school. Recent students, and one of the students gave me a direct quote where she said, as a student, I always felt a little afraid of the officers. Some kids had good relationships with them. But that empowered them to think they could do whatever they wanted, because they were friends with the officers. I think there are better ways. So, I think it's problematic when we make blanket statements that all kids feel comfortable with SROs. So, I think that's problematic.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thanks. You know, I agree with blanket statements. I also think that blank hypotheticals are dangerous as well. Like, I think there could be better ways. Right now, I don't know of a better way and nobody has proposed a better way. So, this is the way that we have right now to keep our students safe.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else?

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'll call the question.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are a short yes, with the following noes: Legislators Bartels, Criswell, Uchitelle, and Walter.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adopted nineteen to four.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 220 is a bond resolution: Authorizing The Upgrade Of The Live Scan Equipment And Software For The Sheriff's Department, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$175,000, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$175,000 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof.

**Clerk Fabella**

Archer.

**Legislator Archer**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bruno.

**Legislator Bruno**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Delaune.

**Legislator Delaune**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Donaldson.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Yeah.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Haynes.

**Legislator Haynes**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maio.

**Legislator Maio**

Yeah. Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Parete.

**Legislator Parete**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petite.

**Legislator Petit**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Wawro.

**Legislator Wawro**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The Resolution is adopted twenty-three to zero.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 225: Calling On Westchester Medical Center/Health Alliance Of The Hudson Valley To Return Inpatient Mental Health Services To Ulster County And Calling On The County Executive To Explore Options To Expand Mental Health Services And Care In Ulster County.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. So, several years ago, a decision was made in this County to privatize mental health services. And while privatization is not in itself bad, because there's several excellent mental health services in this County. The problem with how it was done here, was that it wasn't done in a way that ensured that our County still maintained a sense of what the mental health and drug addiction needs were, and made sure that they were covered. To ensure that these vulnerable populations not only got the care they need, but got continuous care. When Westchester HealthAlliance moved the mental health inpatient from Ulster to Dutchess, it was exactly a result of the failing that happened several years back. When the request was

made by the county to create space on Mary's Avenue, a space that already had approximately 250 beds, for a potential COVID surge.

**Legislator Walter**

If we had a better sense of caring for, and acknowledging the specific needs of those people that this vulnerable population, the county would have made sure that it was clear that those inpatient beds were actually not moved, and that space was made in other ways. So, right now, we don't know what Westchester HealthAlliance... whether they plan on bringing them back, but we must. And, we also need to fix the broken system that we have in this County, so this type of thing doesn't happen again. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else? All right call the... Legislator Ronk.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thanks. I believe we need to make the amendment.

**Clerk Fabella**

Yes, please.

**Legislator Ronk**

At this time, I'll make a motion that we amend the Resolution, as it is in the packet.

**Legislator Walter**

I'll second that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Walter, did you second that amendment?

**Legislator Walter**

I did.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay.

**Legislator Wawro**

Dave, I would like to be added to the resolution.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the amendment.

**Legislator Heppner**

Anyone on the amendment, we are short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the amendment, we're also a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right on the issue, as amended.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're short yes, as well.

**Legislator Wawro**

And I would like to be added please.

**Clerk Fabella**

I will add you as a sponsor, Legislator Wawro. The resolution is adopted, as amended, twenty-three to zero.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution to 229: Urging The Ulster County Sheriff To Implement A Policy Requiring All New Inmates At The Ulster County Jail Be Tested For COVID-19.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the resolution, Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Thank you, Chairman. I just want to I want to thank the Sheriff for his support of this resolution. I've spoken to him over the course of the last couple months, when there was first the COVID outbreak, about the importance of testing incoming inmates. And also, the importance of protecting our CEOs and their families through some type of testing protocol. I think the Sheriff's done an excellent job with isolating the inmates as they come in. But as we see these cases popping up across the country in jails and prisons, I believe we need to be proactive. And so, the Sheriff's agreed to come up with a plan. I expect he'll be

coming back with us. He also advised our caucus last night that he's gotten word from the State that the State is going to be expecting that State-ready prisoners are tested before transfer. So, I think we're just going to be on the front end of this. And, again, I thank him for his support.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thanks. You know, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate what the sponsor said. You know, our caucus is going to be, by and large, a no on this resolution. The main reason for that is that, just like Legislator, Bartels said, you know, the Sheriff has done a really good job keeping COVID out of our jail. You know, what the Sheriff said to me, when I asked him about this, it was previous to your caucus last night. So, you know, his attitude may have changed, or his feelings may have changed, but you know, as long as you give him the money, he'll do whatever the Legislature wants. You know, there is going to be a cost for this. It is not accounted for in this resolution. And I have concern over spending money on the front end. You know, he's absolutely right. You know, the State's going to be requiring State-ready inmates to be tested before transfer. I don't believe that they'll accept a test on the way into the jail as proof that they don't have it when they're leaving the jail. Every experience I've had with this Governor is that, you know, he has very little regard for the cost of all of his decrees on counties and localities. So, that's going to be another unfunded mandate. So, now we're going to be testing them on the way in and on the way out of the jail all while our Sheriff has done a fantastic job in keeping the inmates and the CEOs and their families safe, you know, this this whole time. From what he told me, they hadn't had a single case of COVID in the jail recorded. So, you know, many of us believe that what the sheriff has done is it has been, you know, successful thus far.

**Legislator Parete**

Chairman.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Parete

**Legislator Parete**

Yeah. On this issue, to repeat myself, the words moralizing resolution give me the willies. I do not consider this a memorializing resolution. This is a note, a letter to a colleague, an Ulster County colleague, raising an issue, and asking the duly elected constitutional officer, the Sheriff, if he wouldn't review and consider the testing. The issues that were just raised, are legitimate, and he will address them. He's going to address them. He's either going to say, yes, no, maybe if, what if? So, I just can't quite figure why anyone would not want the Sheriff to address these things, rather than issue suppositions. So, I'll be happy to vote yes on this.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Do I see anyone else?

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'd like to address my vote quickly. I am supporting it. I believe that we have gotten lucky. We haven't had cases there. But on the other hand, you could actually go into some of the nursing homes where there was virtually no cases. And then another one where I think 38 deaths happened. So, it's a gamble. And I think we need to look at this because we don't need to be gambling. And if it was, the one case was in there, it would spread rather quickly. And I think Legislator Parete pointed out, I think inserting it makes sense that, you know, we have to protect ourselves. So, you have to protect those inmates. You've got to protect those correctional officers. So, I'll be a yes on the issue.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Call for vote, I guess.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the resolution, we are a short no, with one yes, Legislator Dean Fabiano.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution is adopted fourteen to nine.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 231: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Local Law No. 5 Of 1991 (A Local Law Adopting A Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax) To Clarify The Tax Law's Application To Short-Term And Vacation Rentals, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 At 6:15 PM.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Walters.

**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. So, an agreement with a hosting platform such as Airbnb is a long time coming. Had the Legislature passed a similar resolution as this in 2016, that was put forth by John Parete, our County would have recovered by now millions of occupancy-tax revenues, that for the most part went unrecovered. And the problem of the deleterious impact of the short-term rental on the housing market, and relatedly, the impact on affordable housing, has only worsened over these past four years. This

resolution is the first of many steps to start remedying these in a meaningful way. I just like to say, that if you're a no because you have a perceived opinion of the illegality, because of state law---please know that that's an opinion. There are 29 counties that do this. So, that means there's hundreds of other Legislators, and their Counsel, plus our County counsel, who disagree with this opinion. And know, that to vote no means a loss of \$250,000, at least, a year. And also know, that a vote yes supports our hotels, our Inns, and our Bed and Breakfasts who have to charge this tax to its customers and loses customers to people who are drawn to Airbnb, where this tax is not imposed. And also, most importantly, that this "yes" is a really important step for bringing more money into our county, more accountability and moving us to a healthier response to our housing problems. So, I really urge you all to please support this. And at this point it is to support the public hearing. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right on this public hearing, the resolution.

**Legislator Walter**

I like to call a long roll, please.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll wait for the long call.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're not going to have any more debate? Now we're just going to call for a long roll?

**Chairman Donaldson**

We could add more debate, and then we call the long roll after that. Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

I mean, you know, I just I think that there's a couple things I'd like to address in what Legislator Walter had said, you know. I've been here through this entire debate. I've heard from several county attorneys who, you know, on the executive side who thought that, you know, this was not permissible. My current minority counsel who was also at that time, a Legislative Counsel, believes that this is not permissible for us to do under our current occupancy tax law. You know, ability from the State the authorization from the State to collect an occupancy tax. To say that the, you know, it's a vote in favor of our hotel operators, I think is disingenuous, because I think that if you would ask any of our hotel operators who are part of the Ulster County Lodging Coalition, they are firmly against this. They have been firmly against this. I've presented before their organization and I've gone to their organization, they are against this. You know, and to say that we're leaving hundreds of thousands of dollars on the table, you know, that that

may be true, that there is money to be had. But a lot of these other counties also cannot ascertain where these hotel, where these, I'm sorry short-term rental operators are, and then be able to share that information with code enforcement officers at the towns, and town supervisors, and town planning and building departments. You know, again, I've asked several times for a one month, you know, postponement on this. So, maybe I can hear from our County attorney who says now that he's in favor of it, when the county attorney's office in the last four to five years have been discussing this, was not in favor of it, and did not think that we had the authority to do it. But I'm being you know, denied that opportunity, you know, for a one-month postponement. You know, I've got resolutions, I think that, you know, have been postponed for 12 to 13 months, because people had concerns with them. You know, and some of them were just policy, some of them weren't even legal concerns. Here we have a legal concern. And, you know, I've said this probably the last five or six times that we've brought up this issue for a public hearing. You know, I keep hearing that there are you know, twenty plus other counties that have similar contracts with Airbnb, so it must be legal. What my mother taught me when I was when I was a young boy, and I think it still rings true today is, well if Johnny jumped off a bridge, would you? That's what we're doing here. We're jumping off the bridge with Johnny because so far, he hasn't hit the rocks. But you know what, maybe he's going to hit a rock next time. You know, perhaps our County will be the first one to challenge. Since our hotel and motel organization, the Lodging Coalition has been firmly against these Airbnb laws. I believe that the Town Supervisors Association is not in favor of it either. You know, it was my conversation with one of the town supervisors. So, again, for all these reasons, and it's unfortunate that we aren't able to have, you know, another month maybe, to try and, you know... Maybe I can be convinced that somehow this is all the sudden legal when, you know, attorneys, including one of your legislative counsels, currently, have believed it to be impermissible. So, that's... Thanks for the opportunity to speak on the resolution, Chairman.

**Legislator Parete**

Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Parete.

**Legislator Parete**

All right. Just for my own edification. My little printout, it says, setting a public hearing on proposed local law No. 7 of 2020, bed tax amendment. Now this is about the short-term Airbnb, it's not to increase the bed tax from 5% to 6%. Or, making some other adjustments in that structure, is it?

**Chairman Donaldson**

No. It is merely an agreement with, to push for an agreement with Airbnb for them to pay the bed tax.

**Legislator Parete**

Okay, so I'm not misinterpreting is wrong. It's just not exactly what it appears to be. All right. Well, listen... I will just say this.

**Chairman Donaldson**

It's similar to what you put in four years ago.

**Legislator Parete**

Pardon?

**Chairman Donaldson**

It is similar to what you put in four years ago.

**Legislator Parete**

I get it. But you know, my knowledge of the King's English is not quite as good as some of the other folks. I just read off the information on here. I will say one thing though, Mr. Chairman. Today was the most interesting day for me. At least for today, I became, I got welcomed back to Main Street and had conversations with folks that I don't normally chat with too often. So, it was kind of an interesting day. But I will vote yes on this.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else? Are we still calling long roll, Legislator Walters?

**Legislator Walter**

I can rescind that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. On the long roll? Anyone else wish to speak?

**Legislator Heppner**

Legislator Petit had something to say.

**Legislator Petit**

If there's a long roll, I'll wait. If you're going to just do...

**Chairman Donaldson**

No. They rescinded the long, the idea of the long roll. So, please speak, Legislator Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Thank you. Okay, I would, you know, just like to remind everyone that, you know, John Parete had brought this forward many years ago, as did Joe Maloney. And each time the Legislature couldn't even

get it out of committee. Now, we have a County Executive who's in the midst of negotiating it with legal counsel. So, I'm confident that he will be doing what's best for Ulster County. The Town Supervisors Association is not in favor of this resolution, as written. As is the local hotels. They've come out in previous years in opposition. So, I'm going to be voting no on this resolution for those reasons. I mean, I do agree, at some point we should be contracting with the Airbnb's, and all the other short-term rentals. But I think at this point, they're working on contracts, and we don't need a resolution.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay. Legislator Cahill.

**Chairman Cahill**

Yes, thank you, Chairman. I'm going to be voting yes, for the public hearing. However, I do have some reservations about some of the language in the amended resolution. And I think that between now and the public hearing, that we should get some of that stuff cleaned up. I'm particularly concerned about the revenue sharing portion that has been eliminated from this resolution. And I'd like to, you know, know where we're going to go with that aspect of it. We're going to collect it, but then what happens with it? As the laws written now, I don't see anything in there that determines what will happen with this collected revenue to the County. Whereas at one point, we were going to split it 50/50 and put 50% of it towards the housing issue in the County. And since there's no vehicle to do that right now, I'm just a little concern that once we pass a law that doesn't designate that 50%, it will never make it there. So, I will vote yes for the public hearing. But I will hope to hear some more details on how we're going to get that revenue towards housing in the future. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Walters.

**Legislator Walter**

I just want to say I agree, I'm committed to that. And I'm committed to working with anyone here who wants to identify and develop a plan for how this can happen. So please let me know and we're going to make this happen. This is just step one. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Thank you. I want to echo that and say that I too am committed to working to direct these funds toward housing, affordable housing in particular, as it relates across the spectrum. And I'm willing to work with you, Legislator Walter, and anyone else who wants this.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Parete.

**Legislator Parete**

I just wanted to say that the Board of Supervisors may take a position but it's not necessarily monolithic. I just got an email from an unnamed supervisor who said, "This is a good idea."

**Chairman Donaldson**

To explain my vote. It's been four years, a long time waiting. I actually thought that I sponsored a couple of these, I've argued so damn hard for, and it's been four years, and I think it's time that we move forward on this. And I do believe that, you know, once we have this done, we can start, you know, moving to make sure that this money is put towards housing because, or at least a good amount of it, because it does affect the housing, significantly.

**Chairman Donaldson**

So, Legislator Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

If we really are serious about putting some of this money towards housing, why don't we put it in the law? And go to public hearing. And when we amend that law later, to include that language as to where the funding split is, it's going to require another public hearing, because that's a substantive change to the law. So, I don't know. Do we want to think about it and make the change? Have a public hearing, and we make the change between now and then, or after that. We just got to start the process all over again.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I don't... just for an answer. You don't need to restart anything over. This is collecting the money. We can always go back at any time to say where the money is going to. We can do that a year from now. I mean, once we started collecting, and really, it depends. I don't see how that doesn't change this.

**Legislator Wawro**

I can't see myself anymore. I can't scroll.

**Legislator Ronk**

Point of information. Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you, just a point of information, to your point, and to Legislator Litts. This point, you know, this is not to, you know, start collecting the money. You know, this is...

**Chairman Donaldson**

Of course, it is.

**Legislator Ronk**

Well, no. But this is a public hearing on a local law that would alter our bed tax, outside of the actual bed tax, in order to allow us to enter into a contract. You know, I just, you know, I want to make it clear. And Legislator Litts is right. If changes are made, which I understand they're already planned, we will have to have another public hearing on this, regardless.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Walters.

**Legislator Walter**

So, just to allow for clarification, while I completely support the next steps to figuring out how this could be allocated. At this point, we don't know how it can be allocated to housing because there's not a specific entity. But that doesn't mean we can't work towards creating that entity, or figuring out what that looks like. So, there will not be a change to this particular law here. This is just to start the contract. And again, I just want to clarify that the Counsel of the County is working towards this contract, with the understanding that platforms such as Airbnb, can be viewed as tax collecting agencies. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty, Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thanks. You know, as far as I'm concerned, with all due respect to Legislator Walters, you know, the county attorney has not joined us at any of our meetings. She may have had private conversations with him, but as far as I'm concerned, that's hearsay until I hear from him.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. And anyone else?

**Legislator Ronk**

That's funny, Lynn?

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else wish to speak? All right, I'd like to call the issue.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are. Yes....

**Legislator Ronk**

We need a long roll. I thought we were doing a long roll.

**Chairman Donaldson**

No, I thought Legislator Walters rescinded the request for a long roll.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'd like to call for a long roll.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. Long roll.

**Clerk Fabella**

Archer.

**Legislator Archer**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bruno.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Al? Al?

**Clerk Fabella**

You keep muting yourself. You're on mute still. There you go.

**Legislator Bruno**

Yes. My whole screen went blank.

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran

**Legislator Corcoran**

Uncomfortable, but yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Delaune.

**Legislator Delaune**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Donaldson.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And this has been a long time coming. It's four years. I know we keep putting it off and keep on putting it off. And then the problem lies in that. We're not getting any closer to collecting. We've already lost two and a half million, probably. This we've been told that it's illegal. It's illegal a year and then it's legal. And then now you can't do this. You can do that. And sometimes we have to do what we feel is right. And I believe that this is right. I believe that was right four years ago, and I believe right to do now. And I believe that we could later on make sure that this money is, our least a portion of this money is allocated towards housing. We do have a Housing Task Force that will begin meeting very soon. And I would give Legislator Petit and on the appointment of the Supervisor Parete on the part of the agenda is to make sure that perhaps we bring and put on some type of a department. It doesn't have to be a lot of money, and those types of things, but someplace where we could actually deposit the money to make sure that housing is taken care of. So, I am a yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

I'm going to be yes. It's only a public hearing. There's no harm in that. I'm curious to see how this plays out in the public hearing. There's nothing engraved in stone here. So, I have no problem with that, public hearings. I'm a yes on this.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Yes

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene

**Legislator Greene**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Haynes.

**Legislator Haynes**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

We have several lawyers that we pay out of the County till. We have three for the legislature and we have a whole legal staff in the County office. Yet, we don't ask for an opinion, is this okay? Some people say it's unlawful. I don't know why we rush to judgment, especially when we should be getting legal opinion. And I feel uncomfortable voting for something that might be illegal. I don't know why we didn't get a

written legal opinion as to whether this is acceptable or not in New York. So, I guess I'm going to vote no because we always shoot in the dark and we don't get the information we need.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez. I can see you Legislator Lopez, but you're on mute.

**Legislator Lopez**

Yes. Yeah.

**Clerk Fabella**

Well, all that for yes. Okay.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maio.

**Legislator Maio**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Parete.

**Legislator Parete**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petite.

**Legislator Petit**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Yeah, to explain my vote. You know, I hear, you know, some of my colleagues on my side of the aisle. Quite a few Democrats talk about how they're supporting the public hearing, but they're concerned. You know, it's just a public hearing. You know, I would like every one of the members of the Democratic caucus who think, or say, "it's just a public hearing, it's just starting the process," to write down the date and time you said that because I am going to bring it up every time you try to postpone one of our laws from our caucus that goes to public hearing. Like last month, when the Democratic caucus caused the consumer protection law, that actually just passed for a public hearing, tonight, to fail in committee when that was just for a public hearing, because they had concerns. Here we are, and that was put off for a month, because of said concerns prior to that. I got to tell you, I mean, this is really, I mean, just flabbergasting to me. That when it's a law that's proposed by a Democrat, we are, you know, just a public hearing. But every time it's a law that is proposed by a Republican, and Democrats have concerns, we postpone, and postpone, and postpone, the public hearing. So, everyone write down the date and time when we decided that it's just a public hearing, is the way we're going to go. Because if it's if it's good for the goose, it's good for the gander. I'm a no.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

I just want to explain my vote. I'm voting, you know, in the affirmative of this. And I definitely think there's, you know, this is the first of many conversations that we should have about how these types of taxes are applied. And, you know, housing is one of the... Housing is, I believe, the greatest crisis that our residents face. And I believe, that coming out of the COVID-19 crisis, it'll be an even greater crisis. And so, I'm very eager for subsequent work to be done in separate legislation to allocate the resources here. But this is a great step forward, on the public hearing, and on the bill itself. So, thank you. I'm affirmative.

**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

So, I do appreciate the support on both sides of the aisle. I really appreciate it, and have heard everything you've said. I will... I'm committed to making sure that any kind of information, again, the legality of it from this side of the County counsel was known in Ways and Means because they were pursuing this contract themselves. I'm happy to make that information available to everyone so they can feel more comfortable. And again, I appreciate all the support. And thank you, all. And I'm a yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Wawro.

**Legislator Wawro**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adopted sixteen to seven. That was the last resolution.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Now I'd like to call on Legislator Delaune to read the memorials.

**Legislator Delaune**

Thank you, tonight's meeting is adjourned in memory of Helen Rodelli, Milton, NY; Mary Hurley, Carolina Beach, NC; Christopher A. Fisher, Saugerties, NY; Edward J. Hoffman, Kingston, NY; Raymond J. Galvin, Sawkill, NY; Allan Coles, Town of Ulster, NY; Joan Knittle, Lake Katrine, NY; Richard A. Spurling, New Paltz, NY; Theresa F. Cafaldo Fabiano, Glasco, NY; Joseph A. Porco, New Paltz, NY; William J. Gray, Lake Katrine, NY; Joan S. Glosch, Saugerties, NY; Stanley A. VanKleek, Town of Ulster, NY; Leonidas Santouris, Kingston, NY; Delores Cacapardo, Lake Katrine, NY; Joseph Rougier, Mount Marion, NY; Richard C. Schaeffer, Matamoras, PA; John A. Mauro Sr., Sebring, FL; George Braunstein, Orlando, FL; Joseph F. Egan, Sr., Wallkill, NY.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Have any requests for additions. Legislator Ronk. You're not on Ronk, you're muted.

**Legislator Ronk**

I apologize. I don't have an addition. I would like to just say something about Joseph Eaton, Sr. from Wallkill. You know, Joe is a longtime constituent of mine, a US Air Force retired. He fought in World War II, and in Korea and in Vietnam. You know, he, you know, was tough to get he was tough getting around in his late day. [Inaudible]

**Chairman Donaldson**

Not hearing you. Your audio is off, Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

You know, a hero of Wallkill in the Armed Forces and I'm going to miss him.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Just want to say a few words on Joseph Porco. It does say New Paltz, New York. But Joe was a longtime resident of Marlborough. He had the Porco Gas business here. He donated much money, and time, and effort to many programs here, and to our school district. He served on the town planning board for 20 years. Joe just retired and died way too young at 59. So, just want to recognize Joe Porco for all the work he's done down to the Town of Marlborough. Thank you.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Legislator Cahill.

**Chairman Cahill**

Thank you, Chairman Donaldson. I just want to add a friend, another young friend of mine passed away at 60 years old, Peter Showers. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. I see no other hands. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Litts**

So moved.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Second.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Second by who?

**Legislator Fabiano**

Legislator Fabiano.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay there very good Legislator Fabiano. All those in favor?

**Legislative Members**

Aye. Aye. (23-0)

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right, we are adjourned with the understanding the next regular meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 7pm. Resolution deadline is Friday, June 26, 2020 at 12 noon. And I believe we will be having that meeting here, I'm not sure, and social distancing and

such. But we will be working that out. So, I'm looking forward to having some personal chats with a few. So, the rest of you enjoy the rest of your evening.

**Legislator Litts**

Stay healthy.