

# 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

APRIL 28, 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: 7:20 PM**

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

Led by Minority Leader Ronk.

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

### **BIRTHDAY:**

Legislative Counsel, Chris Ragucci, April 6<sup>th</sup>

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM:**

UC Legislative Chairman, David B. Donaldson

Legislator, Craig Lopez

Legislator, James Delaune

Legislator's Bruno, Fabiano, Wawro  
Legislator, Brian Cahill

Legislator, Abe Uchitelle  
Legislator, Peter Criswell  
Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella  
OTB Corporation, Exec. Dir. Donald Groth  
UC Information Services Dir. Alan Macaluso

UC Attorney, Clinton Johnson Esq.

UC Comptroller, March Gallagher

Ulster County Planning Department

UC Personnel Department  
Family Services, Poughkeepsie  
Awards  
UC Clerk's Office, Barbara Carlson

Town of Hurley, Supervisor John Perry

The Covello Family  
Barbara Stemke

UC Tourism Department  
Diamond Mills  
Hurley Heritage Society

Press Release, Legislative Session  
Statement, March 17, 2020

Press Release, Rearranges Legislative  
Session

COVID-19 Community Unity Letter

Letter Governor Cuomo, Eliminate  
Meetings Transcription Requirement

Press Release, PLL Prohibit Price  
Gouging

Press Release, SBA Lending Programs  
Farmers, Independent Contractors  
4/10/20

Letter, UC Health Dept., Campgrounds

Letters, UCIDA Committee Member  
Inquiry

Press Release, Mandatory Recount Law

FOIL Request & Response

Resolution For Board Appointment

UC Ethics & Disclosure COVID-19  
IT Services

Memo, Extension of 1% Sales Tax  
County Litigation, March 2020

Order of Succession Deputy Comptroller,  
Christopher Quirk Effective 4/6/2020

SEQRA Notice Lead Agency Radio  
Tower

UC Civil Service Exam Announcements  
Invitation, 4/30/2020 Family of Yr.

UC Records Center Closed Until Further  
Notice

State Of Emergency Declaration  
3/17/2020

Thank You Note

Email, Emergency Action Needed 5G

Email, Petition 5G Antennas on Homes  
Trending, April 2020

Flyer, Easter, Mother's Day Events

Flyer, 2020 Calendar of Events

**COMMUNICATIONS (continued):**

Ulster Publishing Co., Inc.

Family Services CEO B. Doyle, Board Chair M. DeWald

CFA News

CN County News

Kate Reese Hurd

Greene County Legislature, Clerk Sciavillo

Zack Wheat, Ray and Annette

Moriah Pulver, Hudson Valley Community Services

Mike Dovich, Marlborough, NY

Marlee Lawless, New York for Clean Power

Monica Bourgie

Kingston, New Paltz, Saugerties,  
Woodstock Times Online Access

Letter, Family Services Payments

Spring 2020 Brochure Vol. 38 No. 1

April 13, 2020 Vol.52, No.7

Ventilator Protocol Information

Resolution No. 79-20 NYS Bridge &  
Thruway Authority

Email, Opening Up Recreational Spaces

SNAP Assistance for Ulster County

Email, Governor Exec. Order Face  
Masks/Social Distancing

Transition to Renewable Energy  
Economy Event 5/1/2020

Girl Scout Cookie Program

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Emergency Order Nos. 1 – 6, 9&10 2020

Emergency Order No. 7 & 8 2020 and  
State of Emergency Declaration

(24) Press Releases, COVID-19

Executive Message Res. Nos. 129-141

Press Release, Project Resilience Meals

Media Advisory, 4/7 & 4/9/2020 2PM

Appointment, Director of Public Trans-  
portation, Sajaa Ahmed Effective

Immediately

Budget Memo-Hiring & Spending  
Reduction

Memo - Late Res. – Retirement  
Incentive

**ANNUAL REPORTS:**

Office of the UC Comptroller

Office of the UC Sheriff

**DATE:**

2019 Annual Report

2019 Annual Report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing,  
Planning & Transit  
Energy & Environment  
Law Enforcement and Public Safety

Laws and Rules, Governmental Services  
Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services  
Public Health and Social Services  
Public Works and Capital Projects  
Ways and Means

**DATE:**

March 3, 2020  
March 2, 2020  
March 4, 2020  
March 17, 2020  
March 16, 2020  
March 3, 2020  
March 2, 2020  
March 4, 2020  
March 10, 2020  
March 17, 2020

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**APRIL SESSION:** Chairman Donaldson recognized April as Donor Awareness Month and Autism Awareness Month.

**PRESENTATION:**

For more than a decade Mr. Butch Dener has attended Legislative Session during the month of April to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation. Chairman Donaldson has granted the County Legislature's first ever Virtual Privilege of the Floor to Mr. Dener, a liver transplant recipient.

Via video, Mr. Dener shared his personal story, statistics on organ donor registrations in New York State, and comments on the importance of registering as an organ donor. A Proclamation declaring the month of April as Donor Awareness Month in Ulster County will be delivered to Mr. Dener at his home in New Paltz.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no speakers signed up for public comment.

Chairman Donaldson called upon Legislator Ronk for a motion to reconsider Resolution Nos. 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139 and 141 of 2020, the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee contracts passed last month and to be referred back to the Ways and Means Committee. Seconded by Legislator Heppner. All in favor with one abstention Resolution No. 133, Legislator Litts for purposes of employment.

Chairman Donaldson called upon Legislator Litts for a motion to reconsider Resolution No. 129 Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee contract and to be referred back to the Ways and Means Committee. Seconded by Legislator Heppner. All in favor.

**RESOLUTION NOS: 96, 97, 99, 146 – 167, 169-172;  
7, 8, 9, 94, 100, 131, 140, 142, 143, 168 – POSTPONED**

**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 Located In Ulster County With Six Or More Units Have An Office In Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, March 10, 2020 At 6:00 PM  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 9** - Establishing A Special Committee To Define Ulster County Housing Needs  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**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. 100**- Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 2 Of 2020, A Local Law Establishing Construction Apprenticeship Training Requirements For Certain Construction Contracts In Excess Of \$350,000, And Repealing Local Law Number 2 Of 2015, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 12, 2020 At 6:05 PM  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 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  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 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  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 142**- Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 143**- Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Ulster Performing Arts Center For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 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, May 12, 2020 At 6:15 PM  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Consent**

- 99 Reestablishing The Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee – Ulster County Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 146 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Rising Ground, Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 147 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 148 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

- 149 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 – Visual Computer Solutions Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 150 Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc., Board Of Directors**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 151 Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 152 Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board's Mental Health Subcommittee**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**153 Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**154 Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board's Substance Abuse Subcommittee**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**156 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Amendment To The Contract With The New York City Department of Environmental Protection To Continue Delegation Of Administration Of Section 18-38 Of The Watershed Regulations**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**157 Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**158 Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Child Abuse Or Neglect Prevention And Treatment Act (CAPTA) Comprehensive Addiction And Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0



- 159 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Intermunicipal Agreements With The Town Of Saugerties And The Village Of Ellenville To Provide The Services Of Domestic Violence Investigators To The Ulster County Family And Child Advocacy Center – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 160 Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The National Center On Child Abuse And Neglect To Enhance The Family Assessment Response Program – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 161 Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Additional Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services To Continue Safe Harbour Programming – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 162 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Transportation To Accept New York State Funds For Ulster And Dutchess County Public Transit Service (LINK) – Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit) (UCAT)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 163 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With The Department Of Justice Bureau Of Justice Assistance Grant For The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, And Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) – Sheriff’s Office**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 164 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With The Town Of Wawarsing For A Substation Of The Ulster County Sheriff’s Office – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 165 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement For The Sharing Of Information Relating To Short-Term Rental Properties With The Town Of Marlborough – Department Of Finance**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**170 Appointing Member To The Ulster County Fire Advisory Board**

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***



**171 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 16                      NOES: 7  
(Noes: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Criswell, Delaune, Gavaris, Greene, and Walter)

**Late Resolution**

**172 Implementing A Voluntary Separation Program For Eligible Ulster County Employees**

**RESOLVED, that in order to participate in the Plan, an eligible employee must apply in writing to the Personnel Director by the date as directed by the Personnel Director's letter of offering, however this date must be no later than close of business on August 3, 2020, and be it further**

**RESOLVED, that the Personnel Director shall furnish to the Ulster County Clerk of the Legislature a list of all of the employees that opted to participate in the Plan and a list of all positions that will be back-filled no later than September 21, 2020; and it be further**

**RESOLVED that eligible employees who are approved to participate in the Plan must separate from the county employment no later than March 31, 2021; and it be further**

~~**RESOLVED, that, in light of the acute nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unstable circumstances of this public health emergency, the County Executive shall have the discretion to offer the Plan to employees in several phases through December 31, 2020; and, it be further**~~

Legislator Archer motioned, seconded by Legislator Bartels, to amend the Resolution by striking the fourth RESOLVED and inserting three additional RESOLVED clauses as indicated above in bold font.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

**MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF:** Read by Legislator Kenneth Ronk.

Hon. Peter J. Savago, New Paltz, NY  
Hon. Frank J. Felicello, Milton, NY  
Hon. Clifford W. Snyder, Saugerties, NY  
Thomas J. O'Bryan, Saugerties, NY  
Shirley A. Carle, Saugerties, NY  
Robert D. Williams, Kingston, NY  
Gerald D. Hokanson Sr., New Paltz, NY  
John P. Laskowsky, Jr., Modena, NY  
Gaetano F. Turco, Town of Ulster, NY  
Paula J. Slater, Myrtle Beach, SC  
Patricia A. Manley, Hurley, NY  
Gerard J. Beichert, Saugerties, NY  
Hilda Manganello, Plattekill, NY  
Laurence E. Rowe, Sr., Rifton, NY  
Harry G. Anderson Jr., Hurley, NY  
Hon. Carol Roper, New Paltz, NY  
Arlene F. Reynolds, Ulster Park, NY  
Ernest P. Bonelli, Glasco, NY  
Richard L. Fraile, Plattekill, NY

Bruce G. Randzin, Wallkill, NY  
Henry T. Carter, Saugerties, NY  
Alison R. Doxey-Raymo, Pleasant Valley, NY  
Claude H. Post Sr., Saugerties, NY  
C. Elizabeth Sass, Kingston, NY  
Everett Vail, Saugerties, NY  
Sharon P. Daw, Port Ewen, NY  
Frank Polacco, Sr., Kingston, NY  
Richard W. Shook, Hurley, NY  
Andre Neher, Woodstock, NY  
Marthabelle DePuy, Kingston, NY  
Montague C. Smith, New Paltz, NY  
Randolph F. Siegel, New Paltz, NY  
Robert F. Gardner, Saugerties, NY  
Florence E. Deegan, Kingston, NY  
Jeremiah Flaherty, Kerhonkson, NY  
Mary L. Sperl, Saugerties, NY  
Hon. Paulina L. Leonard, Lake Katrine, NY  
Lamine Soumah, New Paltz, NY

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 8:27 PM

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Resolution deadline was Friday, April 24, 2020 at 12 Noon.

# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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## TRANSCRIPT

APRIL 28, 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

**Donaldson:** Alrighty, I'd like to call this meeting to order.

**Donaldson:** And we'll begin with the pledge to the flag. A, but before that, hearing our moment of silence I'd hope to have our thoughts and prayer, s a go out to the families currently dealing with COVID-19 and other seriously illness, particularly those that have lost loved ones. All of us are admitted back in by the uncertainties related by this dangerous virus, for some it means canceled travel plans and then to the appointments for others it means lost work. For those in healthcare it means bracing for the unknown political challenges. For families with loved ones in senior care facilities it means limited visits, while actually no visits and uncertainty. Let our prayers go out to them, and let's stand for this pledge and then remain for a moment of silence.

**Donaldson:** All right, Ken you want to lead us.

**Ronk/Donaldson/Group:** 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.

**Donaldson:** Remain standing for a moment of silence. All right be seated.

**Donaldson:** Vicky can you call the roll.



**Fabella:** I would love to.

**Fabella:** Archer.

**Archer:** Here.

**Fabella:** Bartels.

**Bartels:** Here.

**Fabella:** Bruno.

**Bruno:** Here.

**Fabella:** Cahill.

**Cahill:** Here.

**Fabella:** Corcoran... did he say he's here?

**Donaldson:** He's here I saw him.

**Corcoran:** Here.

**Fabella:** Criswell.

**Criswell:** Here.

**Fabella:** Delaune.

**Delaune:** Here.

**Fabella:** Donaldson.

**Donaldson:** Here.

**Fabella:** Fabiano.

**Fabiano:** Here.

**Ronk:** Boy that wasn't nice.

**Fabiano:** Nope that wasn't nice.

**Fabella:** A Gavaris.

**Gavaris:** Present.

**Fabella:** Greene.

**Greene:** Here.

**Fabiano:** It's like an echo chamber in here. Assistant: Ok now try it.

**Ronk:** It's all good Dave.

**Fabiano:** Kenny were good I'm here.

**Ronk:** We're good.

**Fabiano:** Ok thank you.

**Fabella:** Haynes.

**Haynes:** Present.

**Fabella:** Heppner.

**Heppner:** Here.

**Fabella:** Litts.

**Litts:** Here.

**Fabella:** Lopez.

**Lopez:** Here.

**Fabella:** Maio.

**Maio:** Here.

**Fabella:** Parete.

**Parete:** Here.

**Fabella:** Petit.

**Petit:** Here.

**Fabella:** Roberts.

**Roberts:** Here.

**Fabella:** Ronk.

**Ronk:** Present.

**Fabella:** Uchitelle.

**Uchitelle:** Here.

**Fabella:** Walter.

**Walter:** Here.

**Fabella:** And Wawro.

**Wawro:** Here.

**Fabella:** Everyone's present, twenty-three present zero absent.

**Donaldson:** Alright, as we begin, we have one birthday tonight. And that's Legislative Council Chris Ragucci, April 6th. Yay, Chris.

**Ragucci:** Thank you.

**Donaldson:** And I'd entertain a motion to dispense with the readings of previous meetings.

**Heppner:** So moved.

**Ronk:** Second.

**Donaldson:** All those in favor.

**Heppner:** Aye.

**Ronk:** Aye.

**Donaldson:** Any opposed. None.

**Donaldson:** There are various communications on file. I would invite you to read through those. And as we begin this meeting before I introduce Butch Denter I do want to also point out that this month is actually also Autism Awareness Month. And it's two of them because we have a Donate Life fund and we have Butch Denter for more than a decade, which has come before the legislative body during the month of April to raise awareness about the importance of organ donations, and I have granted um, the floor to Butch with a video that will, we'll watch at this point. So, let it roll.

**Donaldson:** No sound.

**Bruno:** Can anybody hear him?

**Donaldson:** I cannot hear him.

**Ronk:** Standby we're having some technical difficulties.

**Mahler:** Yeah, but he's just shoo...

**Ronk:** You're not muted Jay.

**Mahler:** I have to mute everyone.

**Cahill:** I cannot hear him, um.

**Donaldson:** No?

**Cahill:** Yeah, with respect to Mr. Denter I would wait wait maybe we can watch this later, when we can hear it? I would like to hear what he has to say.

**Mahler:** I don't know what else...

**Bruno:** Anybody let him know that we can't hear him?

**Ronk:** It's pre-recorded Al.

**Ronk:** Perhaps in lieu of watching it, this evening we could post it on our county website and on our Facebook page for people to view at their leisure.

**Donaldson:** Right. But if we could pull it up later that'd be good.

**Donaldson:** Alright, I think, um due to the fact that we have a few technical difficulties we need to move on to the meeting, and perhaps we'll try to bring this up later. Um, if not, we can certainly do it the following month. And right now we have a public comment time, which everyone has two minutes to speak. Um, we have for this meeting, they are to speak on the resolutions before us. I, and your audio will be muted when time is up. So, Vicky take over.

**Fabella:** As of now, we don't have any speakers signed up to speak, we're double checking with Fawn but there's nobody in the studio, who would like to speak.

**Donaldson:** All right, well, give them one more minute and then we'll move on.

**Fabella:** Nope. We're good. They're just listeners.

**Donaldson:** Alrighty that's good. I'm glad there're people listening. Um to begin with, we have a, first I want to create a, recognize Legislator Ronk for a motion to reconsider.

**Ronk:** Thank you Mr. Chair, a, standby.

**Ronk:** Um, at this time I would like to make a motion to reconsider resolutions 130, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139 and 141 of 2020, those would be the contracts that we passed last month for all but one of the legislative programs contracts.

**Heppner:** I'll second that.

**Donaldson:** Alrighty on the referral, I mean on the reconsideration but the reconsideration of the body it's going to eventually be referred to finance -Ways and Means. Is that correct?

**Ronk:** That's, that's the goal. Yes.

**Donaldson:** Okay.

**Heppner:** Democratic caucus is a short yes.

**Ronk:** We are also a short Yes.

**Donaldson:** Alrighty, next motion. Is there another motion to read?

**Ronk:** From Legislator Litts.

**Donaldson:** Legislator Litts.

**Litts:** Yes, I would like to make a motion to consider Resolution 129.

**Heppner:** I'll second that.

**Donaldson:** All right on the issue.

**Heppner:** The Democratic caucus is a short yes.

**Ronk:** The Republican caucus is a short Yes.

**Donaldson:** All right. On the reconsideration of all the reconsideration both by Legislator Litts and by Legislator Ronk and seconded by Legislator Heppner on those reconsiderations, I believe you're going to push to have then sent to Ways and Means, is that correct?

**Ronk:** That's the goal. Um.

**Donaldson:** Okay, go ahead.

**Ronk:** The um, I need one clarification, I apologize. Um, Resolution No. 133 the reconsideration we were a short yes with one abstention Legislator Herb Litts for purposes of employment.

**Donaldson:** Okay.

**Ronk:** Um now, at this time, I'd like to make a motion that we refer Resolutions 129, 131,132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 141 to committee.

**Heppner:** I'll second that.

**Donaldson:** Alright made and seconded on the referral.

**Ronk:** To Ways... I apologize just for clarification to the Ways and Means Committee.

**Donaldson:** Okay on the referral anybody want to speak on it?

**Heppner:** The Democratic caucus is a short yes.

**Ronk:** The Republican caucus is a short yes with one abstention on Resolution 133 Legislator Herb Litts for purposes of employment.

**Fabella:** The resolutions are referred to the Ways and Means Committee by a vote of twenty-three to zero, with the exception of Resolution 133, which is voted to be referred to the Ways and Means Committee, by a vote of twenty-two to zero, with one abstention Legislator Litts.

**Donaldson:** All right Legislator Litts I'd entertain a motion for your referral.

**Ronk:** Huh?

**Litts:** What was that?

**Ronk:** Dave I moved that we refer all of them. I couldn't vote on the reconsideration but I could vote on the referral.

**Litts:** Right.

**Donaldson:** Okay no problem, I wasn't sure. Thank you.

**Ronk:** Yep.

**Donaldson:** Alright we now go to the consent agenda. Are there any additions or subtractions to the Consent agenda?

**Heppner:** Not tonight Chair.

**Ronk:** There are not.

**Donaldson:** Alright, on the Consent agenda.

**Heppner:** The Democratic caucus is a show yes.

**Ronk:** The Republican caucus is a short yes.

**Fabella:** The resolutions are adopted twenty-three to zero.

**Donaldson:** Alright, to the Non-Consent agenda. We're gonna call the first one, 96 and 97.

**Ronk:** Mr. Chairman?

**Donaldson:** Yep.

**Ronk:** If I could just, you know, Vicky do you want to read the resolutions first or can I just take them both and postpone them.

**Fabella:** You can take those votes and postpone them.

**Ronk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I'd like to make a motion that we postpone Resolutions 96 and 97 until the next meeting of the Legislature.

**Donaldson:** I need a second.

**Heppner:** I'll second that.

**Donaldson:** Thank you. On the postponement. Anybody want to speak.

**Heppner:** The Democratic caucus is a short yes.

**Ronk:** Republican caucus is a short yes.

**Fabella:** Resolutions are postponed twenty-three to zero.

**Donaldson:** All right.



**Mahler:** Resolution 155 authorizing the chairman of the Ulster County legislature to terminate the agreement for professional services with the Research Foundation for the State University of New York, buying through SUNY New Paltz's Benjamin center.

**Donaldson:** On the issue Legislator Bartels.

**Bartels:** Okay, sorry took me a moment to unmute. Thank you Chair.

Um, to begin with, I want to say that I'll be supporting this resolution. But in saying that I want to be clear that this is not a termination for cause, nor is it an expression of dissatisfaction with the Benjamin center or its work. When we issued the RFP for this contract, we could have had no idea that there would be a pandemic. We could not have envisioned the crisis that we find ourselves in today. This resolution is a necessary step that will allow us to revise the RFP to meet an unexpected problem. The new RFP will be issued and based on our change requirements, and we'll have the opportunity to question candidates in relation to our current economic situation and newfound challenges. Thank you.

**Donaldson:** Anyone else wish to speak. Anyone else wish to speak? I see none, I hear none. On the issue, um vote.

**Heppner:** The Democratic caucus is a short yes, with one no, Legislator Uchitelle, and one abstention, Legislator Walter for the reason of employment.

**Donaldson:** Thank you.

**Petit:** I'm a no. I'm a no on that.

**Heppner:** Alright and additionally, Legislator Petit.

**Petit:** Yeah, thank you.

**Donaldson:** Thank you.

**Ronk:** The Republican caucus is a short yes.

**Fabella:** Resolution is adopted twenty-one to one with one abstention Legislator Walter.

**Ronk:** Twenty-one to two Vicky.

**Donaldson:** Twenty-one to, no twenty to two with one abstention. Twenty to two with one abstention.

**Heppner:** Legislator Petit was added as a no, along with Legislator Uchitelle from our caucus.

**Fabella:** The vote is twenty to two with one abstention Legislator Walter.

**Mahler:** Resolution No. 169 setting a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 2020, a local law amending Chapter 37 of the code of the County of Ulster regarding automatic re-canvassing procedure in and for the County of Ulster, State of New York, to be held on, (that's a typo on my part), Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 6:20 PM.

**Donaldson:** On the resolution.

**Heppner:** On the resolution, we are a short - the Democratic caucus is a short yes.

**Ronk:** The Republican caucus is a short yes.

**Donaldson:** Thank you.

**Fabella:** Mr. Chairman Legislator Parete has his hand up.

**Cahill:** Hold on one second, Mr. Chairman?

**Donaldson:** Yes.

**Cahill:** Um, so in caucus I thought we said that the public hearing should be moved out to June, it looks like this says May.

**Ronk:** It's a typo Legislator Cahill, um it's going to be June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Cahill:** Okay, thank you.

**Donaldson:** Yep. Thank you for picking that up for people watching, it's meant to be June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Fabella/Ronk:** Legislator Parete.

**Donaldson:** Legislator Parete?

**Parete:** That's okay. I'll say my peace later on.

**Donaldson:** Okay... Are you sure you don't want to say it now?

**Parete:** I mean I'm just flabbergasted by, why would we even be considering something like this. You know the southern. The southern Leadership Conference that's constantly going to court to try to protect the rights and privileges of voters, and they want to have a, every vote be counted in every vote voter know that their vote will be counted. And in the last election both Mr. Clegg and Mr. Cavanaugh know, because it was an extensive recount that the vote was accurate. One person was happy. One person was not happy. I understand that, but it takes confidence in the voting system to make it work. And it's beyond my feeble imagination when I read things like um we, the voting, the recount was cumbersome, time consuming and costly. I don't know about the costly I think there'll be some foils to find out exactly what it costs in extras and overruns and transfers that the legislature will have made to the election board. But um, it seems to me a very cavalier thing to say it was time consuming. I was in a board of elections. That's the only thing we had to do was count votes, and make sure they were counted properly, so that the public knew that every vote was counted properly. This is a, this is a matter of issue Ulster County was way out in front of most of the counties in the state. And now we're regressing, and I can't for the life of me, can't for the life of me find out, or rationalize where this came from. What is the purpose of it to make people job easier. I've said enough for now we'll, we'll work through this later on. Thankyou Mr. Chairman.

**Donaldson:** Legislator Uchitelle.

**Uchitelle:** Yeah um, so I you know I just want to just for point of information um. I I really want to acknowledge the foresight of, a you know, in a, in a prior session of the Legislature of Legislator Parete and Legislator Donaldson as well for um putting this law on the books we're one of the leading counties in the, in the state in terms of our election law. And while there are changes happening at the state level, we're getting ahead of them here and we're continuing to be one of the leading states. This does not remove any opportunity to recount. This doesn't remove this doesn't adjust the margin to make a recount less you know a narrower set of circumstances in

which a recount would happen. There were delays that were not the fault of the board of elections staff that we can avoid by setting a timeline. And I believe that this is going not only preserve the spirit of legislation of the prior law from 2015 but is also going to allow a greater confidence and, and more expedient transfer of power if a transfer power should happen you know between elections. So, may I will also say that you know Legislator Parete I look forward to working with you to address any concerns that you have. And, you know, hopefully we can you know I, I sense a very strong level of support for this legislation, and I look forward to getting us there and I'm optimistic for unanimous outcome here.

**Donaldson:** Um, Legislator Parete did you...

**Parete:** If I read it right, one of the agreed parties has to request the recount. In other words, put the onus on them and making seem like they're being frivolous. An automatic recount within the guidelines, is the right thing to do. And it's in the best public interest. There may be other tweaks you can use, you can deal with. But there is no reason for anybody to have to request something, it's inside the guidelines. It should be automatic and embraced. Thankyou Mr. Chairman.

**Donaldson:** Alrighty, anyone else wish to speak... seeing or hearing none. I'll call for the vote.

**Heppner:** The Democratic caucus is a short yes.

**Ronk:** The Republican caucus is a short yes.

**Fabella:** I hear you Legislator Parete. The resolution is adopted twenty-two to one.

**Mahler:** Resolution No. 171 approving the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the county Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation Department of Public Works.

**Donaldson:** Legislator Archer.

**Archer:** Yes, I request a long roll on this.

**Donaldson:** Okay.

**Ronk:** Why?

**Donaldson:** A long roll has been requested.

**Fabella:** Long Roll.

**Fabella:** Archer.

**Archer:** Yes, um the federal government is in the hole for a trillion dollars. The state has a budget gap of billions. Ulster County is predicting a shortfall of \$30 to \$40 million. Federal, state funding for schools, various programs will be cut at a time when they're most needed. We have no idea when the tax revenues will return to pre-pandemic levels, and this resolution is asking the legislature to invest in a speculative project of which there were no clear plans for the taxpayer to benefit from. I am a firm no on this resolution.

**Fabella:** Bartels.

**Bartels:** I agree with everything that Legislator Archer just said. We've had a lot of discussions regarding this resolution and while on its face it, it might appear to be something that's necessary for an owner to undertake. We are in uncharted territory. Um, I'm concerned that this is just the first of many steps. We had conversations that expand the budget well beyond this \$137,000 for the connection. We've had discussions about letting contracts for additional work, regarding sprinklers, regarding elevators, turning on the power, \$100,000 a year. And I think before we undertake such an effort, we need to have a clear sense of what that plan is and what its implications are. I fear we have very very difficult times ahead where we're going to be deciding about cutting services, potentially even cutting personnel. And I do not feel that it's fiscally responsible to move forward with this at this moment. I also want to stay on the record, that despite the fact that it says COVID on it, there is nothing that leads us as a legislature to believe that urgency related to COVID, currently. Thank you. I'm a no.

**Fabella:** Bruno.

**Rider:** You're on mute.

**Bruno:** I'm a yes. And I'm a yes because this piece of property now belongs to the county. And we can't do, sorry apologize for that. We can't do anything with the property without having basic infrastructure in there, whether it be selling it, or whether it be utilizing it, and I think this is a necessary piece of infrastructure which we need to do. And so that I'm a yes.

**Fabella:** Cahill.

**Cahill:** Yes. To me, it's extremely important to segregate the west side of that property from the east side of that property. And the first step in that is getting separate utilities to that building. The property itself is more than the two buildings that sit there in the parking lot, it's 82 acres of prime real estate on an intersection near the thruway, route 209, and the parcel is obviously in a desirable location because IBM went there. I've lived in a town of Ulster for over 35 years, I've lived around the corner from this the entire time. And I know I've been involved in previously in my previous term in the Legislature, and since then with other projects in the town and other activities and stayed abreast of it. And there have been many, many, many people trying to come in there and purchase that side of enterprise drive because of the lack of environmental issues there, because of the condition of the building, because of the access to the highway, and because of the undeveloped pieces of property that are associated with it. So, I think it's the hope the county to get that parcel marketable as soon as possible. And one of the things that we would have to do would be disconnect from the east side of the campus, have our own utility set up there and have the building ready to be, you know, used with power and water and electric as soon as possible. I will be voting yes.

**Fabella:** Corcoran

**Corcoran:** I'll be voting yes. I believe electric is a essential to this property with Central Hudson portion being \$60,000 of \$137,000 project, almost 50 cents on a \$1. I'll be voting yes.

**Fabella:** Criswell.

**Criswell:** Well, I really went back and forth on this, and I still feel that there are too many unanswered questions. So, I'm going to be voting no on this.

**Fabella:** Delaune.

**Delaune:** I'll be voting no also.

**Fabella:** Donaldson.

**Donaldson:** Pass.

**Fabella:** Fabiano. There he is.

**Fabiano:** We did not even own. I know things are tight right now. But if we can spend money on something here that could spruce up. It could be very marketable for us down the road in either selling or a using for our own things, so I will definitely be a yes on this. I'm a yes.

**Fabella:** Gavaris.

**Gavaris:** I'm going to be a no. I don't think there is enough information given so far in terms of the end goal. The amount that is actually going to cost that this was just about putting in electric, and it was going to stop there and have a chance to reevaluate afterwards, that would be one thing but that's not the case. There's going to be expenses, far beyond this one expense, so I'm going to be a no.

**Fabella:** Greene.

**Greene:** I'm also a no in the absence of a plan.

**Fabella:** Haynes.

**Haynes:** Yes.

**Fabella:** Heppner.

**Heppner:** I first just want to comment that you know I've appreciated on both sides of this issue the, the comments, the debate, the discussion, and especially the questions asked in both Ways in Means, as well as I know and the Democratic Caucus, when we have gathered around the subject. It's important it's what our jobs are to seek answers, and to discuss the difficult issues, especially when it makes it even more important during these difficult times, and uncertain economic future so again I appreciate that. At this time I'll be a yes.

**Fabella:** Litts.

**Litts:** I'm going to be a yes. And if there's anything we should have learned in the past two months, is that we should not wait when it comes to preparedness for the, for the coronavirus. When this project was first put through this location was an alternate location to put COVID patients during the epidemic. Luckily, we've flattened the curve, we've (inaudible). It looks like we won't need it.

But I will tell you that this project for the price, especially since Central Hudson is taking \$60,000 off the \$137 to get electric to our own property, electric and gas, to our own property, and we don't know what the epidemic is going to happen we might have a spike and might have to use this. Let's be prepared. I'm a yes.

**Fabella:** Lopez.

**Lopez:** Yes.

**Fabella:** Maio.

**Maio:** Yes.

**Fabella:** Parete.

**Parete:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. We took ownership of this property the county did back in what 219 2019. And it was tied up in court. We didn't buy it. We took ownership of it in a very unfortunate way. But we're making our investment in the property, we're making an investment in the building it makes sense to invest in something that is necessary for our community. I can't understand why, when the when a decision was made to make this more marketable that it becomes such an issue. I'm a yes on this and I think it's the right thing to do. We, we own this property in a very unfortunate way. We didn't buy it, was appropriated in a way, so I'm a yes.

**Fabella:** Petit.

**Petit:** This property was originally looked at for transitional COVID patients. Thank goodness, we found out that we didn't need it. However, I do agree with Legislator Litts, you never know if we may have a rebound and of course there's a possibility of FEMA money. Central Hudson has offered rebates of up to \$60,000, if we invest the \$137. And I mean this is real estate, it would be negligent for us not to minimally invest in the electric to keep the fire suppression, the alarm system, and you know, and other necessary components of that building up and running. So, I am a yes on this resolution.

**Fabella:** Roberts.

**Roberts:** There is a plan, a very good one, and I'm going to be yes on this vote.



**Fabella:** Ronk.

**Ronk:** I'm gonna to pass.

**Fabella:** Uchitelle.

**Uchitelle:** Thank you I, I view this as an opportunity to have confidence in the future of our county and to have confidence in our County Executive to make something happen here. And I'm going to be a yes.

**Fabella:** Walter.

**Walter:** I'm going to pass.

**Fabella:** Wawro.

**Wawro:** Yes.

**Fabella:** Donaldson.

**Donaldson:** Yes. We have recently taken ownership of this 82acre property, which happens to be the most important piece of property for economic development in Ulster County, and there is a plan. Right now, the plan is to bring the gas and electric to the site which needs to be done. We have to separate from the Ginsberg side. And no matter how you look at it, that has to be done. And we also have the opportunity to reevaluate as time goes on because, any other repairs will be brought to the legislature, but it is an 82acre site with two buildings on it. And, um, it's been, you know, it wasn't that long ago that it was actually occupied. It's one of the buildings there that continued to be operated for quite a while. But right now, it's been sitting there for a few years with absolutely no maintenance. Those buildings, but more importantly that 82acre site, and where it is located. It is to me, a no brainer that you need to bring the gas and electric to the site, so I am definitely a yes.

**Fabella:** Ronk

**Ronk:** Thank you, um, you know, I understand the concern about the rollout of this project and talking about it being used as a COVID, you know, temporary hospital site. You know thank God as others have said we haven't had to use it yet. It doesn't mean that we're not going to have to use

it and I, again, I don't, I don't see us needing to use it, but I also don't have the crystal ball that other legislators might have that shows that we're not going to need to use it. You know, Governor Cuomo this morning in his daily briefing and I know that many, many of the members who have already voted no on this, you know, put a lot of stock in what Governor Cuomo has to say on this subject in his daily briefings. Governor Cuomo is leaving the Javits Center site, and the Westchester County Center and SUNY Stony Brook as temporary hospitals into the fall, you know foreseeing that potentially we could need them for a combined second wave of COVID combined with the flu. We don't know what we're going to need six months from now. What we do know, six months from now is that the county taxpayers are going to benefit from having this property, having its own gas and electric as many others have said this, this provides us, our own gas and electric away from Mr. Ginsberg's side of the property, so he can't do something that really hamstring the county's ability to market this property or to use this property. I think that we should market this property personally, but even to market this property, if we're not going to use it for any of the purposes that have been discussed so far, we need to do this work. It's a benefit to the County of Ulster to get this back on the tax rolls, it's a benefit to the Town of Ulster to get this property back in the tax rolls, and it's a benefit to the school district to get this back in the tax rolls because each of those three governments are seeing a loss in revenue, because this has been off the tax rolls. So, for those reasons and a number of others regardless of what the end goal is and I understand the desire of legislators to see what the end goal is before we pass this resolution. Unfortunately, none of us have that crystal ball. You know, you know the world is different now than it was a month ago it's gonna be different three months from now than it is now. You know, but regardless of the changes that happen one month, two months, three months, six months, nine months, and a year from now. This project has to happen regardless of what the use of the property is. We don't need to look at it, well, what might happen, what contracts may the county executive potentially execute for the sprinkler system or the or the elevators or anything else. This is about bringing the county's property to a point where we have control over the utilities on our own property. For those reasons and a host of others, I'll be voting yes.

**Fabella:** Walter.

**Walter:** Thank you. Um, so, first of all, I was really taken. I really appreciate the importance when we originally got this, that we thought it'd be a step down for COVID. I think it's really important to be clear that our hospitals have made it clear that they have more room that are not being utilized and our hospitals have furloughed people so while we are going down on the curve, if anything happens with a surge or hospitals and it's important for people to know are feeling very prepared and even to utilize it as a step down if need be. So, I think it's important to know that we, we are in very good condition in terms of the COVID right now, if something was to

surprise us all then we would all have the capacity to respond to that but I think it's important to take that off the table. I think that um, I'm absolutely supportive of economic development in every way, shape and form my big issue is about the timing. We do know what this initial plan is but I have bought a house, I have been able to have an inspector come and tell me all the things that that house is going to need, and I've been able to find the prices for those things. We are experiencing a major fiscal crisis right now, and I only request that we give a little time to really see what that list looks like so that we truly understand the full costs. I think we can separate our power from the other side. At a, and it has been, we have been told that we could do that without having to do anything more and have it up and running. But I think that we, we need to know really what else has to happen to make this sellable. I do think that without doing anything it will not speed up or slow down the sale if somebody was truly interested in buying it right now. And so, for that I am now.

**Fabella:** The resolution is adopted. Sixteen to seven.

**Mahler:** Resolution Number 172, implementing a voluntary separation program for eligible Ulster County employees

**Donaldson:** Legislator Archer for the purpose of an amendment.

**Archer:** Yes, I'd like to make a motion to accept the resolution as amended before you.

**Bartels:** I'll second.

**Donaldson:** Are you making the amendments that are before us. Is that correct?

**Archer:** Yes, that's correct.

**Litts:** I do not see any amendment.

**Archer:** Do you have a copy of that Jay.

**Fabella:** They're in the packet.

**Donaldson:** Jay.

**Fabella:** They're in the packet.

**Heppner:** It should be in your packet.

**Litts:** Can someone enumerate what the...

**Ronk:** Jay, Jays working on it Herbie.

**Litts:** Okay.

**Donaldson:** Yep.

**Heppner:** But also, Legislator Archer did a great job giving a briefing to the Democratic caucus and our meeting. I'm sure she'd be willing to do so again, that'd be more efficient.

**Archer:** On the second page is really where all the amendments are. In order to participate in the plan an eligible employee needs to contact in writing the personnel director by the date that they're, they're going to have an offering letter so it has to be by that date and no later than August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The personnel director will furnish the clerk of the legislature a list of all the employees that opted to participate in the plan and list of all the positions that will be backfilled no later than September 21<sup>st</sup> of 2020, and that resolved that eligible employees who are approved to participate in the plan must separate from the county employment no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>, so they'll, they can have a rolling separation date. And those were the changes.

**Donaldson:** Am I muted or am I on.

**Ronk:** You're on.

**Donaldson:** Oh alright. Yes, this was a, we had a number of conversations with the Executives office. And this was accepted by them. I think their only concern was at one point was the August 3<sup>rd</sup> to make sure that that was not just by itself, it allows them by doing it this way actually allows them to roll out a number of them if they want but by August 3<sup>rd</sup> they would stop them. But could still ask for a continuance if they wanted to, then still open, but I think this makes a lot of sense just so you know, Legislator Litts. The purpose of it is they give us the ability to take a look at this. When the budget is coming through. So, we have an idea of where we can plug in savings.

**Heppner:** Chairman Donaldson I believe Minority Leader Ronk.

**Donaldson:** Legislator Ronk.

**Ronk:** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Um, you know, I understand Legislator Litts consternation because, you know, this was just furnished to us in the Ways and Means Committee. I understood that there were some changes that were being bantered about but I didn't receive them until that meeting, and, you know, quite frankly, it's the it's the second piece of information from Legislator Archer, that I did not receive until the meeting. I'm a little disappointed by that as her deputy chair, you know, be that as it may, I think that these changes are pretty superfluous. I don't think that I don't think that it changes the resolution in any way shape or form. You know, being that the county executive's office is supporting them. I'll support them. I have some concern about some of the deadlines because, you know, we're gonna have a state budget or the governor has the opportunity to change the state budget in the, in the third quarter of the year, even with our, you know amount of funding that we're going to get from the state. So, I think that some of the deadlines are concerning to me but if they don't concern the executive's office

I'm not gonna have a problem with it.

**Donaldson:** Well, Minority Leader Ronk I will apologize to you, because that's part of this negotiation at the last minute today. I'm making sure that we add something that was accepted by all so I will accept that blame. I did not contact you with this. And it won't happen again.

**Ronk:** I appreciate that. Chairman, it's not me that that needs the apology it's my caucus because none of us were...

**Donaldson:** Okay. And I apologize.

**Donaldson:** Everybody there?

**Fabella:** You need the vote on the amendment.

**Donaldson:** Oh, alright I wasn't sure we said, I'm sorry. On the issue. Anybody else wish to speak?

**Donaldson:** All right, vote. The vote.

**Heppner:** On the resolution.

**Ronk:** Amendment.

**Heppner:** On the amendment that the Democratic Caucus. After discussing in our caucus post Ways and Means are a short, yes.

**Ronk:** The Republican caucus is a short yes, on the amendment.

**Fabella:** On the amendment is adopted twenty-three to zero.

**Donaldson:** On the resolution.

**Heppner:** On the resolution, the Democratic caucus is a short yes.

**Ronk:** The Republican caucus is a short yes.

**Fabella:** The resolution is adopted as amended twenty-three to zero.

**Donaldson:** Alright moving on, Jay would like to try the video again with Butch Dener.

Good evening everybody. I'd like to thank my longtime friend Dave Donaldson the Chairman of Legislature for the privilege of the floor. This is my 13th or 14th year, having this privilege. And I cherish it and I'm very flattered by this a privilege. Thank you all. And also like to thank the Legislative Clerk, Vicky, and Jay her assistant for all the help they've given me staying in constant touch and communication to help make this happen.

I really appreciate you all. I was sick in Kentucky, not a place you want to be sick, and I was working on a film with Levon Helm my boss and Steven Seagal, and I got so sick, my abdomen swelled, my legs swelled. I was in pain every day. And I took myself one night to the Appalachian healthcare facility, not a place, most people want to be, especially when you're saying. And, of course I got misdiagnosed by those wonderful doctors and they thought I had leukemia. He wanted to start chemo the next day, of course they had their own clinic. And I refused. I wouldn't let them touch me.

Thankfully I didn't because they would have killed me, the chemo would have killed me. But, Warner Brothers and Steven Seagal didn't want me to die on the movie set. So, with Levon's help, I got airlifted back to New York where the amazing doctor Buch here in Kingston, Hal Buch came into my room in the old Benedictine, and said you don't have leukemia son, you have Hep C. You have advanced liver failure.

He immediately stabilized me, they drained eight quarts of fluid out of my system. Got me stabilized dealing with the five bleeding ulcers that rock and roll employment had given me and got me back on the good foot. Dr. Buch also immediately got me in touch with Mount Sinai, in the liver transplantation center. They're world class, and they're also right now on the front lines of this pandemic. Mount Sinai is a most amazing facility. And they of course they diagnosed me properly and treated me properly and put me back on the path. But I was on the waiting list for eight years.

My being sick for eight years, with very little hope because in those days New York was the lowest nation in organ donors. Thanks to Nina Postupack in our DMV, and the DMV around the state and Governor Cuomo new law, we can now register 16 and 17 year olds at the DMV to be organ donors, which is smart because that's the first time that they get into the system of government and we can get them to register. And most of the time after that, like everybody they do all the transactions online, and unfortunately Ulster County loses that money, but they do, do it online, and we don't get a chance to sign them up to be organ donors and educate them. Luckily Nina and her staff with Shawna's help, are so proactive, the entire DMV knows, and is educated in organ donation awareness and they just keep signing people up at a beautiful rate, New York is no longer 50 out of 50 states.

There are 112,000 people nationally on the waiting list. There are 7000, 9000 excuse me 9000 in New York alone. So, 9000 of your neighbors and friends, somewhere, are slowly dying on this waiting list, waiting for an organ donor. There are 58% of the people in America are registered but only 35% here in New York. And here in New York. There are so many people that are sick, 20 people die nationally every day, every 10 minutes a new person is added to the list.

So, it's an ongoing thing, the pandemic hasn't slowed everything down as far as organ donation need. It's only slowed down donors. The New York Met great Ed Kranepool, who had a kidney transplanted a year ago, went in for his one year transplant. And he told us that 50% of living donors is down. That's a lot. It's a lot of lives that are not being saved.

And I say living donors because we all can go to the website [www.donatelifenys.org](http://www.donatelifenys.org) or register [me.org](http://me.org) and sign up to be an organ donor and I beg you to please do that. I know many people here have done that because of our outreach and it saves lives, but most of you hopefully won't pass away for 10, 20, 30, 40 years. I know some of you wish others would sooner - just kidding, but hopefully we'll live long years, so we won't need those organs until later on, get those organs until later on. And by then hopefully SUNY New Paltz will be making organs on the 3d printers, that's how fast science is progressing.

And even now with this pandemic science is moving so quickly that we're finding all new things immediately and so quickly. But if you're a living donor you can donate a kidney or a piece of your liver to somebody who's on the list, and they will live immediately. You can be a hero, you can save a life. You can look into the face of the husband or wife of the person you saved, the mother of the child you saved. It's amazing. There's 2000 children, 2000 children on the waiting list right now. It's, it's a sad thing to think of. I used to go to the Transplant Living Center before and after my transplant and see families from Texas, and all around the country, with infants, babies. I at least was old enough to be able to handle the sickness and the pain, but these poor babies these young children. They need transplants, and you can be a hero. You can sign up to be a living donor.

My friend in Kingston, Tara Salerno gave her sister, Tiffany, a piece of her liver, and both out within well one within weeks and one within months back working and helping and educating people about organ donation. A friend of mine in New Paltz, Mariane Tozzi who spoke here a few years ago is a living donor she gave a kidney to her uncle, who lived many fruitful years after that. I myself have tried to give back to the community, every chance I get through my blessing of life. I was able to build a September 11th memorial, with no government money, I know you'll all appreciate that in New Paltz. It's a beautiful memorial that if you're ever in our fine little town please stop by fire station two on Putt Corners road and visit. I'm very proud of it. It's something that I can leave behind. As because my donor family, Frankie Matera, and his wife Kitt Matera were generous enough in their time of sorrow, to allow me to live. Life is beautiful folks you saw my granddaughter here a few years ago. I never would have known her. She's spoke before this legislature, you remember giving her a standing ovation. The most touching organ donation spiel I've ever heard.

So please, friends, sign up. [DonateLifeNewYork.org](http://DonateLifeNewYork.org), register [me.org](http://me.org), go downstairs to Nina's, she'll sign you up, go to the Board of Elections, see Kari, or Jen, or anybody over there, and they will sign you up. But consider, saving a life, our Rabbi's teach us that if you save one life it's as



if you save the world. That's all be heroes. Let's save a life lets save the world. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Legislature.

**Donaldson:** Alrighty. I'd like to ask Legislator Ronk to read those that we are adjourning in memory of.

**Ronk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, tonight's meeting of the Legislature will be adjourned in the memory of the Honorable Peter J. Sebago from New Paltz, New York, the Honorable Frank J. Felicello from Milton, New York, the Honorable Clifford W. Snyder, from Saugerties, New York, Thomas J. O'Bryan Saugerties, New York, Shirley A. Carl Saugerties, New York, Robert D. Williams Kingston, New York, Gerard D. Hokanson Sr. New Paltz, New York, John P. Laskowsky, Jr. Modena, New York, Gaetano F. Turco Town of Ulster, New York, Paula J. Slater Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Patricia A. Manley Hurley, New York, Gerard "Ozzy" Beichert Saugerties, New York, Hilda Manganello Plattekill, New York, Lawrence E. Rowe Sr. Rifton, New York, Harry G. Anderson, Jr. Hurley, New York, The Honorable Carol Roper New Paltz, New York, Arlene F. Reynolds Ulster Park, New York, Bruce G. Randzin Wallkill, New York, Henry T. Carter Saugerties, New York, Alison R. Doxey-Ramo Pleasant Valley, New York, Claude H. Post Sr. Saugerties, New York, C. Elizabeth Sass Kingston, New York, Everett Vail Saugerties, New York, Sharon P. Daw Port Ewen, New York, Frank Polacco Sr. Kingston, New York, Richard W. Shook Hurley, New York, Andre Neher Woodstock, New York, Martha belle DePuy Kingston, New York, Montague C. Smith New Paltz, New York, Randolph F. Siegel, New Paltz, New York, Robert F. Gardner, Saugerties, New York, Florence E. Deegan Kingston, New York, Jeremiah Flaherty Kerhonkson, New York, Mary L. Sperl Saugerties, New York. I also have late additions of Richard Frail of Plattekill, New York.

**Donaldson:** Legislator Walters.

**Walters:** Yes, I would like to add a Lamine Soumah of New Paltz, New York.

**Ronk:** Who died on the list. I'm sure that a couple other legislators may want to as well. Um, you know, I just wanted to honor the memory of Peter J. Savago to start with. Pete was the first Chairman of the Legislature when we went to our new form of government. He's also a very long time, republican party chairman and republican commissioner of the board of elections. And the one thing I'll always say, and I'm, you know, I wish I could see the whole, the whole screen of legislators, you know, if Pete had a problem you always know where you stood with him. Always 100%. He never held anything back. I'm gonna miss him. You know, a lot. I'm gonna miss his,

his, his guidance and his counsel and, and his, his curmudgeon leanness, you know, from time to time and I think that he'd be happy to you know, to be referred to in that way. And, and then to former Legislator Frank Felicello, he's another one. I was a young legislator I was 22 years old, and my favorite memory of Frank was. It was actually a resolution from Legislator Robert Parete about tobacco funding from tobacco companies, and you know I commented that I thought that a word was too malleable and Frank, you know, I was 22, years old Frank called me rookie my first my first term, and he said a rookie, rookie. I don't know that word what's that word. I said malleable Frank means you know it can be easily. It can be easily changed. Oh, thanks rookie. I learned something today. And that well he called me rookie my entire first two years. You know he was a great guy, he's the kind of guy that would, you know, he would be really gruff to your face but, um, you know, behind your back he would give his, the shirt off his back to somebody who needed it and that's the kind of person that Frank was I'm gonna miss him as well. And then, you know, I do want to point out that Ozzy Beichert is the father-in-law of our former Senior Legislative Employee Mary Beichert.

**Donaldson:** Legislator Walters, would you like to add that again what happened there was a cutout.

**Walters:** Thank you, yes I would, thank you. So, I'd like to add Lamine Soumah from New Paltz, New York who recently passed related to COVID-19 and left several children, and a few of them who also live with us in New Paltz.

**Donaldson:** Is there sure any other additions a Laura. Legislator Petit.

**Petit:** Yeah, thank you. It's truly a hard month. There were so many people both in, you know, in Esopus, in my career, in politics and in New Paltz that I knew and they passed this month. I would like to add the name of Ernie Bonelli who passed away today he's from Kingston, just a very honorable person. He embraced everyone this is through one of my other my other places of employment so a true place for misfits where nobody's really a misfit, and he will really be missed.

**Donaldson:** Thank you, Legislator Fabiano.

**Fabiano:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Gaetano F. Turco Town of Ulster. He is the father of our current republican Commissioner, Thomas Turco, who I grew up with next door. I knew Tommy's father, very, very much. His sister left, live next door to us when we were growing up. And I just wanted to put that put that out there. I don't know if anybody

knew that, that this gentleman was Tommy Turco's father, are republican commissioner, I want them to know.

**Donaldson:** Thank you, Legislator Cahill.

**Cahill:** Thank you Chairman Donaldson, In the Town of Ulster when I first moved here, there were as a group of people who were very active in the community. One of them was former Town Justice, Paula Leonard. I had gone to school with her daughter and known her all my life. Paula served with distinction for a number of years as a town justice, and she passed away yesterday. I just wanted to acknowledge that. Thank you.

**Donaldson:** Thank you. Is there anyone else.

**Parete:** John Parete.

**Donaldson:** John.

**Parete:** Yeah, you know, thank you Mr. Chairman, you know folks, one of the things about being too long is you know too many people on this list. And it's very disappointing sometimes. And yet it's a reality of life. I mean, you know from Carol Roper to Mr. Beichert, to the Turco's, to the Laskowsky's. But I just want to comment on the first two guys on your list Savago and Felicello, you know, I knew them really well. They were adversaries. And there were no holds barred contests, but you notice a strange part about it is, I liked them, and you want to know what, they liked me. They were really good people they advocated for their position. Some folks were intimidated by them, ah, and maybe by the nature of my job in my business I don't get intimidated that easy. A lot of good people on here. I feel sorry for the members of their family. It's a sad time in our country. But those first two fellas. I know them pretty good I got some good memories. We had some battles, but we all survived and to this day... I respect them and I know they liked me. So, thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Donaldson:** Thank you. I know a great deal of them, a people that are on this list. And unfortunately, of course, their wakes, not on public because of the situation. It changed the nature of the way funerals take place. But at least we're able to recognize them and adjourn in their memory, which is very positive things for these, these families.

**Donaldson:** And I at this point I'd ask for a motion to adjourn, Legislator Litts.

**Litts:** Mr. Chairman I would like to make a motion to adjourn.

**Donaldson:** And Legislator Parete I'd like to have a second.

**Parete:** Uncle. (laughter)

**Ronk:** I second the motion to adjourn. (laughter)

**Donaldson:** All those in favor.

**Group:** Aye.

**Donaldson:** Any opposed.

**Ronk:** Great job everybody.