

# 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



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## MINUTES

DECEMBER 2, 2021

### PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL SESSION: BUDGET

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



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

6:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: 6:09 PM

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

Led by Legislator Herbert Litts.

ROLL CALL: Present: 22 Absent: 1 (Legislator Dean Fabiano)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were three speakers signed up for public comment.  
(see attached transcript)

1. James Shaughnessy, Kingston
2. Steve Miccio, New Paltz
3. Robert Gelbach, Saugerties

**RESOLUTION NOS: 541-549**

A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk to Block Resolution Nos. 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 548 and 549. All in favor.

**541      Ratification Of Tax Rolls**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    22            NOES:    0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

**542      Levy For Unpaid Sewer Rents**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    22            NOES:    0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

**543      Levy For Unpaid Water Rents**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    22            NOES:    0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

**544      Approving Completed Tax Rolls And Directing The Execution Of  
Delivery Of Warrants**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    22            NOES:    0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

**545 Authorizing Commissioner Of Finance To Make Transfers Of Funds And Budgetary Amendments**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

**546 Adopting The Ulster County Budget For Fiscal Year Commencing January 1, 2022 And Making Appropriations For The Conduct Of County Government**

Legislator Walter motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 1 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Walter motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 2 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 14 NOES: 8  
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Roberts, Ronk and Wawro)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Walter motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 3 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Greene motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 4 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 15                      NOES: 7  
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Litts, Lopez,  
Maio, Roberts, and Ronk)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Walter motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 5 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Walter motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 6 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Gavaris motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 7 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Gavaris motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 8 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13 NOES: 9  
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, Roberts, Ronk and Wawro)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Roberts, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 9 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 3                      NOES: 19  
(Ayes: Legislators Litts, Roberts and Ronk)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Amendment No. 10 was Withdrawn by Sponsor.

Amendment No. 11 was Withdrawn by Sponsor.

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Lopez, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 12 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21                      NOES: 1  
(Noes: Legislator Donaldson)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Uchitelle motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 13 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 14                      NOES: 8  
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Litts, Lopez,  
Maio, Roberts, Ronk and Wawro)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 14 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment Nos. 15, 16 and 18 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Amendment No. 17 was Withdrawn by Sponsor.

Amendment No. 19 was Withdrawn by Sponsor.

Legislator Gavaris motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 20 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 13                      NOES: 9  
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Corcoran, Haynes, Litts,  
Lopez, Maio, Roberts, Ronk and Wawro)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Amendment Nos. 21 – 24 were Withdrawn by Sponsor.

Legislator Walter motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 25 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22                      NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 26 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21                      NOES: 1  
(Noes: Legislator Donaldson)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)



Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 27 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the 2022 Ulster County Proposed Budget to include Amendment No. 28 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 0  
(1 Abstention: Legislator Wawro)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 18 NOES: 4  
(Noes: Legislators Litts, Roberts, Ronk, and Wawro)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

**547 Adopting Ulster County Capital Program For 2022 – 2027**

Legislator Heppner motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to amend the Proposed 2022 – 2027 Ulster County Capital Program to include Amendment Nos. 1 through 3 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22            NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Legislator Archer motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the Proposed 2022 – 2027 Ulster County Capital Program to include Amendment No. 4 as presented in the attached exhibit.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19            NOES: 3  
(Noes: Legislators Bruno, Haynes, and Litts)  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

**548 Authorizing Acceptance Of Deeds In Lieu Of Foreclosure Of Certain Properties From AG Properties Of Kingston LLC And Techcity 22 23 & 24 LLC**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22            NOES: 0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

**549      Setting A Public Hearing On The Transfer Of Certain Properties From  
Ulster County To The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance,  
Inc. To Be Held On Tuesday, December 21, 2021 At 6:30 PM**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    22            NOES:    0  
(Absent: Legislator Fabiano)

Chairman David B. Donaldson adjourned the Special Legislative Session in memory of former Legislator, Donald J. Gregorius.

Motion followed by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Bartels to adjourn Special Legislative Session. All in favor.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:51 PM**

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held **Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM**. Legislative Session is livestreamed and available via *vimeo* at <https://livestream.com/accounts/1512750/events/1824203>. Public Comment is administered by Call In Studio, dial 205-Ulster-0 or (205) 857-8370) to be connected.

**TRANSCRIPT  
DECEMBER 2, 2021**

**SPECIAL SESSION: BUDGET**

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**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Roberts just keeps coming in and out of the waiting room trying to connect he's clearly having technical issues so it's your call.

**Chairman Donaldson**

We'll give him two more minutes that will be ten after.

**Clerk Fabella**

He just came on I see him.

**Legislator Bruno**

We knew you could Ken.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Are you waiting on me? I would have made it by my name.

**Legislator Bruno**

No I said Kevin.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Got it.

**Legislator Bruno**

Ken is that an earring?

**Clerk Fabella**

So we're ready whenever you are.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty I'll call the meeting to order. This is the budget meeting of the legislature and of course, we are the appropriating body of the county and under C11 our number one job is to make appropriations to levy taxes and adopt the budget. This is the most important meeting that you attend to each year. I'll call the meeting to order we'll start with a pledge to the flag and then we remain standing for a moment of silence and thinking about health workers and keep in mind hopefully that new variant will go away quickly. But let us lead this, a Legislator Litts. Legislator Litts turn your - unmute yourself and lead us

**Legislator Litts**

Okay, that's better.

**Legislator Litts**

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**

Alrighty be seated.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Roll call.

**Clerk Fabella**

Archer.

**Legislator Archer**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Here.

**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.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Haynes.

**Legislator Haynes**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maio.

**Legislator Maio**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Parete.

**Legislator Parete**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Here. Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Present.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Abe Uchitelle**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Wawro.

**Legislator Wawro**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

There are 22 present and one absence.

**Clerk Fabella**

We do have two speakers signed up for public comment.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty I would hope that they restrict your comments to the budget on the resolutions that are before us.

**Clerk Fabella**

The first speaker we have signed up tonight is James Shaughnessy.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Go ahead James.

**James Shaughnessy**

Hello. Can I go now?



**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes you may.

**James Shaughnessy**

Okay, distinguished legislators. Thank you for the opportunity to address you. My name is James Shaughnessy. I live in Kingston. I'm here to speak in favor of the proposal to re-establish the Department of Mental Health as a separate department with his own Commissioner. The Department of Mental Health was once one of the premier mental health departments in the state and attracted interns from across the country. I am told that a high percentage of its revenue came from insurance reimbursements. When Mike Hein touted his goal, Ulster County being the healthiest county in the state. It didn't make sense to me to shut down the mental health department. It was pennywise and pound foolish. I served on the boards of education of Kingston City School District and Ulster BOCES. During a recent discussion, one colleague said that it is reported that 60% of our students coming to school have experienced trauma. Superintendent Dr. Padalino responded that he thinks that in the COVID era, it is closer to 100%. The federal government and New York State now prioritize social, emotional, and mental health ahead of academic achievement. It seems to me that the Department of Health with its previous responsibilities, aside from mental health, and now with the COVID pandemic has more than enough to do. The removal of mental health and addiction services by the Health Alliance has compounded the problems facing the county. Substance abuse has increased dramatically during the COVID pandemic. Mental Health in both our schools and among our adult population deserves dedicated virtue to approve the reestablishment of a separate Department of Mental Health. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you. Next speaker.

**Clerk Fabella**

Next speaker we have signed up is Steve Miccio.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Go ahead Steve.

Hi, I'm Steve Miccio. I'm a resident of New Paltz, and I'm also the CEO of People USA, which is a mental health organization. I to support the continuance of a leadership in Department of Mental Health as I used to work with the Department of Mental Health very closely 20 years ago, when it was much stronger and much more focused designing systems of care for (inaudible). And in today's world with COVID, with all the trauma that people are experiencing with the uprising, opiate issues that are that have come along, our organization has gotten extremely busy. What I have seen over the years and throughout different counties in New York State is that when they collapse the mental health services or mental health leadership, I see the system collapse as well. Having good strong leadership at the county, I think is important for the integration and the continuum of care for mental health services. So I gladly support Ulster County continuing that with leadership in mental health. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else signed up?

**Clerk Fabella**

We did just get one more speaker signed up. And that's Robert Gelbach.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Already, Robert, you're on.

**Robert Gelbach**

Thank you. My name is Robert Gelbach. I live in Saugerties (inaudible) appointed legislature to advise the county mental health office and its operations as the local government unit, dispensing state of New York funds. This year I served with 30 other leaders in Ulster County on the Behavioral Health Task Force, advised on the use of \$5 million in federal ARPA funds for one time improvement in behavioral health. I come to you today (inaudible) to the county commending restructuring of the Mental Health Office as a separate department with some key additional staff. I also thank the legislature Budget and Finance Committee for supporting those recommendations here today. It was clear to the task force as we reviewed the challenges and opportunities for behavioral health and Ulster County that we have skilled and motivated public and nonprofit agencies working hard with limited resources. We also have serious gaps in services and waiting lists for services. Because our resources are limited, it is important that we identify gaps and design new services and coordinate the efforts of providers. The budget you'll vote on today can equip the county mental health department for that coordination in partnership with service providers. One results much earlier and consistent provision of treatment. Behavioral health needs or like physical health needs in this way. If we ignore or delay early symptoms, conditions get worse, more disruptive to individuals and families and more-costly to treat in money and in personal human pain. This budget takes a significant step to make behavioral health services more timely and effective in Ulster County. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

That's all we have signed up.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right, we'll go right into resolutions.

**Legislator Heppner**

So Chairman Donaldson, I like to make a motion to block 541 to 544.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Is that alright with you leader Ronk? What happened to him?

**Legislator Bruno**

Kenny.

**Chairman Donaldson**

How about their whip, would you be able to agree with that? While were waiting for Ken?

**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Heppner do you want to repeat that?

**Legislator Heppner**

Yeah. So I'll make a motion to let me repeat that block 541 to 545, and 548 and 549 as well.

**Clerk Fabella**

And leader Ronk just popped back on.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'll second that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. Alright all those - we'll call for the vote then for the block.

**Legislator Heppner**

We're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty.

**Clerk Fabella**

And then on the resolutions as a block?

**Clerk Fabella**

Short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolutions are adopted 22 to zero.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 546. Adopting the Ulster County budget for fiscal year commencing January 1, 2022. And making appropriations for the conduct of county government.

**Clerk Fabella**

Before you and online for our viewers following along are a list of our amendments. On Amendment 1 as presented.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the issue, did anyone want to speak on it? I don't see anyone yelling out or raising their hands. So I'll take the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

We're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. Amendment 2 as presented.

**Legislator Heppner**

On Amendment 2 we're a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes leader Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you. I just have a very quick comment. I just want to make it clear that I would not have a problem with this resolution. If the district attorney had gone through what I feel is the proper process and done a desk audit. Having no desk audit been done I can't support reclassifying these positions. I can give the vote unless anybody else wants to say anything. Okay, um, the Republican caucus was a short note with one yes, Legislator Haynes.

**Legislator Heppner**

We're a sure yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The Amendment No. 2 is adopted 14 to eight. And just for the record, Amendment 1 was adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right Amendment 3 as presented.

**Legislator Heppner**

We're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

or as presented.

**Legislator Heppner**

I believe Legislator Ronk has his hand up.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'm good.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short no with two yeses, Legislator's Haynes and Wawro unless anybody's changed their mind. I think this is one where people might change their mind.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I don't see any changes in mine. So let's go to

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendment No. 4 is adopted 15 to seven.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right, Amendment No. 5 as presented. On the issue or on the amendment, anyone to speak? No?

**Legislator Heppner**

We're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is adopted. 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. Amendment No. 6. That is the Sheriffs Employees Association contract.

**Legislator Heppner**

Short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

Short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendment No. 6 is adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Amendment No. 7 as presented.

**Legislator Heppner**

Short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

I have on my list a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Already. Amendment

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendment is adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Go ahead sorry.

**Clerk Fabella**

That's okay. Amendment 7 is adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Amendment No. 8 as presented.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the amendment were a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the amendment were short no.

**Clerk Fabella**

For the record Legislator Parete is also a yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adopted 13 to nine.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Amendment 9 as presented.

**Legislator Heppner**

I believe leader Ronk has his hand raised.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes Leader Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Um, you know, a lot has happened since August I guess. I'm a little surprised that I, you know, from what I've heard that the - even some of the members that voted yes on this last week have since had a change of heart. You know, friends of mine would, you know, from previous years and, and others might, you know, adventure a guess, to say that some phone calls been made over the last week. You know, twisting arms. You know, I'm a little disappointed, but you know, it is what it is. I feel pretty strongly about this. And I'm ready to move forward.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Do you want to put your vote in Legislator Ronk?

**Legislator Ronk**

I mean, we can but I don't believe Legislator Heppner had yet.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yep. So we're short no.

**Legislator Ronk**

So we're a short Yes. I'm sorry. We're short no with three yeses Legislators Litts, Roberts, and Ronk. Sorry.

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendment number 9 is defeated 3 to 19.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right, Amendment No. 10. And that's the constituent services navigator division. I would also like to just say something quickly on this. And then I certainly understand the value of the data. But for positions, I feel at this point at a half a million dollars a year just seems a little steep. My (inaudible) for me voting no on this. Go ahead Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I was actually, I understand that there's a compromise that's going to be offered at the end. You know, I respectfully understand where the data and a system would be, as you would say, Mr. Chairman, would be useful. You know, currently under the COVID hotline, you know, we're only which this is supposed to mimic in, you know, in other parts of government. You know, we're only receiving based on the backup that we've gotten from the executive's office to justify this two calls per day that are not COVID related. I'm happy that we're going to be able, I think to compromise and use this money out of the AARP funding to continue the COVID hotline and maybe branch out into more marketing about it to try and find out if the calls exist, if we were going to, you know, have it branch out. But I also think that this is somewhat the cart before the horse, because it's my belief that if we're going to spend this much money on four positions to have a central answering point, then we can probably save a lot of money throughout the county for the people who are currently answering all of these phone calls. And I don't think that that's been looked into quite enough. So anyway, being that, there is a compromise being offered later in the evening, I'm willing at this point to withdraw this amendment.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right, the amendment has been withdrawn. Go to Amendment No.11, as presented. Funding the director of budget and innovation position.

**Legislator Ronk**

You know, this is a second one where there's a compromise being offered, it's going to save the taxpayers some money. I still feel strongly that this is an unnecessary part of government. But I'm happy that we're going to be eliminating a different unnecessary part of government. So saving the taxpayers a couple bucks makes me happy. So I'll be happy to withdraw this one.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright, so 11 has been withdrawn. Amendment No.12. Increasing the Commissioner of Finance regular pay. On the amendment.

**Legislator Heppner**

If there's no comment we're a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'm going to be I, I haven't - I originally was going to be a yes on this. But the more I think about it, I think, you know, jumping in -putting somebody's pay, you know, increase it, singling somebody out in that manner. I'm sort of against that idea. I'm going to be a no. Nothing against the person that's doing the job, but he does the job quite well.

**Legislator Heppner**

So apologies we're a short yes with one no, Chairman Donaldson.

**Legislator Ronk**

Mr. Chairman, may I say something before I cast my votes.



**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Ronk.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Go ahead.

**Legislator Ronk**

You know, with all due respect to what you said, and I respect where you're coming from this budget, you know, singles many individuals out for raises in excess of 3% including the position that just tap that yeah, I just went through the amendment to eliminate. The person who is going into that position is receiving a \$15,000 raise so respectfully, I disagree with your assertion that this is the only one but um, with that said, the Republican caucus is also a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is adopted 21 to one.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Amendment 13. Increasing Darmstadt and family and rates to fund the additional contract increases due to and required wage increases.

**Legislator Heppner**

We're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We are a short no.

**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Parete is also a yes. Amendment No.13 is adopted, 13 to nine.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay, Legislator Haynes is a yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Haynes.

**Legislator Haynes**

I'd like to change my vote to a yes, please.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is adopted 14 to eight.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Amendment 14, communications specialist analysis. On the amendment anybody wish to speak? None? Call for they vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

Short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

Short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright Amendment 15. Supervisors undisturbed changes that were made on the sheriff's budget due to (inaudible) Legislator Ronk, did you want to speak?

**Legislator Ronk**

I was just gonna ask Legislator Heppner. I don't have any noes on 15, 16, 17 or 18. I don't know if you do - if you don't we can block them together.

**Legislator Heppner**

So I have 15, 16 – I have 17 as withdrawn, and 18 through 19 withdrawn as well.

**Legislator Ronk**

So I can do 15 through 17 as a block.

**Legislator Heppner**

I'll second that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Did you have 18 on there also?

**Legislator Heppner**

Yep.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Yeah.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yeah through 18.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Oh, not through 17, through 18?

**Legislator Ronk**

Correct. Sorry.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yeah.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Confused.

**Legislator Ronk**

Because that's why I got confused. I was looking

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

I was just confirming again that 17 is withdrawn. So when you say 13 through 18 with the exception

**Legislator Ronk**

My mistake, I was looking at an old list.

**Legislator Bartels**

Okay. Thanks.

**Chairman Donaldson**

We forgive you.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the block we're a yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the block we're also a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright on the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

We're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

Short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendments, 15,16 and 18 are adopted 22 to zero.

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendment 19 is withdrawn. So that brings us to 20.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright. I had two pages the same one. I was getting a little confused there for a second. Alrighty so 19 was withdrawn? Amendment 20, the energy consultant recommended by capital markets to advise. On the amendment anyone wish to speak? None? On the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

Short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

As of caucus we were a short no, but things have changed since then, obviously. So I'm not sure unless anybody says anything. Otherwise, we're a short no.

**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Parete is also a yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is adopted 13 to nine.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Amendments 21 through 24 were withdrawn by the sponsors. Amendment 25. Adjusting a part time position within the Human Rights Commission to full time benefiting.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Walter was doing anything with that or

**Legislator Walter**

So there are amendments to the amendments provided. Just in brief explanation, I'm just- I'm putting that amendment request into a contingency for re-evaluation in the first quarter, once the Human Rights Commission's helpline gets fully functional, we can have a sense and the Committee on Laws and Rules has an opportunity to fully understand the staffing needs. So I'm requesting that it's sort of held there and contingency just as a placeholder to explore it next year. No, no change to the budget at this time.

**Legislator Heppner**

And on this chairman, we're a

**Chairman Donaldson**

Are you withdrawing this or

**Legislator Ronk**

It's a new amendment Dave.

**Chairman Donaldson**

What is the new amendment then?

**Legislator Ronk**

May I?

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yeah, sure go ahead.

**Legislator Ronk**

Her old amendment was to create a full-time position and take the money out of contingency. This amendment, it just keeps the money in contingency. Um, you know, so we could either do nothing or do this, and it has the same net result, but Legislator Walter would prefer to have the money earmarked in there.

**Legislator Heppner**

So once we get the, you know, more information as a helpline for the Human Rights Commission.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And regardless, we would have to do a resolution to take it out.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Right. Regardless, the money goes into contingency, regardless.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Right. All right. But whatever I mean, it's six and one - half dozen of the other in this.

**Legislator Ronk**

So it's word for word. That's what I said it's like we talk to each other Dave.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. So on the amendment to the amendment.

**Legislator Heppner**

Short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

Being that the money stays and contingency we didn't talk about this as a caucus, but I'm assuming that we'd be a short yes on this since there's no change to the budget. If anybody feels differently speak up.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I see no one's speaking up, alrighty.

**Clerk Fabella**

So Amendment 25, as presented is adopted as amended 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty, now the Amendment 26, is the amendment to the constituent service navigator division? Or the funds that are from our (inaudible). All right.

**Legislator Heppner**

I believe we are short yes. I'm not sure about you, Chairman Donaldson.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Um, I think I still believe it's a lot of money for something that we're not sure that I needed to be close. So I'll just be a no. I mean, he had the votes there anyway.

**Legislator Heppner**

So we're short yes with one no, Chairman Donaldson.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'm pretty sure we're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Chairman, Donaldson you said you were no on that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

That's correct.

**Clerk Fabella**

We have lost Legislator Roberts for a brief moment here.

**Clerk Fabella**

So Amendment 26 is adopted 20 to one.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Amendment 27. That is to remove proposed 3% management nonunion raises or specialist position that is just being hired, or was just hired rather. Anyone wish to speak?

**Legislator Heppner**

Leader Ronk has his hand raised.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Leader Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you. Um, you know, again, I'm disappointed in the way that this is going down. You know, the, the amendment that I had authored, and that we voted on earlier was defeated, you know, was supported out of committee, with only one no vote. And I feel like this is almost, you know, disrespectful to the taxpayers to, to pretend that we're actually doing something with this amendment. Um, you know, if the position is overpaid let's lower it. If the position isn't overpaid, then I don't understand why we're singling one position out for a decrease. That having been said, it's gonna save the taxpayers a couple of bucks. I'm gonna vote for it. But, you know, I'm really concerned about what could have possibly changed so drastically that everybody changed their mind after last week's Ways and Means Committee meeting.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

So out of due respect to my colleague, we're talking about respect to the taxpayers. We know how this salary got set a year ago. I believe my esteemed colleague voted for this. This is a good compromise for the way forward and the other compromises we made in terms of positions and protecting taxpayers. So I think it's, you know, a little disingenuous, to present the way it's being presented.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, with, again, with all due respect to my fellow leader, you know, he's remembering things a little bit differently. It was not last year, I believe it was the year before that this came up the last time and lots of stuffs happened since then, including, you know, the hiring of more personnel and several large raises throughout the, throughout the years. So, you know, one budget doesn't necessarily, you know, mean that the next budget is going to be the same. And the budget after that is going to be the same and circumstances, you know, change pretty drastically. You know, so, again, with all due respect, I disagree with the way that you're positioning you know, posturing on this particular amendment? And? Yeah, I just, I don't you know, I don't agree that what you've said, adds up completely, but it's, you know, it is what it is. I just, you know, I think that, you know, changing from three years ago is a lot different than changing from, you know 12 days ago or whatever it was.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'm glad you're both very respectful, and we'll call for the vote I guess.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the vote, we're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the vote we're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The Amendment is adopted 22 to zero. Legislator Roberts. Now that you're back, would you like to join the rest of your fellow legislators in voting yes. for the previous amendment.

**Legislator Roberts**

I sure would.

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendment No. 26 is adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty that wasn't 26 it was 27.

**Clerk Fabella**

I was correcting the vote since Legislator Roberts had now voted on it that's all.

**Chairman Donaldson**

So now you can call the vote on 27 then.

**Legislator Heppner**

And now we're a short yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

27, a you - Madam Clerk?

**Clerk Fabella**

On Amendment No. 27 - the amendment is adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright Amendment 28 and that is to - was to defund the assistant to the Deputy Director of Innovation and reducing the deputy directors budget salary equal to the other budget analyst. So we'll look at the number 28. Anyone on the issue? No one? Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Sorry, I was muted. Thanks. I think I talked about this earlier so I'm not going to belabor the point too much. I just you know, I think that you know, not eliminating one unnecessary position but then eliminating a different separate unnecessary position you know, to me I mean, you know, if the positions unnecessary we should be getting rid of it no matter what. So it surprised me that the executive was so quick to come up with a position that he didn't give too much care about to replace the one that apparently, he did care quite a bit about so. I'll be supporting it like I said, Because I'm you know, in favor of saving the taxpayers money but um, yeah, again, I just I find some of these things perplexing.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Heppner.



**Legislator Heppner**

In agreeing with our colleague we're – in saving taxpayer money we're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

I believe that we're a short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

We did lose Legislator Lopez.

**Clerk Fabella**

The Amendment 28 is adopted 21 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

That is the end to the amendments. Now we go back to resolutions.

**Legislator Heppner**

Chairman Donaldson, I like to move to take amendments. 1, 2, 3 as a block.

**Clerk Fabella**

Well, first we have to do a

**Legislator Ronk**

We have to vote on the budget.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Let's do the budget vote first and then we'll do the capital plan.

**Legislator Heppner**

My apologies.

**Chairman Donaldson**

The capital program. Alrighty on the budget as amended through the several amendments. Anyone wish to speak on the budget as amended. No one all right. You're quiet bunch tonight. Legislator Heppner for the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

Short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the 2022 Ulster County budget the republican caucus is a short yes with four noes, Legislator's Ronk, Roberts, Litts and Wawro.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Now we're going to go to the amendments for - after she calls the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yep and apologies about before so now I move to take amendments 1 through 3 as a block.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Let her call the vote for the Resolution 546.

**Clerk Fabella**

On the budget, the resolution is adopted as amended by a vote of 18 to four. And before we move on from that Legislator Lopez, there was Amendment 28 that you were not here for. Everyone was a yes on that. Would you like to be recorded for that?

**Legislator Lopez**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

And also, I believe Legislator Ronk, I just want to check did you have an abstention on 28?

**Legislator Ronk**

Yeah, I texted you to ask about that, but I wasn't sure where that came down. So if there was an abstention it would be Legislator Wawro for purposes of family employment.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right.

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendment 28 for the record, would be adopted 21 to zero with one abstention Legislator Wawro.

**Clerk Fabella**

And then we would move on to the final resolution for tonight which is 547, Adopting Ulster County Capital Program for 2022 to 2027.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Heppner you had a, um - Leader Heppner you were motion to block?

**Legislator Heppner**

Yeah. So I think I have a little bit of delay. Yeah. So I would like to block 1 through 3.

**Legislator Ronk**

Second.

**Chairman Donaldson**

How about you Legislator Ronk?

**Legislator Ronk**

I'll second that. Yeah.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right on the block.

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendments one through three are adopted 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Great, Amendment 4. To reduce the Enterprise West redevelopment project to the amount approved by the Resolution 399 of 2020. On the amendment?

**Legislator Heppner**

No comment, we're a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes, with three noes Legislators Litts, Bruno, and Haynes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Amendment No. 4 to the Capital Program is adopted 19 to three. Now you can move on to the Capital Program as amended.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Thank you, I just want to speak to the capital program for one moment to be on the record. It's an ambitious capital program. And it contains, as we all know, multiple placeholders and proposed programs for ARPA funding. I look forward to the coming year in defining those projects in detail and working through the working groups that have been set up in order to finalize the details on that in the in the coming year. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Already anybody else wish to speak on the county capital program. No, all right I'll call for the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

Short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

Short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adopted as amended 22 to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Before we ask for meeting adjourned the next meeting, of course is going to be a regular meeting of the county legislature on Tuesday, December 21st at 6:30pm along with and further information on that will be forthcoming. And I also - I'd like to adjourn this meeting in memory of Don Gregorius, on my Advalor buddy. Was always a pleasure to be around. Great guy. A fun guy. And an intelligent guy. He worried about his constituency, worried about his fellow legislators. He was a very good man. And Legislator Heppner I know you wish to say something.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yeah, I just like to speak very briefly on my predecessor, former Majority Leader and Legislator, Don Gregorius, as he was be-lovely known in Woodstock as Dandy Don for his amazing style and competitive edge. But I'll be simple. He loved his community. He loved his wife, Linda, and he loved this body. And I was fortunate to learn a lot from him and have a lot of conversations with him. And he dedicated exactly a decade to the legislature. So I think I speak on behalf of this legislature, those who knew him that we're lucky to have called him a friend and a colleague.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright, on that, I'd entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Litts**

Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion for adjournment.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Seconded by, Legislator Bartels. All those in favor of adjournment?

**Committee Members**

Aye. Aye.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright, thank you all and see the 21st.

**Legislator Litts**

Have a good night. Be safe.