

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

TRACEY A. BARTELS, Chair
EVE WALTER, Vice Chair
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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MINUTES

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

Available via *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 CHAIR: 7:09 PM

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

Led by Legislator Eric Stewart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ROLL CALL: Present: 23 Absent: 0

BIRTHDAYS:

Legislator Kathy Nolan, February 1st
Legislator Jonathan Heppner, February 2nd
Deputy Clerk Jay Mahler, February 23rd

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

UC Legislative Chair Tracey A. Bartels

Majority Leader, Jonathan Heppner

Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna LLP
Brahvan Ranga, For The Many
John Rossi, Rhinebeck, NY
UC Personnel Dept.
UC Probation Dept. Dir. Nancy Schmidt

UC Public Defender Ruth Boyer

UC Dept. Of Finance Comm. Burt Gulnick

Appointment UC Legislature Vice Chair,
Legislator Eve Walter
Appointment Electrical Licensing Board,
Legislator Kevin Roberts, Expires 12/31/23
Press Release, Tracey Bartels Returns To
Lead Ulster County Legislature
Press Release, Legislature Standing &
Special Committee & Leadership
Appointments
Press Release, American Rescue Act Special
Committee (ARPA) Appointments
UC Advisory Boards, Vacancies, Interviews
Chair Appt., Stewart Airport Commission
Press Release, Seeking Applicants To Serve
On UC Legislative Advisory Boards
Appointment Leg. Counsel D. Gordon
Thank You For Your Service V. Cueva
Press Release, Sojourner Truth Day 11/26
Letter, Town of Hurley Planning Board -
Southern Realty & Dev. LLC Dunkin
Donuts Drive Through
FOIL Request & Response
FOIL Request & Response
FOIL Request & Response
Civil Services Postings
Order Of Succession, 1.Valerie Naccarato
Deputy Dir., 2. Dana Ryan Probation Sup.
Order Of Succession, 1. Clifford Owens, 2.
Jeffrey Provenzano Justice Court Bureau
Chief
Properties Eligible For Foreclosure

COMMUNICATIONS (continued):

UC Veteran Services Agency, Dir. Cozzupoli
UC Planning Board
Mental Health Association of Ulster County
Hodgson Russ LLP
Budik Family
Craft Family
NACo.
Mr. Sam Goldberg, Kingston

Dr. Phillip Parker

UC Regional Chamber of Commerce

Town of Shawangunk, Clerk Jane Rascoe
UC Community Services Board
Rev. Alagna, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz Episcopal Church
NYSAC
UC Community Services Board, Chair Barbara Hill

UC Comptroller, March Gallagher, Esq.
Awareness
Family of Woodstock, Inc.
Dispute Resolution Center
Arts Mid-Hudson
UC Community Action
Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance
Tony Alfieri, Architect PLLC

Incentives To Hire Veterans And More
Minutes 1/5/22 & Agenda 2/2/22
Order Form, Anemones For Mental Health
Kingstonian Development, LLC Project
Thank You Note
Thank You Note
Calendar 2022 – I Love My County
Emails, Affordable Housing, Justice For
Monica Goods, Defund KPD, Pass Good
Cause Eviction
Email, In Support, Additional Railroad
Station Expansion To Reservoir
Special NYS Budget Presentation 1/26/22
Press Release, Rondout Laundromat
Opening 2/15/2022
Proposed Zoning Amendments LL# 1,2,3
Meeting Minutes, 12/31/2021
Letter, Support Good Cause Eviction Law
Brochure, 2022 Legislative Conf. 3/14-16th
Officers Named MH, Substance Abuse
Subcommittees & People w/Dev. Disabilites
Press Release, Transparency Measures
2021 Accomplishments-Milestones/Losses
2021 Supervised Visitation Report
2021 UC Legislature Annual Report
2021 Funding Received Annual Report
2021 Funding Annual Report
Agenda & HRWA Assessment Report
Minutes, SUNY Ulster Academic &
Facilities Master - Environmental Scan
Review

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

Executive Order Nos. 2022-4.09, 4.10,
4.11, 4.12, 4.14, 4.15
Executive Order No. 2022-4.13& State of
Emergency Declaration
Executive Order Nos. 5.01-2022, 5.02-
2022, State of Emergency Declaration

COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS (continued):

Press Release, Vax To School Scholarship
Press Release, Exec. Ryan Statement
Press Release, EM Housing Action Plan
Press Release, 2nd State-Run Test Site
Press Release, Exec. 7 New Appmts.
Press Release, Black History Month
Press Release, Drive-Thru Dist. Events
Organizational Mtg. UC Legislature
Order of Succession County Executive, 1.
Marc Rider, 2. Christopher Kelly, 3.
Johanna Contreras
Order of Succession Department Heads
Press Release, Formation of Countywide
Anti-Violence Effort Response Team
Appointments UC Traffic Safety Board,
Richard Brunner, David Corrigan, J.P.
Gramoglia, Eric Kight, Masterson, Schiller,
Sinagra, Tinti Term Expires 1/31/2025
Re-Appointment UC Traffic Safety Board:
Giovanna Russo Term Expires 1/31/2025
Re-appointments UC Electrical Licensing
Board: James Sass, Scott McCarthy,
Michael Catalano, Chris Peone Expires
12/31/2026
Appointment UC Board of Ethics, Dylan
Gallagher, Esq. Term Expires 1/31/2026
Periodic Compensation Review Committee
Minutes 12/8/2021
Corporate Compliance Committee Minutes
11-17-2021
Budgetary Transfers, January 2022
Invite, Clean Energy Announcement 2/15.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing,
Planning & Transit
Energy & Environment
Law Enforcement and Public Safety
Laws and Rules, Governmental Services

Laws and Rules, Way & Means Joint Mtg.
Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services
Public Health and Social Services
Public Works and Capital Projects
Ways and Means

DATE:

November 30, 2021
November 29, 2021
December 1, 2021
December 9, 2021
December 20, 2021
December 21, 2021
November 30, 2021
November 29, 2021
December 1, 2021
December 7, 2021
December 21, 2021

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Chair Tracey Bartels, in recognition of Resolution No. 8 of 2022 proclaiming the 26th Day of each November as Sojourner Truth Day in Ulster County, called upon Legislation Author Legislator Peter Criswell (District 7), who introduced Kingston YMCA Education Director Susan Hereth, Farm Project Empowerment Coordinators, and Ms. Barbara Allen, 6th generation granddaughter of Sojourner Truth.

Ms. Allen, who resides in Battle Creek Michigan, has authored two children's books celebrating her Great Grandmother's legacy, *Remembering Great Grandma Sojourner Truth*, and *Journey with Great Grandma Sojourner Truth*.

The movement to create a permanent Sojourner Truth Day was inspired by Kingston YMCA Farm Project Empowerment Coordinators Jessica Alonso, Ani Castillo, Aleshanee Emanuel, and Briana Gary. Many of these amazing young women, and Kingston YMCA Farm Project Education Director, Susan Hereth, were in attendance this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (on items currently before the Legislature):

There were no speakers signed up for public comment

**RESOLUTION NOS: 8 – 10, 12, 13, 19 – 26, 28, 30, 31, 33 - 95; 11, 14 – 18, 29, 32 – POSTPONED;
27 – DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE**

Resolution No. 11 – Requesting Enactment Of A Senate Bill And Assembly Bill In The New York State Legislature For A Special Law In Relation To The Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax Rates In Ulster County
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 14 - Authorizing The Termination Of A Lease Agreement With CPR Kingston, LLC Bank For Space Used By The Board Of Elections
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 15 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster, Chapter 131, Vehicles, County, Article I, Sustainable Green Fleet Policy, In Relation To Strategies And Goals, To Be Held On Tuesday, March 15, 2022 At 7:00 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 16 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 2 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Charter Of The County Of Ulster, Amending The Administrative Code, Repealing Chapter 44, Ethics And Disclosure, Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster, And Establishing The “Ulster County Ethics Law,” To Be Held On Tuesday, March 15, 2022 At 7:10 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 17 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 3 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 6 Of 2021, A Local Law Requiring The Payment Of A Living Wage To Employees Of Contractors And Subcontractors That Provide Services To Ulster County, In Relation To Living Wage For Social And Human Services, To Be Held On Tuesday, March 15, 2022 At 7:20 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 18 - Appointing An Independent Administrative Hearing Officer Pursuant To §304-25 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 29 - Funding Capital Project No. 601 – ARP Small Business And Economic Recovery – Department Of Finance
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 27 - Eliminating Management Position, Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget
DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 32 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$1,000,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc. – Department Of Finance
NO ACTION TAKEN IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 36 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$2,434,400.00 Entered Into By The County – ING Civil, Inc. – Department Of Public Works
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 69 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$150,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk, to move Resolution Nos. 28, 62, 63, 75 and 91 out of the Non-Consent Agenda and into the Consent Agenda. All in favor.

Consent

8 Proclaiming The Twenty-Sixth Of November As “Sojourner Truth Day”

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

9 Appointing Chairwoman Tracey A. Bartels As The Ulster County Legislature’s Member To Serve On The County Jury Board

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

12 Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Ulster County Fire Advisory Board

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

20 Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Soil And Water Conservation District Board

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

21 Appointing And Reappointing Legislative Members To The Soil And Water Conservation District Board

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

22 Confirming The Appointment Of Sharon Williams As Director Of Employment And Training

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

23 Confirming The Appointment Of Nick Hvozda As Director Of The Department Of Environment

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

25 Confirming The Reappointment Of Michael A. Iapocce As Commissioner Of Social Services

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

28 Dedicating Funding To Implement The Ulster County Respite House Policy

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 33 Amending Capital Project No. 577 McKinstry Bridge, Town Of Gardiner – Amending The 2021 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 35 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$199,434.10 Entered Into By The County – Creighton Manning Engineering, L.L.P. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 37 Establishing Capital Project Nos. 619 & 620 DPW Large Culvert Program – Amending The 2022 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Highways And Bridges)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 39 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Amend An Agreement With The New York State Unified Court System – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 40 Amending The 2022 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project No. 617 - Purchase Of County Fleet Vehicles — Department Of Public Works (Central Garage)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Erner)

**42 Establishing Capital Project No. 618 - Purchase Of Highway Equipment
— Department Of Public Works (Central Garage)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**44 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To
Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Geostabilization
International, LLC – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**45 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For Rates
Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gorman
Bros., Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**46 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To
Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gorman Bros., Inc. –
Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**47 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To
Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Highway Rehabilitation
Corp. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 48 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Callanan Industries, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 49 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Seneca Pavement Marking, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 50 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Sullivan County Paving & Construction, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 51 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Peckham Road Corp. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 52 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$10,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Alleymor, Inc. D/B/A Pestmaster Services – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 53 Establishing Capital Project No. 616 - Axon Body Camera Purchase, Amending The 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program, And Amending The 2022 Capital Project Fund – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 55 Amending Capital Project No. 482 – Countywide Radio System - Department Of Emergency Communications / Emergency Management**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 57 Establishing Capital Project No. 621 – Voting System Replacement – Board Of Elections**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 59 Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Transportation To Fund The Ulster County Transportation Council With The Ulster County Planning Department As Host Agency**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 60 Appointing Member And Alternate Member To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town Of Saugerties**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 61 Authorizing Submittal Of A Grant Application For Funding To The New York State Department Of Agriculture And Markets To Develop An Agricultural And Farmland Protection Plan For Ulster County – Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 62 Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute A Contract With The New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation Represented By The Office Of Community Renewal, For Federal Funding For The Implementation Of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program – Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget - Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 63 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$800,000.00 Entered Into By The County – RUPCO – Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 64 Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Designate Nick Hvozda As Environmental Records Review Certifying Officer For Small Business Assistance Programs Funded By New York State Homes And Community Renewal's Community Development Block Grant Program**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 65 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

- 66 Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Adult Protective Services 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

- 67 Amending The 2022 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

- 68 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement For The Preschool Special Education And Related Services Program With The Tri-Valley Central School District – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 70 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$67,500.00 Entered Into By The County – Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 71 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$67,500.00 Entered Into By The County – Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 72 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$90,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 73 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$90,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 74 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Support COVID19 Vaccine Response And Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

- 75 Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Reflect Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding From New York State Department Of Health For The Epidemiology And Laboratory Capacity School Reopening Grant – Department Of Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

- 76 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$14,308.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Zack Academy, Inc. – Department Of Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 77 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports – Department Of Mental Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 78 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$46,250.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 79 Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Create One Full-Time Homemaker Aide Position - Office For The Aging**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 81 Approving The Memorandum Of Agreement Between The County Of Ulster And The Ulster County Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association, Inc, For The Years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 And 2024 – Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 82 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$521,000.00 Entered Into By The County – J&J Sass Electric Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 83 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$16,807.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – New York Communications Company, Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 84 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Services, Office Of Interoperable And Emergency Communications, For The 2020 Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant – Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Emergency Communications / Emergency Management**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 85 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services For Participation In The Crimes Against Revenue Program – District Attorney**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 86 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services Funding Of A Gun Violence Grant – District Attorney**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 87 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Amend A Contract With The New York State Office of Victim Services For Funding Under The Victim And Witness Assistance Grant Program – Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 88 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Division of Criminal Justice – Sexual Assault Crisis and Prevention Program – Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 89 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Approve Execution Of A Contract With The New York State Office of Victim Services For A Victim Of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Program: Attorney Services - Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 90 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Legal Services of the Hudson Valley – Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 91 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$230,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 92 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$119,460.00 Entered Into By The County – New York Communications Company, Inc. – Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 93 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into Agreements With The Villages Of Ellenville, New Paltz, And Saugerties Relating To The Enforcement Of Real Property Tax Liens Under Article 11, Sections 1102, 1110 and 1150 Of The New York State Real Property Tax Law – Department Of Finance**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 94 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$27,556.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Tyler Technologies, Inc. – Department Of Information Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Non-Consent

10 Confirming Appointments To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

13 Supporting The Medicare For All Act, H.R. 1976, And The New York Health Act, A.6058/S.5474

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 15 NOES: 8
(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Fabiano, Hansut, Litts, Lopez, Maloney, Roberts, and Ronk)

19 Appointing And Reappointing Members To The Recycling Oversight Committee

Legislator Petit motioned, seconded by Legislator Ronk, to add the names Stephen Cerini and Tiffanie James as appointees in the spots as indicated above.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Erner)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Erner)

24 Confirming Reappointment Of A Member To The Ulster County Board Of Ethics

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 19 NOES: 4
(Noes: Legislators Erner, Maloney, Nolan, and Roberts)

26 Establishing The Ulster County Fair Pay And Salary Equity Policy: Requiring A Salary/Compensation Study Prior To The 2023 Ulster County Budget Cycle

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 21 NOES: 2
(Noes: Legislators Nolan, and Walter)

28 Dedicating Funding To Implement The Ulster County Respite House Policy

Moved to Consent

30 Funding Capital Project No. 599 – ARP Non-Profit, Youth and Community Programs – Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Legislator Gavaris motioned, seconded by Legislator Walter, to strike language, replace language, and insert an additional WHEREAS as presented and indicated above.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 16 NOES: 7
(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Fabiano, Hansut, Litts, Lopez, Roberts, and Ronk)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 20 NOES: 3
(Noes: Legislator Fabiano, Maloney, and Ronk)

**31 Funding Capital Project No. 602 – ARP Infrastructure and Trails –
Department of Finance, Division of Recovery and Resilience**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**34 Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$2,883,835.00 Bonds Of The
BOND County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The
Replacement Of The McKinstry Bridge, In And For Said County**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**36 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$2,434,400.00 Entered Into
By The County – ING Civil, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

**38 Authorizing The Replacement Of The Olive Road And Marlborough
BOND Road Culverts, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A
Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$142,000.00, And Authorizing The
Issuance Of \$142,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**41 Authorizing The Purchase Of County Fleet Vehicles, For The County Of
BOND Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$1,600,000.00 And
Authorizing The Issuance Of An Aggregate \$1,600,000.00 Bonds Of Said
County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Erner)

- 43
BOND** **Authorizing The Purchase Of Highway Equipment, For The Department Of Public Works (Central Garage) Of The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$3,240,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,240,000.00 Serial Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 54
BOND** **Authorizing The Replacement And Upgrade Of Technology At The Sheriff's Office, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$588,535.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$588,535.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 1
(NOES: Legislator Erner)

- 56
BOND** **Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$540,609.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Upgrade To The Countywide Radio System, For Said County**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 58
BOND** **Authorizing The Purchase Of A Replacement Voting System, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$1,400,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$1,400,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 62 Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute A Contract With The New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation Represented By The Office Of Community Renewal, For Federal Funding For The Implementation Of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program – Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget - Department Of Planning**

Moved to Consent

- 63 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$800,000.00 Entered Into By The County – RUPCO – Department Of Planning**

Moved to Consent

- 69 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$150,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

Postponed in committee

- 75 Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Reflect Public Health Emergency Preparedness Funding From New York State Department Of Health For The Epidemiology And Laboratory Capacity School Reopening Grant – Department Of Health**

Moved to Consent

- 80 Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$150,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Kingston Worx, A Division Of HealthAlliance Hospital Broadway Campus – Office For The Aging**

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Maloney, to Refer the Resolution back to the Health, Human Services and Housing Committee.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES: 8 NOES: 15
(Ayes: Erner, Greene, Litts, Lopez, Maloney, Petit,
Roberts, and Ronk)

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 18 NOES: 5
(Noes: Legislators Erner, Litts, Maloney, Petit,
and Ronk)

**91 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$230,000.00
Entered Into By The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Department
Of Probation**

Moved to Consent

Late Resolution

**95 Amending The 2022 Ulster County Budget To Create One Full-Time
Deputy Medical Examiner (Medicolegal Investigation) Position –
Department Of Health**

Legislator Gavaris motioned, seconded by Legislator Walter, to amend the resolution
as marked up and presented.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 22 NOES: 1
(Noes: Legislator Maloney)

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 15 NOES: 8
(Noes: Legislators Corcoran, Fabiano, Hansut, Litts, Lopez,
Maloney, Roberts, and Ronk)

PUBLIC COMMENT (on subjects *not* currently before the Legislature):

There was (1) speaker signed up for public comment.

1. Supervisor Michael Baden: See transcript.

Note: Chair Bartels acknowledged and congratulated Minority Leader Ronk who passed his EMT exam.

MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF: Read by Legislator Sperry.

Fred J. Costello, Sr., Glasco, N.Y.	Elizabeth Wolven, Saugerties, N.Y.
Marilyn B. Powers, New Paltz, N.Y.	C. Dino Giuliano, Samsonville, N.Y.
K. Veronica “Ronnie” Watkins, Pine Bush, N.Y.	Edith H. Brechter, Port Ewen, N.Y.
Robert M. Langling, Woodstock, N.Y.	Joan Barranca, Ulster Park, N.Y.
Elizabeth Heitzman, Kingston, N.Y.	James R. Kelso, Pine Bush, N.Y.
John G. Rell, Saugerties, N.Y.	Blossom Rozman, Ellenville, N.Y.
Gilbert W. Glass, North Port, FL.	Clark H. Ulmer, Boiceville, N.Y.
John E. Constable, Town of Wawarsing, N.Y.	Betty M. Decker, Saugerties, N.Y.
Robert Pino, Saugerties, N.Y.	Mary Keane, Newburgh, N.Y.
Neil Porcelli, Highland, N.Y.	Fred Butwell, Highland, N.Y.
Judy B. Reggero, Saugerties, N.Y.	John C. Bach, Saugerties, N.Y.
James F. Dougherty Jr., Bradenton, FL.	William E. Radcliffe Jr., Kingston, N.Y.
Rebbetzin Chave Hecht OBM, Greenfield Park, NY	Will Vega, Highland, N.Y.
Walter H. Houde, New Paltz, NY	Michael Perkins, Glenford, NY
Constance “Connie” Hogarth, Beacon, NY	

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

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:00 PM

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Further Meeting details shall be forthcoming.

Resolution deadline is this Friday, February 18, 2022 at 12 Noon.

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

TRACEY A. BARTELS, Chairwoman
JONATHAN R. HEPPNER, Majority Leader
KENNETH J. RONK, JR., Minority Leader
VICTORIA A. FABELLA, Clerk



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TRANSCRIPT

February 15, 2022

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

Chair Bartels

Thank you. I'd like to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting. Call the meeting to order. I'm going to ask Legislator Stewart to lead us in the pledge. Please rise and remain standing for a moment of silence.

Legislator Stewart

Thank you, Chair Bartels. 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.

Chair Bartels

Be seated. Clerk Fabella can you please take the roll?

Clerk Fabella

Absolutely. Bartels.

Chair Bartels

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Phil Erner

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Present.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Present.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

I am here.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Present.

Clerk Fabella

Sperry.

Legislator Sperry

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Legislator Stewart

Here.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Here.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

Here.

Clerk Fabella

23 present and zero absent.

Chair Bartels

Thank you. We have three birthdays this month. Legislator Cathy Nolan February 1st, happy birthday Kathy. Legislator Jonathan Heppner February 2nd, happy birthday Jonathan. And Deputy Clerk Jay Mahler, February 23rd, happy birthday.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Heppner, may I have a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting.

Legislator Heppner

So moved.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk, second?

Legislator Ronk

Second.

Chair Bartels

All those in favor of dispensing with the reading of the minutes.

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Bartels

Oppose. Passes unanimously.

Chair Bartels

Please take note that there are several important communications on file with the clerk as well as reports and do not hesitate to reach out to the clerk. If you're interested in seeing of them you'll be provided hard copies or digital copies, whatever your preference is.

Chair Bartels

In honor of Black History Month, and in recognition of Resolution No. 8 of 22 proclaiming the 26th day of each November as Sojourner Truth day in Ulster County. It's my great pleasure to call upon the legislations author, Legislator Peter Criswell, District 7, to introduce the program and our very special guests.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you, Chairwoman Bartels. I am so pleased to bring this legislation to the floor. I've been so impressed by the commitment and energy of Jessica Alonso, Ani Castillo, Aleshanee Emanuel and Briana Gary. They are empowerment coordinators at the Kingston YMCA Farm project. They approached me three years ago to discuss ways to honor the legacy of Sojourner Truth and with their input and drive

we as a legislative body in both 2020 and 2021, declared November 26th as Sojourner Truth day in Ulster County. Today, we will solidify November 26 as Sojourner Truth day in Ulster County for all time. The historical figures we choose to honor really matter. They mean that young people, including women of color, have models to look up to who represent and look like them. That means legislation like this really matters. It's fitting that a black woman of this stature and historical importance is being celebrated with her own permanent day. Legislature is grateful for the passionate advocacy of these young women, and we applaud their determination to shine a light on the legacy of one of our nation's most important human rights activists who courageously fought for abolition and universal suffrage. They are joined tonight by the Education Director of the Y Farm project, Susan Hereth. Susan, if you'd like to say a few words.

Susan Hereth

Sure, I just want to thank Peter and the Ulster County Legislature for this opportunity to support youth voices in our community, and also to welcome Miss Barbara Allen to tonight's vote as a descendant of Sojourner Truth. It's really important for her to be a part of this. The Kingston YMCA Farm Project is an urban farm in the heart of Kingston. For those of you who don't know, we're entering our ninth growing season this year, and our mission is to connect and educate and nourish our community. Our goal is to empower youth in the City of Kingston through meaningful community based work. So they are all employed on our urban farm in youth design teams, to beautification projects, and do the work of our empowerment coordinators who you will hear from tonight. It's a real privilege and honor for me to work alongside some of our county's most brilliant and dedicated young adults, Briana Gary, Jessica Alonso and Aleshanee Emanuel, as well as Ani Castillo who can't be with us this evening. So I'm proud to introduce Aleshanee, and Briana and Jessica, who will speak about their work for Sojourner Truth Day.

Farm Project Empowerment Coordinators

I, um, yeah. So I'm also very honored to be here and to be a part of the whole Sojourner Truth day movement. It's very near and dear to my heart. So I just wanted to say that Sojourner Truth is such an impactful being everything she did, overcame - fought for was so monumental, and it's so hard to believe that some don't even know her name, let alone her legacy. She was an awe-inspiring advocate, abolitionist feminists and mother who took great strides despite her circumstances. Although enslaved, this woman took her child and walked to freedom. Although illiterate, this amazing woman spoke of the truth to thousands of people and uplifted their spirits and taught them through action, what strength really was. Although a previously enslaved black woman, Sojourner was the first ever black woman to win a court case against a white man, all in the name of justice and liberation for her people and her son. This epic monumental win took place in our very own Ulster County Courthouse, which I think is super cool. And I just would like to take a moment to acknowledge how powerful that truly is. That beautiful history happened right here in Ulster County. And that heartening history was made many years ago and took us diving into our story to find that out. And our mission was Sojourner Truth day is to make this meaningful history easily accessible and understood to our community, building a sense of empowerment as it did with us at the farm. This history shouldn't have to be dug up to be told, and it should be open and honored, and celebrated along with this truly remarkable woman who is beyond words. This is the type of hero that we should be honoring and celebrating. And as young women of color, Sojourner Truth actions are never glossed over in our minds, but instead, uses fuel and inspiration to make the change that we want to see. And that is why Sojourner Truth day is so important to all of us. And with that being

said, I'm going to pass the mic over to Briana to share how we have taken our Sojourner Truth, passion and turned it into something tangible.

Briana Gary

Hello, everybody. I just want to say a bit about our efforts to honor Sojourner Truth for a little over a year now we've been working as a team to learn about her deep connection to Ulster County, and some of the projects that we've done include producing the language for the Kingston, Esopus and Ulster County proclamations for a Sojourner Truth day. Our most recent project has been working to install a whole new plaque for her and uptown Kingston that will be in front of the courthouse where she won a court case to free her son from slavery. And with this class, we hope to educate more people about who she was and what her connection to Kingston and all of Ulster County is. And we are continuing our efforts to push for a statewide Sojourner Truth day and recently we have in contact with Sojourner Truth's great granddaughter, Barbara Allen, who wrote a children's book about her great grandmother. And we were able to have a live stream with her, where we asked her questions and learned about Sojourner Truth lineage, which was so awesome. And so far, we have accomplished a lot. And we received a lot of support, especially from all of you. And I'm excited to see what the future holds. Thank you.

Farm Project Empowerment Coordinators

And I just like to take this moment to say thank you, on behalf of us coordinators and the directors at the Y farm to everyone who's been involved in this initiative and who's helped move this day along up to this point, especially Peter, who has been our go to contact for support. In terms of designating November 26th as Sojourner Truth day for Ulster County. I remember when we first approached you with the idea of a permanent Sojourner Truth day, we didn't think it was even legislatively possible, but I'm glad that we kept with it and we found a way to make it happen because I really think that an official Sojourner Truth day in Ulster County is going to help bring Sojourner the credit in recognition from Ulster County - her birthplace that she's been more than deserving of. But from what us coordinators have shared with each other outside of her famous (inaudible) speech, she's hardly taught about within the school curriculum, which I think is a real missed opportunity. So I really hope that this day, you know, being an official, Ulster County, you know, holiday, I guess more locals will stop and reflect on Sojourner Truth and her legacy and, maybe even develop a, like a closer relationship with her or even come to terms with the horrific reality that was in Ulster County for so many black people. I also really hope that this day, especially inspires people to continue the fight that she was working toward. It's estimated that she was born in 1797. So it being too 2022 it's apparently the 225th anniversary of her presumed birth. And 225 years later, the fight that she and her family were part of, is still not over. And I hope that it doesn't take another 225 years for it to be over. And I hope that you all on this council will do what you can do to you know, help, you know, pass legislation that reflect her values. Now that Ulster County recognizes Sojourner Truth, and her values as being so important to history and for today, I hope that, you know, we all can do what we can do to, you know, continue to fight for those values like feminism and oppression and anti racism that she stood for. So yeah, thank you all. And I'll pass it back to Susan.

Susan Hereth

Yes, so on behalf of all of us at the Kingston YMCA Farm project, we have a whole crew of high school students that work with us and my colleagues, Casey and Pat, we really appreciate you uplifting Sojourner

Truth, inviting her great granddaughter Barbara to join us and hearing the voices of youth. So back to you, Peter. Thank you.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you. Always so inspiring to hear these young women speak. So thank you so much for being here tonight. We are so pleased and so honored to have Barbara Allen with us tonight. Barbara M. Allen is the sixth-generation granddaughter of Sojourner Truth. She is the descendant of Sophia, the infant daughter Sojourner Truth carried to freedom in 1826. Ms. Allen who resides in Battle Creek, Michigan has authored two children books celebrating her great grandmother's legacy, "Remembering Great Grandmother Sojourner Truth", and "Journey With Great Grandmother Sojourner Truth." Ms. Allen, thank you so much for being here and we invite you to say a few words. Thank you.

Barbara Allen

I thank you. Again, my name is Barbara Allen and I am the sixth-generation granddaughter of Sojourner Truth. And on behalf of the descendants, I want to thank you for allowing me to be here today to witness this historic moment and say a few words of appreciation as well. This day represents different things for different people. As a descendant I see it as an acknowledgement of a strong and courageous woman who lived her life in the service of others by speaking out against injustice. Sojourner believed that everyone deserved freedom, dignity and respect. She believed slaves should be free. And women, regardless of their race should have equal rights. In fact, her words are still being used today to speak out against injustice and speak up for equality. So to see her being honored here today is evidence that we heard her voice. And we all are working towards a more just future. I believe if my great grandmother could be here today, she would humbly accept this honor and embrace the place she once called home. So in her absence, I humbly and respectfully, thank you again for officially decreeing, November the 26th as Sojourner Truth day in Ulster County. Thank you.

Legislator Criswell

Thank you so much. And again, thank you so much for being here with us tonight. And I'm gonna toss this back to Chairwoman Bartels, please.

Chair Bartels

Thank you. And thank you all for your truly inspiring words. You're wise beyond your years. And we're really grateful and we are humbled to have you here with us today. In honor of the special occasion, we're going to take Resolution No. 8 out of order. So Clerk Fabella, would you please introduce the resolution.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution No. 8. Proclaiming the 26th of November as Sojourner Truth Day.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution? All those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Legislator Stewart

Opposed?

Chair Bartels

It's unanimous. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 23 to zero.

Chair Bartels

Now we'll move into the public comment portion of the meeting. We'll have up to two minutes to speak. And this is the public comment portion that pertains to our agenda items this evening. Clerk Fabella how many people do we have signed up to speak?

Clerk Fabella

We did have two people signed up who've decided they don't want to speak.

Chair Bartels

Alright is there - I don't need to ask if there's anyone else, so used to that. But since no one's actually in person will that's the final word on the speakers. There's no one else that would like to speak. Okay. Okay, so we'll all move into the resolution portion of this evening. I'd like to just remind all legislators again since we have some new legislators with us, to please remain on camera in order to be counted in your votes. Legislator Heppner, are there any resolutions moving in or out of consent?

Legislator Heppner

With the agreement of Leader Ronk I believe we can move resolutions 28, 62, 63, 75 and 91 from non-consent to consent.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

I have no objections.

Chair Bartels

Okay, so on the consent on the consent agenda as amended.

Legislator Heppner

On the consent agenda, we are a short yes with abstentions on 74 and 75 from Legislator Walter for the purpose of employment.

Legislator Ronk

We have a short yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolutions are adopted 23 to zero with the exception of Resolutions 74 and 75, which are adopted 22 to zero with one abstention Legislator Walter.

Chair Bartels

Right, we'll move into the non-consent agenda Clerk Fabella.

Clerk Fabella

The first resolution is Resolution No. 10. Confirming appointments to the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thanks. I'm going to be a yes on this as are my caucus members. I just wanted to point out that for the second consecutive year due to what I feel is a disagreement on appointments and where they fall there is no minority representative on the RRA board. Hopefully that will be reconciled next year when the person who the majority feels is the minority member. You know, his term is up and but until then I felt the need to point that out for the record

Chair Bartels

And seeing no other hands on the resolution.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution, we're a short yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes as well.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

The next resolution is Resolution No. 13. Supporting the Medicare for all Act, HR 1976 and the New York Health Act, Assembly Bill 6058 and Senate Bill 5474.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yeah, I'll be a no on this. So I just want to quickly explain why. Actually three or four years ago, I wrote the resolution that brought back moralizing resolutions because it had become such a political football. I actually truly believe that moralizing resolutions are a mechanism for a body, whether it's a town board,

a county legislature, to get attention on to something that is uniquely affecting us. Indian Point only affects the surrounding area, the turbidity in the Esopus. These are environmental examples of the entire state may not care about it. There are things that only a few districts may be affected by. That, to me is what memorializing resolutions are for. We don't have the ability to act on this, but we need the state. We need the feds, we need an entity to help us we need attention on this because we're not getting any help. And nobody cares because it's only affecting us. This is not that. This is something that the entire country is dealing with. I don't think this is what moralizing resolutions are for, which is why I'm going to be a no on any memorializing resolution that doesn't uniquely affect Ulster County in a way that doesn't affect other counties the same way. This affects every county in the entire United States the same way. And also this legislation was also put up by my predecessor, Chris Allen, almost very similar, almost identical several years ago, and I think it was passed then. I truly think we watered down the effectiveness of memorializing resolutions when we use them for something that's broad.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Thank you, Chair Bartels. Some of what I'm going to say reflects the sentiment of Legislator Maloney. But I'm going to be a no on this for a number of reasons. First, for the record, I'm not against for affordable quality health care. That of everybody in the legislature, I probably benefit most from it. That said, you know, I don't think the current for profit system is working for us either. So I probably fall someplace in the middle where the free market doesn't deny preexisting conditions. And a panel of government bureaucrats, you know, are the ones responsible for making decisions whether our, you know, grandma lives or dies, either. And I know that sounds extreme, but it's, I think it could be an issue going forward. But what I am against is voting for an idea that we don't have answers to. The Medicare for all right now, is only an idea. It's a ghost. They were not. This resolution doesn't support pending legislation. There's no CBO score. We don't know how much it's gonna cost. We don't know how we're gonna pay for it. We don't know what it cuts. And we don't know what it covers. Furthermore, it's unfortunate that both Medicare for all in the New York State Plan were put in the same resolution because I think it would have gotten a little more support if they were separate. And lastly, I'm going to be a no, and this is where I agree with Legislator Maloney. Just based on the nature of this resolution, this is why I voted to get rid of memorializing resolutions and I voted against bringing them back, because they're almost always political in nature. To get us on the record for something we have absolutely no control over. The bottom line, this isn't gonna land on somebody's desk, in the House or the Senate and change their mind to an affirmative because the Ulster County Legislature urge them to do so. It's just not going to happen. So I'm definitely enough. Thank you.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter

Thank you, and thanks everyone who is supporting this, either as cosponsors or in other ways. Just as some background, both Legislator Erner and myself had many community members reaching out to us, urging us to move forward on this. This has so much serious implications for every member of Ulster

County which is why it is so important. And I do truly believe that our representatives actually do recognize the importance of Ulster County and where we stand on things. And I, well, I get that we ourselves cannot pass our own laws on universal health care. I do think that our representatives will be listening to this and taking it seriously. Ulster County is a major part of many of their districts. And I don't think it'll be for nothing. And once again, thank you all for those of you who support this. It really sends a very good and strong message to people who are struggling to pay for the costs of taking care of themselves, or staying in jobs that they don't want to be in because of not even efficient health care who are going, you know, choosing- having to choose between going to the doctor and feeding their families. For all of them, I thank you.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution, we're short, yes with one no Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Uchitelle

On the resolution we have a short no.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 15 to eight.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution No. 19. Appointing and Reappointing Members to the Recycling Oversight Committee.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit

Thank you. I would like to make a motion to submit the names of Stephen Cerini Ulster Park, New York, to fill the vacant position of multifamily dwelling and the name of Tiffany James Saugerties, New York to fill the at large position.

Clerk Fabella

Is there a second on the proposed amendment?

Legislator Ronk

I'll second that.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk. On the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

On the amendment I believe we are short yes. One no Legislator Erner.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes.

Clerk Fabella

On the resolution as amended.

Legislator Heppner

As amended. We are short, yes with one no, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted as amended 22 to one.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution No. 24. Confirming Reappointment of a Member to the Ulster County Board of Ethics.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

I'm going to be a no on this. And I want to make it clear that it's got nothing to do with Mr. Benjamin. I have respect for him and I think he's a decent human being that through a long life and involvement, local politics, I think he's been a pretty a stand-up individual. And I'm not sure my experience with the board of ethics would have been what it was how he'd been there. But we have some issues with the board of ethics. I think we're picking up the paper and reading about these types of ethics boards around the country, even around the state. And I think it can be pretty misleading. About three years ago, was actually following an ambulance down the road. My father had a massive heart attack. We weren't sure if he was going to make it. I got a call from a reporter asking me why I was forcing raises through for my wife. I had no idea what she was talking about. And I begged her to wait and give me a day or two to talk to her. I came up here to expose corruption and clean things up that I felt could have been done better. Days before I got that phone call. I sat down with the Public Integrity Bureau, of the state's AG's office. We talked about some contracts inside the county, Van Del properties, Westchester Medical, the IDA, some tax abatements that have been given out. I brought forth some real evidence and issues that I had. Then a few days later, these charges come in. A few days after that the executive announced he was leaving midterm to go to Albany. We all saw what happened there. Some of these allegations were outrageous. They eventually were thrown out by the state Supreme Court being called arbitrary and capricious which is basically the strongest language you can use legally. One of the accusations was that I said something in a meeting that might eventually lead to my wife a 10-year union member tested, senior auditor, business finance degree, being helped with making copies and answering phones. It was a slap in the face to her. It was bizarre. One of the problems that the state Supreme Court eventually pointed out was that it wasn't a quote made by me. When they went back and listened to the meeting, it

was actually a quote from Dave Donaldson. Dave has had some health issues in his life and has a trach. I don't think we sound much alike but that was that was one of the three charges. They were outrageous, but it didn't matter. It was on me to fight them. Cost me \$11,000, I had to get a lawyer. The first time I spoke to my eventual lawyer, the first words out of his mouth were, "What the hell was going on in Ulster County?" He was actually appointed to the Ethics Board for three or four years in Dutchess County by Mark Molinero, and said that he'd never seen anything like this and certainly wouldn't happen in Dutchess County. The Exec realized that he appointed all five members to the ethics board. The county attorney on direction from the executive put these ethics charges in and he knew that he could release it because he has that power. Another thing we have to deal with, it would go to the papers, and then it would be up to me to spend big time money to clear my name, my son's name, my father's name. And in the meantime, he could assassinate my character on the front page of paper with allegations. And that's exactly what he attempted to do. If it wasn't for - I truly believe this, if it wasn't for Dave Donaldson, coming to my aid and speaking out and talking about what was really going on here. That I don't think I would have been able to return to the legislature. But what me and my family went through what it cost us is not something to play around with and have happened again. We need to clean this up. We need different people appointing these members to the ethics board, we have to clean up the power that the the executive has to control this entire situation.

Legislator Maloney

There was so much more to the story. I was served three times to my business, to my house. The ethics board never done that before in Ulster County. They had never released things publicly. They've never fined anybody, even though they had found people guilty. I was fined \$7,000. They actually told me if I stepped down from the legislature, they would remove the fine. While I filed my article 78 my right to an appeal process. They tried to lobby legislators to remove me from my seat and forced me to pay a fine even before the state Supreme Court was able to see it. Over \$10,000 of taxpayer money was spent doing this to me and like I said, I just spent \$11,000 to clear my name. Was not acceptable. It can't happen again. No one should go through this. It took a real toll on me and my family. And that's why I'm a no on this because I'll be a no on anything having to do with this ethics board until we fix this ethics board to make things like this impossible to happen again. In that same period David Donaldson talked about it publicly as well. Several charges have been put in to people to put them in Cc'd Mr. Donaldson in Legislator Donaldson, former Chair Legislator Donaldson on what seemed to be in his opinion, pretty reasonable charges against other sitting elected officials. Those people had good relationships with the exec, those charges went nowhere. We have an ethics board. The 200,000 people that live in this county think we have an ethics board. They think if you do something unethical, that something will happen. They think if you don't do something unethical, nothing will happen. But that's not the case here.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Maloney, okay. I was just gonna ask if you could wrap up your time. Thank you, Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit

Thank you. I will be a yes on this resolution. However, I do have concerns about how the ethics board is functioning. Going back to what Legislator Maloney said I was here when that horrible process that we should have publicly apologized to him about happened. And, you know, as part of that, then chair David

Donaldson had written a letter stating that the ethics board did things procedurally that are beyond questionable and unacceptable. And it's also questionable if they had the legal right to impose the kinds of punishment that they presume in the decision when it comes to an elected office. In addition to that, we had a question that we wanted to bring in front of the ethics board, and they never met. It finally was another legislator who was chairing a committee who asked our legislative attorney how we should proceed. So you know, again, I am a yes on this resolution. But I would like to, to say that we need to keep a close eye on what this ethics board is doing.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution, we are short yes with the following noes, Legislator Nolan, Maloney and Erner.

Legislator Uchitelle

We're a short yes with one no Legislator Roberts.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 19 to four.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 26. Establishing the Ulster County Fair Pay and Salary Equity Policy Requiring a Salary Compensation Study Prior to the 2023 Ulster County Budget Cycle.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution, Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thank you, Madam Chair. Um, you know, I don't know if I've ever been more in favor of this than I am tonight after the Ways and Means Committee meeting today. You know, I'm told that the executive's office in the finance department is going to look into the salary and a study is what I was told of the salary of the chief medical examiner now that they're -the candidates, we have that position are refusing to do normal duties, which have been done by previous chief medical examiner's. You know, and this again, you know, I feel like we've been running government piecemeal, for the last, you know, two and a half, three years, without a great plan, or without the evidence of a comprehensive plan. And, you know, this, hopefully, you know, thanks to the sponsors, putting it in will help us work towards more comprehensive plans when it comes to these county departments. And we won't have to trust individual compensation studies, you know, as we try and figure out what our employees should be paid in certain positions. So, again, I was, I'd say a mild, yes on this. Prior to the discussion about the medical examiner's office now, I'm incredibly strong yes on this. I think it's important that we move forward.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution, we are short, yes with the following noes Legislators Nolan and Walter.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short, yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 21 to two.

Clerk Fabella

28 was moved to consent.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 30. Funding Capital Project No. 599, ARP, Nonprofit Youth and Community Programs Department of Finance, Division of Recovery and Resilience.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

I'd like to move this with the amendment that's presented before you.

Chair Bartels

Is there a second on the amendment?

Legislator Walter

I'll second it.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Walter. Legislator Ronk did I see your hand?

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, but I can wait until after the amendment.

Chair Bartels

Okay.

Legislator Ronk

You know, can talk about the amendment.

Chair Bartels

You make, sure.

Legislator Ronk

Thank you. You know, I respect the intent of the amendment. But in my opinion, the amendment relies too much on the cooperation from the county executive, because we don't have in our charter authority, the ability to declare that the county executive will appoint people to his committees, such as like an RFP Committee, which this is going to be. You know, we're relying an awful lot on his goodwill when it comes to this. I feel like there's a lot better, more forceful ways for us to exercise our legislative authority if we wanted to. I understand this was like a last minute, you know, change to try and exercise a little bit of oversight. And again, I do want to emphasize the word little in little bit of oversight. I don't think that this does, what we expect it to do, what we desire it to do. And as a legislature, you know, we, in my opinion, and folks can disagree with me if they'd like to, obviously, but in my opinion, I think that we need to actually start exercising oversight over these projects and over the county executive's office. And as much as I respect the intent of this I don't think that the you know, actual effect of it lives up to the intent.

Chair Bartels

On the amendment.

Legislator Heppner

On the amendment were short yes with one abstention Legislator Hewitt for the purpose of employment

Legislator Uchitelle

On the amendment I believe that we're short no but someone correct me if I'm wrong on that. Hearing none were a short no.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is adopted 15 to seven with one abstention Legislator Hewitt.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution as amended.

Legislator Heppner

Did Leader Ronk want to speak again?

Chair Bartels

I actually see Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

I'm just, I just think we have to be careful up here on the sixth floor not to get into a bubble, where we think we're going to solve the world's problems. I don't know we have this on- time influx of money that we can, you know, pick one or two things and really make a difference 30 or 40 years down the line. You know, we've had these conversations in caucus, people agree, others don't. I just think I just feel like we're checking a box, do we know of an offer profit that wouldn't need this money. Almost every not for profit in the state will probably qualify in the county will probably qualify. Not sure what we're really doing. But nickel and diming our way through this ARPA money. And I do not mean, to disparage not for profits that do God's work that's not the case. It's just I truly don't believe this is the job of government to bail out

not for profits to do a you know, a first come first serve bailout of small businesses with no real vetting or process or guaranteed fairness in the process. So I'm a no, it does not mean I don't appreciate what these not for profits do. But when I give a not for profit hard earned tax dollars, I want somebody helped immediately. I don't want to pay rent. And there's no guarantee how I mean, we really, I don't see enough here that lets me know that we're not just paying the salary of somebody that heads one of these not for profits, that makes over \$100,000 a year. I just don't see enough that this is what I wanted ARPA to be. This is - we're not planting seeds here. And this money will run out. Just because it's nice and sounds good. Doesn't mean it's what we should be doing.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thanks, just to, you know, echo and add on to some of the points that Legislator Maloney just made. You know, this ARPA money will run out and I believe that there are more foundational ways for us to spend the ARPA funds that will not only help county residents help move county government forward and help in many of the areas that the ARPA monies allowed to be used for. You know, but I always struggle with, you know, some of the first come first served programs, you know, I have the same concern about the economic development money that was postponed. It's one of the reasons I wanted to have this postponed as well. You know, it seems like, again, it makes us feel really good on the inside to fund these not for profits, but in the end, you know, how many people are we serving? Do we have metrics that we can show that this money helped, you know, X, which led to Y and then to Z, you know, in order to really track the usefulness of the spending of the ARPA money. It's really a once in a lifetime opportunity for the county, and for us in the county to really, you know, transform and help our taxpayers and our residents and the people who live here. And I feel like, you know, the same way, I feel that the economic development money. I'm sure every not for profit, and the county could really use some of this money, but the money is not enough to help everybody. So again, we're going to have the executive's office picking winners or losers, we may have a small, tertiary, you know, role in it now that we're going to have up to two or at least two, which I believe means two legislators on the committee that's going to choose the recipients. You know, just respectfully, I think that we would all be better served with a little bit more time and attention to this in order to make sure the process is not only what we look for, but what is going to serve the taxpayers the best. So again, that's why I'm going to be a no because I feel like again, you know, sometimes the process matters more than the result and I feel like we don't spend enough time talking about process and I think that should change.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Thank you. I was planning to abstain, because I would like to apply for some of this fun funding. But I think I'd like to change my mind in order to speak on behalf of this concept, because I don't want to apply for this funding now. Is that acceptable?

Chair Bartels

Yes. If you'd like to speak to council through the chair, you can but I would.

Legislator Hewitt

At the advice of David Gordon, I was going to apply for a small amount of funding because I work for an important nonprofit in Kingston, and nonprofits I believe, make our county strong. We saw tonight, from the YMCA Farm project, a group of inspiring young women and young men who worked at the YMCA Farm project, who are led by people like Susan Hereth and Casey Wimbish, who I hope are here in 30 years. They teach people about land behind the YMCA right in our urban center, about soil and nutrients, food and health. And tonight, they taught us about social justice and equity and they're in service to other people like Legislator Maloney said, God's work. Even without funding we saw throughout COVID everyone was showing up doing the work. The YMCA with Heidi showing up for people and activities and recreation. The Farm project as we know, this CCE and CCE Cornell Cooperative Extension gets state funding because they are the land grant university. The Center for Creative education Drew Andrews works very hard to get funding. Family of Woodstock get some of our funding but the Hodge Center is a project of theirs and Tina works hard. People's Place, Christine Hine, My Kingston Kids, Frank Waters, La Voz - Mariel Fiori, Midtown Rising, Jordan and RVGA. I can keep naming names and nonprofits. The food hubs that were feeding people, Ulstercorps, Beth McClendon who shows up with her little Subaru packed to the gills with food from people. Yes, there are other ideas for 30 years from now, and I have a few of them that I'd like to share with you all. But in 30 years, I hope these people are here. I hope we'll be able to help pay their bills, whatever they are, so they could show up to do the work. And these are our future leaders. And we got to hear from some of them tonight. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Thank you. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thank you. And I respect all the points that Legislator Hewitt just made. You know, one thing that I continued to hear as, as he went through them were organizations that I know already received county funding through our county budget. And I'm not saying that that doesn't mean that they could do well with with more funding. But one of my points is that, you know, my food pantry here in the hamlet of Wallkill, the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry doesn't receive any county funding. They receive mostly just donations from my local community. And quite frankly, a lot of times we put programs like this out, you named a host of programs that are predominantly located in the greater Kingston area. While I respect that, that is where a lot of the population in the county lives. It's not I wouldn't say a majority of the population of the county and a rural county like ours, information about grant opportunities like this, don't always make it out to the more rural more, you know, geographically diverse areas of our county, and a lot of this money gets consolidated in several areas. And that's one of the concerns I've always had about using money like this for grants that are first come first served. Because a lot of those a lot of those grants, the grants that you know, the people who asked for it first are typically the ones who get it predominantly does not end up in my district or Legislator Hansut's district or Legislator Lopez's district or Legislator Roberts, district. You know in the outer areas of the county. Um, you know, I can tell you, I think that, you know, EMS services is a great place to spend ARPA funds. And we're gonna end up spending more money in many other areas that doesn't have to do with that. And that is, I mean, directly pandemic related as far as how to spend the ARPA funds. So Legislator Hewitt I respect everything that

you said about the good work that these organizations do, but one of my concerns is that we're double or triple funding some of these organizations because they received county funding, state funding, federal funding, and now ARPA funding. So that's one of the areas where I really just think that we need to be really thoughtful about how we're spending it.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yeah, I just want to encourage every legislator to respond to the email that was sent out today by myself and Legislator Bartels about your ideas for how to spend this money. Please respond and respond with as much detail as possible. Thanks.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, on the resolution.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution, we are a short yes with one no, Legislative Maloney.

Legislator Uchitelle

Were a short yes with two noes, Legislators Ronk and Fabiano.

Chair Bartels

That's as amended. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted as amended 20 to three. And to correct the record Legislator Hewitt since you're no longer abstaining, should you like - would you like to be recorded as a yes on the amendment? Right now I have you abstaining on the amendment that was voted on before it was 15 to seven with you abstaining on the amendment to this resolution. So I can make that 16 to seven with no abstentions. It's your call.

Legislator Hewitt

You're talking to me? I froze for a second.

Clerk Fabella

You had said you had abstained from the amendment vote. And now you're saying?

Legislator Hewitt

No abstention.

Clerk Fabella

Okay, so the correct vote on the amendment is 16 to seven with no abstentions, and the resolution is adopted as amended 20 to Three.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 31. Funding Capital Project No. 602 ARP Infrastructure and Trails Department of Finance, Division of Recovery and Resilience.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Thank you, Chair Bartels. I'd planned to vote no on this. But I'd like to change my vote to yes. And I just like to make a comment about some concerns I have in general about the continued housing displacement from the core of Kingston, here in District 6 and continuing to put many vulnerable individuals in a congregate setting where they're isolated. I understand the developers of the project for which we're planning to allocate ARPA funds, if this passes, have provided some answers about that. But I'm not entirely satisfied that we're going to enable folks with housing insecurity, mental health, and other issues, the services that they need all in one place with adequate transportation access and opportunities to eventually move on from that space on Route 28. I also had questions as to I understand water and sewer infrastructure is a prescribed use by the federal government for these funds. But I still had some questions about that particular allocation. Nonetheless, I'm not going to stand in the way, so I'm going to change my vote to yes, Leader Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Thank you.

Chair Bartels

Thank you.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution, we are a short, yes.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 34 is a Bond Resolution. Authorizing the Issuance of an Additional \$2,883,835 Bonds of the County of New York to Pay Part of the Cost of the Replacement of the McKinstry Bridge in for Said County.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Chair Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Legislator Erner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yes. I'm going to be a yes. But I would quickly like to say that I'll be putting in some legislation in the next couple of months to track where a lot of these bridge and culvert projects are being done. I think to Ken's point, about what a large county we have and how regional is and how there's winners and losers inside our own county. I think it's going to be a pretty easy thing to track and note, just to just to make sure all municipalities in this county are getting a fair share of capital projects.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Legislator Ronk

Yes. Yeah, I'd like to explain my vote separately and before the other explanations, you know, I, this is a very important project. And I feel like we tend to sometimes gloss over the importance of things like this even just this bond itself. Right now, in the Shawangunk Valley Fire District, there are two bridges that are out. One is the McKinstry bridge, and the other is the bridge on Hogberg road over there, they're both over the Shawangunkill. And what the effect of both of those bridges being out at the same time is, is a 20 to 25minute detour for emergency vehicles into part of the shotgun Valley Fire District. You know, and that doesn't include the staff of volunteers that live on, you know, the east side of both bridge closures with the west side of the bridge closure being where the fire department is. So there's, there's a, an EMT I know who has to drive 15 minutes to get to the ambulance, and then drive the ambulance another 15 to 20 minutes to get to the emergency. So I want to thank the volunteers that are filling in and sincerely hope that this bridge and the other one get fixed as soon as possible. But you know, as someone who tends to want to out myself that bad, but who tends to focus on some of the more negative things because we focus so much on non-consent resolutions. I think it's important for us to refocus on the good things that county government does, um, you know, towards, especially this bridge work going on, so I'll be a yes.

Legislator Nolan

Yes. I'd like to say that I've observed for many decades now the fair distribution of these types of projects in our county and I'm a yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Clerk Fabella

Sperry.

Legislator Sperry

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Legislator Stewart

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

To Legislator Maloney's point I'm excited to have some tracking on these. I know right now what the map will look like. It'll be a map of the county with the big hole in the middle because Kingston doesn't have a single bridge, culvert or county road in it. However, I will be voting yes tonight so that the many residents of Ulster County can all travel to Kingston to take part and many things we have to offer including the vibrant services provided by our nonprofit community.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The Resolution is adopted 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 36 was held in Ways and Means. The next six resolutions are bond resolutions.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 38. Authorizing the replacement of the Olive road and Marlborough road culverts in in for the county of New York at a maximum estimated cost of \$142,000. And authorizing the issuance of \$142,000 bonds have said county to pay the cost thereof.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Chair Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Legislator Erner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Sperry.

Legislator Sperry

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Legislator Stewart

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 41. Authorizing the purchase of county fleet vehicles for the county of New York at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,600,000 and authorizing the issuance of an aggregate \$1,600,000 bonds of sick county to pay the costs thereof.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Chair Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Legislator Erner

I wasn't able to actually vote correctly on the corresponding resolution number 40 for this but I'm no on this bond. I need to understand better why the need for these vehicles. Thank you.

Legislator Ronk

Point of order Madam Clerk. Legislator Erner has the ability to change his vote before the other meeting if he'd like.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Erner would you like to change your vote on the correspond resolution?

Legislator Erner

Yes. Thank you Leader Ronk and Chair Bartels. I would.

Clerk Fabella

Thank you. The Clerk will note that. Resolution 40 was adopted 22 to one. Back to this, a Resolution No. 41. Legislator Erner is a no.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Sperry.

Legislator Sperry

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Legislator Stewart

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 22 to one.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 43. Authorizing the purchase of highway equipment for the Department of Public Works central grudge of the county of Ulster, New York at a maximum estimated cost of \$3,240,000. And authorizing the issuance of \$3,240,000 Bond serial bonds have said county to pay the cost thereof.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Chair Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Legislator Erner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Sperry.

Legislator Sperry

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Legislator Stewart

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adapted 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Sorry, apologize for the email noise. Resolution 54. Authorizing the replacement and upgrade of technology at the sheriff's office in and for the county of Ulster, New York at a maximum estimated cost of \$588,535 and authorizing the issuance of \$588,535 bonds have said county to pay the cost thereof.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Chair Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Legislator Erner

I'm going to be a no on this. I'd like to change my vote on Resolution 53, the corresponding one to no as well. I just have some lingering questions about the Axon body cams also which make the tasers. I have some more questions for the sheriff. But I recognize this is going to go through before I get those answered. And that's okay. But I'm voting no. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Legislator Stewart

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 22 to one.

Clerk Fabella

And for the record, Resolution 43 was also adopted 22 to one.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 56. Authorizing the issuance of an additional \$540,609 bonds of the county of New York to pay part of the cost of the upgrade to the county wide radio system for said County.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Chair Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Legislator Erner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Sperry.

Legislator Sperry

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Legislator Stewart

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 23 to zero.

Legislator Stewart

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 58. Authorizing the purchase of a replacement voting system in in for the county of Ulster, New York at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,400,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$1,400,000 bonds of said county to pay the cost thereof.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Chair Bartels

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Legislator Erner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Sperry.

Legislator Sperry

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted 23 to zero.

Clerk Fabella

Resolutions 62 and 63. were moved to consent.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 69 was held in committee. Resolution 75 was moved to consent.

Clerk Fabella

That brings us to Resolution 80. Approving the execution of a contract for \$150,000 entered into by the county Kingston Works a Division of Health Alliance hospital Broadway campus Office for the Aging.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yeah, we spoke about this in caucus and you know, I've had issues with Westchester Medical going back before this, but when they moved their inpatient Substance Abuse Mental health beds, fired 42 nurses we had - some pretty big elected officials do some pretty big media things out in front of some buildings talking about how outraged they were and Westchester Medical better change and do some things and bring certain services back which never happened. So I'm just not sure how we continue to move forward entering into contracts with them. Then when we were talking in caucus about this with the executive staff we found out that we probably could have just hired these two individuals and done the same service and cut Health Alliance right out of being the middleman, so frustrated we didn't do that. I'm pretty sure it would have been pretty close to the same money though I guess Westchester Medical is going to pay these people less than I hear wonderful people. So I'm a no. I know I'm a statement no. This will pass but I'm really not sure if we're you know if we're ever going to get where we want if we allow these major companies to behave in a way and then not really hold them accountable. It's one thing to go and stand in front of a camera where it's almost like you wonder whether there was some nudging being done between the elected officials and Health Alliance. Hey, we're gonna say all these things, but don't worry, you'll continue getting our county contracts and our hard-earned tax dollars and you continue to not do what you said you're going to do in the contracts.

Chair Bartels

Okay, Legislator Erner.

Legislator Erner

Thank you, Chair Bartels and thank you, Legislator Maloney for outlining what I think is a concern I share about Health Alliance in this body has unanimously last session also expressed its concern. And we talked in caucus, as you said, and thank you, Legislator Levine for pointing out this is a two-year contract. And I'd like to put up an amendment that we make it just a one year contract.

Legislator Maloney

I will second that. If, but we will need legislative counsel to let us know if that's doable. This is a contract that was entered into with this business. I'm not sure we can change the contract at this point. If we find out it's doable, I'll second it. Also could be a substantant change. Not sure we could hear back.

Chair Bartels

Council? We have a motion in a second.

Counsel Ragucci

Thank you. I'm reviewing it now. At this late stage, I'm not sure that we wouldn't suffer some legal repercussion with such an amendment.

Chair Bartels

Oh, go ahead.

Counsel Ragucci

Go ahead. Sorry. Go ahead.

Clerk Fabella

I just have a Legislator Ronk had his hand up.

Legislator Uchitelle

Is it okay if I - I mean, part of the question there might be if it was competitively bid, or if it was a professional service that was just, you know, entered into? I don't know the answer to that question, but that might affect the legality of amending the contract term now.

Counsel Ragucci

I would advise against it at this juncture.

Chair Bartels

Okay, I have I have Legislator Levine. We have an amendment in a second floor. Legislator Levine.

Legislator Levine

Yes. My only question on this would be, would it be possible looking at the timeframe of the contract as proposed to start on April 1, 2022. If it will be possible to table this resolution for this month pending

review by counsel of the proposed amendment and to pick this up for our March meeting? If we can still vote on this before the contract is proposed to go into effect.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Nolan, you had a hand up? Oh, now I see it again. Okay. Go ahead.

Legislator Nolan

Yes, thanks. I guess through the chair to legislative council, does this contract contain a provision as do I believe all the counties contracts to allow us to terminate the contract at some point, if we felt that we needed to do that?

Chair Bartels

Council.

Counsel Ragucci

There is a cancellation clause. And if I may add, if it is the will of the body not to approve this evening, another avenue would be sending it back to committee for further review, giving us some additional time to vet out all the legal issues that may come into play with an amendment.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk your hand was up?

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, thanks. That's it, you know, funny that legislative counsel brings up referral because that's what I was about to do was to make a motion to refer this back to committee. I guess, the Health Committee is their original jurisdiction. I'm not looking at the resolution.

Legislator Petit

I'd like to second that.

Chair Bartels

We have a motion on the table right now to postpone. I still have hands in the air. So I'm going to allow the comments and then if it's the will to withdraw the motion to postpone and put in a motion to refer we can do that at that time.

Legislator Uchitelle

There was the motion to amend put in. I didn't hear a motion to postpone.

Chair Bartels

Motion to amend, I'm sorry. And so that's what's before us at the moment. So I have Legislator Walter for the first time and then Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Walter

Thank you. I appreciate as much as anyone else the need to get serious with Westchester Health Alliance. This has come up in other resolutions were at the point of voting. Our decision to withhold or change harms individuals who are receiving this care. At this point that care is elderly. These are services through the Office of the Aging. These are two individuals who've been doing this. It probably hasn't been an RFP recently to Legislator Council - to the council. It's been the same people have been doing it for a long time. It absolutely should be reconsidered and looked at but at this time, you know, the services are, are needed. We approved other resolutions for home aids for seniors that weren't even touching the needs that the seniors had. I have 200 seniors on a waitlist if provided services that would for about 20. So I absolutely am committed to looking at every contract that we have with Health Alliance, including this one. And even if that means making changes down the line, but at this stage, I feel like this is too last minute. I don't know all the implications. I don't know how this will stop programming. And without knowing the impact of any kind of change at this stage. Different if we had brought it up in public health and had this conversation but I don't know the impact and I don't know if it's harmful. And so I would just humbly request that we don't proceed with making a change at this very last moment with the assurance and happily with the reminders to look carefully at this and every other contract we have with Health Alliance, so this doesn't happen again.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Oh, yeah, I'll remove my second on the amendment. Also, but I am for postponing. I think we could actually get it done this contract. I'm under the impression if we did this quick, we could, no one would lose services if we acted quickly. And I think we'd all be motivated to even if in the executive branch of government. Once again, I think this is a failure of communication. I'm just hearing tonight upon questioning that we could have done this in house. There is a different way to do this and keep these exact two individuals doing the work that they're doing. And I think when it comes to being real about what we say about Health Alliance, and Westchester medical and how they behaved inside of many contracts, just think we should speedily go about and make a real statement. This would be very different for Ulster County Government to truly hold one of these big conglomerates accountable for acting in a way that was not what they said they were going to do when we entered into many multimillion dollar contracts with them. This is a chance to be real. And I think we could get it done without costing anybody any services and keeping the two individuals doing what they're doing.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Heppner?

Legislator Heppner

Yeah, thank you. I just want to strongly echo the comments of Legislator Walter. And I truly respect and believe in the power of a strong statement. But I'm not willing, especially because at this last minute, to risk potential services, such an important population as our aging population in Ulster County. In a, you know, again, totally respect the statements against Westchester Medical, but I'm not willing to risk potential services as a follow up to that.

Chairwoman Bartels

Legislator Nolan,

Legislator Nolan

Thank you, Chair Bartels. I agree with Legislators Walter and Heppner. And I think it would be helpful probably to the people who are covered by this contract. If I guess now, we might be talking on the second motion to postpone. If we don't postpone, if we just go ahead and pass this, then if we can put in place something that is better and we offer those people covered by this contract something better, they can choose it, and we can cancel this contract. We don't have to do all this tonight. At the last minute. We can just proceed and then make things better if we would like to do that.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thanks. I hear a lot of I hear a lot of things being said about the last minute. And that things that happen at the last minute are bad. You know, and that we should have things happen before the last minute. Well, Resolution 30 has a last-minute change. And that was adopted over my objections and Resolution 95, which I believe is about to be adopted over my objections after this resolution has last minute changes. So it seems like we're okay with last minute changes except when we disagree with them. That's, you know, I keep you know, I hear a little bit of like, you know, we don't like last minute changes, but last minute changes that I agree with are just fine. I you know, I struggled with that. Um, you know, I experienced that a lot when I used to advocate for some last-minute changes to resolutions back when I was the chair of the legislature and some of the same people who now make an advocate for last minute changes oppose them back then. So I guess it's all about perspective.

Chair Bartels

Legislator, Nolan, is that a new hand raise? Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Thank you, Chair Bartels. Through the chair to Legislator Ronk. I do believe that there are times when last minute changes make sense. But the changes that the legislator cites were that we approved earlier in this meeting were all discussed in committee. And in fact, some of the amendments they're being offered are the result of the discussions in committee. So I think there is a process that we go through and I think the more we do this in committee where people have the ability to get extra information and look and discuss is a better way to go. But I also take the point and will accept that whether something is last minute or not, is not dispositive. However, I think it is good to keep a very strong program that I know is what very welcome in the community functioning smoothly. And so I'd like to keep the foundation there. And we can do that. And then we can go and make the changes at our leisure and with full discussion and information and not upset the apple cart in the process of trying to improve it.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes, thank you. Um, I've heard everything that my constituent or my compadres have said, and we do a lot of last minute work in this legislature that I believe is not necessary. I believe we do have time to reconsider this because the contract does not take effect until April 1st. And we do have another meeting, a legislative meeting in March. So I will make the motion to send it back to committee.

Chair Bartels

Okay, do I hear a second on that?

Legislator Petit

I'll second that.

Legislator Ronk

I'll second that.

Chair Bartels

Okay, so I'll give that to Legislator Petit because she got there first. And again, just for everyone's review. There was a motion to amend which was seconded. The second was withdrawn so now we are on the motion to refer.

Legislator Heppner

On the motion chair, I'm gonna have to request a long roll, because I don't want the vote of the caucus.

Clerk Fabella

On the motion to refer the resolution back to the Public Health committee.

Clerk Fabella

Bartels.

Chair Bartels

No.

Clerk Fabella

Cahill.

Legislator Cahill

No.

Clerk Fabella

Corcoran.

Legislator Corcoran

No.

Clerk Fabella

Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

No.

Clerk Fabella

Erner.

Legislator Erner

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

No.

Clerk Fabella

Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

No.

Clerk Fabella

Greene.

Legislator Greene

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Hansut.

Legislator Hansut

No.

Clerk Fabella

Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

No.

Clerk Fabella

Hewitt.

Legislator Hewitt

No.

Clerk Fabella

Levine.

Legislator Levine

I will be a no on the resolution. No on the amendment excuse me.

Clerk Fabella

Got it.

Clerk Fabella

Litts.

Legislator Litts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Lopez.

Legislator Lopez

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

No.

Clerk Fabella

Petit.

Legislator Petit

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Roberts.

Legislator Roberts

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Ronk.

Legislator Ronk

Yes.

Clerk Fabella

Sperry.

Legislator Sperry

No.

Clerk Fabella

Stewart.

Legislator Stewart

No.

Clerk Fabella

Uchitelle.

Legislator Uchitelle

No.

Clerk Fabella

And Walter.

Legislator Walter

No.

Clerk Fabella

The motion to refer is defeated with 8 yeses and 15 noes.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution as is, I had as a short yes with the following noes, Legislator Petit, Maloney and Erner. If anyone else would like to add a no, please say so.

Legislator Heppner

We're a short yes with the following noes, Petit and Erner.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk?

Legislator Uchitelle

Um, we were a short yes in caucus, but after the spirited debate and subsequent votes I'm going to be a no on this resolution. I just wanted to give my caucus members the opportunity if they had wanted to change their votes. Otherwise we're short yes with one no.

Legislator Litts

I'll be a no.

Legislator Uchitelle

Short yes with two noes, Legislators Ronk and Litts.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution is adopted 18 to five.

Clerk Fabella

Resolution 91 was moved to consent.

Clerk Fabella

And the last resolution is the late Resolution 95. Amending the 2022 Ulster County budget to create one full time deputy medical examiner for the Department of Health

Chair Bartels

Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

I'd like to make a motion with the amendment as presented before you.

Chair Bartels

Is there a second?

Legislator Walter

I'll second.

Chair Bartels

Seconded by Legislator Walter. On the amendment. Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

On the amendment, I believe we are short yes with - I'm not sure Legislator Maloney were you no on the amendment?

Legislator Maloney

I'm a no on the amendment and the late resolution for procedural reasons.

Legislator Heppner

We are short yes with one no, Legislative Maloney.

Legislator Uchitelle

On the amendment we're a short yes.

Clerk Fabella

The amendment is adopted 22 to one.

Chair Bartels

On the resolution as amended. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thank you, Madam Chair. I know that I've had a lot to say tonight. And it's probably going to be a sign of things to come. But I've had a lot to say about this resolution as a whole. So I'll try not to repeat myself too much. And I'll try to be as brief as I can. You know, this late resolution is, I believe, a continuation of an effort by the executive's office to grow the size of government. You know, I respect how the resignation, the untimely, untimely or not retirement of Dr. Heller, as chief medical examiner has placed a strain on the office. One of my big concerns is that, you know, we're not not going to hire a new chief medical examiner. But the problem is that, we've apparently been having some trouble finding a chief medical examiner who's willing to do the after-hours work. So here we are, we're gonna hire a second deputy medical examiner to do after hour's work. And we're still going to have to hire a chief medical examiner, because our chief medical examiner needs to be a doctor and used to reside in Ulster County. So we're now going to have more people in the department doing less work. Then at the very last minute in order to ensure that it doesn't get postponed or voted down and committee, the executives office comes with a last-ditch effort that says okay, well, you know, we have this part time position that I'm sure we could hire to do some of the overnight work that was having that the office is having a problem covering with the retirement of Dr. Heller. You know, we have this \$50,000 position. We don't really need that, I guess, you know, in order to get the \$70,000 position, so we're only going to raise the budget by \$20,000. You know that's one of the last-minute things that's happening tonight. That's the amendment that was passed. I voted for it, because I'm in favor of decreasing the size of county government any way I can. But, you know, here we are, we're going to be approving a \$71,000 position in order for an \$80,000 position not to have overnight responsibilities. And then we're given a promise that they're going to effectively reduce the chief medical examiner salary by a commensurate amount of the work that's not going to be done. Here's the problem with that. Problem with that is that one thing we hear a lot about

this county governments compression. So we have a chief medical examiner who makes an \$80,000 range. And now we're going to have two deputy medical examiner's who make in the \$70,000 range. Well, you know, for darn sure, we're not going to decrease the deputy medical examiner's position - I'm sorry the Chief Medical Examiner's position to make less than the deputy medical examiner's. Yeah, we'd hear about that in the budget time about, you know, 15 - \$20,000 raises that have to happen there to avoid compression. So here we are, we're creating a new position to solve a today problem without thinking about tomorrow. I can't support this or any resolutions like this creating new positions without an overall plan for the department, which the county executive's office admits they do not have currently. Multiple times in multiple committees, they've admitted they don't have a comprehensive plan for the medical examiner's office, but they're asking us to, you know, with very little notice, you know, create a \$71,000 position. I am not comfortable with that. My caucus is not comfortable with that. And I am deeply concerned that a majority of the legislature is comfortable with that. Thank you.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Nolan.

Legislator Nolan

Yes, I have a different perspective on the multiple presentations that we've heard about this situation. From the multiple presentations that we've heard in multiple committees. It is quite clear to me that this office has been doing hugely more work than they have been asked to do and paid to do, not as has been said, refusing to do their duties. Um, I just want to put on the record, that it is quite clear from the reports that we've had that this office has continued to function. It has stayed up to date, even despite the COVID pandemic and the opioid epidemic, causing great increases in the number of calls to which the members of this office are asked to respond. And to have the resignation of the chief medical examiner happened at a time that was passed the budget, I do not think is in the control of any of us. So I think we have to respond to the situation as it as it's presented to us. I think the way that this restructuring is proposed is healthy for the office, will result in less strain to a group of people who are already overworked. And as somebody who is in one of the lowest paid specialties in medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry and medical examiners, forensics being among the others, we have to take into account that there are going to be - there is a need to pay for a position that we are required by New York State to have. And we need to have an office that works well together. I don't think it's an office where we can micromanage the recommendations that we get from skilled professionals who tell us how they have to meet their duties. It seems rather a small and nimble office to me, and so I want that to go on the record because I think they've been doing a tremendous service for the people of Ulster County for many years, and especially in the past two years without recognition of that.

Clerk Fabella

Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Maloney

Yeah, you know, I just have to agree with everything Legislator Ronk laid out not here, but in Ways and Means as well. And nothing from Legislator Ronk that I hear have anything to do with questioning the effectiveness, or the job of what the medical examiners themselves are doing, or some kind of disrespect to them. The issue that some of us in the legislature have is with the decisions coming out of the executive

branch, when they're coming out and how they're doing all this. It's an effective day to day operations, is what I hear the issues are not with the medical examiner's themselves. None of us have anything but respect for them. I truly believe that we have to be better with this is a business with compassion. We cannot forget there's a bottom line, and we have to be better. Everything Legislator Ronk brought up I think was reasonable. If this could have been done better in a more-timely manner and I really believe with the amount of appointees we have the amount of management we've created, we're not seeing the efficiency and the effectiveness we should be getting from all these added management positions. And I think there's too many press releases. I think there's too many political pet projects and I don't see enough day to day operations. This is a business with compassion. We can't forget.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk, you had your hand up?

Legislator Uchitelle

Yeah, thank you. Yeah. And thank you Legislator Maloney, you made actually a couple of points I was gonna make about, you know. I feel like I need to restate maybe one or one and a half of those, which is, I have the utmost respect for the current staff of the medical examiner's office and nobody is disputing that they need assistance. You know, what I'm stating is that and you know, through the chair to Legislator Nolan. If I missed hearing something in one of the committees I was in, and you could enlighten me, it is my understanding that the county executive one of the reasons that the county executive's office laid out for the hiring of a new deputy medical examiner is because the - all of the candidates who had been approached for the position of chief medical examiner, you know, categorically refused to do overnight on call hours. And that the only way that the current person who is acting medical examiner would take the position is if he were only to do administrative work and not to do any fieldwork. And those were, I want to say direct quotes from Deputy Executive Contreras just in Ways and Means Committee and in Laws and Rules committee, and that right now, all of the on-call field work is falling to one person and that's why they had to hire a new \$71,000 deputy director to go along with the current deputy director that we have in order to be able to do all of the field work. And some office work, but the field work is what has been identified as the reason for having this position have to be filled.

Legislator Ronk

And my biggest concern is that we are going to do this and we're going to it's sort of a, you know, it's sort of a pre-made meal, we're going to set it and forget it. You know, and we're going to have the grandest intentions to follow up and ensure that there's going to be a plan put forward to make sure that, you know, there's, you know what, I'll use one of the county executive's favorite words, resilience, you know, that there's resilience in the department, that there's innovation. We have a whole innovation department, a whole innovation team, the county executive likes to call it, and I'm failing to see the innovation that goes into ensuring that we've got resiliency in our departments to make sure that one retirement doesn't cripple an office, so bad that we have to rush with a late resolution to create a new \$71,000 position. That's where my concern is here. My concern, you know, I feel for the office, I just can't for the life of me understand how one retirement, cripples the office so badly that we need to in an emergency situation, create a new position without a plan for the office moving forward.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Nolan, did you want the opportunity not necessarily to directly respond, but to speak one more time?

Legislator Nolan

Yes, thank you Chair Bartels. I think that we need to look at the requirement that there- that this position be an Ulster County resident. Maybe that made sense at one time, but doesn't make sense to me. And so I do have the intention to try to make things better. I think when you have a four-person office that is doing call hours, you know that a four person rotation shift, and you knock it down to three, it's just every third night is really difficult when you have calls most days, and sometimes more than one call in a day. So I think maybe we can't, you know, do anything more in terms of analysis tonight. But I think that the proposal to deal with an unexpected resignation, and the specifics of the people who are in the office is a reasonable one, we should support it. And I think we've had a healthy conversation about things that we need to take into the consideration of how we rework that office so that it works well for the individuals in it. And also, we feel good about it as a legislature. I do feel good about making these changes. And I appreciate that an amendment was brought forth so that we have a \$20,000 increase instead of a \$70,000 increase. Um, you know, call me sentimental, but I think we just saved \$50,000 by somebody putting forth that amendment.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thanks. I think that the idea of opening up, the chief medical examiner to not being a county resident would be a great idea. It would be a great way to innovate the department. But instead of looking for ways like that, and that's one of probably 10 ways that we could look and try. You know, we went to the easiest, and not necessarily least expensive option, which is to hire a new deputy Medical Examiner. And I feel like we, over the last several years under this executive have been gravitating towards the easiest option of less of least resistance. And that's not always the best option. You know, but that's just the way I feel.

Chair Bartels

Okay, on the resolution, as amended.

Legislator Heppner

On the resolution as amended we are short yes with one no Legislator Maloney.

Legislator Ronk

We're a short no.

Clerk Fabella

The resolution is adopted as amended 15 to eight.

Chair Bartels

Thank you. Okay, well now move into our second period of public comment the portion that's designated for items that are not currently before the legislature. Clerk Fabella do we have anyone signed up to speak?

Clerk Fabella

We do have a person patiently waiting and that is Mr. Mike Baden.

Chair Bartels

Okay, Mr. Baden, you will have three minutes to comment.

Supervisor Mike Baden

Yes, I won't need that much time. First, to the legislature, thank you for your appointment to the Recycling Committee Commission tonight. Secondly, the reason for my call is to bring up the subject that many of us have talked about for many years, and that's broadband. I received notice earlier this month from the New York State Public Service Commission, that they are holding four days of public hearings. And those dates will be February 23, at one and 6pm, February 24th, at one and 6pm, March 2 at one and 6pm, and March 3rd at one and 6pm. The topic of these public hearings is: comment is invited concerning the availability, affordability and adoption of residential and commercial broadband Internet access services in the state of New York.

Supervisor Mike Baden

And speaking as a rural town supervisor, I can tell you the number one call that I get every single week is how can I get broadband to my house. Rochester has about 70% coverage by our estimates. The reason we don't know better is because we have one provider, essentially and that is Charter Spectrum, who fails to give us information about where they have service, where they don't have service. When you do approach them, they talk cost of 40 and \$50,000 for one connection. It's time that the state makes broadband a public utility. And I'm hoping some legislators will attend these public hearings or submit comments on behalf of your constituents. And also, I would urge you to let your town supervisors know in case they're not aware of these public hearings. So thank you very much for your time. And thank you for all you do.

Chair Bartels

Thank you, Supervisor Baden. Do we have anyone else signed up?

Clerk Fabella

There is no one else signed up to speak.

Chair Bartels

Okay, Legislator Litts I see your hand. Do you have a point of order, question? You're muted Legislator Litts.

Legislator Litts

Thank you. Back in December, this legislature voted to extend the contract for the Catskill Mountain Railroad for two years. And I know there was some bantering back and forth about amendments to make it one year.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Litts. So is this a point of order, because this not on the agenda item before us?

Legislator Litts

I just, okay. Why don't you and I talked offline about this.

Chair Bartels

Absolutely.

Legislator Litts

Thank you.

Chair Bartels

Okay, thank you. I'm so before we move into tonight's memorials, and with our spirited debate from tonight behind us, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge one of our members. Minority Leader Ronk, after considerable effort and commitment recently passed his EMT exam, joining Legislator Gavaris and his certification and to service. And given that we're all aware that there is a national and local shortage of volunteers, I wanted to extend our congratulations. And our thanks. I know that your community and the county are grateful.

Legislator Uchitelle

Thanks, Madam Chair, and I want to point out that we're going to be entering into the county executive's office myself, I think that Legislator Heppner is going to serve, some town supervisors on a EMS Task Force. It's a real concern that paid EMS organizations are having trouble crewing for the contracts that they already have. And the 911 system is not able to sustain where things are at. So I really appreciate that. It's been eye opening to be involved and it's one of the best things I've done and all I can say to my fellow colleagues is if you don't if you don't want to get your EMT, go to your local if you have a local EMS or fire organization go down if you can drive a van you can drive an ambulance and the amount of times you hear over the radio that all they're looking for someone to drive. It's a special calling. So I really appreciate the acknowledgement Madam Chair, I wasn't expecting that. Thanks.

Chair Bartels

Absolutely. I'd like to call on Legislator Sperry to read tonight's memorials.

Legislator Megan Sperry

Thank you, Chair Bartels. In Memorial tonight we have Fred J. Costello, Sr. of Glasco, New York, Marilyn B. Powers of New Paltz, New York. K. Veronica "Ronnie" Watkins of Pine Bush, New York, Robert M. Langling of Woodstock, New York, Elizabeth Heitzman of Kingston New York, John G. Rell, of Saugerties, New York, Gilbert W. Glass of North Port Florida, John E. Constable, Town of Wawarsing New York, Robert Pino of Saugerties, New York, Neil Porcelli of Highland New York, Judy B. Reggero of

Saugerties, New York, James F. Dougherty, Jr. of Bradenton, Florida, Rebbezin Chave Hecht OBM, Greenfield Park, New York, Walter H. Houde New Paltz, New York, Constance "Connie" Hogarth, Beacon, New York, Elizabeth Wolven of Saugerties, New York, C. Dino Giuliano of Samsonville, New York, Edith, H. Brechter, Port Ewen, New York, Joan Barranca of Ulster Park, New York, James R. Kelso of Pine Bush, New York, Blossom Rozman of Ellenville, New York, Clark H. Ulmer of Boiceville, New York, Betty M. Decker of Saugerties New York, Mary Keane of Newburgh, New York, Fred Butwell of Highland New York, John C. Bach of Saugerties, New York, William E. Radcliffe, Jr, of Kingston, New York, and Will Vega of Highland New York.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Criswell.

Legislator Criswell

Yes, I'd like to add the name of Michael Perkins of Glenford, New York. Michael spent a lot of time in Woodstock. He was a poet, novelist, essayist and self-described Culture Vulture. He spent many years in the Woodstock community. He volunteered at the fire department, the Woodstock Poetry Festival, and was very influential with the Woodstock library forum. And I just thought it'd be fun to - I'm going to read just a couple lines. He wrote a book called life sentences, aphorisms and reflections and they were all one liners, so I thought I'd just read a couple of his one liners. To make a perfect sentence is a hard day's work. Walk in the sun, walking shadow, walk in all weathers, walk to work, walk to play, walk to get somewhere, walk to leave there. Walk until you fall down, get up and stagger on. When the odds are overwhelmingly against you yield, but never surrender. Ethics simplified, what we owe to others is the best of ourselves. Poetry should be pursued for its own sake as a private spiritual practice. I wear many hats, but they're all cocked at an angle. Everything is astonishing. If it doesn't seem that way keep looking until it does.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Heppner.

Legislator Heppner

Thank you. I think Legislator Criswell spoke on Michael Perkins perfectly. I didn't know him personally. But I knew very well of him in my community. His many words in the former of Woodstock Times. Walking, Woodstock was the tagline. He also published a book of that title with another local named Will Nixon that my father actually gifted me when that came out years ago. So thank you, Legislator Criswell for bringing some of those words from someone I know how to a large impact on the community that I'm proud to serve. So thank you.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris

I wanted to take a moment. Thank you for recognizing me. Blossom Rozman passed away at 101 years old almost. She was beyond inspirational and it's a little emotional for me because she was like my grandmother. I've known her since I was like six years old. I'm the same age as one of her grandchildren.

She adopted me as well as many children in the neighborhood. She was a generous woman. She gave to organizations and never sought recognition. She was a volunteer with so many civic organizations and Ellenville and Wawarsing, and you know, she was my go - an example of you're never too old to learn something. At 95 years old, she got an iPhone. She learned how to use it. She became so good at it she taught her daughter who was in her 70s how to use an iPhone. So you're never too old to learn and she was just inspirational in so many ways, and she's definitely going to be missed. Thank you.

Chair Bartels

Legislator Greene.

Legislator Greene

Thank you. I would like to add the name of Connie Hogarth from Beacon, New York. Connie is sort of the Grande dame of the environmental movement in the Hudson Valley, and also social justice. And I had the privilege of meeting with her with John Cronin, whose was one of the first river keepers and John asked her if she had one wish that could be granted, what would it be? And she said that we treat each other with kindness and respect.

Chair Bartels

Thank you. Okay. The next regular meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022. Meeting details will follow. But I can tell you that sitting in this empty room, I really look forward to seeing all of you and in person. So with that resolution deadline is this Friday, February 18, 2022 at noon, and I'll recognize Legislator Litts for a motion.

Legislator Litts

Madam Chairwoman, I will make a motion for adjournment.

Legislator Greene

Second.

Chair Bartels

Fabulous all those in favor?

Committee Members

Aye. Aye.

Chair Bartels

Meeting adjourned. Have a wonderful night everyone.