

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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



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

MINUTES

MARCH 19, 2019

REGULAR MEETING

7:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRWOMAN: 7:03 PM

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH SESSION THEME: Chairwoman Bartels is recognizing March as National Women's History Month.

FIRE EVACUATION PLAN

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT LEGISLATORS AND ALL OTHERS MOVE AT LEAST ONE BLOCK AWAY FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING IN ORDER NOT TO IMPEDE THE FIREFIGHTERS IN THEIR DUTIES

CELL PHONES

Please silence cell phones for the duration of the Session.

MICROPHONES

Please be reminded to use your microphones when speaking so that you are recorded for the official record.

ROLL CALL: Present: 23 Absent: 0

BIRTHDAYS:

Legislator Lynn Eckert, March 6th
Legislative Staff Fawn Tantillo, March 17th
Minority Counsel Nick Pascale, March 27th

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM:

Legislative Chairwoman Tracey Bartels	Hudson Valley Regional Council Apptmt. Letter, NYS Certified Ag District Inclusion Application, Paul Alward & Stephanie Turco
Majority Leader Jonathan R. Heppner	Designee Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Randall Leverette current thru 12/31/2019
Legislator David B. Donaldson	Designee UC Community Action, Larry Kithcart current thru 12/31/2019
Legislator Manna Jo Greene	Press Release, Forum Refrigerant Mgmt.
Legislator Herbert Litts III	Local Roads Matter Literature
Legislators Laura Petit/Richard Gerentine	NY Post Tracking Heroin
Hillary Harvey, Kington	(2) FOIL Request
Legislative Clerk, Victoria Fabella	(2) FOIL Response
UC Regional Chamber of Commerce	Ribbon Cutting, SafeShoot 3/11/2019 Ribbon Cutting, Sun Commons Community Solar Array, 3/4/2019 Ribbon Cutting, Smoothie King 3/15/2019 Chamber News March 2019

MINUTES

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MARCH 19, 2019

Gary & Kathleen Capella

UC Tourism Department

Larry Roth

Corp.

Long-Year Farm

CN CountyNews

Peter Baker

Letter, Franco Property

Trending, March 2019

Email, U&D Railway Revitalization

Thank You Note

Vol. 15, No. 4, No. 5

Email, Hydrogen-Powered Train Line

Email, Kingston Trolley Ride Video

Email, Trail Shortfalls

Email, HRMM, UDRRC & Trolley

Museum

UC Personnel Department

Announcements

UC Clerk's Office

Max Huber, Agra Environmental & Lab Services

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Civil Service Examination

Naturalization Ceremony 3/8/2019

Email, 1230-1234 Oliverea Rd.

Ag. Literacy Week 3/18-22/2019

Winter Brochure 2019

Equal Access To Justice Dinner 4/9/2019

February 2019 Flyer

Attendance 4/4/2019

County Litigation, February 2019

Review #34 & 36 O'Neil St. & Portion
of UC Rail Bed 3/18/19 6:00 PM

Ellenville Million Update 3/1/2019

Minutes, 12/10/2018 & 1/14/2019

2019 County of Ulster Public Auction

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley

Central Hudson

UC Traffic Safety Board

UC Attorney, Mark Longtoe

City Of Kingston Office of Planning Board

UC Economic Development Alliance

UC Community Services Board

UC Department of Finance

ACTING COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

Order of Succession; Kenneth Crannell

Deputy County Executive, Burton

Gulnick Jr., Commissioner of Finance,

Marc Rider, Deputy County Executive

Appointment Human Rights

Commission,

Diane Zuckerman Term 5/1/2019-

4/30/2022

Reappointment Stop DWI Advisory

Board Thomas Kadgen, Term 4/1/2019-

3/31/2021

Budgetary Transfers, February 2019

Appointment Community Services
Board Laura Schwarz, Term 5/1/2019-
12/31/2022
Appointment Community Services
Board Mental Health Subcommittee,
Barbara Graff Term 5/1/19 - 12/31/2021
Appointment UC Youth Board Rachel
Coffey, Term 5/1/2019 - 4/30/2022

MEMORIALIZING LETTERS:

Ulster County Legislators

Considerations FY2020 Executive
Budget
Considerations CWIA in SFY 2019
Budget

ANNUAL REPORTS:

UC Clerk's Office
UC Dept. of Environment
UC Executive Office

DATE:

2018 Annual Report
2018 Green Fleet Report
2018 Annual Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing,
Planning & Transit
Energy & Environment

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

DATE:

February 5, 2019
February 7, 2019
February 25, 2019
February 27, 2019
February 4, 2019
February 19, 2019
February 11, 2019
February 4, 2019
February 6, 2019
February 13, 2019
February 19, 2019

SPEAKERS

Hon. Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr. - Minority Leader Address

Hon. Jonathan R. Heppner - Majority Leader Address

PRESENTATIONS:

Chairwoman Tracey Bartels called upon Legislators Lynn Eckert and Mary Wawro to present a Pride of Ulster County Award to New Paltz resident and acclaimed author, Jennifer Castle. With more than a dozen titles to her name, Jennifer proudly highlights Ulster County and the Hudson Valley in her books for young audiences.

Most recently, Jennifer has created the books for Blaire Wilson, American Girl’s Girl of the Year 2019. Ulster County through and through, American Girl Blaire Wilson lives with her family on their farm nestled at the foot of the Shawagunk Ridge. Blaire has a passion for farm to table cooking which she shares with the guests of her family’s Pleasant View Farm Bed-and-Breakfast/wedding venue in the fictional town of Bluefield.

Other works by Jennifer include, The Beginning of After, an American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults selection, the Butterfly Wishes series, and You Look Different in Real Life. Joining her tonight are her husband Bill, and daughters Sadie and Clea.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were (3) speakers signed up for public comment.

1. Jeremiah McDonough, Town of Ulster: Mr. McDonough with the Spring Lake Fire Dept. spoke in support of Resolution No. 98.
2. Andy Bicking, Town of Esopus: Mr. Bicking, Director of Public Policy for Scenic Hudson spoke in support of Resolution No. 471.
3. John Cranston, Town of Ulster: Mr. Cranston a volunteer firefighter for the past 35 years spoke in support of Resolution No. 98.

Please Note: Complete content of the public comment period can be heard on the Ulster County Legislative Website.

RESOLUTION NOS: 120 – FIRST READING; 324 of 2018, 471 of 2018, 15, 18, 82 – 90, 92, 94 – 119, 121; 122 – DEFEATED; 281 of 2018, 473 of 2018, 481 of 2018 – NO ACTION TAKEN; 212 of 2018, 329 of 2018, 361 of 2018, 91, 93 – POSTPONED; 20 – WITHDRAWN

Resolution No. 15 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2019, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Local Law No. 5 Of 1991 (A Local Law Adopting A Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax) To Clarify The Tax Law’s Application To Short-term And Vacation Rentals, To Be Held On Tuesday, April 9, 2019 At 6:00 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 20 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Cellco Partnership D/B/A Verizon Wireless – Department Of Public Works
WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR

Resolution No. 91 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Awareness, Inc. For The 2019 Appropriation - Legislature
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 93 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 2 Of 2019, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 2 Of 2006 (A Local Law Adopting A County Charter Form Of Government For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York) And Amending Local Law No. 10 Of 2008 (A Local Law Adopting An Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York), To Amend The Term Of Office For Members Of The Ulster County Legislature, To Be Held On Tuesday, April 9, 2019 At 6:15 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 119 – Adopting The Ulster County Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy And The Discriminatory Harassment Prevention Policy And Complaint Procedure – Department Of Personnel
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 122 – Supporting The Application To Develop And Operate A One Hundred (100) Room Hotel At 1581 Ulster Avenue, Lake Katrine
DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 212 of 2018 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 16 Of 2018, A Local Law Regarding Campaign Finance Reform in Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 11, 2018 At 6:00 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 281 of 2018 – Establishing A Policy To Prohibit The Use Of Public Funds To Place The Likeness Or Name Of Elected Officials On All Promotional And Informational Signage On County Owned Property
NO ACTION TAKEN IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 329 of 2018 – Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 13 Of 2018, Establishing The Ulster County Electrical Licensing Board And Providing For The Qualifications, Examination, Licensing And Regulation Of Electricians In Ulster County, New York
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 361 of 2018 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 21 Of 2018, A Local Law Regarding Campaign Finance Reform in Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 11, 2018 At 6:00 PM
POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 473 of 2018 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 23 Of 2018, A Local Law Entitled “Ulster County Ethics Law”, To Be Held On Tuesday, December 11, 2018 At 6:15 PM
NO ACTION TAKEN IN COMMITTEE

Resolution No. 481 of 2018 - Establishing A Policy To Prohibit The Use Of Public Funds To Place The Likeness Or Name Of Elected Officials On All Ulster County Board Of Elections Material
NO ACTION TAKEN IN COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk, to move Resolution No. 18 out of the Non-Consent and into the Consent Agenda. All in favor.

First Reading

- 120 Amending The Rules Of Order To Modify Resolution Deadline**
FIRST READING

Consent

- 18 Confirming Appointments To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 82 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Walker Valley Chemical Engine No. 1 For The 2019 Appropriation – Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 83 2019 Appropriation For The Ulster County Libraries Program**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 84 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement For The Maintenance Of Facilities For The Ulster Performing Arts Center And Amending The 2019 Budget – Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 85 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Family Of Woodstock, Inc., For The Supervised Visitation Program For The 2019 Appropriation – Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 86 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Dispute Resolution Center For The 2019 Appropriation – Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 87 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Arts Mid-Hudson For The 2019 Appropriation – Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 88 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. For The 2019 Appropriation – Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 89 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Cornell Cooperative Extension Association Of Ulster County For 2019 Appropriations- Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 90 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2019 Appropriation – Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 92 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Don't Be A Monster For The 2019 Appropriation – Legislature**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 95 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With Various Municipalities For The Operation Of U.C.E.R.T. (Ulster County Emergency Response Team) – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

- 96 Establishing Capital Project No. 535 Body Camera Purchase And Amending The 2019-2024 Capital Improvement Program And The 2019 Capital Project Fund - Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

- 98 Adopting And Issuing A Negative Declaration Under 6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) By The Ulster County Legislature For The Construction Of A Public Safety Training Facility In The Town Of Ulster – Capital Project No. 483- Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 99 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – The Children’s Home Of Poughkeepsie, NY – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 101 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Colossus, Incorporated D/B/A InterAct Public Safety Systems – Ulster County Sheriff**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

- 102 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate 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: 22 NOES: 0
(1 Abstention: Legislator Woltman)

- 103 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Motorola Solutions Inc. – Emergency Management**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 104 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Family of Woodstock, Inc. – Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 105 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Center For Creative Education – Department Of Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 106 Approving The Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) To Provide Design Services For The Gym Wall Repair (Replacement) Project, Related To Capital Project No. 466 SUNY Ulster– Gym Wall Repair (Replacement) – Ulster County Community College**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 107 Approving The Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) To Provide Design Management Services Of A DASNY Term Consultant For Design Services And Use DASNY Staff To Manage Construction For The Phase 1-Window Replacement Project For Jacob Hardenburgh Hall, Related To Capital Project No. 486 SUNY Ulster – Window Replacement Project – Ulster County Community College**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 108 Approving The Work Order With The Dormitory Authority Of The State Of New York (DASNY) To Provide Design Management Services Of A DASNY Term Consultant For Design Services And Use DASNY Staff To Manage Construction For The Hardenburgh And Vanderlyn Halls Door Replacement Project, Related To Capital Project No. 493 – SUNY Ulster – Door Replacement Project – Ulster County Community College**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 109 Establishing Capital Project No. 534 – Reconstruction Of Various Roads In Ulster County – Department Of Public Works (Highways And Bridges)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 111 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$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

- 112 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Weintraub Diaz Landscape Architecture PLLC – Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 113 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Request That The New York State Department Of Transportation Abandon Certain Highway Lands Along US Route 209 In The Town Of Wawarsing, Hamlet Of Napanoch – Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 114 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Agreement With The Catskill Watershed Corporation For The Ashokan Rail Trail Project – Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 115 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement With The Town Of Lloyd For Maintenance And Repair Of The Hudson Valley Rail Trail - Phase 4 – Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 116 Authorizing The Acting 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 Grants (CDBG) – Amending The 2019 Ulster County Budget - Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

117 Reappointing Member To The Ulster County Planning Board – Village Of Ellenville

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

118 Reappointing Member And Alternate To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town Of Plattekill

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

Non-Consent

324 of 2018 Repealing Resolution No. 24 Of 2018, Establishing A Policy To Prohibit The Use Of Public Funds To Place The Likeness Or Name Of Elected Officials On Public Service Announcements, Non-Commercial And Non-Political Advertising By Ulster County

DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 10 NOES: 13
(Ayes: Legislators Gerentine, Haynes, Litts, Lopez, Maio, James Maloney, Nolan, Roberts, Wawro, and Woltman)

471 of 2018 Amending Resolution No. 318 Dated September 15, 2015 To Conform To Agreement of Sale of County-Owned Real Property in the Town of Lloyd To The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation And Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Convey Such Parcel – Department Of Finance

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

- 15 Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2019, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Local Law No. 5 Of 1991 (A Local Law Adopting A Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax) To Clarify The Tax Law's Application To Short-term And Vacation Rentals, To Be Held On Tuesday, April 9, 2019 At 6:00 PM**

POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE

- 18 Confirming Appointments To The Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency**

MOVED TO CONSENT

- 94 Appointing Members To The Recycling Oversight Committee**

Legislator Greene motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to insert the name of Shabazz Jackson as the second at-large member.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 97 Authorizing The Purchase Of Cameras, Including Computer Hardware
BOND And Software, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum
 Estimated Cost Of \$320,826.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of
 \$320,826.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF: Read by Legislator Greene.

William J. Schreiber, Kingston, NY	Mildred Kirshenblum, Kingston, NY
Henry T. Kellner, Pine Bush, NY	Albert F. Mitchell, Sawkill, NY
Paul C. Wang, Kingston, NY	William H. Trumpbour Jr., Saugerties, NY
Dorothy Pleugh Peters, Saugerties, NY 104 yrs.	Raymond D. Matthews, Ellenville, NY
Anthony Hackett Jr., Saugerties, NY	John Trapnell, Rifton, NY
Anna Granville, Saugerties, NY	Barbara J. Reedy, Sawkill, NY
Meg Goodridge, Saugerties, NY	Edward L. Damrath, Saugertie, NY
David Rolfe, Kingston, NY	Anthony Cardarelli, Saugerties, NY
Joseph Ferraro Jr., Glasco, NY	Joseph Murray, Saugerties, NY
Dolores Kimble, Saugerties, NY	Darren Krein, Henderson, NV
Alfred Ostrander, Willow, NY	Margaret Mabie, Ulster Park, NY
Katrina S. Stiscia, Gardiner, NY	Dolores A. Witkowski, Town of Ulster, NY
Marie A. Martine, Saugerties, NY	

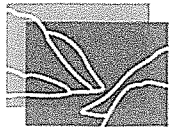
Motion by Legislator Litts, seconded by Legislator Donaldson to adjourn Legislative Session.
All in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:09 PM

NEXT MEETINGS:

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on **April 16, 2019** at 7:00 PM in the Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, Ulster County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, New York.

Resolution deadline is **Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 12 Noon.**



**Remarks to Ulster County Legislature
Regarding Resolution 471.3 of 2018
by Andy Bicking, Director of Public Policy
February 19, 2019**

Scenic Hudson supports the County Legislature approving the sale of the 123.8-acre Black Creek Property owned by the County to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

There are many benefits for the County to sell this land to the DEC:

- 1) The property contains high quality natural habitats – it's part of the largest and most significant intact forested wetlands in the Mid-Hudson Valley - that will be better managed by the DEC.
- 2) Uniform management by the DEC will help facilitate creation of the John-Burroughs Black Creek Trail Corridor – a goal of Scenic Hudson, the John Burroughs Association, Esopus Business Alliance, the Town of Esopus, the Town of Lloyd and the Walkway Over the Hudson. The Trail Corridor plan has benefitted from input from the County.
- 3) It advances both the County's and the State's Open Space Plan.
- 4) The agreed transaction price of \$178,500 will make the county whole for the loss of back taxes owed prior to 2014, when the County took ownership of the land.
- 5) The County will no longer have liability and management responsibility for this property.
- 6) There's a good chance the DEC will make payments in lieu of taxes to the County, Town and school district if the property is added to the Black Creek State Forest.

A review of the recent history of this project demonstrates how the public's interest is

being considered and advanced:

- 1) In 2014, the County pulled property from a tax sale because of the significance of the land.
- 2) On February 7, the Energy and Environment Committee considered this measure and heard from legislators that there were concerns expressed by local residents.
- 3) On February 23, a follow up meeting took place. In attendance were members of the Energy and Environment Committee, the DEC, Scenic Hudson and concerned local residents. Local residents expressed (1) concern about the potential effect of potential public access to the property, and (2) ownership of a portion of the property.

The DEC attended this meeting and made it clear that public access plans to the property would be subject to public input, including that of adjacent residents, and a management plan. The DEC also made it clear that the state could only purchase what the County owned, and any potential property line issues, if they exist, would be identified by a property survey following the DEC's purchase of the property. Resolution of any property line issues would be the responsibility of the DEC.

- 4) On March 7, the Energy and Environment Committee discussed the concerns of a few local residents once again. DEC reiterated the points made in the February meeting.
- 5) Scenic Hudson understands that the DEC and County Attorney recently examined the issue regarding property boundaries and determined that there was not a documented issue.

Scenic Hudson supports the County Legislature approving the sale of the Black Creek Parcel tonight.

Thank you.