

# ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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



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

## MINUTES

JULY 21, 2020

### PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

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



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

7:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN: 7:09 PM

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

Led by Legislator Herbert Litts.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ROLL CALL:

Present: 23

Absent: 0

7:12 PM - **CALL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING BY CLERK:** On Ulster County's Application for New York State CDBG Economic Development/Small Business funds to assist Farm To Table Community Inc.

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

1. Jim Hyland, CEO The Farm Bridge: (see attached transcript)

Motion by Legislator Litts, second by Legislator Bruno to adjourn the public hearing. All in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED: 7:16 PM**

**BIRTHDAYS:**

Legislator Eve Walter, July 5<sup>th</sup>  
Legislator Tracey Bartels, July 7<sup>th</sup>

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM:**

Chairman David B. Donaldson

Legislators Manna Jo Greene & James Delaune  
Dr. Alan Roberts, President SUNY Ulster  
Legislator Manna Jo Greene  
UC Comptroller, March Gallagher

UC Dept. of Public Works, Comm. Tom Jackson  
UC Personnel Officer  
UC Tourism Dept.  
UC Real Property, Director Tracey Williams  
UC Industrial Development Agency (UCIDA)  
County News  
Eric Wood, NYPIRG HV Regional Coordinator  
Ernest Hunt President, CMRR

Made in Kingston, Karen Berelowitz  
UC Planning Board  
Town of Rochester, Supervisor Michael Baden  
UC Electrical Licensing Board  
UC Department of Finance

Press Release, Criminal Justice Reform  
Press Release, Mental Health Services  
Letters, SUNY Ulster Climate Smart Effort  
Letter, Response Climate Smart Efforts  
Letter, UCRRA Board Members  
Press Release, Make Contracts Transparent  
Press Release, Short Term Rental  
UC Property Transfer Transactions/Revenue  
Occupancy Tax Collection  
Town of Esopus Drainage Project  
Employee Travel & Quarantine Restriction  
Travel Guide 2020-2021  
2020 Certified State Equalization Rates  
Press Release, UC Grant Funding (PPE)  
Vol. 52, No. 12&13  
Email, Opposing Danskammer  
Town of Hurley Resolution Extending  
CMRR Permit & Mtg. Minutes  
Letter, Annual Use Fee COVID-19 Ext.  
IBM Systems, David Hilliard CMRR  
UC Cultural Services & Promotion Fund  
Minutes, 6/3/2020 & Agenda 7/1/2020  
EM Order No. 1, 2, 4-7 2020 & EM DEC.  
Minutes 4/29/2020 & 5/27/2020  
Survey UCCC

**COMMUNICATIONS (continued):**

Central Hudson Gas & Electric  
NYS Public Service Commission & Public Need  
NYS DEP John Schwartz  
Janitronics Always Essential, Albany  
Mr. George McClure, Kingston  
UC Community Services Board  
Mrs. Debbie Porio  
NYSAC  
NYC Environmental Protection, John Schwartz

Ministers' Alliance of UC, Shirley Thomason  
Mainetti & Mainetti P.C. Attorneys At Law  
Scenic Hudson, Jess Mullen  
Hurley Rail Trail Committee

BOND Schoeneck & King Case 17-T-0816  
Subsequent Filing Case 17-T-0816  
Notice of Preliminary Decision 6/24/2020  
Flyer, Office Sanitization & Cleaning  
Letter, Fireworks in Ulster County  
Meeting Minutes 12/9/19, 1/13/20, 2/10/20  
Thank You Note  
News, Summer 2020 Brochure  
Notice of Preliminary Decision Stream  
Mgmt. Project, Schoharie Basin +\$100K  
Support for Public Defender Appointment  
Support for Public Defender Appointment  
Webinar 7/23/2020 Cycle of Harm  
Opposing Town of Hurley Res.# 2020-66

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS:**

Emergency Order Nos. 21, 22, 24, 26-2020  
Executive Order Nos. 23, 27, 28-2020 &  
State of Emergency Declaration  
Appointment Human Rights Commission:  
Martin Dunkley, Term 2/1/19 – 12/31/2021  
County Infrastructure Request Fed. Funds  
Press Release, COVID-19 Rapid Response  
Plan  
Press Release, Open UC Pool Complex  
Budgetary Transfers, Month of June 2020  
Press Release, UC Get Tested Week  
Press Release, UCEDA "Ulster Equity"  
Letter, In Support of Public Defender  
Nominee Lauren Sheeley

**MEMORIALIZING LETTERS:**

Governor Cuomo, Individualized  
Residential Alternatives (IRAs) COVID-19  
Restrictions

**ANNUAL REPORTS:**

UC Department of Environment

**DATE:**

Annual Report per Res. 451 of 2019

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing,  
Planning & Transit

June 2, 2020

Energy & Environment

June 1, 2020

Law Enforcement and Public Safety

June 3, 2020

Laws and Rules, Governmental Services

June 15, 2020

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services

June 2, 2020

Public Health and Social Services

June 1, 2020

Public Works and Capital Projects

June 3, 2020

Ways and Means

June 9, 2020

June 16, 2020

June 25, 2020

June 30, 2020

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:** Chairman Donaldson granted Privilege of the Floor to Ellenville Regional Hospital President & CEO, Steve Kelley, to share various Substance Use Disorder projects involving a number of different community partners. (see attached transcript)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were (13) speakers signed up for public comment. (see attached transcript)

1. Erin Burud
2. Peter Frank
3. Sheeba Mathai
4. Sharon Murry Cohen
5. Elizabeth Lee
6. Adrian Thiel
7. Michael Berg
8. Angela Figurelli

9. Kelly McMullen
10. Robert Fisher
11. Tom Denton
12. John Colon
13. Christina DeMaio

**RESOLUTION NOS: 129 – 131, 135 – 139, 141 – 143, 191, 196, 208, 230, 233 – 236, 238,239,241, 244 – 249, 251 – 264; 7, 191, 232, 237, 240, 243 – POSTPONED; 242 – NO ACTION TAKEN; 94, 96, 97, 250 – WITHDRAWN; 132 – 134, 140 – DEFEATED**

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

**Resolution No. 94** – Opposing A New Power Plant Facility At The Former Danskammer Energy Site In Newburgh (Orange County) New York  
*WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR*

**Resolution No. 96** – Supporting New York State Senate Bill S7280 And New York State Assembly Bill A09107, Supporting The "Emergency First Responders Privacy And Protection Act"  
*WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR*

**Resolution No. 97** – Urging The Governor And Members Of The New York State Legislature to Reevaluate Bail And Discovery Reform Measures Included in the SFY 2020 Budget  
*WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR*

**Resolution No. 132** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Resource Center For Accessible Living, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature  
*DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 133** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The D&H Canal Historical Society For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature  
*DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 134** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Hudson River Maritime Museum For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature  
*DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 140** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Imagine Better, Inc. D/B/A Don't Be A Monster For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature  
*DEFEATED IN COMMITTEE*

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

**Resolution No. 232** – Calling For Issuance Of Extended Moratorium On Evictions And Rent Relief During State Of Emergency  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 237** – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No.9 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Various Sections Of The Ulster County Charter And Ulster County Administrative Code To Reduce The Ulster County Legislature To 21 Members, To Be Held On Tuesday, August 11, 2020 At 6:20 PM  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 240** - Requesting The New York State Legislature Introduce, And The Governor Sign, An Amendment To Article 31 Of The New York State Tax Law To Permit The County Of Ulster To Adopt A Local Law To Impose, Collect And Retain A Tax On Real Estate Transfers  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 242** – Approving Ulster County's Local Solid Waste Management Plan  
*NO ACTION TAKEN*

**Resolution No. 243** – Urging New York State Legislature To Increase Recycling And Reduce Municipal Waste Management Costs By Expanding The NYS Returnable Container Act  
*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**Resolution No. 250** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application For A Department Of Health And Human Services Administration For Children And Families (OFA) Grant- Fatherhood-Family-Focused, Interconnected, Resilient, And Essential (Fatherhood FIRE) – Sheriff's Office  
*WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR*

A motion was made by Majority Leader Heppner, seconded by Minority Leader Ronk, to move Resolution Nos. 208, 257 and 264 out of the Non-Consent Agenda and into the Consent Agenda. All in favor.

**Consent**

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 233 Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 2 Of 2020, A Local Law Establishing Construction Apprenticeship Training Requirements For Certain Construction Contracts In Excess Of \$350,000, And Repealing Local Law Number 2 Of 2015**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 236 Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 8 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For the County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Clarify Budget Modification After Adoption, To Be Held On Tuesday, August 11, 2020 At 6:15 PM**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0



- 239      Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 10 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 10 of 2015, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 10 Of 2008 (A Local Law Adopting An Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York), Pertaining To Change Orders And/Or Amendments To Contracts Equal To Or Exceeding \$50,000.00, To Be Held On Tuesday, August 11, 2020 At 6:25 PM**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 241      Confirming Appointment Of Wanda Williams As The Ulster County Representative On The Catskill Off Track Betting Corporation Board Of Directors**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 244      Approving The 2020-2021 Ulster County Community College Budget – SUNY Ulster**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 245      Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports For Minimum Wage And Workforce Cost Of Living Adjustments – Department Of Mental Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 247      Scheduling A Public Hearing As Required Under Article 25AA Of The Agriculture And Markets Law, On The Addition Of Lands To Agricultural Districts, To Be Held August 11, 2020 At 6:30 PM, Or As Soon Thereafter As The Public Can Be Heard, And Providing Direct Notice To Affected Municipalities – Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 248      Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services – Raise The Age Program – Department Probation**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 251      Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease With CPR Kingston, LLC Bank For Space To Be Used By The Board Of Elections– Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 252      Amending The 2020 - 2025 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project No. 572 – Wittenberg Road Culvert, Town Of Woodstock – Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 254 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The Town Of Ulster For Security Services At The COVID-19 Testing Site – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 256 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Primecare Medical Of New York, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 257 Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Alison Krause, LMSW – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 258 Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – NYSARC, Inc. DBA The Arc Of Delaware County – Department Of Social Services**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

- 259      Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Town & County Bridge and Rail, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 260      Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Dutchess Overhead Doors, Inc. – Department Of Public Works**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 261      Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Accucare Nursing & Homecare, Inc. – Emergency Management**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 262      Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Metroland Business Machines, Inc. – Purchasing Department**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

- 264      Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Lands Owned By Ulster County Located At Golden Hill, City Of Kingston To A Local Development Corporation To Be Held On Tuesday, August 11, 2020 At 6:20 PM**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

## Non-Consent

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

Legislator Ronk motioned, seconded by Legislator Petit, to amend the Resolution by restoring funding to the original amount of \$12,500.00.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 3                      NOES: 20  
(Ayes: Legislators Parete, Petit, and Wawro)

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

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

Legislator Fabiano motioned, seconded by Legislator Petit, to amend the Resolution by restoring funding to the original amount of \$28,750.00.

MOTION DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 5 NOES: 18  
(Ayes: Legislators Donaldson, Fabiano, Parete, Petit, and Wawro)

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

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

*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

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

Legislator Archer motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the prior amendment dollar amount and the total contract dollar amount as indicated.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

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

Moved to Consent

**230 Establishing A Policy Requiring The Reporting Of All Expenditures Made By Ulster County In Relation To The Former Tech City Property**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

**234 Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 5 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Chapter 37 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster Regarding Automatic Re-Canvassing Procedure In And For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

**235      Confirming The Appointment Of Lauren Sheeley As Director Of Ulster  
County's Public Defender's Office**

DEFEATED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 9 NOES: 14  
(Ayes: Legislators Corcoran, Criswell, Haynes,  
Lopez, Parete, Petit, Roberts, Ronk, and  
Uchitelle)

**238 Establishing A Policy Regarding Legislative Access To Ulster County's  
Municipal Uniform Information System (MUNIS)**

Legislator Archer motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend Exhibit A to add the language “read-only” as indicated in bold font.

**MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23                      NOES: 0

240 **Requesting The New York State Legislature Introduce, And The Governor Sign, An Amendment To Article 31 Of The New York State Tax Law To Permit The County Of Ulster To Adopt A Local Law To Impose, Collect And Retain A Tax On Real Estate Transfers**

*POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE*

**246 Authorizing Track Removal For The Ulster County Midtown Linear Park (PIN 8761.82) In The City Of Kingston – Department Of Planning**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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



**249      Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Adjust The Annual Salary  
Of The Public Defender In Order To Be Consistent With A Full-Time  
Position Increase The Salary Of The Public Defender**

Legislator Bartels motioned, seconded by Legislator Heppner, to amend the Resolution by striking certain language, and adding additional language in both the title and body, as indicated above.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

**253      Authorizing The Replacement Of The Culvert On Wittenberg Road In  
BOND    The Town Of Woodstock, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York,  
At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$62,000.00, And Authorizing The  
Issuance Of \$62,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING LONG ROLL VOTE:

AYES:    23                      NOES:    0

**257      Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of  
\$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Alison Krause, LMSW –  
Department Of Social Services**

Moved to Consent

**Late Resolutions**

- 263 Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter An Agreement For A Cybersecurity Remediation Grant Program With The NYS Board Of Elections – Ulster County Board Of Elections**

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

- 264 Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Lands Owned By Ulster County Located At Golden Hill, City Of Kingston To A Local Development Corporation To Be Held On Tuesday, August 11, 2020 At 6:20 PM**

Moved to Consent

**MEETING ADJOURNED IN MEMORY OF:** Read by Legislator Heidi Haynes.

Joseph L. Sinnott, Saugerties, NY  
Mary R. Corcoran, Milton, NY  
Elizabeth Briggs, Ellenville, NY  
Roger H. Osterhoudt, Accord, NY  
Irene J. Derr, Saugerties, NY  
Antoinette G. Faluotico, Kingston, NY  
Natalie Mann Rosenstock, Boynton Beach, FL  
Salvatore A. Verrastro, Saugerties, NY  
Keith K. Johnson, Shandaken, NY  
Steward H. DeWitt, Woodstock, NY  
Joseph Riccio, Saugerties, NY  
William H. Ayers, Kingston, NY  
Cemal Guler, Saugerties, NY  
James R. McDonald, New Paltz, NY  
HyLand Winnie, Sr., Saugerties, NY  
Pauline Delson, Saugerties, NY

James F. Dwyer, Port Ewen, NY  
Christopher K. Bamba, Kingston, NY  
Robert J. Hinkley, Kingston, NY  
Chrystalla Orthodoxou, Phoenicia, NY  
Aleksander R. Rzemieniecki, Ellenville, NY  
Margaret Gohl, Kingston, NY  
Joseph J. Hull, Town of Shawangunk  
Joseph D. Hull, Town of Shawangunk  
Gerard P. Wyncoop, Hurley, NY  
Eleanor Gallagher, Marlboro, NY  
Domenic R. Castaldo, Hurley, NY  
Thomas E. Ocker, Woodstock, NY  
David H. Richardson, Gardiner, NY  
Marion S. Vail, Saugerties, NY  
Bertin J. Long, Highland, NY  
Shelly Jean Leiching, Kingston, NY

MINUTES  
PAGE 19  
JULY 21, 2020

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 9:16 PM

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next Regular Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

Resolution deadline is Friday, July 24, 2020 at 12 Noon.



www.thefarmbridge.com  
750 Enterprise Dr.  
Kingston, NY 12401  
845-383-1761



Our leadership team

## OUR STORY

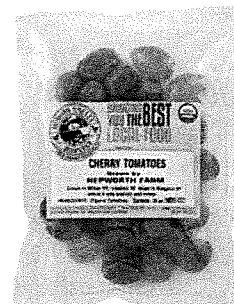
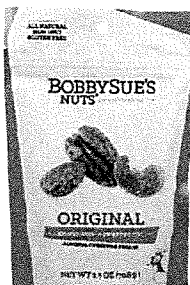
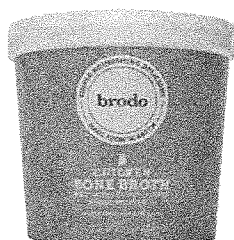
In 2010, The Farm Bridge began as a small local food brand called Winter Sun Farms, buying fresh produce from Hudson Valley NY farmers and preserving it all for distribution throughout the winter. We've grown into a 30,000 sq ft production facility with 45 employees, including a highly-trained management team. TFB produces local value-added foods as well as year-round bone broths, pickles, soups, sauces, and fresh cut vegetables and fruits.

## OUR FUTURE

In 2020, we are relocating to a new nearby location in a former Sears building. We're excited to reuse and renew this space, and to design the facility we've always dreamed of. We'll be able to retain 100% of our team, and to grow that team as we expand our production line capabilities. We look forward to this great opportunity to do more, make more, and bring more income to regional farmers.

## OUR MISSION

The heart of our work is to create and maintain good local jobs making wholesome foods that support the resilience of our regional food-shed. We serve food entrepreneurs whose growing companies aim to re-shape the food system with healthier, cleaner products and with an emphasis on local ingredients. We play a role in local farm viability both by purchasing large volumes of local produce, and by helping farmers preserve their harvest and extend their incomes with value-added goods. We continue to be a leader in the farm-to-school initiative working with our local farmers to supply NY Grown and Certified products to our regional schools. We believe there are still significant opportunities to bring healthy local foods to all schools.



for PA 7/21/20



750 Enterprise Dr.  
Kingston, NY 12401  
Ph 845.383.1761  
F 845.802.0374

---

- Ochs Orchard
- Dagele Farms
- Black Horse Farm
- Sun Sprout Farm
- Rondout Valley Growers Association
- The Hudson Valley Farm Hub

Local Businesses such as:

- Adams Fairacre Farms
- Viking Industries
- Community Compost Company
- Fala Technologies
- Burch Bottle and Packaging, Inc.
- Red Barn Produce
- Saugerties Electric
- Field Goods
- Hudson Valley Harvest
- Trusted Harvest

For the new expansion, TFB has raised over four and a half million dollars. Two million will go towards the renovation of the Sears stores, one million towards equipment, and the rest towards working capital, moving expenses and contingency. The last piece of the funding that we are missing is the \$390,000 we have applied for through the CBDG. We have secured funding with ESDC, Central Hudson, and investors eager to see Kingston grow, but without this additional funding from CDBG the project is in jeopardy.

Thank you once again for considering this project and I look forward to being a part of the Ulster County community for many years.

Thanks,  
*Jim Hyland*  
Jim Hyland  
CEO  
The Farm Bridge

PS - I attached additional information about The Farm Bridge

[www.thefarmbridge.com](http://www.thefarmbridge.com)

---

# ULSTERCOUNTYLEGISLATURE

---

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



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

## TRANSCRIPT JULY 21, 2020

### PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

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



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

7:00 PM

#### **Chairman Donaldson**

Call the public hearing and then the regular meeting to order. And I'd like if  
Legislator Litts could lead us in the Pledge to the Flag. He's got to unmute himself.

#### **Legislator Litts**

I'm sorry. I just did the whole...

#### **Legislative Members**

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

#### **Chairman Donaldson**

You may be seated.

#### **Legislator Litts**

Sorry, I forgot to unmute.

#### **Clerk Fabella**

We're going to do roll call now.

**Clerk Fabella**

Archer.

**Legislator Archer**

Here.

**Legislator Bartels**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bruno.

**Legislator Bruno**

Here.

**Legislator Cahill**

Here.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Delaune.

**Legislator Delaune**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Here

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Haynes.

**Legislator Haynes**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez**

Here.



**Clerk Fabella**

Maio

**Legislator Maio**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Parete. Give that a minute because we just let him in. So, he is here. See if I can...

Parete, can you hear us? There he is.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Present

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Present.

**Clerk Fabella**

Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Wawro

**Mary Wawro**

Here.

**Clerk Fabella**

Twenty-three present and none absent.

**Clerk Fabella**

Tonight, we start with a Public Hearing On Ulster County's Application for New York State CDBG Economic Development/Small Business funds to assist Farm To Table Community Inc.

**Clerk Fabella**

And we do have one speaker signed up, and that is Jim Hyland.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Go ahead, Jim.

**Clerk Fabella**

Jim Hyland, can you hear us?

**Jim Hyland**

Can you hear me?

**Clerk Fabella**

Is that Jim Hyland?

**Jim Hyland**

Can you hear me?

**Clerk Fabella**

Yes, we can hear you.

**Jim Hyland, CEO The Farm Bridge**

I'd like to talk about our project. We've been in business in Ulster County for over ten years. We've injected over \$19 million into the local economy for employee payroll. We are really looking forward to the next chapter, which includes upcycling the Sears store, and hopefully bring a lot of new life back to the Hudson Valley Mall. In an expansion with jobs we'll be creating production line workers, line leaders, sales associates, [inaudible], and warehouse workers, cleaning crew operations. These are all

jobs that are open to low and moderate income families. They're entry level jobs. At the Farm Bridge, we really do promote from within and we do a lot of internal training. [Inaudible] members of our management team to started with us at entry level. And all our current line leaders actually started in entry level, just production line work. So, that's an important thing for us. We train from inside and promote from within.

**Jim Hyland**

This expansion also help us continue to grow our [inaudible] Ulster County and expand the businesses we work with all over Ulster County. We work with Davenport Farms, Migliorelli Farms, Heppner Farms. A lot of Ulster County Businesses. Adams Fairacre Farms, Viking Industries, Community Compost Company, Fala Technologies, Red Barn Produce, Saugerties Electric, Field Goods, Hudson Valley Harvest, Trusted Harvest.

**Jim Hyland**

For the new expansion, we raised over \$4.5 million, almost \$5 million. \$2 million will go towards renovating the Sears store. \$1 million towards equipment. The rest serves as working capital, moving expenses and contingency. And really [inaudible] applied to is the last piece of the puzzle that we've been trying to get. The rest of the is pretty much secured. We've got stuff from Empire State Development, Central Hudson, you know, investors that really care about what you do as a company and [inaudible]. And so, we're hoping that we get this CDBG grant approved and we can move and continue to stay in Ulster County.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright, thank you, Jim.

**Clerk Fabella**

There are no other speakers signed up for this public hearing.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Is there anyone out there that wishes to speak? That didn't sign up? Anyone out there? That didn't sign up? All right, hearing none. I'd entertain a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Legislator Litts, do you know you're on mute?

**Legislator Litts**

I'll make a motion to close the Public Hearing sir.

**Legislator Bruno**

I'll second it.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And seconded by Legislator Bruno.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All those in favor?

**Legislative Members**

Aye. Aye. (23-0)

**Chairman Donaldson**

Any opposed? None. Adjourned.

**Chairman Donaldson**

So, we will go right into the regular session. You already have attendance called and such. And we'll start out of course, this month's birthdays are Legislator Eve Walters and Vice Chair Tracey Bartels, both twenty-nine today, or this month.

**Legislator Bruno**

Happy birthday girls.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Happy Birthday ladies. Alrighty.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'll entertain a motion to dispense with the reading the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Legislator Heppner**

Moved.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay, Seconded by?

**Legislator Ronk**

Second.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All those in favor?

**Legislative Members**

Aye. (23-0)

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay. We have various communications on file. Take time to read some of these. There is also, there's County Executive communications and memorializing letters and committee reports.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'm going to start out with the privilege of the floor, giving the privilege of the floor to the Ellenville Regional Hospital. President and CEO Steve Kelly to share various substance use disorder projects involving a number of different communities. And we have Steve Kelley and a bunch of folks who will join from the hospital. Sheriff Figueroa will join from another location. Take it away Steve.

**Steve Kelley**

Thank you. Thank you. Can you hear me? Hopefully unmuted.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yep.

**Steve Kelley**

Yes. Okay. All right. So, first of all, I want to announce that Sheriff Figueroa is here in disguise. He's wearing a mask, just like all of us here. But that's what we have to do to be safe. He was going to call in from an undisclosed location. But his schedule changed and he's able to join us. So, I wanted to... I want to start with thanking the Chairman, Mr. Donaldson, for giving us this opportunity to talk about the programs that were we're working on.

**Steve Kelley**

I'm Steve Kelley. I'm the president here at Ellenville Regional Hospital. And while I'll be doing the talking tonight, I'll be speaking on behalf of many organizations that are here, including a staff my own. So, I would like to also thank all of the, all of the Legislators. I know many of you, personally, and we appreciate the opportunity to share what we're doing and to serve.

**Steve Kelley**

So, a little bit of background before we get into the programs. A few years ago, in 2017, we set up a Rural Health Network that is a partnership with the Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health, and the Institute for Family Health, those that are founding partners. And we have Vin Martello here tonight. Raise your hands

in from the Ulster County Department of Health. We have Dr. Kristina Ursetti from the Institute for Family Health. So, you have those folks here.

**Steve Kelley**

The Rural Health Network has several core factors that are really the foundation of what we're working towards. We here in the hospital really has been in the sick business for a long time. And it became clear to us that in order to drive down long term health care, health care costs, we had to change the thinking about wellness and wellness comes down to a number of core factors: diet, exercise, risk reduction. Risk reduction are things like alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs, and things like that.

**Steve Kelley**

These are the first three things are factors, that individuals can really influence by changing their behaviors. So, learning to eat properly, cutting down on carbohydrates, and fats and salt and sugar and going a little heavier on the protein. And so, those are the things that we can change ourselves. Stress reduction really addresses the social determinants of healthcare. These are things like housing insecurity, food insecurity, relationship insecurity, employment insecurity. And while we're not always able to change the situations that we find ourselves in, we can learn to cope better with them. So, those are kind of coping skills.

**Steve Kelley**

We have projects that are for children. We're working on obesity prevention, pregnancy prevention for adults. And in adults, we are really focusing on different diseases. Part of the reason for that is that funding sources like to fund programs for diseases even though we're about wellness, we're about preventing those diseases, as opposed to treating them. We have programs for seniors, we have pharmacy program which is gives out free produce to about 100 families, twice a month, different families, we've had over 1100 different individuals who have come and been able to benefit from that. Our pharmacist does medication reconciliation, help people to take their drugs properly. And then we have substance abuse disorder initiatives, which is what we're here to talk about tonight. So, let's talk about the problem. This is deaths here from opioids here in Ulster County. So, 2017 - 42 deaths, 2018 - 56 deaths, making us second only to Sullivan County as having the highest death rate per 100,000 in New York State, terrible, terrible number.

**Steve Kelley**

A lot of the efforts that we've been working on that we're going to be talking about here tonight helps to drive that down 41% last year. And then COVID hit. COVID hit this year and it has changed everything. It is taken all the oxygen out of the room. Nobody's thinking about opioids anymore, except for us. And the things that are just going right up. We have already had almost as many deaths this year through June.

And if you add in the pending's, which we're waiting for confirmations on, it will be exceeding last year. The projection is well over 2018, and potentially the worst year that we've ever had.

**Steve Kelley**

When we look at deaths, they are caused by overdoses. And so, when we look at overdoses, we didn't really start tracking those until 2018. And we had 280 that year, and 301 in 2019. And look at this year 260, already. If we project that, that's 520 for the year, which is an enormous number. And we look at in the naloxone, naran administrations that are being reported, these aren't the ones necessarily are not reported, because we don't know about those. But those are doubling also. When we look at them...

**Legislator Ronk**

Yeah. I just want to let you know that the screen is not changing with your PowerPoint presentation.

**Steve Kelley**

It is not changing. All right let us try again. I apologize. Are we getting there now? All right. Ah, okay.

**Steve Kelley**

Well, this is the graph that I've been talking about. If we look at this graph, this is the problem for opioids. What happens here? There it comes.

**Steve Kelley**

So, this is the graph I was showing. And when we see that, this is the death rate, which looks very ominous for 2020. And this is the overdose rate, which is what causes deaths, and it looks pretty ominous also. So, what have we been doing about the opioid epidemic, which is not a new problem, this has been around a long time.

**Steve Kelley**

Back in 2016, before, even before the opioid epidemic became a household issue. We started working here in Ellenville in our Emergency Department. We looked at how, what we could do to reduce opioid prescriptions. And this was, this project was led by two people in the room here. Ashima Butler, and she's our chief operating officer, and really ran this program. And Maria Gonzalez who is our Director of Nursing, but at the time, was running the Emergency Department and oversaw the day to day operations of this. And we reduced opioid orders in the Emergency Department, over time, by 97%, which the first hospital really in the country to do that.

**Steve Kelley**

You can see the other numbers here, just really pretty remarkable. In every single patient that came to our hospital, that did not have a primary care provider, was referred to the Institute for Family Health. And they went through and did an assessment of the patients and got them into the appropriate treatment. And so, we had a very natural referral relationship.

**Steve Kelley**

And this program was so successful that the state which was running something called a [inaudible], which is a redesign of the Medicaid Program, featured us as one of the top ten projects in that five-year program. And actually, we were the top project, and we submitted this project to the American Hospital Association. And it was accepted, and we actually we had another one accepted, and we sent our team out San Diego to present at a national conference. And they were really amazed to discover that there were only 20 projects featured in the country. And we've had two. So, that is the... I'm sorry. Okay.

**Steve Kelley**

So, from there we advanced, and we were working with Ulster County's Task Force on Opioid Prevention. And this is another project, again, my two people Ashima and Maria, worked on developing this project. And it's called "Project Rescue."

**Steve Kelley**

We had this, this thought that when somebody has overdosed, if we could get them into treatment at that point, we may have an opportunity to reach them because there's moment after they have been narcanned back to life, where they might accept treatment. And we worked with our partners at Catholic Charities, Shannon Kelly, who's from Kingston, grew up there, graduated from Coleman, who's now the chief operating officer of Catholic Charities. And Dean Scher who's her boss, helped us by providing a peer counselor, 24/7 to come, and to assist us to help connect someone into treatment. And we offered suboxone immediately, or buprenorphine, or use those interchangeably. Right in the ER, we were the first Hospital in the Hudson Valley to do that.

**Steve Kelley**

And we partnered with Sheriff and his whole department, some of his team are here. They brought patients from all over Ulster County to benefit from this. And so, we were able to try to get people into treatment after an overdose, immediately afterwards. This is just a flowchart of how it worked, kind of complicated. I just wanted to illustrate that we were able to draw boxes. And then at the bottom, we have people that are getting into treatment.



**Steve Kelley**

What we discovered is that not everyone is ready for treatment. We were very disappointed that many people said us, "No, I'm not really ready for this. I just want to get out of here as fast as I can." And we weren't able to get them into treatment.

**Steve Kelley**

And we realized we had to adapt and improvise our program some for another path for harm reduction. And so, we started having a whole bunch of different things such as fentanyl test strips, so I could see a fentanyl was in there. Because fentanyl is much more-deadly than pretty much every other substance that that there is. And, and Naloxone kits, so they can choose Narcan for reversing if they overdose.

**Steve Kelley**

And a whole bunch of programs... And, and then we took it to this year to having a text line, so that we're able to have individuals who are in danger, they're able to text us. This just was launched in May, brand new program, so that they can get access to harm reduction supplies, and information on programs.

**Steve Kelley**

So then, our latest thing that we're working on, which is not yet launched, is another partnership. And it's a partnership with all the folks in this room. And what it does is it allows us to have a software system, an actual system, that helps to... It doesn't help. We're able to put in people who are having adverse health outcomes somewhere in system and enroll them into our net system: The Network Engagement Tracker, or Net, is really the safety net to capture people and save them after, or catch them as they're falling through the cracks in the system. And we entered them into that system. And it allows us to track all of their inpatient visits, ER visits, AMA if they decide to bolt out, or any other times that they hit the system.

**Steve Kelley**

And what we have is we have three teams. We have a Fatality Review Team where we review all of fatalities. We tried to understand how that fatality happened and what we could have done to prevent it. Because our goal is to become forward leaning. And look as people are having various events, such as missing doctor's appointments for their suboxone, or other type of things. What is it that is a trigger so that we can have one of our community health workers or members of the Oracle team from the Sheriff's Office, visit these people, in advance of them having an overdose, to try and get them back on track, so that we can prevent overdoses, which in many cases leads to death. So, this is this is a very innovative program. There is no other program around here that does quite like what we're doing. We're actually inventing the future here. And we've been able to get some substantial grant money to help with that. And we're

including Greene County and Columbia County in this effort. So, this is a pretty big deal.

**Steve Kelley**

This leads into our Treatment and Recovery Navigation, which is an extension of another part of this. I would say that working with law enforcement is something that health care, in the health care community, we have not experienced very much before. Typically, there are different lanes. There's a health care lane and we take care of people when they're sick. And there's the law enforcement lane, which takes care of people when they're involved in criminal activity. And they don't usually intersect that much. But as you can see from this list, we intersect a lot, a huge amount with law enforcement. And that's why I invited the Sheriff to come because he's been such a partner here in the last year or so. It's just been really pretty amazing.

**Steve Kelley**

I have a few other thoughts. We have a lot of partners. Institute for Family Health has been our medical partner on every project. The Ulster County, Ulster County, you all, which you may not realize has been deeply involved in the opioid crisis. Really, leaders in the country, and that may not be well known. It's hard to be heroes in your hometown. I can tell you that we have presented at 19 conferences over the last two years. And small hospitals usually attend conferences. They don't present them. And to do 19 and two years is, is pretty amazing. And this has been the number one topic that we've discussed.

**Steve Kelley**

So, you can see also County Sheriff's Department, Catholic Charities, and Ellenville Rescue Squad, Step One, the National Guard's Counter Drug Task Force has worked with us. The DA's Office. Saugerties Police. Gateway of the Hudson Valley. We have Stephanie Turco here who is the CEO of Gateway. So, like he knows about that. And then you see some of the other folks Ellenville Police Department, Columbia University, Chatham Police, they're up in Columbia County. Twin County Recovery is in Greene County, People USA, Zero Overdose. So, it's been... It is a very, very broad section of partners to make this all work.

**Steve Kelley**

So, finally, I would close with this graph again. This is what we're up against. And it's been... everything has been completely hidden by COVID. COVID has just taken over everything. And while that's gotten all the publicity here, opioids have really been coming back, and coming back strong. And we're doing everything we can to fight, using all the tools that we have developed in the past, and our whole experience, and form these incredible partnerships.

**Steve Kelley**

So, Ulster County is really a tremendous leader in the fight against the opioid crisis, even though it isn't maybe as well known here. We've presented all over the country. Our MAT series project that we did in the ER is in other hospitals, all over the country has adopted our protocols, most locally, the folks in Kingston at Health Alliance in Poughkeepsie at Mid-Hudson, Dave, we help them implement those protocols to reduce opioid administration in the ER.

**Steve Kelley**

So, that is my conclusion. We appreciate the opportunity to share with you the things that we're doing together and assure you that Ulster County is at the forefront of fighting the opioid epidemic. Thank you very much.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you, Steve. I really appreciate it. For those that don't know, or don't remember, it was 16 years ago, approximately 16 years ago, when Steve Kelly came before this body and needed some help to save the Ellendale Hospital from collapse. That was 16 years ago. Today, he's brought that hospital to one of the most remarkable small hospitals in the nation. And we should be very proud of him. And really proud of this body, what they did to make sure that place stayed open. So, thank you, Steve, really appreciate your time.

**Steve Kelley**

During that time when we really needed it, and we appreciate the Legislature appropriating, and giving us money that we needed at the time. And I want to also say we're very proud of the fact that we pay back every penny of it.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Very good.

**Steve Kelley**

Which the government... I mean, we, we did that because it was the right thing to do. And we've been honorable in every way. And we really appreciate the relationships with Ulster County.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you again, Steve. All right now we're going to be going into public comments. How many people have signed up Vicky?

**Clerk Fabella**

We currently have thirteen people signed up.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. So, let me advise the thirteen people we could each have two minutes each, we'll give you a little leeway if you're finishing up a sentence. Please refrain from addressing individual legislators. Legislators cannot respond or answer. It is our job to listen here. Okay, go ahead, Vicki.

**Clerk Fabella**

Okay, I'm going to call the speakers in the order that they called into us. And what I will ask is that any of our speakers, if you can lower your computer volume, that will help us to not have any feedback when you speak. The first speaker we have signed up is Erin Burud.

**Erin Burud**

Hello, good evening. My name is Erin Burud. I'm speaking with regards to Resolution 235. I have known more in Lauren Sheeley professionally since 2014. She has been my colleague, my mentor, my manager, and most recently, my predecessor and my current position, managing a not for profit law office. Please note the following sentiments our mine and not those of my employer.

**Erin Burud**

I know firsthand that Lauren is intelligent and passionate about justice equality. She has dedicated her life to helping vulnerable populations who lacked access to justice for one reason or another. She's organized, thorough and a fierce advocate for both her clients and her staff. Lauren is efficient and knowledgeable when it comes to managing staff. She's resilient and levelheaded, and she's able to make those tough calls that many of us would rather not. She's extremely resourceful. As a manager, she's always been able to obtain the tools and training that her staff needs to do their jobs effectively, including obtaining anti-racism and cultural sensitivity training. The accomplishment... Lauren's accomplishment than I am most, especially now as I try to fill up her shoes, is that she took an office of four attorneys with very minimal administrative support, and grew it to an office of seven attorneys, and five non-attorney advocates and paralegals in just a matter of four years.

**Erin Burud**

Anyone who has ever worked for a not for profit, or grant funded position, knows that this is no small feat. In order to achieve this, she sought out, applied for, and helped sustain grants that brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to Ulster County for domestic violence and crime victims work, eviction prevention, rental assistance, an ombudsman program for managed long term care. This funding was all for the benefit of Ulster County residents. And by directly assisting those in need, these grants have also saved the county a tremendous amount of money. And this is a skill that I think makes Lauren an incredible asset to this position.

**Erin Burud**

A lot of the press coverage I've seen surrounding Lauren's appointment seems to be focused on qualification she may not have, but I urge the members of the Legislature to consider her proven qualifications, the ones that she does have. I know that Lauren is 100% committed to Ulster County and its residents. And I have no doubt that if Lauren is confirmed as Ulster County Public Defender, the office will thrive, the community will benefit. I thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this remarkable woman.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is Peter Frank.

**Peter Frank**

Good evening, thank you Chairman and Legislators. I am the senior attorney at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. I am speaking in support of Lauren Sheeley's candidacy for the Public Defender's Office. I worked with Lauren for six years at Legal Services in Kingston. I've been practicing law for fifty years. I graduated from Harvard Law School in 1971. I worked for a major Wall Street law firm in New York City before I came to Ulster County in 2000. And since 2000, I've been practicing law and Ulster County. I've appeared before County Court Judge Williams. All of the Supreme Court Judges, Judge Bradley, God rest his soul, and Judge Cavanaugh.

**Peter Frank**

I am speaking on behalf of Lauren Sheeley because she is qualified to be the Public Defender. I stood next to Lauren while she practiced law in Kingston City Court, in town and village justice courts, and in other settings where she's shown as an attorney, she has the skills. I know that. She has practice law effectively in support of her clients. And she will continue to practice law in support of the Public Defender's Office, and those who come to the Public Defender's Office for legal representation. I wholly and fully support Lauren's candidacy, and I hope the Legislature will as well. Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is Sharon Murry Cohen. I'm sorry Sharon Murry Cohen.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Go to the next and then you can call her back later.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is Sharon Murry Cohen?

**Sharon Murry Cohen**

Yes, good evening. Actually, it's Sharon Murry Cohen

**Clerk Fabella**

I'm sorry, Sharon Marie Cohen.

**Sharon Murry Cohen**

And I'm here in support of Lauren Sheeley also. My agency, Jewish Family Services, has had the Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team grant from the Office of Aging and the Office of Student Services New York State. [Feedback echo] I'm sorry. I'm getting feedback from you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'm not sure what's going at this point.

**Clerk Fabella**

The problem is that she's listening to the live stream and she's on the Call in Studio. So, we're getting some feedback. But what we'll do is we'll move that that person down and we'll go with Sheeba Mathai.

**Sheeba Mathai**

My name is Sheeba Mathai. I'm the chief diversity officer and attorney in charge of the Rockland County Office of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. I thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of Lauren Sheeley. I speak personally and not in my capacity as a legal services employee.

**Sheeba Mathai**

I started as a staff attorney in 2011 at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, which I believe is around the same time that Lauren Sheeley started as a staff attorney in 2015, I believe is around the time that she was promoted to attorney in charge. She and I worked together as attorneys in charge, of different counties obviously, she for Ulster County and I for Rockland County, but we worked on the leadership team together for the remainder of her time with legal services.

**Sheeba Mathai**

I've always found Lauren to be extremely genuine. She's very sincere, she is tenacious. She stands up for what is right and she speaks out whether or not she has support of others. She will not rest until she is able to speak her mind about what she believes to be right. In my personal observations of Lauren, I found her to be a delightful person. She's extremely personable. She has a quality about her that I think is essential in leadership, which is that she is a community builder. And she really connects with her team. As Erin said earlier, she took a team of four and grew the office to quite a large size by the time she left, and her office's morale, I would say, increased tremendously

as a result of her leadership, and her care and attention, to each and every single person on her team. I think that's truly a very positive and admirable attribute of hers.

**Sheeba Mathai**

As Chief Diversity Officer, I have worked closely with Lauren in the past on the diversity equity and inclusion training, including anti-racism training. And, you know, while these efforts are agency wide, Lauren was an attorney in charge who really stood up as a leader. And she, she was a great example I think to her office of what it means to try to do this work and to do it well for our clients and the communities that we serve. She, like I said, always speaks up, she's direct, and she will not rest until she makes her point about the things that she feels are right. And again, in my observation of Lauren, she truly believes in justice for all and she makes that clear. I think she also has a tremendous quality about her in that she's very detail oriented. She is very responsible.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Could you please wrap it up, you're going past the time.

**Sheeba Mathai**

Sure. She's very responsible about grants and administering those grants and programs. And I've worked closely on an ICAN program, and I'm delighted to be able to speak in favor of her this this evening. Thank you for the time.

**Clerk Fabella**

Okay our very, very awesome call screener, Fawn Tantillo, has taken care of the audio problem on the speaker before. So, let's try again. Sharon Marie Cohen.

**Sharon Murry Cohen**

Sorry about that. What I would like to say about Lauren is that she is one of the most well-rounded attorneys that I have ever met. She has excellent administrative skills, as have been described by individuals who have worked with her. She has excellent legal skills. I've witnessed that when we've had difficult cases in terms of financial elder abuse, and she has always been willing to make suggestions, do referrals, or anything needed to assist the team and to help the individual. I strongly support her position. And I am hoping that you will too. Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is Elizabeth Lee.

**Elizabeth Lee**

Oh, hello. Do you hear me?

**Clerk Fabella**

We can hear you but if you could turn down the live stream on your, turn down the audio on audio live stream.

**Elizabeth Lee**

Okay. Is that better? Okay.

**Clerk Fabella**

It is, go ahead.

**Elizabeth Lee**

Good evening. Okay. Good evening everyone. My name is Elizabeth Lee from New Paltz. I am asking the Legislature to pass Resolution No. 263 about funding for cyber security upgrades in advance of the general election. I feel this funding from the state is very important to ensure the election security of our November election. This is a critical election year, and voters need to have confidence in the election process. So, I hope all the Legislators will support passing the Resolution of No. 263. Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is Adrian Thiel.

**Adrian Thiel**

Good evening, I'm speaking in support of Resolution 235. My name is Adrian Theil, and I work and live in Ulster County, as do many of my friends and family. I even began my legal career here representing individuals in criminal proceedings in the local Justice Courts up to the County Court and in front of Judge Williams. I am currently representing residents of Ulster County and Ulster County primarily in Family Court matters. Now, I must preface that I'm speaking tonight on behalf of myself and personal beliefs not on behalf of the organization that I'm employed by.

**Adrian Thiel**

So, that being said, I've watched attorney Sheeley, handle trials, manage a full staff of attorneys, and secure funding for our community. All while connecting the most vulnerable population of our community with the appropriate services and support. And it is my understanding the purpose of the Office of the Public Defender is to safeguard individual rights for members of this community. The Public Defender is responsible for planning, implementing, coordinating, and directing the activities of that office and ensuring that the members of our community receive the services they need.

**Adrian Thiel**



It is my opinion is that Ms. Sheeley has a proven track record of three necessary elements for this position. Experience representing individuals that make up our community. Experience managing a large law office, including grant work. And experience and familiarity with the Ulster County community as evidenced by the people speaking on her behalf this evening. I truly believe that by confirming attorney Sheeley's appointment, it would not only be securing an invaluable asset for the Public Defender's Office, but most importantly, for the individuals that make up this community. Myself, the individuals on this call, and the individuals in that room, and therefore I would urge you to confirm her appointments this evening. Thank you for your time. I know it's valuable.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is Mike Berg.

**Mike Berg**

Thank you. I want to confirm a lot of what has been said about Lauren Sheeley. I've worked with her in two capacities. One as the Executive Director of Family of Woodstock. We have mutually referred clients. We've worked together on a number of cases, I can confirm that she is certainly devoted. Dogged in fighting for her clients, a skilled attorney, and very organized, and ran a very tight ship while she was at Legal Services. I also worked with Lauren as the vice chair of the Continuum of Care, Heights Continuum of Care. I've been the chair since its beginning. And I was very pleased to have the help that Lauren gave me in running the, and building the organization. As the chair, but also as a recipient of a number of the grants, there were times when it did not feel that I should lead the discussion. And she took over and did a very strong job.

**Mike Berg**

I would make one other observation. I'm the son of an attorney. My father specialized in Admiralty Law, law about ships. But before that he was an attorney. He was really smart. He, he gave good advice. He knew about the law. And I expect that Lauren would do the same. She's very committed to her work. She ran a tight ship at Legal Services, and I feel very comfortable to recommend her.

**Mike Berg**

While I have you, I would just add one more thing, which I didn't expect. When I came on the phone, I heard the person from Farm Bridge, and I would like the Legislature to know that that organization has been providing free food to help with the effort of COVID-19, and particularly, has been, we've been, Family has been disturbing hundreds of pounds of food that they've donated to help with that effort. So, I can recommend the Farm Bridge, as well. Thank you for your time.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is Angela Figurelli.

**Angela Figurelli**

Hello, can everybody hear me? Hello?

**Clerk Fabella**

Yes, yep, we can hear you clearly.

**Angela Figurelli**

Hello, everybody. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak tonight. I am speaking about Resolution 235. And I just want to say that I am speaking on my own personal opinions and I'm not opining as the opinions of my employer. I felt compelled here to speak tonight because I consider Ms. Sheeley, an exceptional colleague. Not just because I'm a resident of Ulster County, but because I believe that in order for there to be true justice, everyone is entitled to quality representation in all court proceedings.

**Angela Figurelli**

I care very deeply about this community. I became an attorney to help the people in this county specifically. I grew up here I chose to raise a family here. My friends and family have lived here for generations. Should the time come when any one of them needs legal counsel, especially in a criminal matter, I want them to have access to the best. And Ms. Sheeley is the best. To be clear, I would not be here tonight speaking in favor of Ms. Sheeley if I did not believe her to be more than capable of the job. To do so would be an injury to the people who live here and undermine everything I personally believe in and have worked for.

**Angela Figurelli**

The Office of the Public Defender, and the job of the Public Defender is to be an administrator responsible for the day to day operations of the Assistant Public Defenders, the cultivation of the employees, enhancement and expansion of the office. The Public Defender themselves does not spend their days in the courtroom. Instead, her job is to garner the tools and supports our staff need to do their job effectively and efficiently as possible.

**Angela Figurelli**

Our prior Public Defender has even commented that the administrative role of this office limits one's ability to be present in the courtroom. As someone who has worked under Lauren Sheeley for several years, I can honestly say that she excels in all of these areas. She knows how to expand an office. She knows how to enhance her colleagues, how to be a supportive role model, and how to help the attorneys underneath her.

During the time that she worked for us, she increased our funding and doubled our staffing, directly translating into more Ulster County residents having access to justice.

**Angela Figurelli**

Ms. Sheeley mentored me when I was a new attorney. She taught me how to conduct a trial. And if I have learned anything else from her, it's that if you don't know the answer, you can figure it out. She knows how to conduct legal research and to try a case. And let me assure you, a trial attorney is a trial attorney. You either know how to litigate a case or you don't. It doesn't matter what the area of law is, the skill set is the same. Ms. Sheeley taught me and many others how to conduct a trial. I second chaired her on more cases and I can count. Not to mention, that thanks to the recent bail reform and discovery laws, all attorneys are learning - relearning the crucial elements of criminal procedure.

**Chairman Donaldson**

You are beyond the timeframe.

**Angela Figurelli**

Okay, thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is Kelly McMullen.

**Kelly McMullen**

Can y'all hear me?

**Clerk Fabella**

Yes, we can hear you.

**Kelly McMullen**

Great. Hi, thank you so much Chairman and Legislative representatives for tonight and allowing me to speak. I am in support of Lauren Sheeley as the leader of the Public Defender's Office in Ulster County. I was a former director of the Office for the Aging for Ulster County and I also worked in the Mental Health Department for years in the administrative office, and I was responsible for the high-risk clients of Ulster County. And I will tell you that it's about partnerships and relationships.

**Kelly McMullen**

And that's how I got to know Lauren when she worked for Hudson Valley Legal Services because a lot of my clients were perceived to be dangerous and it's a myth. Most are victims of crime and not dangerous. And many of their issues related to social determinants of health that Steve Kelly was talking about housing, alcohol and drug treatment, domestic violence intervention, and so forth. So, I will tell you that I came to know Lauren because she would advocate on behalf of my clientele, supporting them to live in the community safely and remain in the community safely.

**Kelly McMullen**

And I have to echo what everybody else said here tonight about her intelligence, her dedication, her leadership skills, I saw all of that in spades. But here's what I want to say right now. COVID has really demonstrated to me that your role, as local leaders, while it's always been important, is probably no more important than now. I look at what's happening at state, and governor levels. And I and I look at what's happening at presidential levels and federal levels. And I really feel like now is the time that we have really strong leadership at the local level. Sorry, I had my timer on. And I think that Lauren will serve you extremely well, in that regard. She understands... we can't we can't, you know, we can't just incarcerate or persecute everyone who's going to become right now, washed up. Because of COVID. Without health care, without housing, all the problems that are about to come. And I think she's a level head. She will not make a gopher hole for you. She's reasonable. I think you're going to have a lot to sort out now in the coming 18 months or two years. And I think she'd be a fabulous partner for you guys in that.

**Kelly McMullen**

And I thank you. I guess my time is up.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker is a Robert Fisher.

**Robert Fisher**

Hi. I found that a lot of my thunder was sort of taken by previous people who testified regarding Lauren's intelligence and work ethic and all that. So, I'm going to switch gears a little bit. And I'm here to support Lauren and I want to tell you that I think I have a fairly unique view on it. I, myself, have worked closely with Lauren for the past year in the Ulster County Attorney's Office. During my career, for 25 years, I've served as an attorney for Ulster County government. I've been an assistant Public Defender, an assistant district attorney, a staff attorney at DSS, and an assistant Ulster County attorney. And I can tell you that what is required of the Ulster County Public Defender

is a manager. Someone that can run an office. I think it's an absurd idea to think that the Chief Public Defender of the county should be routinely trying felony cases. The purpose of that person, in that position, is to manage, supervise, and lead an office. And I think that Ms. Sheeley is highly, highly qualified to do that. I've, as I said, I've worked closely with her. I have seen her in action. There have been times when the county attorney has not been available and she's been the leader in our office, for days at a time, and she has always exceeded anyone's expectations in that regard. So, I really asked you to look past this idea that she has not handled a criminal case, or not tried felonies, and really look at what we expect the Public Defender to be doing. The Public Defender is there to supervise and lead an office, And I think it's very misguided to think otherwise. Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker sign up is Tom Denton.

**Tom Denton**

Hello, my name is Tom Denton, New Paltz. I'm calling to support resolute Resolution 263 tonight, I have a sense of déjà vu. Last year around this time the Republican side of the aisle was resisting the effort to use all of the money offered by New York State to expand the number of early voting sites in Ulster County. Good sense prevailed, though, and the early voting process last year went smoothly at seven sites I believe.

**Tom Denton**

Tonight, there seems to be contention about whether the County Board of Elections will proceed with this grant that can bring over \$100,000 to improve election cyber security for November. Judging from comments in the Law and Rules Committee last night, the debate seems to be based on Republican complaints about process and the timeliness of the grant submission.

**Tom Denton**

The right side of the aisle seems, again, to resist the flow of money into the county to support the election process. Is it the Republicans job to critique the application process here? You'd think that would be the responsibility of the granting agency. It appears here, instead, that the Republican caucus is working hard to confirm the public view that the party, is at all levels, trying to interfere with citizens' right to vote. Free, fair and efficient elections are not a partisan issue. I do hope that the Republican caucus in the full Legislature will do the right thing. Pass the resolution, take the money, serve the civic interests of the people you represent. Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next speaker signed up is John Colon.

**John Colon**

Hello, my name is John Colon. I'm speaking on behalf of Ms. Sheeley. Thank you all for your time this evening. When I heard about this legislative meeting, I felt it was important to provide my input. As I have worked with Ms. Sheeley on a few occasions. She showed intelligence, a solid understanding of the legal arena, and absolute dedication to providing the best advocacy for her clients. Having successfully managed a multi-lawyer, nonprofit agency, that has served some of the most marginalized people in our community. She has demonstrated her experience and fluency in legal matters, specifically as they relate to the most indigent people in our county.

**John Colon**

Lauren would make workshops, free clinics, available to people in their own neighborhoods to offer advice and guidance that would help them advocate for themselves when she wasn't taking these cases on herself. She taught me that this struggle. This good fight doesn't exist between nine and five, Monday through Friday, but it's a 24/7 thing. It requires sacrifice at times, and resolute determination. Navigating the legal system with confidence and understanding is something you should expect from your lawyer. But when I worked with a client that had suffered a stroke and severe brain damage, this attorney went the extra mile and took the time to go over the client's case until the client felt competent and safe, that she was in good hands. We know that time is a precious commodity. And so not every lawyer is afforded the opportunity to spend time with a client until the client feels heard, understood and properly represented. But it seems that someone forgot to tell Lauren that because she painstakingly takes the time to do all of these things in every circumstance where I've seen her at work. Isn't that who we want as a Public Defender? Thank you for this time again.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The last speaker we have signed up is Christine DeMaio.

**Christina DeMaio**

Hi, this is Christina DeMaio, I'm a Town of Plattekill resident. I am formally a Lloyd resident. And I am calling today on behalf of the voices of the developmentally disabled. Group home residents, for 123 days, have been prisoners of their own homes who were not allowed out for a walk down the street, or ride their vehicle. And that changed on Friday. Thanks to our Legislature putting people before politics, whether they're Republicans or Democrats, or Conservatives, they were fighting for us. I just have to take this time to thank Ms. Heidi Haynes, Kevin Roberts, James Delaune, I

hope I said that correctly, Herbie Litts, Thomas Corcoran and some beyond that, Senator Amedore's office, Cahill's office, and Skoufis office. Because of you guys, and several calls and emails, and listening to me complain for a long time, group home residents were allowed out after 123 days with their parents, they were allowed out for car rides, for swims and I can't thank you enough for your help to get to this point. And I just thought, you know, you deserve some recognition for once, instead of some judgment. So, thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

There is no one else signed up, Chairman.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty, let's go into the agenda then.

**Clerk Fabella**

I believe there is definitely movement into consent.

**Legislator Heppner**

If you're ready to go, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to move Resolutions 208, 257 and 264 from Non-consent to Consent.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Do you concur with that, Legislator Ronk?

**Legislator Ronk**

I do.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. They're moved into there, on to the Consent agenda.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the Consent Agenda, we are a short Yes, with one abstention on Resolution 264, from Legislator Gavaris for the purpose of employment.

**Legislator Ronk**

We are a short Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolutions are adopted twenty-three to zero, with the exception of Resolution 264, which is adopted twenty-two to zero, with one abstention, Legislator Gavaris.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution on the Non-consent, Resolution 129: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Awareness, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation—Legislature.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Parete. I think you are muted Legislator Parete.

**Clerk Fabella**

You're not... he's not muted, but his volumes not up.

**Chairman Donaldson**

You need to turn our volume up Legislator Parete. You... You've got to get your volume up.

**Legislator Bruno**

Microphone volume.

**Chairman Donaldson**

We cannot hear you.

**Legislator Ronk**

Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

To move this along. I you know, I would be willing to make the amendment that Legislator Parete is intending to make, if that works for you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Works for me if nobody else has any complaints about that.

**Legislator Heppner**

Sounds good to me.

**Legislator Ronk**

I move that the, you know, I'd like to make an amendment to this resolution that the amount be restored to the amount that was originally listed in the resolution.



**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty, do we have a second?

**Legislator Petit**

I'd like to second that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. Made technically by John Parete, through Ken Ronk. And seconded by Laura Petit. On the amendment, any comments? No comments. I'll entertain the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, I have our caucus as a short no. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe we are short No.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Now, Laura Petit is a Yes. Isn't she?

**Legislator Petit**

Yeah, I'm a yes on that.

**Legislator Heppner**

So, we're short No, with one Yes, Legislator, Petit.

**Legislator Ronk**

All right.

**Legislator Ronk**

On this one, on the amendment, the Republican caucus is a short No. With an, and, Legislator Wawro will correct me if I'm wrong on this, but probably with one yes. Legislator Wawro.

**Legislator Wawro**

Correct.

**Legislator Ronk**

There we go.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is defeated three to twenty.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. Back to on the resolution.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution. We are a short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're short yes, on the resolution.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay, thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adapted twenty-three to zero.

**Clerk Fabella**

The next resolution is Resolution 130: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Walker Valley Chemical Engine No. 1 for the 2020 Appropriation Legislature.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And what is that amount again?

**Clerk Fabella**

That is the was Walker Valley contract. I believe there's no speakers on this one it was just, they can call the vote.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'm a little unsure of where did, where did this resolution come from then?

**Clerk Fabella**

It's a non-consent because Legislator Lopez is a No, but he doesn't want to speak so they can just call the vote.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Oh, okay, very good. And now I'm going to call the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are a short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the resolution we are a short Yes, with one No, Legislator Lopez.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adapted twenty-two to one.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 136: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into Agreement With Ulster County Community Action Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Parete, has he got his mic or anything working properly? Legislator Parete, can you have a volume somewhere that you can turn up? I think that is a no.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Fabiano

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes.

**Legislator Fabiano**

On Legislator Parete's behalf, which I would be in agreement with, I would like to make an amendment to this resolution to restore the funding as it was in the beginning.

**Legislator Petit**

I'll second that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And this is for Community Action?

**Legislator Fabiano**

That's correct.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay. Any...

**Legislator Petit**

I'll second, Chair.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Any speakers on this? Does anyone wish to speak to say anything about it, Legislator Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Well, the only thing I like to say, with the pandemic that's going on, they play a very vital role of, without the pandemic. So, with the pandemic, they're even needed more than ever. I don't understand why at this time, we would cut their funding. I think it's important that it stays in place, and they can continue to serve the people of Ulster County accordingly.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right, thank you. Legislator Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Than you, Chair. Ulster County Community Action does, has many programs, all equally important. They do weatherization, they do the head start program, which is very important now because we don't know if the kids are going to be going back to school. And even more importantly, they have a food pantry that's critical right now because we don't know what the economic downturn is going to be. So, I just I can't see cutting the funding for this particular program, which is really programs.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yeah, I just wanted to mention that, I mentioned this the other night, that I'm uncomfortable with this process because hours, and hours, and hours, were spent in different committees talking about these funding situations. And there were many concessions made on both sides about what funding was going to be cut, what funding was going to be saved. And I feel like the process of sort of a very last minute ditch effort to refund program is an inappropriate way to do our business. We came to an agreement as committees and we all sacrificed on our pet projects that we were trying to support. And so, now, I'm again, I'm just very uncomfortable for the way that this is being processed at this moment.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. But as a point of information, typically, you know, this is not atypical. Alrighty, does anybody else wish to speak? Hearing none, I call the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the amendment, we're a short No, with one Yes, Legislator Petit.

**Chairman Donaldson**

No, I'll be a Yes.

**Legislator Heppner**

And Legislator Donaldson.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes, with, sorry, short no, with two Yeses on the amendment, Legislator Fabiano and Wawro.

**Clerk Fabella**

You... John, Legislator Parete is a Yes on that amendment. I also have a way for him to be heard in the future. And he doesn't want to talk on this one, right? And the amendment is defeated five to eighteen.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty, on the resolution.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are I believe a short Yes, unless Legislator Petit and you, Chairman Donaldson, are noes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

We're a Yes.

**Legislator Petit**

We're a Yes.

**Legislator Heppner**

Then we're a short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We are also a short Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adopted twenty-three to zero.

**Clerk Fabella 1:13**

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

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the resolution, anyone wish to...

**Legislator Heppner**

I'll move it.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I am not seeing anyone if somebody does wish to speak, unmute themselves.

**Legislator Parete**

I'm not going to bother.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right, you're not going to bother. Okay. Very good. So, on the resolution?

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution...

**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Parete is a No, but he doesn't want to speak.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. Go ahead Legislator Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're short Yes on the resolution, as well.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adopted twenty-two to one.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 191 was postponed in committee.

**Clerk Fabella**

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

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Archer.

**Chairwoman Archer**

Yes, I'd like to make an amendment. And the total value of the contract to \$696,148.26. So, as amended before you.

**Legislator Heppner**

I'll second it.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. Seconded by Legislator Heppner. On the amendment?

**Legislator Heppner**

On the amendment, we're a short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is adopted twenty-three to zero.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution were short, yes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On... yes, okay. Thank you, on the resolution?

**Legislator Heppner**

We are a short yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short yes, as well.

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is adopted twenty-three to zero.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 208 was moved to Consent.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 230. Establishing A Policy Requiring The Reporting Of All Expenditures Made By Ulster County In Relation To The Former Tech City Property.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the resolution.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are a short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

On the resolution, we're short No, with two Yeses, Legislator Fabiano and Bruno.

**Clerk Fabella**

For the record, Legislator Parete is a No. The resolution is adopted fourteen to nine.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution Number 234: Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 5 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Chapter 37 Of The Code Of The County Of Ulster Regarding Automatic Re-Canvassing Procedure In And For The County Of Ulster, State Of New York.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the resolution.

**Legislator Heppner**

We are short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We are also a short Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Legislator Parete is a no. The resolution is adopted twenty-two to one.



**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 235: Confirming The Appointment Of Lauren Sheeley As Director Of Ulster County's Public Defender's Office.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty, on the resolution. Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. Can you hear me?

**Legislator Ronk**

We can.

**Legislator Walter**

Okay, thank you. First of all, I want to appreciate thank everybody who spoke out today. I love to see the energy, and intensity, and interest in this position. And also, all the people who did not feel comfortable speaking out, who may, on whichever side they were, It's great to see people care about this position.

**Legislator Walter**

So, we have the opportunity right now to achieve excellence in one of the most important leadership roles in criminal justice. And for those of you who may not know me as well, I take criminal justice, criminal justice reform, discrimination, and equity very seriously. And I professionally dedicated over two decades into these specific areas. And while I agree that there is sexism in the professional field of criminal justice and law, as there is everywhere, and I would be happy to have hours and hours of conversation with people about that another time.

**Legislator Walter**

My decision against this appointment is related solely to the legal history and defined purpose of the Chief Public Defender, and a vision for public legal defense in our county, in the midst of criminal justice reform, Black Lives Matter and COVID.

**Legislator Walter**

So, the role of the Public Defender is defined by law. The Sixth Amendment initially provides the right to counsel for criminal trials. And in 1963, in Gideon vs. Wainwright, the Supreme Court expanded the Sixth Amendment, unanimously, arguing that no one should be denied a defense lawyer in a trial due to being unable to afford it.

**Legislator Walter**

In 1984, this was expanded further and *Strickland vs. Washington* to argue not only the right to counsel but the right to effective counsel. So, why was this term effective important? Because our country has had a long history of ineffective Public Defenders, movies have mocked this system, portraying Public Defenders as bumbling and inept. Why? Because these have typically been attorneys who have been underpaid, under skilled, and overworked.

**Legislator Walter**

So, in response to this particular problem, the Indigent Defense Oversight Committee in New York identified that, at a minimum, Supervising Lawyers or Chief Public Defender should be able to: 1) discuss cases strategies and ethical considerations; 2) help prepare witnesses; 3) review written work prior to submission; 4) conduct simulated moot court oral advocacy sessions; 5) accompany staff lawyers to court when necessary; and 6) provide critique feedback and evaluation of staff lawyers performance to achieve these standards. One needs years of trial experience and criminal experience.

**Legislator Walter**

And the opinion, by Justice Black, in *Gideon vs. Wainwright*, the initiation of the public defense system we know today, he writes, "That government hires lawyers to prosecute and defendants who have the money hire lawyers to defend are the strongest indications of the widespread belief that lawyers in criminal courts are necessities, not luxuries. From the very beginning, our state and national constitutions and laws have laid great emphasis on procedural and substantive safeguards designed to assure fair trials before impartial tribunals in which every defendant stands equal before the law. This noble ideal cannot be realized if the poor man charged with crime has to face his accusers without a lawyer to assist him."

**Legislator Walter**

So, does effective counsel mean that they have a proven experience caring for indigent populations? Honestly? While that is a positive addition to any Public Defender, the experience is defined by law, and it's represented in the true nature of being a Public Defender, is the skill to represent a person in a trial if they can't pay.

**Legislator Walter**

Sometimes this means protecting the innocent, who is also indigent. Always, it's ensuring a fair trial, even if the person has blatantly committed even the most heinous of crimes. All people deserve a right to a fair trial. People who are vulnerable due to poverty, which due to structural racism, is disproportionately people of color, to be treated unfairly in our criminal justice system.

**Legislator Walter**

A Chief Public Defender is first, the first responder charged to protect these individuals when they're brought to trial and must be skilled and confident to do so. And second, a prominent advocate for change. So, my "No" vote tonight is a vote in favor of a process that ensures that we can achieve both of these goals. Thank you.

**Legislator Petit**

Chairman.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else? Yes. Legislator Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

I would like to call for a long vote on this.

**Chairman Donaldson**

We will. There will be debate and debate first, we'll allow that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

I'd like to read a short statement. I've given this decision many, many hours of consideration. I reached out to lawyers, to community leaders, and to constituents. I've read dozens of job postings for Chief Public Defenders. What's boiled down to for me is that this is a very specialized leadership position that requires a wide variety of skills. Critics of this appointment are saying Ms. Sheeley lacks criminal trial experience. That's true. But I believe she makes up for that, with her overall ability to direct the operations of this office, overseeing a team of approximately thirteen criminal court attorneys, seven Family Court attorneys as well as nearly a dozen admin staff. She will have a huge knowledge base at her disposal. She also has significant experience crafting annual budgets, securing funding, monitoring case assignments and caseloads, developing and implementing effective policies and providing assistance to attorneys as needed to ensure they have the resources to properly and robustly do their jobs. She also has substantial experience compassionately serving the most vulnerable members of this community. I interviewed Ms. Sheeley myself and asked her a battery of questions. At the end of our conversation, I felt confident that if given the chance, she'll do great things in this role. I'll be a "yes" on her appointment.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Bartels.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Bartels, you're muted.

**Legislator Bartels**

Sorry I was having a problem unmuting Thank you.

**Legislator Bartels**

Tonight, we are asked to confirm the nomination of the Executive appointment to the role of Public Defender. Our decision will have far reaching consequences, both on the function and direction of the office, and on the lives of the many citizens that they will be called upon to represent. For that reason, I consider it to be the single most important legislative confirmation.

**Legislator Bartels**

And yet, over the course of the past several weeks, and multiple conversations with colleagues, and members of the community, it has been repeatedly suggested that as an Executive appointment, our job is to simply to verify that the Charter requirements are met. That legal and proper process was followed. And the candidate is, therefore, constitutionally eligible.

**Legislator Bartels**

One person, in county government went so far as to state that the Legislature is duty bound to affirm the appointment if these minimum standards are met. In fact, that suggestion is legally and functionally bankrupt.

**Legislator Bartels**

As a separate branch of government, the Legislature is a check on the Executive branch. The Charter does not state we must confirm. It requires that in order to take office, only that the candidate shall be subject to confirmation by vote of the majority of the Legislature. It in no way limits or designates that which we may consider. Appointee interviews and questions are a part of a decision-making process. Due diligence is a requirement of good government.

**Legislator Bartels**

There has been much debate and discussion about the merit of certain qualifications for the role of Chief Public Defender of Ulster County. It is uncontested that the candidate lacks any criminal experience, trial or otherwise. The qualifications on file with the Personnel Office require a minimum of five years as a practicing attorney in the field of criminal law, three years of which must have involved court appearances in the trial of issues in this field.

**Legislator Bartels**

Yet when the job was posted, all references to criminal expertise were removed. Also on file with Personnel is the most current job description for Assistant Public Defender. Among the list of performance, knowledge, skills and abilities expected of any candidate are the following: thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of criminal law as applicable to state and federal law; thorough knowledge of criminal court procedures and rules of evidence; skill in the preparation of briefs; skill in the presentation of a defense before jury. This description was adopted in 1980 and is repeated verbatim in the Chief Public Defender's position. It remains the current and active on file description.

### **Legislator Bartels**

The Executive's Office has argued that the description on file predates the Charter and is therefore null and void. Should we be concerned that the Assistant Public Defender position description is no longer deemed relevant or applicable? Where will minimum standards be set? These may be academic and technical debates, but the merit of experience is not. Best practice is an important consideration.

### **Legislator Bartels**

Susan Bryant, Executive Director of the New York State Defenders Association provided a memo to the Legislative Counsel on July 8. It was circulated to all members. Included are references to multiple standards for the recruitment of a Chief Public Defender, all of which speak to the importance of merit and independence.

### **Legislator Bartels**

The apparent lowering of previous Ulster County standards prior to commencing, this search is an issue of grave concern. The memo states the following. In setting its minimum requirements for a Public Defender, counties should look at the minimum requirements set elsewhere for Public Defenders and assigned counsel attorney. As a Chief Public Defender is responsible for handling his or her own caseload in some offices, and supervising Assistant Public Defenders. The minimum requirement must be greater than the requirement for Assistant Public Defenders and assigned counsel. Candidates must be able to demonstrate that they have trial experience skills and training to handle and diligently represent clients in complex felony and family court cases. The candidate's demonstration of skills and experience must include examples of complex cases that he or she has directly handled and tried. Further, candidate references must be able to confirm that the candidate skills and experience will allow them to provide a quality representation. Unfortunately, the candidate that we are asked to confirm, does not meet this burden.

### **Legislator Bartels**

I feel the need to comment on an unfortunate and disappointing turn of events in this process. Accusations have been levied against those of us who have expressed concern

about the candidate's qualifications as informed and motivated by inherent gender bias. I state here tonight that it is our duty to ask the difficult questions. That the questions asked, and the concerns raised, were and are merit based. That any suggestion otherwise is an attempt to change the subject and redirect the conversation.

### **Legislator Bartels**

Despite efforts to present a different picture, the Public Defender's Office handles an overwhelming majority of criminal cases, nearly 80%, cases which are described as labor intensive. Criminal law is highly specialized.

### **Legislator Bartels**

The role of Public Defender is a calling. The Ulster County Public Defender will be the voice of that office, the advocate for criminal justice reform, the champion of their staff, and the representative of those in need. They will be called upon to weigh in on the performance of those working under them in criminal court. They will need to allocate limited resources and evaluate criminal case progress. I have no illusions that the Chief Public Defender has or will bear the brunt of the caseload or be the attorney of record on a significant number of cases. That said, the candidate before us is not qualified to weigh in on substantive issues involved, much less to handle those cases. We cannot afford to allow the candidate to learn on the job. There is too much on the line. The stakes are too high. Ulster County deserves a qualified Chief Public Defender. I will be a "no."

### **Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Ronk.

### **Legislator Ronk**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, I'm going to be supporting the confirmation of Ms. Sheeley. You know, while I respect Legislator Bartels', you know, comments on the memo that was sent to us by the Defenders Association. You know, a thorough read of that memo goes on in several places to state unequivocally that they do not take a position or endorse any of the qualifications that are listed as sample qualifications from several counties. And quite frankly, the one that I thought was the best and the most comprehensive was the set from Monroe County, which Ms. Sheeley would uniquely qualify for having experience in family court. Because that says, that particular set of qualifications says either three years of criminal or family law practice. As well as, I think the most important part, which is a passion for the defense of the indigent population. Which I think you heard many people during public comment, you know, talk about. And quite frankly, which I've experienced as a county legislator when Ms. Sheeley came to speak to us several times during a couple of budgets, to talk about the defense of indigenous populations and asking the Legislature to further invest in indigent defense.

**Legislator Ronk**

I also, I was, you know, dismayed by the comments about gender bias. I believe that, you know, at least to my caucus, those comments were walked back and I think that were not intended to be as pointed as they became. And I don't believe that there's any gender bias in this. I think it's just a difference of opinion and a difference of opinion in the Legislature, as well as in life, is healthy.

**Legislator Ronk**

But I, all I know is that, you know, the County Executive definitely sets the advanced qualifications. Qualifications for positions like this are set by the appointing authority, under civil service law, and all over our Charter. And quite frankly, I disagree with the assertion that the 1979, amended 1980, job description survives the Charter because the Charter lists specific requirements, which are that you are licensed to practice law in the state of New York. That you're an Ulster County resident. And that you are full time, which by the way, is a qualification that the Legislature has ignored over the years since the Charter was passed. So, I think that Ms. Sheeley's qualifications far outweigh the qualifications that she's lacking. And those qualifications that she's lacking, are well made up for in the office. So, I'm proud tonight to support her confirmation.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator. Archer.

**Chairwoman Archer**

Yes, I would like to explain why I will be voting against Ms. Sheeley's his appointment as Chief Public Defender for Ulster County. I'm aware, and we were made aware tonight, of Ms. Sheeley's admirable career and assisting in the indigent population on family matters. But she lacks a key experience, and that's in criminal matters and trial litigation. I'm especially concerned with the more serious felonies like homicide, obstruction of justice, assault, possession and/or sale of controlled substances. Criminal cases with a weak defense could result in a wrongful conviction causing a devastating impact on a person's life. The Chief Public Defender needs to be able to step into a criminal trial on day one if needed. These are skills that takes years to develop.

**Chairwoman Archer**

I also believe that now in the light of New York State's ongoing criminal justice reform, experience is even more important. This office should include the most competent and experienced lawyers that the county can provide to represent the most vulnerable and poor in our society.

**Chairwoman Archer**

I would like to add my concern over the hiring process. Despite what the Charter says, there is a right way to have done this. This was not considered, which I believe resulted in our being presented with a candidate with a critical gap in experience. We have several activist groups. We have criminal justice experts in our county. When envisioning the right person for this job, which of these were consulted? There are excellent candidates both inside and outside the county, including people of color. The Executive states that an effective county government must reflect the people that it serves. What efforts were done to ensure racial inclusion, inclusion in the pool of candidates? We are faced with challenging issues and changes in New York for criminal justice reform. Were candidates interviewed to ensure they are well informed and fully prepared for these changes? The lack of inclusion and transparency no doubt resulted in this powerful statement issued to us today by the Ulster County Human Rights Commission, and I quote, "Unfortunately, we find that the present nominee, who has no criminal experience whatsoever, falls far short of what the people of Ulster County need and deserve in their Public Defender. We would respectfully ask you to reconsider your nomination and nominate an experienced criminal defense attorney so that the rights of our county's most vulnerable are protected."

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else wish to speak? Anyone else who's not spoken yet. Legislator Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yeah, I just wanted to say quickly that, you know, I interviewed Lauren. I found her to be qualified. I found her to be passionate. And I was... I'm heartened to be approving tonight, and voting in favor of a candidate, who has so much experience with the family court system. And I speak as a child whose future was litigated in family court for the better part of a decade and that I know how important that can be. And that really does impact lives, you know, much in the same way that a criminal case would. I realize they're completely different things, but I it only to...

**Chairman Donaldson**

You apparently muted yourself, Legislator Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

My apologies. I'll just wrap up by saying... I don't know how long was that muted for it? Was that just the last second?

**Chairman Donaldson**

I'm not sure.



Three or four.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Okay, good. I just want to say I am honored to support Ms. Sheeley. I'm excited to have a candidate for this office with so much experience in the family court system and I conclude my comment. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Thank you. Anyone else? All right. There's been.... I don't see anyone else, do I?

**Legislator Heppner**

I believe Legislator Ronk had his hand up at one point.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright well, he was leaning back. I didn't...

**Legislator Ronk**

I did. I was just waiting for you to call me, Mr. Chairman. Go ahead, Legislator Ronk

**Legislator Ronk**

Thanks. I know that. You know, I believe it was Legislator Archer, who had read, you know, a portion of the letter that was given to us today that says it's from the Human Rights Commission. You know, through the Chair, to Legislator Archer, are you aware whether or not all members of the Human Rights Commission were present when this was decided to be written? Because it comes unsigned, it comes as if it's from the whole Human Rights Commission, and it's my understanding that it is not.

**Chairman Donaldson**

It was sent by, just so you know, it was sent by the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, Carl Brown.

**Legislator Ronk**

Yep. My question, Mr. Chairman, through you, to Legislator Archer, since she was the one who read it is, who was present at the meeting where it was decided to write this. Because it's not written. It's not written by Chairman of the Human Rights Commission. It comes from Human Rights Commission of Ulster County.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Right. But it comes from the Chairman.

**Legislator Ronk**

So, he was the only one who decided to be a signatory on this?

**Chairman Donaldson**

I don't, I could not answer that.

**Legislator Ronk**

All right. Well, you know...

**Chairman Donaldson**

We received it from the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission.

**Legislator Ronk**

I understand that...

**Chairman Donaldson**

.... there was a vote, and that was the vote. That's the only thing I know. It was a vote to send that letter.

**Legislator Ronk**

I just, you know, Mr. Chairman, you know, I would appreciate it. You know, personally, if you would inquire from the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission as to how many people were, you know, from the Human Rights Commission where there. Was a quorum present to be able to write a letter to the Legislature about this? Because quite frankly, you know, I would understand if it was signed, you know, you know, Chairman of the Human Rights Commission, these are my opinions. But this looks as if it's from, you know, the entire Human Rights Commission, which I believe would take a meeting, a quorum, and a vote. So, I would appreciate more information on this in the future, if you could see fit to gather that.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I could certainly do that. But it's my understanding, there was a quorum, and there was a vote. And that was the vote. That's all I know.

**Legislator Ronk**

Mr. Chairman, these are public meetings, and obviously wasn't noticed. So...

**Chairman Donaldson**

Well, I don't know. Okay. Legislator, Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

My understanding is that it was not a unanimous vote.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yeah, I don't think it was unanimous. All right. Anybody else?

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alright, seeing no one else... Oh yeah, Legislator Litts. You have to unmute yourself, Legislator Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's been a long process. I've viewed both sides, put a lot of time and effort into it. Looked at the qualifications from the neighboring counties, from the New York State Defenders Association. And I've come to the conclusion that the candidate must be able to demonstrate that they have the trial experience, skills and training, to handle and diligently represent clients in complex felony and family court cases. The candidate's demonstration of skills and experience must include examples of complex cases that he or she has handled and tried. Further, candidate reference must be to confirm that the candidate's skills and experience will allow them to provide quality representation. I like Lauren, I think she's a highly-qualified person. Unfortunately, I don't think she is... I think she is lacking some of the experience that is necessary to hold this position. Our neighboring counties typically have seven years, or five years of experience, as practicing attorneys in the criminal law and three years of which in aggregate must have involved extensive court appearances in the trial of issues in such fields. I wish she had more experience. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else wish to speak otherwise? We'll start with the long roll. All right, there has been a long roll requested by Legislator Petit. And we shall start the long roll.

**Clerk Fabella**

Archer.

**Legislator Archer**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bruno.

**Legislator Bruno**

Mr. Chairman, I've thought long and hard about this. I've listened to everybody. I want to thank everybody who has weighed in personally to me, reach out to me with their insights. And I don't think she has the experience to demand the top spot. I think there's other people in the county that are more experienced and more qualified for this position. So, after looking at all the issues, and all the different sides, I'm a "no."

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Delaune.

**Legislator Delaune**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Donaldson.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I want to make sure, before I vote, I just want to say something quick. There's been much reference to the Charter and this position. And understand that the Charter is framework that we work from and it's not an end-all. That's why we have an Administrative Code and that's why we add personal qualifications on every position in Ulster County. If you look at the Director of the Office for the Aging, and our Coordinator, Commissioner Social Services, Commissioner of Public Works, Director

of Public Transportation, Director of Probation, Director Emergency Services, and so on. These people are all people that are approved by this body after being appointed. And by qualifications, if you look at it by Charter, it just basically says the same thing. They are appointed on the basis of his or her experiences and qualifications for the duty of office by the Executive Director and confirmed by the Legislature.

**Chairman Donaldson**

That is a guideline the qualifications are spelled out in the listing of personnel. That is where they actually are. And they are given every time we've ever appointed someone. It is often requested that the qualifications for personnel and we get the much more specific qualifications that go into details.

**Chairman Donaldson**

And that has been the protocol for the best appointments both before the Charter, and after the Charter. It has not changed. Does everybody read all them and know all what they are? Perhaps not, but once we go for the appointments we normally do.

**Chairman Donaldson**

The Executive chose to disregard those qualifications that were made in personnel. And he made his own seemingly, maybe to fit the candidate. Having said that, this legislative body, and the personnel of course, as was pointed out by Legislator Litts, no need to repeat him. The legislative body, technically, does not even have to accept someone that meets those minimum qualifications per personnel. We may deem whatever qualifications stricter must be met. And how well, they must be met. That is part of our job. That is our part of what we are supposed to be doing. And in order to confirm any of the above -mentioned appointments, we need to review those personnel qualifications.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I believe the Public Defender must have a minimum -qualifications in Criminal Defense experience and trial law which is... I mean, a trial before a jury. These are very... it's one of the more unique things that attorneys do. And it is one of the tougher things that attorneys do. And in my opinion, did not meet... the nominee does not meet those minimum qualifications. So, I am compelled to vote "no" even though I believe Ms. Sheeley has done wonderful things throughout her life. And I'm sure she will continue to do those. Thank you

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano

**Legislator Fabiano**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene

**Legislator Greene**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Haynes.

**Legislator Haynes**

I am a very supportive and enthusiastic Yes. Thank you.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner. Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

No.

**Legislator Litts**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Pass.

**Legislator Lopez**

Lopez

**Legislator Lopez**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maio.

**Legislator Maio**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Parete.

**Legislator Parete**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

I know that we've all been talking about the Charter. We have to remember that this document was voted in by the voters of Ulster County. And it clearly says that the County Executive shall appoint a person into this position who is an attorney. We're fortunate enough to have a very well rounded attorney, who has the background to support individuals who need the Public Defender's service. The candidate will have a stellar team of attorneys and staff to assist her. And we have to remember that the Public Defender's Office is not an office of one, but many qualified individuals. I am a "yes" on this resolution.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts

**Legislator Roberts**

Sorry. Pass.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Pass.

**Clerk Fabella**

Wawro.

**Mary Wawro**

[Inaudible]

**Clerk Fabella**

You, you... Legislator Wawro you froze for a second there. Sorry.

**Mary Wawro**

Sorry. No.

**Clerk Fabella**

That was very clear.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

No.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Ms. Sheeley appeared, or via zoom, at the caucus the other night. I found her quite impressive young adult. But does that make her qualified to be the next Public Defender? If you want a tough defense trial attorney, she clearly doesn't qualify. But if you're looking for an administrator, or an office manager, she is the right person for the job.

**Legislator Roberts**

I also have to weigh, do we want to give the County Executive, the new County Executive the ability to appoint the people of his choosing? Or do we want to have strict oversight? In the past, I let Mike Hein, I gave him quite latitude in my votes in supporting his nominees. And I'm going to do that this time and vote "yes."

**Clerk Fabella**

And Walter.



**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. I just want to say that I really appreciate again, the energy everyone brought into this. I recognize that, I think in many ways, there are to be two right answers. But you know, I hope this energy stays. I hope people keep caring about this. As the Chair of Law Enforcement, you know, this is something that's important to me. I also want to second what Legislator Archer said that I hope in this... it seems like it will be going into a next round.... that this includes people from Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ, youth groups, and professionals in the field, who can all come together to define this vision, select these questions, and have input so that we can really have somebody that Ulster County can feel incredibly, incredibly proud of. And so, with that I'm a "No."

**Clerk Fabella**

The resolution is defeated nine to fourteen.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 238: Establishing A Policy Regarding Legislative Access To Ulster County's Municipal Uniform Information System (MUNIS).

**Chairman Donaldson**

Any issues?

**Legislator Heppner**

I believe Legislator Archer has an amendment.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Oh yes, Legislator Archer.

**Legislator Archer**

Yes. I'd like to make a motion, as before you, on the addendum, it is we've added "read only." We're not asking for access to make any changes. We are asking for access for read only and the ability to download. So, as before you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Second of that amendment.

**Legislator Heppner**

I'll second it.

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. On the amendment?

**Legislator Heppner**

On the amendment, we're short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're a short Yes, as well.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the resolutions?

**Legislator Heppner**

We are a short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

Short yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

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

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 240 was postponed in committee.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 246: Authorizing Track Removal For The Ulster County Midtown Linear Park (PIN 8761.82) In The City Of Kingston – Department Of Planning

**Chairman Donaldson**

Does anybody want to speak on the resolution. I do not see anyone.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the resolution?

**Legislator Heppner**

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

**Legislator Ronk**

We are a short Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution is adapted twenty-two to one.

**Clerk Fabella** 1

Resolution 249: Amending the 2020 Ulster County Budget To Increase The Salary Of The Public Defender.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

I'd like to offer an amendment as presented before the Legislature.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Amendment seconded by?

**Legislator Heppner**

I will second. I'll second.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Seconded by Heppner. On the amendment?

**Legislator Heppner**

On the amendment we're a short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're short Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

The amendment is adapted twenty-three to zero.

**Chairman Donaldson**

On the resolution.

**Legislator Heppner**

On the resolution, we are short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're short Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

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

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 253: Authorizing The Replacement Of The Culvert On Wittenberg Road In The Town Of Woodstock, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$62,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$62,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof.

**Legislator Litts**

That's Resolution 253.

**Clerk Fabella**

Oh, I said 235, thank you for correcting, that's important. It's 253.

Chairman Donaldson

I didn't even hear it.

**Clerk Fabella**

Archer.

**Legislator Archer**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Bruno.

**Legislator Bruno**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Cahill

**Chairman Donaldson**

Cahill.

**Legislator Cahill**

Yes, sorry. Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Delaune.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Delaune you are muted.

**Legislator Delaune**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Donaldson

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Fabiano.

**Legislator Fabiano**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Greene.

**Legislator Greene**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Haynes?

**Legislator Haynes**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Heppner?

**Legislator Heppner**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Litts.

**Legislator Litts**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Lopez.

**Legislator Lopez**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Maio.

**Legislator Maio**

Yeah.

**Legislator Parete**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Did you hear that? That was Legislator Parete with a yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Roberts.

**Legislator Roberts**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Ronk

**Legislator Ronk**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Uchitelle.

**Legislator Uchitelle**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Walter.

**Legislator Walter**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

And Wawro.

**Mary Wawro**

Yes.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 253 is adopted twenty-three to zero.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution 263: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter An Agreement For A Cybersecurity Remediation Grant Program With The NYS Board Of Elections – Ulster County Board Of Elections.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Point of information. Was 257, that was moved to consent?

**Clerk Fabella**

It was.

**Legislator Heppner**

Yeah.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Right. So, on 263, does anyone wish to speak?

**Legislator Heppner**

I believe Legislator Ronk has his hand raised.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. I didn't see that. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you. you, Mr. Chairman, I just, you know, I was going to, I was going to more quietly vote no on this until public comment happened. And apparently, there's some misinformation out there that I feel compelled to put on the record publicly, that the Republican caucus, or myself in particular, are against this grant, or against protecting our elections with cybersecurity. It could not be farther from the truth.

**Legislator Ronk**

You know, the concern that I've had about this resolution and several prior resolutions, is complying with our resolution process. It puts a real strain on the staff to have these resolutions come in late, especially when they don't have to, especially when they don't follow the late process. And that causes mistakes to be made. Like the huge holes in this resolution that we had to remedy last night through amendments in Laws and Rules. You know, we were approving the contract and authorizing the Chair to enter into the agreement and then we weren't amending the budget to include the money in the Ulster County budget because it didn't go through our proper process, either at the Legislature or at the finance department. And, you know, several portions of it were incorrect.



**Legislator Ronk**

So, I just want to make sure that the public is aware that the Republican caucus is not against, you know, cyber security for our elections. And we're not, you know, thumbing up our nose at grant funding.

**Legislator Ronk**

But we are standing up, I am standing up at least, for our staff and our processes. The same way that many of you would probably stand up for our staff and our processes if the Executive's Office was doing the same exact thing month after month. So, I'm going to be a "No" out of out of process. On this but the rest of the Republican caucus is going to be a "Yes."

**Chairman Donaldson**

Anyone else wish to speak on this issue? I call for the vote.

**Legislator Heppner**

We're a short Yes.

**Legislator Ronk**

We're short yes with one no, Legislator Ronk.

**Clerk Fabella**

Resolution is adopted twenty-two to one.

**Clerk Fabella**

And that is the last resolution because 264 was moved to consent.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Alrighty. First, I want to thank everyone for tonight's debate, I thought it was quite respectful and I appreciate that. And it was a tough decision that had to be made. So, at this point, I'd like to call on Heidi Haynes to read the memorials.

**Legislator Haynes**

Thank you. Meeting adjourned tonight in memory of the following. Joseph L. Sinnott Saugerties, NY, our own legislative colleague Thomas Cochran's mother Mary R. Corcoran Milton, NY, Elizabeth Briggs Ellenville, NY, Roger H. Osterhoudt, Accord, NY, Irene J. Derr, Saugerties, NY, Antoinette G. Faluotico, Kingston, NY, Natalie Mann Rosenstock, Boynton Beach, FL, Salvatore A. Verrastro, Saugerties, NY, Keith K. Johnson, Shandaken, NY, Steward H. DeWitt, Woodstock, NY, Joseph Riccio, Saugerties, NY, William H. Ayers, Kingston, NY, James F. Dwyer, Port Ewen, NY,

Christopher K. Bamba, Kingston, NY, Robert J. Hinkley, Kingston, NY, Chrystalla Orthodoxou, Phoenicia, NY, Aleksander R. Rzemieniecki, Ellenville, NY, Margaret Gohl, Kingston, NY, A father and son here, Joseph J. Hull, Town of Shawangunk. Joseph D. Hull, Town of Shawangunk, Gerard P. Wyncoop, Hurley, NY, Eleanor Gallagher, Marlboro, NY, Domenic R. Castaldo, Hurley, NY, Thomas Ocker, Woodstock, NY.

**Legislator Litts**

Yeah, I would like to add the name of Bert Long from Highland, New York.

**Legislator Haynes**

I have one more.

**Legislator Litts**

I would just like to say that I work most of my career with Stewie DeWitt. Excellent man. He was a gentleman beyond gentlemen. And also, I'd like to say that Joseph Hall was an employee of our DPW department. And I believe there's a GoFundMe page set up for him and his family, or for his family. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Petit.

**Legislator Petit**

I would like to add the name of Shelly Leiching of Kingston, New York.

**Chairman Donaldson**

I would like to say something quick about Joseph Sinnott from Saugerties. I ran across him, it was probably about twenty-four years ago, I was with my son Daniel. Who is now, well, he'll be thirty in October. And we just started talking and he immediately drew a cartoon for my son right there. And then, Spider Man, he did his illustration as Spider Man. It was Because that's what he worked as. And he, my son, still possesses that. It was just the idea that, you know, he asked, would your son like that, and he that's what he did. So, there's many people that have his illustrations, just because he ran across them, and if they had a child with them, he would give them an illustration. Very nice gentleman.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Walters.

**Legislator Walter**

Thank you. So, I wanted to first add, James McDonald from New Paltz, New York. And also, very important to me, is Pauline Delson from Saugerties, New York. And I

just want to say briefly that Pauline was born in 1917 during the Spanish epidemic, Spanish flu epidemic. She's 103, and last May she got put into Health Alliance Hospital with pneumonia, into the COVID clinic, 103 years later after the Spanish flu. When I called her to talk to her, she thanked me for calling her to say goodbye and hung up on me. She recovered, and they got moved to Golden Hill. And I visited her there. I had to be outside and slide a little door and she would call it her magic window where all the people who love her coming to say hello to her, and then she got better. And then she came home. And then just a few weeks later, peacefully in her house, with her family, she passed away, having made it through two major pandemics, but neither of them got her. And so, I just wanted to make a very special mention for her. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Heppner.

**Legislator Heppner**

Thank you, Chairman. I just wanted to recognize Thomas Ocker from Woodstock, New York. He was a very beloved person in the Woodstock community. A long time and dedicated secretary of the Woodstock Democratic Committee, a storyteller, and great conversationalist on our town's long history. He could always speak to some of your own history, your own family in the community, which is a great skill he had. And he was just overall, just one of those great kind, kind souls and we'll definitely miss in Woodstock. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Yes, I concur with that. I've known Tom for about fifty years. And he was always a great storyteller. Wonderful individual.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Bruno.

**Legislator Bruno**

Yeah, I'd like to echo you, Chairman Donaldson, about Joe Sinnott. I've known Joe Sinnott virtually all my life. He's he was not only an icon in the comic industry working with Stanley on some of the greatest comics that we ever knew, all of us. He was a national hero in that way. He drew the comics. He was he was the guy. He was the inker, the guy who colored them all, but yet he could draw beyond anyone's imagination. Never once would he stop, would he hesitate to give someone an autograph with a sketch and a picture. I have several of them hanging on my wall here. Wish I could turn my camera around. He was a veteran of World War II. He was an icon. But most importantly, he was a gentleman to everyone he met. And he's going to be missed greatly by Saugerties and our community.

**Legislator Bruno**

As well, Saugerties seems for some reason to lose quite a few people, Two other people.

**Legislator Bruno**

Salvatore Verrastro, who was a teacher in a school system for many years. And when I see the name, it brings back memories from forty-five years ago, he was an amazing teacher, and my accolades to him.

**Legislator Bruno**

And last but not least, Joseph Riccio, Sr., "MacGuyver", who was known throughout our community in Glasco as MacGyver, and I'm sure Dean can back that up as well. He was known and loved by all. They all, all of them will be greatly missed in our community. A huge loss for Ulster County.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Wawro.

**Legislator Wawro**

I'd like to add the name of Hyland Winnie, Sr., Marion Vail, and Cemal Guler, all from Saugerties. Thank you.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels**

I'd like to add the name of David Richardson, Gardiner, NY.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Legislator Ronk

**Legislator Ronk**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just I want to say a couple things about Joe Hull. You know, Herbie brought up that he was a dedicated employee of the County DPW for many years. And, and he's a hero, and I hope that everybody remembers him that way because, you know, risking his own life, he saved his daughter's life, and then passed away while trying to save his son's life in a house fire. You know, really, people like that need to be remembered as heroes.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay, make a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Litts**

So moved.

**Legislator Bruno**

Second.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Seconded by Bruno. All those in favor?

**Legislative Members**

Aye.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Any opposed?

**Chairman Donaldson**

All right. The next regular meeting of the Ulster County Legislature will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 7pm. Resolution deadline is Friday, July 24, 2020, at 12 noon. And we'll advise the BOE of that for you, Legislator Ronk.

**Legislator Litts**

In chambers, I hope.

**Legislator Ronk**

I'm told that they're going to. I was about to say, hopefully at 244 Fair Street in Kingston, right, Dave? Sixth floor. But they are aware of resolution deadline and they're sincerely hoping to get next month's resolution in on time.

**Chairman Donaldson**

Okay, very good. I figured I'd let you know that. All right. Thank you all, for as I said before, the respectful debate. And I will see you all soon.