

**Ways &
Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 19, 2020 – 5:15
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by dialing 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID 912 4231 0031
PRESIDING OFFICER: Lynn Archer, Chairwoman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster, and Jay Mahler
PRESENT: Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Tracey Bartels, John Gavaris, Heidi Haynes; Mary Beth Maio, Eve Walter
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Brian Cahill, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, and Laura Petit; Minority Counsel, Nicholas Pascale; Deputy County Executives, Marc Rider, John Milgrim, and Evelyn Wright; Comptroller, March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller, Christopher Quirk; Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella; Confidential Secretary to the Chair of the Legislature, Laurie Lichtenstein; Tom Kadgen, League of Women Voters, Adam Doan, Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District, 1 unidentified caller

- **Chairwoman Archer called the meeting to order at 5:16 PM**

Motion No. 1: To Block Resolutions No. 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, and 143

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 2: To postpone the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 129—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Awareness, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation -Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Awareness for \$12,500.00 to provide peer-to-peer educational programs oriented toward youth offenders who receive substance abuse related sentences.

Resolution No. 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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Walker Valley Chemical Engine No. 1 for \$10,000.00 to provide materials related to the upkeep and maintenance of the Walker Valley fire training facility.

Resolution No. 131—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2020 Appropriation -Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$91,500.00, to be expended towards the costs associated with operations of the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc (RCAL) for \$15,000.00 to provide prevocational services, behavior modification, social skills, special education, and online skills training for the disabled within Ulster County.

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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with D&H Canal Historical Society for \$10,000.00 to provide support for the creation of a Visitor Center at the DePuy Canal House.

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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Hudson River Maritime Museum for \$30,000.00 to provide assistance with upgrading the building and grounds associated with the Rondout Riverport Phase 2.

Resolution No. 135—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With People’s Place For The 2020 Appropriation -Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with People’s Place for \$10,000.00 to offset costs for programming to assist members of the community to obtain fresh, frozen, and packaged foods.

Resolution No. 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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. for \$28,750.00 to provide services, including permanent and temporary housing, food assistance, and job training skills.

Resolution No. 137–Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation –Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc for \$90,000.00 to provide funds to promote arts and other cultural activities.

Resolution No. 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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Ulster County for \$362,000.00 to provide support and maintenance in the fields of agriculture, community, and economic vitality, environment and energy, nutrition, healthy families and youth development.

Resolution No. 139–2020 Appropriation For The Ulster County Libraries Program

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with the Mid-Hudson Library System for \$84,500.00 to provide funds for various programs, initiatives, and content.

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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$5,000.00 towards costs associated with presenting an anti-bullying campaign in at least four Ulster County schools.

Resolution No. 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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with the Family of Woodstock for \$30,000.00 to provide funding assistance for a supervised visitation program

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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$39,750.00 with Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. for providing advocacy services for abused and neglected children as assigned by the Ulster County Family Court.

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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$24,750.00 with UPAC LLC for various operational expenses that allow Ulster Performing Arts Center to provide programming for Ulster County residents.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Postponed

Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 182 – Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$18,400.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of Improvements At The Veterans Cemetery, In And For Said County

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$18,400.00 Bonds for Capital Project No. 528 –Veteran’s Cemetery to conduct additional archeological studies to comply SEQRA and for additional design costs needed to provide water supply for irrigation not included in the original project design scope.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4: To discuss Resolution No. 191—Establishing A Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations –Ulster County Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution adopts a Policy for Appropriating Funding to Non-County Organizations, and resolves that any non-county organization with funding appropriated by the Ulster County Legislature shall adhere to accountability standards and procedures set by the Legislature and as required by law, including compliance with applicable financial, performance measurement, and any additional reporting requirements, deadlines, and deliverables stated in the County contract.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: Legislator Ronk noted that Legislator Walter has submitted a number of good comments on the Policy, asking that Committee members continue to submit comments either directly to him or through Legislative staff so that he and Legislator Petit can work together to incorporate comments and feedback into the Policy.

Motion No. 5: To postpone Resolution No. 191—Establishing A Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations –Ulster County Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution adopts a Policy for Appropriating Funding to Non-County Organizations, and resolves that any non-county organization with funding appropriated by the Ulster County Legislature shall adhere to accountability standards and procedures set by the Legislature and as required by law, including compliance with applicable financial, performance measurement, and any additional reporting requirements, deadlines, and deliverables stated in the County contract.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Postponed

Motion No. 6: To approve Resolution No. 193—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement Under The HAVA Cares COVID-19 Grant With The NYS Board Of Elections –Ulster County Board Of Elections

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to sign grant agreements in the amount of \$248,928.00, and amendments thereto, with the NYS Board of Elections to obtain Federal HAVA Cares funds to offset eligible COVID-19 expenses during the 2020 New York State Federal elections held on June 23, 2020 and November 3, 2020.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Legislator Ronk stated that this is important funding, especially considering the state of our elections, where required absentee ballots have been ordered, providing an explanation of the County’s expenses involved, but noted that this is the second time this year that the Board of Elections has not followed the Legislature’s process for introducing a Resolution, asking that Committee members start thinking about whether or not they want to empower the Board of Elections to ignore these processes.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

New Business:

Legislative Appropriations:

Chairwoman Archer noted that there are two more Legislative appropriations for the Committee to consider: Fire Fighting Off-Site Training for \$15,000 and Integrated Community Outreach & Recovery Services for \$50,000. Chairwoman Archer inquired of the Legislature’s Request for Proposal (RFP) for Integrated Community Outreach & Recovery Services and the County Executive’s recent statements regarding undertaking a similar contract. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider answered that the County Executive’s contract is part of the Columbia HEAL grant, that it is separate from the Legislature’s RFP, and that the Legislature’s RFP has not yet been awarded. Legislator Haynes inquired as to the amount of funding SAMAHDI has currently received from Ulster County and what the contractual relationship currently is with the Organization. Discussion pursued on the process of the Legislature’s RFP for these services, the potential

duplication of services, and the Legislature's oversight and required approval in the stated \$50,000 contract and the stated grant reimbursement agreement. Mr. Rider agreed to provide a copy of the contract in discussion. Legislator Walter requested confirmation of the value the HEAL grant has available for the services in discussion. Chairwoman Archer requested better communication between the County Executive and the Legislature.

Ideas for 2020 Budget Oversight:

Chairwoman Archer requested a copy of the submissions received from Departments proposing a 10% reduction in expenditures, while asking for ideas for budget cuts and budgetary oversight from the Committee. Legislator Walter noted that the requested a 10% reduction is a floor, not a ceiling, emphasizing that reductions may not be equal across the board as some departments may not be able to make such large reductions and some may be able to do more, asking for some communication of this flexibility on the Department level. Legislator Maio suggested there be a continuous weekly meeting between leadership and the County Executive as it is extremely important for the legislature to understand the County's position every step of the way, not just in September. Legislator Walter asked if the external budget analysts could potentially assist the legislature in understanding the county's position, inquiring of what other resources may available to the legislature. Comptroller Gallagher noted some estimates for revenue loss, stating that she believes it looks like the County is banking on a Federal bailout, and noting that a 10% reduction in expenditures will not be enough without a Federal bailout. Further, Comptroller Gallagher suggested the possibility of shared services agreements with other local governments for employees. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider said that the County Executive is still working with the Departments on reductions and that the reductions will be put into the County's financial system as budget reductions and that the Legislature will be informed of the details once they are finalized. Moreover, Mr. Rider said that there have been a number of individuals who have expressed interest in the County's retirement incentive, but that interest is slower than they had hoped. Legislator Bartels asked when the Legislature will see the Departmental proposals. Mr. Rider was not able to answer, stating that savings are ongoing as no purchases deemed nonessential are allowed and no hiring is allowed. Legislator Walter suggested that reductions from full-time to part-time may be a fast and effective way to save funding, adding that she would like to see the County Executive's "A plan" and "B plan" for if funding is awarded and if it is not so that the Legislature can

understand what is actually happening and what they can expect to happen. Comptroller Gallagher noted that hiring has taken place since the hiring freeze was enacted. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright stated that the Deputy Director of Economic Development was hired after the freeze was enacted but that that position was not part of the Department's proposed reductions and so was considered allowable. Chairwoman Archer asked for clarification of what the hiring freeze means considering that some positions are exempt. Legislator Bartels suggested having some hearings between the Departments and the Legislature to review budgets and appropriations. Comptroller Gallagher added that much of the County's budget is mandated so finding 10% may prove to be challenging. The Committee stressed the request to see Departmental proposals prior to finalization for proper input and collaboration.

Old Business: None

Chairwoman Archer asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 5:55 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster
Minutes Approved: June 9, 2020

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PRESENT: Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Tracey Bartels, John
Gavaris, Heidi Haynes; Mary Beth Maio, Eve Walter
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Brian Cahill, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner,
and Laura Petit; Minority Counsel, Nicholas Pascale; Deputy
County Executives, Marc Rider, John Milgrim, and Evelyn
Wright; Comptroller, March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller,
Christopher Quirk; Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella;
Confidential Secretary to the Chair of the Legislature, Laurie
Lichtenstein; Tom Kadgen, League of Women Voters, Adam
Doan, Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District, 1
unidentified caller

Chairwoman Archer: I'd like to call the Ways and Means Committee Meeting of May 19, 2020 to order. Please take roll call, Natalie.

Natalie Kelder: Archer.

Chairwoman Archer: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Present.

Natalie Kelder: Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris: Present.

Natalie Kelder: Haynes.

Legislator Haynes: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Maio.

Legislator Maio: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Walter.

Legislator Walter: Here.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. The resolutions for the Legislative Programs. So, Resolution Numbers 129 to 143. I'll take a motion to postpone as we all agreed to send the questions out to the organizations.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move we postpone it.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Second.

Legislator Bartels: I'll second that.

Legislator Gavaris: I'll second.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor of the postponement?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Resolution 182: Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$18,400.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of Improvements At The Veterans Cemetery.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Bartels: I'll second that.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Okay. Resolution 191: Establishing A Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations.
Move?

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Second?

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. I would like to make a motion that we postpone this until next month. I think that Legislator Walter brought up some good comments on it. Anybody else who has any, please feel free to email them to me, or, I'm sure that if you emailed them to Natalie, she'll be able to ferry them to me. And Legislator Petit and I can go over them together and try to, you know, incorporate as many of them as we can. I think it's important to get this right. But I also think it's important not to, not to dawdle for months. So, I'm hoping to be able to have something that can go to public, or not public hearing, it's a policy, but I'm hoping to have something that can come forward next month.

Chairwoman Archer: On the postponement, do we have a second?

Legislator Haynes: I'll second that.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, all in favor of postponement?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Okay. Thank you.

Resolution 193: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement Under The HAVA Cares COVID-19 Grant With The NYS Board Of Elections.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Move it, and second?

Legislator Haynes: Second.

Legislator Gavaris: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Second, okay.

Legislator Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. This is an important funding, you know, especially considering the you know, the state of our elections where our Board of Elections along with the rest of them are being required by Executive Order to send absentee applications with postage paid envelopes to every voter who is eligible to vote in the primary. You know, with the court's decision today, if

there are those who haven't seen it, and the Board of Elections decision not to appeal it, there will be a Presidential Primary. So, every Democratic voter in Ulster County is going to be getting an absentee ballot application, with postage paid. And then, if they send that back, is going to get a ballot with a postage paid envelope, as well, which is going to prove very costly to the County. That's why I'm supporting the funding.

I do want to point out that for at least a second time this year alone, the Board of Elections did not follow our proper processes for resolution introduction. This time, you know, not following the process for, you know, introducing a late resolution. You know, I understand that we need to move forward on this because it's important funding for the County. But I think that we really need to start thinking about whether we want to empower the Board of Elections to just ignore our processes by continuing to just do what they want, in spite of the fact that they didn't follow our processes.

That's all I have.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Anyone else?

Okay. On the resolution, all in favor?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So moved.

Okay. Under new business, there's a couple of items I'd like to get to tonight.

When we were reviewing the legislative appropriations, we noticed that two items were left off our list that should be considered. One is the firefighter training on site, that's \$15,000 that came to Ways and Means, that we approved back in the, during the budget cycle.

And then we also had, and I believe this was from, as well, the RFP for Integrated Community Outreach and Recovery Services. On that was for \$50,000. There was some conversation of some stuff that came out of Legislative Programs and they move, we moved it to Ways and Means to help establish the RFP process. So, we've added them to the list.

But, Marc, I'm glad you're on because we had a question for you.

This RFP went out without any of our approval. And then, we noticed that there was an announcement in the newspaper about Samadhi (Samadhi Recovery Community Outreach Center) being given \$50,000 to address the Narcan, I believe it was Narcan training, some training and some outreach. So, we were just a little confused as to what transpired here. And why we never had an opportunity to review the RFP before it went out. We understand that Samadhi was the only organization that responded to the RFP. And we're trying to connect the dots. And we're a little confused on how this transpired.

Deputy Executive Rider: Yes. So, my understanding is that the RFP has still not been awarded, that the funding that that went out through Sahadhi, to the extent that any has already, has gone through the Columbia Heals grant, I believe.

Chairwoman Archer: So it's separate. It's not part of this.

Deputy Executive Rider: Correct. And it's not County funding.

Chairwoman Archer: Pardon me?

Deputy Executive Rider: And it's not County, technically County funding.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, so this one is still

Deputy Executive Rider: This RFP has not been awarded.

Chairwoman Archer: No, it has not.

Deputy Executive Rider: Right.

Chairwoman Archer: That's why we're checking. We wanted to be clear because there was some confusion, that Pat had announced this RFP, etc.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Sorry, I just got, I thought I understood and then I got confused. Is this funding not Heal funding?

Deputy Executive Rider: No, I believe it is. Oh, no, this, this was the Legislative appropriation that you all had put in the last budget. Well, sorry, not you, Legislator Walter, but others who were here last year, put it in the budget. To be like a Legislative Programs, funding for peer-to-peer counseling. That was going to be an RFP, which the RFP did go out. Samadhi was the only one to respond, and then COVID hit, and it was never awarded.

Legislator Archer: Then if I may, one more question that you haven't answered, which was how could the RFP go out when we did not have a chance to review it, and authorize its release? So, we were a little confused by that.

Deputy County Executive Rider: I'll double check with that. It was that was not my understanding, but I will take a look.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I was just going to ask if the RFP was written with Legislative input, or whether it came strictly out of the Executive's Office.

Chairwoman Archer: My understanding is that it was done with Ed Jordan and the Health Department to craft it. But we got a draft. But we never commented and had the opportunity to comment on it because everything was being held at that juncture. So, how it got out was, that's what I'm kind of trying to piece together here.

Deputy County Executive Rider: Happy to come back next month with, you know, answers to those questions.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Heinz.

Legislator Haynes: Haynes.

Chairwoman Archer: Sorry.

Legislator Haynes: It's okay. I've been called worse.

Chairwoman Archer: What did I say? I was? I think I was saying Heidi and Haynes and

Legislator Ronk: It came out Heinz.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislator Haynes: So, this question actually is directed to Marc, or anyone else actually, that has the answer to this question. Currently, how much funding has Samadhi received? Have they received zero funding from Ulster County?

Deputy County Executive Rider: I'd have to double check that. I believe they've received some funding, but I don't know exactly what.

Chairwoman Archer: I believe, Is it 26, to date? Is that what we've seen in the financial system? Amber? Natalie?

Deputy County Executive Rider: But again, that's County money, that's not, that wouldn't be including the Heal.

Chairwoman Archer: This, this, this, what was announced a week or so ago, correct?

Legislator Haynes: And are we in some way continuing to partner with Samadhi? As a County?

Deputy County Executive Rider: Yes. So, yeah. Through the Heal grant, we are. They're doing peer-to-peer research. I think we're helping fund that. I'm not, sorry, they're doing peer-to-peer counseling. And I believe we're helping to fund that.

And then, I know this RFP was out there, if it didn't get, you know, I know the draft was sent to you, if you all didn't review it and approve, it can come back. Since uh, it's been probably beyond the amount of time that we would normally award something anyway.

Chairwoman Archer: But you're telling us that what we had we were going to go out for RFP for you're already paying Samadhi to do? Correct?

Deputy County Executive Rider: Through the Heal grant. You're shaking your head no, Vicky. I believe through the Heal grant.

Clerk Fabella: There's just some confusion. I think there's just some confusion on it. The Legislature appropriated \$50,000. We did, in our office, what we could do to get the process going so that the Legislature's amendment didn't just fall flat. But I'm positive that I sent an email to Ed Jordan saying that we weren't going to move forward with the contract at this point, because Ways and Means had just had Session where they postponed everything, sent all the contract agencies back. So, I'm positive I said to Ed Jordan, there's no way I'm going to tell you to do this without the Legislature's input. That being said, if the Executive finds money in a different budget, to do it, and from what I understand from Vin Martello, it's completely reimbursable. I'm not sure the Legislature would be involved in that. So, we just have some questions we have to work out.

Chairwoman Archer: And just be clear on as we go forward, particularly since we're looking at all of the Legislative Program.

Clerk Fabella: Yeah. I mean, you might be able to take the \$50,000 and save it. If Pat figured out how to do it some other way. Awesome. We can save \$50,000.

Chairwoman Archer: Yes. Right.

Clerk Fabella: But yeah, we need to talk about that process, Marc.

Deputy Executive Rider: Yeah. I mean, I will let you know that we are, you know, our numbers of overdoses and fatalities are on the rise. You know, I don't think that this is a zero-sum game. Like, I don't think that, we could do both.

I think that, you know, you all are going to review your Legislative Programs and do whatever you're going to do with those. And find which ones are essential or not. But I do know, you know, the work that Samadhi is doing is needed. I believe that we were able to use some of the other funds from a grant to get it up and going because I know that that RFP was, was delayed. And so I believe we ran with it. But you know, it's something that I can bring back and discuss next month.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Haynes and then Bartels.

Legislator Haynes: Yeah. I just want to remind the Committee that this was first in front of Legislative Programs back in the fall as a funding request. And it was desired by the board, of the Legislative Programs Committee that this would go out to an RFP. And that's how it ended up turning into an RFP.

Chairwoman Archer: Mm hmm. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Yeah, and I just want to clarify, I mean, Vicki just said something about reimbursement. I'm just, and we don't have to go too deep into it now, but I'm a little confused if we have a \$50,000 contract with Samadhi, through the County, that's going to get reimbursed by some, you know, some other mechanism, it still should have come to the legislature first, because it's a \$50,000 contract. I mean, you never know about the reimbursement. If we're spending County money up front. It should have come to us as well.

So, that's really different than it's somebody else's money and somebody else's paying them from the start. And we're just, we put the two people together and said, here you go, meet this person, and they're going to pay you to do this thing. Great.

But if the money is coming from the County, and it's eventually going to be reimbursed, we should have seen that contract at \$50,000. Because that's the threshold, which is what was reported. We wouldn't have known about it if it wasn't reported in the news.

Deputy Marc Rider: (inaudible)

Chairwoman Archer: Wait, wait. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

Legislator Bartels: No, I was just to say we wouldn't have known about it if it wasn't reported in the news. But it was reported in the news at \$50,000, which means it should have come to the Legislature. Which is a different issue then do we want to now spend an additional \$50,000 on, you know, on the same or extended services. At which we should have that conversation as well. Which is also different from what Legislator Haynes was bringing up in terms of the RFP.

Chairwoman Archer: Right. Marc, did you want to respond?

Deputy Executive Rider: No, I just said if it was, if there was a contract out there, that was \$50 or more you would have, they would have come to you. So, that's I'm just trying to reach out to the folks at the Health Department and find out. But it doesn't matter whether it would have been reimbursed, you would have got it back, you would have got it for approval. And then it would have been reimbursed. So, there is nothing out there that's \$50 or higher, that's a contract through Samadhi, at this time.

Legislator Bartels: So it was misreported in the news, you're saying?

Deputy Executive Rider: I'm saying it could be a rounding error. I don't know. I have to,

Chairwoman Archer: Can we see a copy of the contract, please.

Deputy Executive Rider: Yes. I'll bring it back and bring it to you next month.

Chairwoman Archer: If you could get it to us,

Deputy Executive Rider: Between now and then I will send it.

Chairwoman Archer: That would be great. Thank you. Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Yeah. So, I'm very supportive of this program, just for the record. But when, if this was done before I was a Legislator, that means it was done before we had, Heal fully in place and knew what kind of funding, and how. So, when you're also talking to them, can you find out how much Heal is providing them to do these, potentially the same services, because it may already be covered.

Deputy Executive Rider: Sure.

Chairwoman Archer: And one final point on this is that knowing that we already had an RFP out there, for the same type of services, and then having this go out, you know, we're not communicating, clearly.

I mean, if Pat wants to announce this, this is great. It's an important program. It's one given the current issues that we are addressing, but a little more coordination and discussion, prior, would be very beneficial, I mean, we're holding them, fine. But, you know, it just created more confusion.

And if there was more conversation about this kind of thing, I think we can avoid that. So, I would just ask for that in the future. You knew the RFP was sitting up there, you guys contracted with them for the same thing. It just would have been really helpful. Had we not seen this, we could have been out there considering a peer-to-peer program in this in this process that we're putting in place. So it just, we can have better communication, I guess, is what I'm asking for.

Deputy Executive Rider: Sure.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you.

Okay, as it relates to the discussion around the budget, one of the things that we had been talking about is, you know, I've talked to each of you individually, each of you had some ideas. And I thought, let's start brainstorming. You know, we have the New York State Comptroller DiNapoli come out today and really kind of, I think, put a pause on everybody's thinking as it relates to what is happening and the COVID crisis, and the shutdown of basically all of our small businesses, and some of the gaps of revenue gaps that they're talking about in the \$30-\$40, and each month were closed, \$50 million, billion rather, and I think we, we should be talking about what kinds of things can we be doing?

Yes, we're looking at resolutions. Yes, we're asking questions, and we're pushing back. But you know, we've asked a couple of times, Marc, maybe you can help us with this. We've asked a couple of times in leadership meetings to get an understanding of, you know, what are the 10% that the department heads have identified as opportunities. You know, maybe that can be shared with us. At least we have some insight as to where they're looking to hold the line so that we can start monitoring. But I open it up to ideas and, you know, some additional questions.

Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Thank you. So, I imagine everyone probably feels that, that 10% was a floor, not a ceiling, that it's not going to be sufficient. And I guess I wonder, you know, if I was to have it in a perfect world, it would be similar to how we're thinking about the Legislative Programs. Where not just this universal cut, but really understanding for each type of program, how it's providing services, right now with COVID. What kinds of services would it provide once we're in Phase One, Two, Three and Four. And it may not be equal. There might be some departments that could be cut more and some departments that really can't stand a cut, further cuts. So, I guess I would really, like, I don't know how that would look, but some way of getting a stronger sense of the different departments and how they're translating into, again, the immediate need. And how we roll out and make ourselves stronger, so that we can make smart decisions about making suggestions of how to really get to the budget crisis, you know, resolve that budget crisis as best as possible.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Maio.

Legislator Maio: I would think that there should be some sort of leadership meetings, I guess, is the best way to put it. Maybe weekly with Executive Ryan. This is big. And it's getting worse. And the time is still ticking. And unless we really understand where we're going this year, we need to be in communication. And we need to understand. We can't be looking at something in September, October, it's not going to work.

Chairwoman Archer: Anybody else? Any other comments? Ideas? Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: This may be completely separate, but was there any thought that, and I just noticed that the RFP for the budget analysts is there, I assume this is not a position that could assist us in anytime soon. In, in looking at this current situation. Is that correct to assume?

Chairwoman Archer: Yeah, I think, when are we expecting to get responses back? I think we're probably not going to be, our timeline is July, maybe. Is that correct? Amber, can you help me with the timeline?

Amber Feaster: Give me one minute and I'll pull it up right now.

Legislator Walter: So then, while she's doing that, you know, and maybe open the floor to March, you know, just what kind of resources we have right in front of us to start figuring out, you know, the best path forward.

Comptroller Gallagher: So, you know, you saw Burt Gulnick's estimates that he put out in early April and they were really conservative estimates. Meaning he assumed things were going to be even worse than we were hearing at the time. So, I think he did a really good job in sort of putting guardrails around how bad things could be. He used 17% decline in sales tax, and actually a very similar number when you backed it out, it was a 17% decline in State aid.

We're hearing now bigger numbers than that. You know, that sales tax could be 23.5%. And that State aid could be more. And I would say, it looks from my perspective, like we are banking 100% on a Federal bailout. That's the way it looks to me. But, you know, meaning, even with the 10% reductions that I think the Executive's team is working towards, it won't be sufficient without some Federal help, if things go as badly as some are saying.

I also think that we have to look at the numbers that the DiNapoli' Office in the Governor puts forward, and realize that some of that is posturing to get Washington to do what we all want. You know, he DiNapoli his office put forward a cash report that showed that we had a really substantial decline in cash receipts. A bunch of that was personal income tax payments that are delayed until July. It's not like we're not, it's not like New York State is not going to get that money. So It's a balancing act.

You know, I put forward the idea of furloughing employees who are unable to work because of social distancing guidelines who would make more money on unemployment through July 13. There are actually like 12 or 13 other counties in New York that have done that. But the time has kind of run out for that. You know, that was an early April proposal that would have really needed to happen in May. You need a bunch of time to get everything in order and rolling.

Chairwoman Archer: Yeah.

Comptroller Gallagher: So, I do think there are other opportunities. I mean, another way to look at it in a number of towns have taken the advice on this. They're looking at using shared work. And you now have at least three municipalities pursuing that, one that's already implemented, which is the town of Marbletown. And that's where you take employees, you reduce their hours, they're able to get unemployment for what they're not working and, and keep the employees whole. It's possible that you know, the team, and Marc can speak to this, and is working vociferously on those things. I am not in contact on that. And I'm not involved in that. I'm throwing out ideas, because I do think if we do not get an extremely large Federal bailout, we are going to be in very, very dire circumstances.

Chairwoman Archer: Well, and I know that this morning, they were talking about the bailout. And really, that, you know, if right now, what they're projecting from a Federal perspective doesn't even cover what we've spent to date. And that's and again, that was the Governor saying that this morning.

Deputy Executive Rider: At the state level or, I'm sorry, I'm not,

Chairwoman Archer: Federal. The Federal money isn't covering all of the,

Deputy Executive Rider: What the State has spent to date, or what?

Chairwoman Archer: Yes, that's what they're saying.

Comptroller Gallagher: I think it doesn't cover the potential losses and revenue plus what the State has spent. But from the County's perspective, if that Heroes Bill were to go through that

would make us whole. I just do not, you know, my judgment is that it is not going to be well received in the Senate.

Deputy Executive Rider: Yeah, we're not counting on that Heroes Bill as kind of an all-in bailout. I mean, we're still continuing, as someone said, you know, we're looking at those 10% cuts as the floor. Some of the departments have submitted drafts that would be larger than the 10%. We're still working with the departments to really finalize those. And I'm sure at the point that they're finalized, they will be inputted into the New World. They'll be shared with the legislature at some point and there will be conversations. And you will be aware of what the department's plans are. They're still being finalized. We're also working on some countywide plans that don't just involve a 10% cut across the board.

And you know, we're really pushing the retirement incentive. And I think we're seeing a decent amount of people who have expressed interest now. It's slower than we had hoped. And this is, well, it's just slower than we had hoped. When you give people, to a set date, typically, they're going to use all the way through that set date to give you an answer. And when you tell them that they can retire all the way through a certain date, they're going to push that out. So, you know, the program hasn't been as swift, but we've gotten a decent amount, and several have already put in their dates and their positions, that we don't plan on backfilling. So we will see some savings, considerable amount of savings through that as well. And continuing to work on countywide savings.

Chairwoman Archer: Amber, do you have that information?

Deputy Executive Rider: And it's unimaginable that probably, you know, if there isn't some kind of Federal package, of some amount, it means that there's going to be larger pain.

Chairwoman Archer: Amber?

Amber Feaster: The budget analysis proposals are due June 12. So, the selection committee would evaluate the proposals ideally the week of June 15.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: So Marc, what's the timeline on getting those 10% proposals? When will the legislature get to see where we're at across departments with those proposals?

Deputy Executive Rider: I don't have a, I don't have a set date for that. I know Chris and Burt are working with the department's, going back and forth. And so I don't

Legislator Bartels: Do you have a ballpark?

Deputy Executive Rider: I'd be making up a ballpark.

Chairwoman Archer: They were due on the 14th of April, weren't they?

Deputy County Executive Rider: Their initial. Yeah, the department's initial first take on a draft of a cut. We're due on the 14th of April, they're still going back and forth and working with some of the departments.

Legislator Bartels: But you must have a sense of an end date, because every day that passes is 10% that's not cut. Right? So it's like, actually, when you talk about the end date on the retirement, that was for the Executive's Office to set the retirement date, you know, it was giving latitude to the Executive's Office. But in these 10% cuts, every day that goes by without the cut being in place, is a lost opportunity. So, I get that its ongoing, but is it going to be wrapped up fairly soon?

Deputy Executive Rider: There are, a lot of savings are currently happening because these departments are not spending money on anything that they don't absolutely need. And they're not hiring any positions, period. So, we're, you know, just because we haven't finalized a draft that we can, the savings are occurring now. I would anticipate, again, it would be a guess. I know unfortunately, Burt was off today and not able to make it. I think we'll have a better answer the next time Ways and Means comes around, if not, much before that.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Thank you. First, I'd like to add in addition to the efficacy of the shared work that March spoke about, I would like the, I don't know if the Executive Office has thought about but you know, in other counties reduction to part time is a faster way of saving money. Typically people who have more seniority have actually been found to be as effective in part time work as they are in full time work. And it does. It really helps in reducing costs. So, perhaps looking at that.

But I guess I feel like, just like in the school budget votes, I would love to see the A, the B and the C. You know, the if we get the Federal funding, one, if there's something in the middle, and then if we get nothing. And I think it's really important that we have the A plan, the B Plan C plan, or at least the A and the B plan. And I think that it should be transparent. You know, I understand you're saying it's all happening, but I would like to see what's actually happening, and if what's happening right now is the A plan, then I also would like to know what the B plan is if no other money comes through.

Deputy Executive Rider: Understood.

Chairwoman Archer: Yes. March.

Comptroller Gallagher: I just would like to add, you may get a little bit of a different window. I mean, we have added positions. We added a deputy for Lisa Burger's Economic Development position. And we moved her former deputy, or someone from that department, over to another department. So, the hiring freeze is not as frosty as maybe we thought. I'm not saying that position is not needed. I think businesses are desperate for help. And I'm sure that office is completely flooded, but with requests for help. But we did add a position, we did add someone there.

Deputy Executive Wright: This is Evelyn, that position wasn't part of that department's 10% cut. So 10% has been proposed from that department through other expenditure.

Chairwoman Archer: Well, then can you clarify what a hiring freeze is? Because I thought it was even those positions that were funded through the State program was frozen as well. So do you have a process in place for determining what positions get filled and which ones don't? So, it's not a real hiring freeze? I guess I'm just trying to understand.

Deputy County Executive Rider: Anything that was COVID related, which that department is a department of, and sorry, I shouldn't be speaking over Evelyn, but just so you understand, countywide. If there's a position in the Health Department, we're going to, that's dealing with COVID, we're going to probably fill that position. If someone leaves and we need it. Just like that, with there's been a lot of COVID related business issues that the Department of Economic Development has had to deal with.

Chairwoman Archer: Any other questions, ideas, concerns?

Deputy County Executive Rider: Legislator Bartels?

Legislator Bartels: Yes. I mean, the hiring freeze. I think it's a valid point. I agree with Comptroller Gallagher I think it's a department that that probably needs a personnel and is getting a lot of calls, currently. But a hiring freeze is a hiring freeze. And right after the hiring freeze was announced, we I think we hired 11 people, including motor vehicle clerks. So, I don't know how frosty the freeze is either. But I think that, you know, I agree with Legislator Walter we're the Ways and Means Committee, and we have to be at the front end of this conversation. Because this is going to be really difficult. No matter which the A, B or C option is, I think it's going to be really difficult. So I don't know. I think we should strategize potentially some kinds of hearings where we get to talk to the departments, as well. I'm just throwing it out there. And we can talk about this in the next month. But I think that we have to be at the front end of this conversation because it's, I think it's going to be really bad.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. Just to answer I think a couple of people have you know, asked I think yourself, Madam Chair, and then Legislator Bartels, Legislator Walter, even the Comptroller. You know. about what this is a real hiring freeze or not, or maybe it's not as frosty as it seemed. You know, I believe, if I remember correctly from the press, I know, in my conversations with the County Executive, he had he deemed it a non-essential hiring freeze. So it wasn't it wasn't a, you know, it wasn't a hard and fast nobody's getting hired. You know, it was it was about positions that were non-essential, non-COVID related. I think that we can all agree, I think we have all agreed, that you know, positions in the Department of Economic Development would definitely, during this time be essential, at least I view it that way.

Chairwoman Archer: Yes.

Deputy Executive Rider: Can I had add one thing to that, and I heard the number 11 thrown out there. I mean, there were people who were orientated after the hiring freeze happened, but they were hired pre-freeze and they had left jobs. And we had somewhat of an obligation contractually because of you know, collective bargaining and other things, to bring them on.

Legislator Archer: So, they were ready in the hiring pipeline?

Deputy Executive Rider: They were already they'd already been fingerprinted. You know, they'd already been given offers. When you talk about a DMV clerk. Everything had been done except for them being orientated at that point.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, anyone else? Comptroller Gallagher.

Comptroller Gallagher: I would like to just add one last thing, which I know is on the Administration's mind, because it has to be. And that is, you know, with so much of the County budget mandated. It' finding 10% is really challenging. And you know, I think we all want to see him come up with 10%, that would be great. But even less than 10% is going to be pretty helpful towards where we need to go. And we need to recognize that so much of what we're doing and providing is out of our hands and is mandated by Albany.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, anybody else?

All right. So, we'll take all this in and come back to you all but I appreciate all your input and perspectives. Thank you so much. Anybody have anything else? Any old business they'd like to bring up?

Legislator Walter

Legislator Walter: I guess I sort of felt like, you know, I'd like some clarity. So, will we get to see what the actual, what the cuts are currently? What the proposed cuts are going to be? What the contingency cuts are going to be? When will we see that by? I don't want to

Deputy Executive Rider: I can't make any promises to what exactly the format of the document, or what will be put into New World. So, I think we should just

Legislator Walter: Can we hope it will

Deputy Executive Rider: I'll reach out to Burt and Chris, and we'll, you know

Chairwoman Archer: I hope that we'll see something before it goes into New World. I mean, you know, I think the opportunity to have a review, or sit down to review, would be beneficial given, you know, our current situation here. So, waiting for New World, it's a fait accompli, it's all done. There's little opportunity of collaborating and working together on this.

Deputy County Executive Rider: Understood.

Chairwoman Archer: So maybe we need to make a formal request.

All right. Anybody else?

Okay, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Ronk: So moved.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Eve Walter: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you.

Deputy County Executive Rider: Have a good night everyone.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you, everyone. Thank you.