

**Ways & Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: July 19, 2022 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Student Life Center, Vanderlyn Hall, SUNY Ulster County Community College, 491 Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, NY 12484
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Gavaris
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
PRESENT: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Ronk, & Walter
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Hansut, Heppner, Litts, Maloney, Nolan, Stewart, & Uchitelle, Legislative Counsel Ragucci, Clerk Fabella & Laurie Lichtenstein – UC Clerk of the Legislature, Deputy County Executive Rider, Comptroller Gallagher & Alicia DeMarco – UC Comptroller’s Office, Director Erichsen, Steven Peterson, - UC Emergency Services, Director Doyle – UC Planning,

Chairman Gavaris called the meeting to order at 5:23 PM

Resolutions for the July 19, 2022 Session of the Legislature

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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the termination of a lease agreement with CPR Kingston, LLC for office space located at 284 Wall Street, Kingston, New York no later than September 30, 2022.

Motion No. 1: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 14
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 308: Declaring Ulster County’s Intent To Act As Lead Agency Under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) For The Purpose Of Constructing A Government Operations Center And Appurtenances To Be Located At Paradies Lane In New Paltz – Department Of Emergency Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution declares Ulster County’s intent to act as lead agency under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) for the construction of a governmental operations center to be located at Paradies Lane in New Paltz.

Resolution No. 309: Amending Capital Project 607- Government Operations Center And Authorizing The Acquisition Of Real Property Located At Paradies Lane In The Town Of New Paltz For Purpose Of Siting A Government Operations Center And Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Any And All Documents Required For Said Acquisition – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends Capital Project No. 607, Government Operations Center and authorizes the acquisition of real property at Paradies Lane and authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute any documents related to the acquisition.

Resolution No. 310: Authorizing The Acquisition Of Parcels Of Land For A New Multi-Use Government Operations Center, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$3,750,000, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,750,000 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuances of \$3,750,000 bonds for the acquisition of parcels of land for a government operations center to be located at Paradies Lane in New Paltz.

Motion No. 2: MOTION TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 308, 309 & 310
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Motion No. 3: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution Nos. 308, 309 & 310
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolutions POSTPONED

Resolution No. 341: Amending The 2022 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program -Establishing Capital Project No. 642 - ARPA Homeowner Energy Improvements And Job Training Project - Amending 2022 Capital Fund Budget - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2022 – 2027 Capital Improvement Program and establishes Capital Project No. 642 – ARPA Homeowner Energy Improvements and Job Training Project in the amount of \$90,000.

Motion No. 4: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 341
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels clarified that in the American Rescue Plan Act Special Committee, an amendment was made to reduce the funding to \$90,000 and went on to explain that this resolution is partially funding a supervisory position that will allow the program to expand.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 343: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 9 Of 2022, A Local Law To Provide For The Collection Of Delinquent Village Real Property Taxes, To Be Held On Tuesday, August 16, 2022 At 7:20 PM

Resolution Summary: This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2022, a local law to provide for the collection of delinquent village real property taxes.

Motion No. 5: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 343**

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Motion No. 6: **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 343**

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Legislator Ronk stated that he still has some outstanding questions regarding what constitutes a ‘current delinquency’.

Legislator Walter agreed with Legislator Ronk and also shared concern from village officials that this change would delay their receivables.

Counsel Ragucci shared the opinion that the County would not be responsible for anything prior to the agreement and the law would not be retroactive.

Chairman Gavaris confirmed with Counsel Ragucci that the agreement or law could state that the county is not responsible for anything retroactively.

Legislative Chair Bartels asked to hear the opinions of the mayors and tax collectors on this resolution.

Legislator Ronk stated that not every county in the state is a senior lien holder and pointed out that in Westchester County the Towns are the senior lien holders and make the county and school districts whole.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 348: Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$340,000.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Purchase Of Replacement Maintenance Equipment At The Ulster County Community College Campus At SUNY Ulster Stone Ridge, In And For Said County

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of an additional \$340,000 of bonds for a portion of the cost of replacement maintenance equipment at the Ulster County Community College.

Motion No. 7: **MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 348**
Motion By: Legislator Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 384: Authorizing The Restoration Of The Hall Of Records Roof, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$560,600.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$560,600.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$560,000 for Capital Project No. 639, the Hall of Records roof restoration.

Motion No. 8: **MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 384**
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels clarified with Deputy Executive Rider that an assessment was done and solar will be added on the roof through a separate contract.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 388: Authorizing The Replacement Of A Large Culvert On Awosting Road (C.R. 109A) In The Town Of Shawangunk, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated

Cost Of \$60,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$60,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$60,000 for Capital Project No. 640 for the replacement of a large culvert on Awosting Road in Shawangunk.

Motion No. 9: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 388

Motion By: Legislator Walter

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 390: Authorizing Embankment Stabilization Of Route 28A (CR 50) In The Town Of Hurley, New York, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$300,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$300,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$300,000 for Capital Project No. 641 for embankment stabilization of Route 28A in the Town of Hurley.

Motion No. 10: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 390

Motion By: Legislator Walter

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 395: Authorizing Purchase Of Buses, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$2,991,807.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$2,991,807.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$2,991,807 for Capital Project No. 643 for the purchase of buses.

Motion No. 11: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 395

Motion By: Legislator Walter

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels asked if smaller busses would be considered as the larger busses are not to capacity. Director of Planning, Dennis Doyle, explained that the electrification program moves to smaller busses, but the real challenge is finding busses that are fully electric.

Chairman Gavaris asked Director Doyle how urgent it is to move on these resolutions. Director Doyle explained that the lead times for busses are currently substantial and there are other resolutions that are impacted.

Legislator Cahill clarified with Director Doyle that the lead time for the smaller busses is currently 12 – 18 months.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 398: Authorizing The County Of Ulster To Increase The Allocation Of Sales Tax Distributed To The Towns Pursuant To Section 4 Of The Sales Tax Agreement With The City Of Kingston – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the County of Ulster to increase the allocation of sales tax distributed to the Towns in the amount of \$1,500,000.

Motion No. 12: **MOTION TO AMEND & APPROVE Resolution No. 398**
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Gavaris, Ronk & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

Comptroller Gallagher pointed out that over \$4 Million in bonding is to be approved this month, but the County of Ulster has a huge fund balance at this time.

Comptroller Gallagher noted that sales tax has taken a slight dip in comparison to 2021.

Comptroller Gallagher informed the committee that her office will be releasing a report on short-term rentals and shared that a higher percentage of available units, in Ulster County, are short-term rentals compared to other counties in the Hudson Valley.

Discussion ensued on the gas tax holiday.

Chairman Gavaris informed the committee that he has begun to work on a Debt Management Policy and discussion followed.

Chairman Gavaris asked if there was any old or new business. See attached transcript.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Fabiano

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:44 PM

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Kelder

Minutes Approved: August 9, 2022