

**Ways &
Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 16, 2020 – 4:00
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by dialing 1-646-558-8656,
Meeting ID 956 2341 8934
PRESIDING OFFICER: Lynn Archer, Chairwoman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster, and Jay Mahler
PRESENT: Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr. (arrived at 4:09 PM), Tracey Bartels, John Gavaris, Heidi Haynes; Mary Beth Maio, Eve Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Brian Cahill, Peter Criswell, James Delaune, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, and Laura Petit; Legislative Counsel, Christopher Ragucci; 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; Kingston Library; William Kemble, Daily Freeman; Chris Silva, UPAC; 1 unidentified caller

- **Chairwoman Archer called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM**

Motion No. 1: To amend 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.

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

Discussion: Legislator Ronk suggested funding the Organization at 50% of the 2020 Adopted Budgetary value.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 129—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Awareness, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation –Legislature, as amended

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.

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

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 3: To discuss 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.

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

Discussion: Legislator Ronk provided a brief history of the training center at Walker Valley, arguing that funding should be honored to support the training center as the commitment to continue with the use of the center has not been honored. Chairman Donaldson countered that funding is not fairly distributed to all Fire Departments. Legislator Bartels emphasized that Walker Valley uses this funding to purchase burn panels which are used by all Ulster County Fire Departments, asking if active training is still happening at the facility. Discussion pursued on the intended and possible use of the training center. Legislator Ronk emphasized that Walker Valley is one of the only Fire Departments within Ulster County that offers training so it should not be treated equally with other surrounding fire departments. Legislator Walter noted that while trainings are important, the Department's proposal didn't give the impression they would be very hard-pressed if funding did not come through, inquiring as to how damaging the loss of funding would be to the fire center. Discussion pursued as to the amount of training currently taking place at the center.

Motion No. 4: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: Legislator Ronk suggested cutting the funding by half to \$5,000.00.

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

Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 8
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 5: To approve 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, as amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 6: To discuss 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.

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

Discussion: Legislator Bartels suggested cutting the funding by one-third to \$61,305.00, inquiring of the Organization’s remaining fund balance, and stating that she is hopeful the Conservation District will implement more programming with a new executive director on staff. Chairman Donaldson explained that he had suggested cutting more due to the amount of reserves the Conservation District has and the time that has already passed in the current year. Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District’s Executive Director Adam Doan emphasized that some reserve funding is allocated to specific projects and with the change of executive directors expenses have also changed and the District is still responding to these changes, offering to answer further questions. Legislator Bartels said the Conservation District brings in funding and other jobs throughout the County, and she is hopeful they can discuss expanding the services the Conservation District provides in future periods.

Motion No. 7: To amend 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.

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

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 8: To approve 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, as amended

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.

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

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 9: To approve 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: None

Motion No. 10: To amend 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.

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

Discussion: Legislator Walter suggested amending the contract to \$0.00. Legislator Petit emphasized that the original request from the Organization was for \$30,000.00.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 8
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 11: To approve 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, as amended

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.

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

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 8
No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 12: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: Legislator Ronk suggested amending the contract to \$0.00, which was unanimously suggested across committee members.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 13: To approve 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, as amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 14: To discuss 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: Legislator Walter said she consents to what the majority of Committee members have suggested, making a motion to reduce the funding to \$0.00. Chairman Donaldson stated that he feels this is necessary programming, but he does not feel it is appropriately housed within the Legislature and there may be better areas to house the programming within the County or its component units.

Motion No. 15: To amend 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.

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

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 16: To approve 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, as amended

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.

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

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 17: To discuss 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Chairman Donaldson stressed that Organization brings in people from all over the County and is performing essential services such as feeding and clothing people. Legislator Walter asked if the Organization received Project Resilience funding from the County to assist in their feeding mission. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright confirmed that they did get a small amount of funding and that the County may be putting further funding into the Organization’s grocery bag program but that it is not an ongoing agreement. Legislator Bartels noted the difficulty in cutting funding when it’s going to feeding and clothing residents in need. Legislator Haynes noted that this Organization also receives funding from other municipalities that should be taken into consideration. Legislator Ronk vocalized concern that only Kingston residents are being focused on and served, emphasizing the need for services to be spread across the County and not focused in one area. Chairman Donaldson noted that Kingston is the County’s population center so the amount of people served is significantly more in comparison to some of the other surrounding towns within the County. Discussion pursued on the Organization’s outreach.

Motion No. 18: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: Legislator Ronk made a motion to amend the contractual value to \$0.00.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Ronk, Haynes, and Maio
Voting Against: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, and Walter, Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 5
Disposition: Defeated

Motion No. 19: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Discussion: Legislator Walter suggested reducing the contractual value by half to \$5,000.00

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: Legislator Haynes, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 20: To approve 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, as amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Gavaris

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: Legislator Haynes, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 2

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 21: To discuss 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.

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

Discussion: Legislator Bartels argued in favor of funding the Organization in full because of what they are doing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislator Ronk suggested a 50% reduction in the contractual value. Chairman Donaldson emphasized that funding goes towards helping people in many different ways all throughout the County, providing food, clothing, money, other educational support, and many other services. Legislator Walter questioned whether Project Resilience funding has been received by the Organization. Legislator Bartels inquired if the Committee would be willing to consider a more modest cut as the need for many of the services provided by the Organization may be heightened due to the impacts of the pandemic.

Motion No. 22: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Ronk, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: Legislators Archer, Bartels, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 3
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 23: To approve 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, as amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: Legislators Archer, Bartels, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 3
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 24: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Haynes, and Maio

Voting Against: Legislators Gavaris, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 3
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 25: To approve 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, as amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Gavaris, and Maio
Voting Against: Legislator Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 26: To discuss 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: None

Motion No. 27: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Chairman Donaldson suggested a 10% reduction in the contractual value.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against: Legislators Gavaris, Haynes, and Maio
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 3
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 28: To approve 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, as amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against: Legislators Gavaris, Haynes, and Maio
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 3
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 29: To approve 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Legislator Bartels argued in favor of funding the Organization in full, emphasizing that the Library’s request for funding was very specific, that the funding covers online resources which are still providing

programming, entertainment, and education to citizens during the pandemic when the libraries are physically closed to the public. Further, Legislator Bartels stressed that this is the one contractual appropriation before the Committee that reaches every resident equally as it has no physical requirements. Chairman Donaldson also argued in favor of full funding, stressing the importance of the programs funded and the outreach of the funding, sharing a brief history of the County's funding of the libraries. Legislator Walter stated support for the libraries but suggested a 10% reduction in funding in light of the year's financial hardship.

Motion No. 30: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: Legislators Bartels, and Gavaris, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 3
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 31: To approve Resolution No. 139–2020 Appropriation For The Ulster County Libraries Program, as amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: Legislator Bartels stated that she will vote in favor to move the Resolution to the floor but is not in favor

of the reduction.
in agreement.

Chairman Donaldson was

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

Motion No. 32: To discuss 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Haynes
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Chairman Donaldson stressed that this is a small amount of funding but he is willing to move forward with the consent of the Committee.

Motion No. 33: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and
Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 34: To approve 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, as amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 35: To discuss 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

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: Legislator Bartels said she reached out to Commissioner Iapocci on this contract to see what other services the County provides for supervised visitation, sharing the Commissioner's input that visitation is mandated by the Court and no child would ever not receive supervised visitation. Further, Legislator Bartels communicated that Commissioner Iapocci asked for a month to reach out to Family of Woodstock's Executive Director, Michael Berg, about the program to ask about the history of it. Chairman Donaldson said he hopes

visitation is still taking place even through COVID, agreeing to postponing, but stating that he doesn't feel these services should be brought in-house.

Motion No. 36: To postpone 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

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Postponed

Motion No. 37: To discuss 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Chairman Donaldson pointed out the CASA program will continue once courts are operating, emphasizing that volunteers must be trained which costs money.

Motion No. 38: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Gavaris
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: Legislator Gavaris suggested reducing the contract to \$20,000.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Haynes, and Maio
Voting Against: Legislators Archer, Bartels, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 3
No. of Votes Against: 4
Disposition: Defeated

Motion No. 39: To amend 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: Legislator Bartels suggested reducing the contract by one-third (1/3) to \$26,500.00. Legislator Walter inquired of how crucial the funding is. Chairman Donaldson provided a brief explanation of an issue that took place between Social Services and CASA where CASA didn't feel Social Services was fulfilling all services for the child. Further, Chairman Donaldson stressed the volume of services provided and the impressive backgrounds of the volunteers. Legislator Bartels acknowledged a letter received from the Organization's Executive Director notifying the Committee that state funding has been reduced. Legislator Bartels emphasized that the Courts have been

shut down for a third of the year due to COVID, stating that she believes in the continued support and would like to discuss further with Social Services to better understand the needs of the program. Chairman Donaldson stated the Organization should not be answerable to Social Services but rather answerable to the child, emphasizing disputes between Social Services and CASA which have been a problem in the past.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, and Maio
Voting Against: Legislator Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 40: To approve 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, as Amended

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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, and Maio
Voting Against: Legislator Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 41: To discuss 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 Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Legislator Bartels explained that her suggested cut is due to the Organization's closure during Pause, stating that she does not want the cut to result in a permanent adjustment. Legislator Criswell noted that the Organization still has to pay their electric bill which is what this funding contributes to. Chairman Donaldson acknowledged that this funding is being compared to funding that's contributing to feeding and clothing the needy, noting that the Organization has the ability to raise money which many of these other Organizations in discussion do not, suggesting a reduction of 50%.

Motion No. 42: To amend 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 Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: Legislator Gavaris
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 43: To approve 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, as amended

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 Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: Legislator Gavaris
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 44: 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 Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Haynes

Discussion: None

Motion No. 45: 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 Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: Legislator Bartels noted the upcoming budget cycle, suggesting that the Committee work to discuss the

policy for funding these Organizations and to consider where the funding may more appropriately be housed.

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

Motion No. 46: To discuss Resolution No. 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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York to increase funding from the Healing Communities Grant from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2023 for an additional \$501,853.26, making the contract total \$791,503.26.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Deputy County Executive Marc Rider affirmed the contracts total value is \$696,148.26 and must be corrected on the floor prior to approval. Chairwoman Archer expressed concern about the full time Data Surveillance Coordinator position being created by the Resolution which is only being reimbursed in part, stating that at this juncture her feeling is that the actions taken, such as the creation of new positions, the establishment of salaries, the removal of CSEA jobs and the replacement with management jobs, without approval of the legislature have been an infringement on legislative power. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider stressed that this Resolution is to accept grant funding for opioid overdose services. Discussion pursued on the impact of postponing the Resolution. Legislative Counsel Christopher Ragucci recommended approving the plan at the same time as approving the execution of the grant contract, or postponing both together, but not approving one and not the other. Chairman Donaldson explained that three employees were transferred into CSEA positions which were

changed to management, non-union positions, the titles of these positions were changed, and with that, the salaries were increased for all three positions. Further, Chairman Donaldson noted that these actions were completed with no knowledge, comment, or approval of the legislature, observing that the Resolutions before the Committee seek to retroactively ask for approval, and agreeing with Chairwoman Archer that these actions are a serious encroachment of the power of the legislature. Moreover, Chairman Donaldson stressed that such actions should not be excused simply because the financial cost is covered in part by grant funding.

Motion No. 47: To postpone Resolution No. 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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York to increase funding from the Healing Communities Grant from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2023 for an additional \$501,853.26, making the contract total \$791,503.26.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Deputy County Executive Marc Rider noted that funding is not entirely for positions and covers other costs, again stressing the need for opioid services, suggesting the County Executive was correct in his creation of new positions and new salaries because the jobs were advertised publically during the hiring process. Chairwoman Archer noted that the County has been operating in this manner without the grant contract or plan approval for months. Legislator Walter additionally emphasized concern that the values still don't agree, noting that Samahdi was performing services for free and the County is already actively completing services for opioid addition and overdoses. Discussion pursued on the actions leading to the discussion, the rules of the Charter, the importance of the fight against opioids, and the importance of creating a unified front between the two branches of government.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Maio, and Walter, and
Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against: Legislator Haynes
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Postponed

Motion No. 48: To postpone Resolution No. 208—Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept HEALing Communities Study Funding And Create Positions – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2020 Ulster County Budget to create and fund three new positions and to fund the Professional Services Other line in the amount of \$90,156.00, and to increase Other Health Department Income Revenues, for a total budgetary increase of \$376,390.00.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Maio, and Walter, and
Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against: Legislator Haynes
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Postponed

Motion No. 49: To approve Resolution No. 220 – Authorizing The Upgrade Of The Live Scan Equipment And Software For The Sheriff’s Department, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$175,000,And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$175,000 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$175,000.00 Bonds for the establishment of Capital Project No. 571 to upgrade the Live Scan equipment and software, due to the current system no longer being supported, for a cost of \$175,000 with \$70,000 of reimbursement from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 50: To discuss Resolution No. 231 –Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Local Law No. 5 Of 1991 (A Local Law Adopting A Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax) To Clarify The Tax Law’s Application To Short-Term And Vacation Rentals, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 At 6:15 PM

Resolution Summary: This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2020, amending the Code of Ulster County, in relation to Local Law No. 5 of 1991, to clarify the Tax Law’s application to Short-Term and Vacation Rentals, to held on Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 6:15 PM at the County Office Building.

Motion Made By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Chairman Donaldson expressed concern about the funding for housing being taken out. Legislator Walter answered that she shares this sentiment but since there’s not a specific committee or department to place these funds, there is no specific allocation to include, stressing that she would like to make the commitment to fund housing initiatives on the floor. Legislator Bartels agreed that there should be a commitment to provide some, if not all, of these funds for affordable housing in the County, stating that this Resolution is step one and that would be step two done through a home rule request to change the law. Further, Legislator Bartels noted the span of time this discussion has taken place and the amount of money which has effectively been left on the table, stating that had they of had the discussion on where to allocate funding they would be in a much better place today. Moreover, Legislator Bartels said she does not believe passing this Resolution will negatively affect the County’s negotiations with Airbnb, and may strengthen them as the legislature could direct

the County Executive's office on what they would like to see in the contract, thus requiring the Executive office to communicate with Airbnb that the contract requires legislative approval which won't be attained without including certain factors. Legislator Walter emphasized that the state has not spoken to the legality of third party collections, asking where the County Executive's legal counsel stood on this matter. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright said they could potentially make Airbnb a tax collecting agent on behalf of the County so there is no issue of legality on this matter.

Motion No. 51: To approve Resolution No. 231 –Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Local Law No. 5 Of 1991 (A Local Law Adopting A Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax) To Clarify The Tax Law's Application To Short-Term And Vacation Rentals, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 At 6:15 PM

Resolution Summary: This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2020, amending the Code of Ulster County, in relation to Local Law No. 5 of 1991, to clarify the Tax Law's application to Short-Term and Vacation Rentals, to held on Tuesday July 14, 2020 at 6:15 PM at the County Office Building.

Motion Made By: Legislator Donaldson

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright told Committee members that the County Executive's issue is that Airbnb wanted the County to get rid of the software which is utilized to monitor the short-term rental environment and then the Company would not allow for the sharing of information to audit the platform. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright continued in saying that Airbnb is now required to share that information in certain locations because local law requires it. Further, she suggested holding off on this Resolution until the County Executive's negotiations are complete, saying there may be opportunity for stronger language. Legislator Walter stressed that this Resolution is for a public hearing, answering that this is not the appropriate time for contractual language. Legislator Ronk reiterated concern that the law is not legally sufficient as it stands and he does not feel it is

appropriate to have a public hearing if the law must be amended afterwards.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gavaris, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against: Legislators Haynes, and Maio
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 2
Disposition: Approved

New Business: Deputy Clerk of the Legislature/Finance Amber Feaster informed committee members of the total budgetary savings achieved from their amendments to Legislative contractual appropriations which totaled \$221,095.00. Legislator Bartels clarified that all amendments will have to be made on the floor at Session, noting that where there is an amendment to \$0.00 Legislators will need to vote “no” on the Resolution to defeat the creation of the contract. Legislator Heppner emphasized this procedure.

Old Business:

Chairwoman Archer informed Committee members that seven (7) proposals have been received in response to the RFP for External Budget Analysis and a special meeting to evaluate the proposals will take place on June 30th. Discussion pursued on the availability of proposals and how these will be distributed to Committee members.

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

Adjournment

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

Time: 6:14 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster
Minutes Approved: July 14, 2020

**Ways &
Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 16, 2020 – 4:00
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by dialing 1-646-558-8656,
Meeting ID 956 2341 8934
PRESIDING OFFICER: Lynn Archer, Chairwoman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster, and Jay Mahler
PRESENT: Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr. (arrived at 4:09 PM), Tracey Bartels, John Gavaris, Heidi Haynes; Mary Beth Maio, Eve Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Brian Cahill, Peter Criswell, James Delaune, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, and Laura Petit; Legislative Counsel, Christopher Ragucci; 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; Kingston Library; William Kemble, Daily Freeman; Chris Silva, UPAC; 1 unidentified caller

Chairwoman Archer: Welcome everybody to June 16 Ways and Means. Could you please call roll?

Natalie Kelder: Archer.

Chairwoman Archer: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Ronk.

Natalie Kelder: Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris: Present.

Natalie Kelder: Haynes.

Legislator Haynes: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Maio. She's on mute, but she's here.

Chairwoman Archer: There she is.

Legislator Maio: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Here.

Chairwoman Archer: Great. Thank you. I'd like to call the meeting to order. First off, I'd just like to thank everyone for completing the spreadsheet. I think when you take a look at it, we're closer than we thought. We're not as far apart. Oh, Ken just joined us. And hopefully this will help us to get through the process today. You know, we're still are far apart on some of these, but I think we're closer than we think.

So, let's start off Resolution 129: Authorizing the Chair to enter into an agreement with awareness for \$12,500. So, we have an array, it seems average, I probably should have averaged them out, but the gist is cutting them in half, or just about. Some are a third. And some are 10%.

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thank you. I apologize for being late. I was on a call I couldn't get off of.

Chairwoman Archer: Glad you let us know.

Legislator Ronk: But you know, It looks to me as if the general gist was about a half. So, I'd make a motion that we cut this in half.

Legislator Walter: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislative Walter.

Legislator Walter: I seconded that motion.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh, okay. On the amendment. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? Eve, you're opposed?

Legislator Walter: No.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. I'm sorry. Anybody opposed to the amendment? Okay, on the amendment, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So moved. So, we're taking them, cutting them in half which would be \$6,250.

Okay. Resolution 130: Authorizing the Chair to execute a contract with Walker Valley Chemical Engine No. 1. And this is for \$10,000.

Legislator Bartels: I'll make a motion for discussion.

Legislator Ronk: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Tracey made a motion for discussion. I seconded the motion. And so, this is one of the ones that I left whole on my spreadsheet. I just wanted to give my background perspective on why. We never executed a contract with Walker Valley for use of their training center. And that was part of the County, former County Executive Hein's plan for a Northern and Southern Training Center. You know, Walker Valley built this out of their own funds, and has since been allowing neighboring departments, and then for several years, any department in the County, to be able to utilize it.

I feel strongly that if we're not going to enter into the contract that we promised them several years ago, must be two years ago now, in order to, and that would I believe that was going to be for \$30,000 for, you know, the maintenance of their training center. Then I think that we, you know, I think that we should honor at least this amount of funding until the other contract gets executed.

I mean, we just built the, you know, Ulster, you know, the Town of Ulster fire protection, you know, organizational, all of those, you know, Spring Lake, Ulster Hose and whatnot. We just, we just built, you know, you know \$7 million training tower in their fire district that they get exclusive use for, for, you know, what, 20, I forget how many days it is. But I believe it's upwards of 20 days. You know, I just, I feel strongly that if we're not going to, you know, honor our commitment that we made years ago to Walker Valley, then we should at least honor this commitment.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Well my trouble with this is when you're entering into contracts with volunteer fire companies, and you don't give it similar to others, then I don't, you know, I have some trouble with that.

And the when you're talking about the fire training center in the Town of Ulster, that is part of the incentive, community incentive that was given to them, that they have an exclusive 20-day training time. I think that's an incentive that's well deserved. And not many people want that. As you know, there's a big fight over that down in Marbletown about having that. So, my mindset is you when you start giving money to volunteer firefighters, then you have to do it for all.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels. You're on mute there.

Legislator Bartels: Yep. So, I mean, I think that this is different than having to give it to all because, and I zeroed it out, which I'll explain in a minute. But in this case, we're not really giving the money to the volunteer fire department. I think we're basically buying the panels that multiple fire departments use. And they had been using, especially before we created our own fire training facility.

I'm wondering, one, if there's active training going on now in COVID at this facility. And, two, Ken, to your comment earlier about the North/South training facility and that commitment. I don't remember that conversation coming on. I think when we invested these multi-millions of dollars into a fire training facility, in large part, it was my assumption that that was going to be the countywide training facility. A facility for all. Not that we were still going to be funding a Southern facility. So, those are two separate thoughts. But yeah, that's where I was at.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. I mean, I can send you the press release that the County Executive, former County Executive put out about it. I can send you, you know, I'll have to just do some research. I can send you a lot of information about, I can send you a draft contract that was sent to Walker Valley from the County.

You know, I think that originally, the intention was to have one county fire training center and have it be in the center of the county.

But you know, from my, from my fire department, which is across the street from my house, to Walker Valley Fire District, it's probably 15 minutes. You know, to their to their burn tower. From my fire department to the new County fire training center, on Ulster Landing Road, it's probably 50 minutes. You know, a lot of, you know, look, for Firefighter One and for Countywide training. You know, you're, I think you're definitely going to have people travel to the town of Ulster. I don't think that you're going to have the Wallkill, you know, Fire Department, or Shawangunk Valley Fire Department, or even Gardiner Fire Department travel up there for a drill night that they do themselves. Or that they and a neighboring department do. I think that you would get all of those three fire departments in Plattekill or Marlboro traveling to Walker Valley because it's significantly closer. And I think that that was the compromise plan that was put together by the County Executive at the time, County Executive Hein, and, you know, and the Law Enforcement Public Safety Committee, you know, as a compromise to move off of the site in Stone Ridge because of the public backlash from it.

And I agree with you, by the way, that it's not like we're giving money to a fire department, and we have to give it to everybody because, you know, Walker Valley is one of the only fire districts in the County that operates a training facility. And also just one more thing, this contract was altered, either last year or the year before, to not just be for burn panels. That they can use it for other, you know, other maintenance on the facility, but it has to be maintenance for the facility. No, you know, not just, I can't just go to anything in their fire district.

Chairwoman Archer: Does someone want to make a motion? Legislator Bartels.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Legislator Walter has her hand up.

Legislator Bartels: Legislator Walter had her hand up first.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't see that.

Legislator Walter: That's okay. So, you know, I don't necessarily have the same kind of historical memory. And I guess I'm the only person who kind of fell right in the middle of nothing and everything. You know, I was on one hand, compelled that some level of support might be still useful, because this is an organization that's doing this training. And this is it's important to have these trainings. But at the same time, in their report to us as to how they'd be impacted if they lost this money. I was not very impressed. It basically said, we're not sure if we'll be able to share. And so, it didn't seem like they'd be very hard pressed. But at the same time, I think they are providing somewhat, I kind of had this litmus of how unique is the service that they're providing, as well as how damaging would it be? And so, I don't, that's why I suggested a 50% cut because I do feel there is the uniqueness of it, but that it's not tremendously damaging. And it's a pretty small amount as it is.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Is training actively happening there right now?

Legislator Ronk: I believe so. I can't tell you. Each department is different. I know that the Wallkill Fire Department went back to full drills a couple of weeks ago. I do know that they've had burning at the County Training Center in the Town of Ulster, you know, that was just recently opened. I can ask them if they're actively training. I don't know if they've done a burn since COVID started or not, but I do know that drills are happening around the County for fire departments.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I had a conversation with Kevin Peters yesterday because he asked me when they could start training again. So, I don't know what that answer is. So, I actually called John Milgrim and gave him that name. So, he would advise me that they are not training, but some are, sort of a wink and nod type of training, I guess, not saying anything, but they are. I don't think, at least that's what I got from him yesterday.

Chairwoman Archer: Would someone like to put a motion on the floor? Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: As a compromise, I'll put a motion on the floor that we cut the funding by \$5,000 at this time. In half, you know, cut in half to \$5,000.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: A second?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, on the amended resolution All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So moved.

Soil and Water Conservation District, Resolution 131.

Legislator Bartels: Legislator Archer, before we move on, I think that on 129 Awareness, we didn't vote on the Resolution, as amended. We just voted on the amendment.

Chairwoman Archer: So, thank you. So, on Resolution 129, Awareness, as amended: \$6,250.

All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? Thank you, Legislator, Bartels.

All right. Soil and Water Conservation District, Resolution 131. It was submitted at \$91.5K, and we have quite a few approaches to this.

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Okay, so, you know, I saw a couple of comments about their money in reserve and Legislator Ronk will probably be able to better speak on that as a current issue. Because when I was on the board, I had a better sense of what their reserve funds were, but I don't know what they are currently. I put in basically, you know, a 33% cut. And my thinking was, you know, we're through a third of the year, and they already, and they have money in reserve. I know they have some money. The reason I didn't go to half, which might have been logical, just from again, from the perspective that they may have the money to withstand the cut, is in part, that they have a new director, and I was hoping they would begin with new programming. But I'm, I'm open to the discussion. I just wanted to let everyone know where I was thinking.

Legislator Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. Actually, since being appointed, we've only had one meeting, it was on Zoom, and I was unable to attend. So, I, as you, as a former board member, I had a pretty good handle on their reserves at that point, which were massive. You know, I don't currently know if they've done any spend-downs on those or anything. I would be comfortable with a third. I mean, you know, pretty much, just, you know, for my, you know. For everyone's edification on where my mind was coming at with these changes, you know, I think that we should cut the ones that we had been funding by half. I could live with a third on all of the ones that I've cut to half. And I also put in that we should eliminate the organizations that had not

been previously funded. So, that's where I came from with my thought process. Just moving forward because it's going to be a lot of the same. So, you know, if majority of the committee is comfortable, at a third, I'd be comfortable in a third.

Legislator Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Well, I actually had this cut more. They do have a lot of reserves. And actually right now, half the year has gone by. So, I would be more comfortable with Ronk's original one half cut, 50% cut

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I just want to point out, though, that we keep saying they have a lot of reserves, but I don't think anybody currently, on the Zoom meeting knows that for sure. We're going on previous information. And so, we're making a decision based on reserves that they may or may not have. I would expect that they have significant reserves, but I don't know it for a fact. Making a cut on reserves. I don't think is strictly wise.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: So, I mean, I didn't make my suggestion based on reserves. And I guess I would say that the majority of us did bring up that kind of 50%, \$46,000. So, I feel like it's worth giving attention to the that was sort of the majority.

Legislator Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah. I mean, I think after a year is gone. And I have this sneaking suspicion, I think the reserves are close to, I don't remember exactly what it was, but I thought it was about \$900,000. Does Amber have any, or anybody have any handle on what the reserves are? Do they know what they are? Can they see it?

Legislator Bartels: Adam, the Executive Director is on the Zoom call. So we could ask him?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: What are what are his reserves?

Adam Doan: Hi folks, we're not sitting on \$900,000. And some of the money that we do have is allocated to different programs depending on where the funding line came from. So, for example, we have like Part C money that would be for implementation of projects, on farm projects and practices. So, it's a little bit trickier when you look at it in total, as opposed to, you know, what the funds are allocated for in their designated accounts.

Chairwoman Archer: So, they're already encumbered for various projects? Is that a fair way of saying it?

Adam Doan: Yeah. And I guess I just add to that, with the change in Executive Director now, you know, Gary previously wasn't taking health insurance because he was covered by his wife.

We're in a totally different situation when it comes to that. So, in terms of somebody mentioned a spend-down plan, we are at a point where our costs have gone up pretty considerably, annually. And we're still kind of responding to that. But

Chairwoman Archer: Okay thank you so much.

Adam Doan: Yeah. And if anybody wants detail, I mean, I'm happy to share it. I just would have to pull together and get it signed based on current statements. I know that doesn't really serve you now but.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I also just want to point out, you know, I think sometimes there's a, you know, these two organizations are spoken about in really different terms, but I view them very similarly. And that's the Soil and Water Conservation District and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Soil and Water District does bring in, just like Cornell, for every dollar of County spend, it's a significant multiplier, you know, that comes in from the City, and outside, providing for jobs and pretty amazing projects in the County. And again with, you know, the new Executive Director. I'm hopeful that once we're out of this COVID situation, and the board sits down for more regular meetings, we can maybe talk about expanding on some of the services that Soil and Water provides. Because as a former board member, I know, there are trainings. We learned about a lot of things Soil and Water Districts can do. And our Soil and Water District was keeping a more narrow focus. So, I'm more comfortable with the third cut, especially hearing from the Executive Director that their costs are on the rise and they're not sitting on \$900,000. I don't know where everyone else sits.

Chairwoman Archer: I'll entertain, Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Sorry. I just, I didn't actually hear an answer to the question. And it's a little difficult when not everybody who's on this list necessarily has someone here. But all I'm hearing is that historically there has been very large reserves. And the question is, are there reserves now? And I don't know if the answer is zero, there are no reserves. I didn't really quite get the answer to that question. So, I don't know if Adam wants to provide it. But.

Adam Doan: Yeah, trying to pull it up now. But I.

Legislator Walter: I mean, everybody has budgets.

Adam Doan: Yeah, I don't want to be quoted on it and have it be wrong. So, it's more than zero. And it's a decent amount that was going to provide us some opportunities. As Tracey had mentioned, to look at how we can expand some programming. Obviously, we're in a difficult situation now because, you know, our funding is kind of three parts. So, we get State funding, we get funding under a contract with New York City and we get funding through the County appropriation. We're hearing everything all over the board in terms of what those other funding sources aren't going to be, either this year, or next year. I think that cumulative impact is where we could be in a much more dire situation in the future if everybody comes back and cuts. So, I

will throw that out there. If I can find a figure before you need to move on. I will provide that. Or if you, I guess you're not meeting next week, if you did want to table and we'll follow up with more information. And we certainly could go that route, as well. And you could postpone.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. I just want to make a point. It's extraneous to this particular conversation. But it pertains to the conversation and all these things. This is why I thought we were going to have a special meeting and only focus on these things. Because we could actually make that meeting information available to all of these people who have these contracts. I know they sent us stuff in writing, but then, if we have follow-up questions, they can be on. I think it was Eve who said, you know, that not everyone has a representative on this call. That that was why I was concerned about rushing through this in one of our regular meetings. And I voiced that last week.

Chairwoman Archer: Well, and we tried to reconvene after last week's meeting, I get it. But you know, we've been talking about this now for four months, and we've had significant information and opportunity for follow-up. So, what I'd really like to do, is at this juncture, let's move forward as best we can. I'll entertain a motion.

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I would enter, I would make a motion to cut the funding to \$61,305, which is cutting by a third. I believe.

Chairwoman Archer: Is there a second?

Legislator Ronk: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, all in favor? On the amended resolution.

Legislator Bartels: On the amendment.

Legislator Ronk: That's the amendment.

Chairwoman Archer: On the amendment.

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. We have a first in a second on the amended resolution. Now, on the amended resolution. All in favor?

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So moved.

RCAL, Resolution Number 132.

Oh, I'm sorry. I did get a note that I confused the vote on 130. So, I apologize. We just want to make sure we have agreement on the amendment to \$5,000. But all in favor, on the amended resolution, please, one more time.

Opposed? Thank you so much.

Okay, Resolution 132: RCAL the current award is \$15K. I'll take a motion for discussion.

Legislator Walter: I'll move it.

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Any comments?

I'll entertain a motion on this resolution, to amend it.

Legislator Walter: I'll move that we take the unanimous decision to cut the funding.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, that would cut the funding to zero from \$15,000. A second on it?

Legislator Walter: Sorry, it was almost unanimous. It wasn't unanimous. I didn't realize Donaldson, Sorry.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: No problem. I did not, I cut it down to \$10K but I can go along with you guys.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, on the amendment, do I have a second?

Legislator Ronk: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor of the amendment?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: On the resolution, as amended?

Legislator Petit: This is Laura, can you hear me?

Chairwoman Archer: Yep.

Legislator Petit: So, on the amendment, you're cutting the \$15,000 because they had originally asked for \$30K. And we cut that at the at last year's budget meeting.

Chairwoman Archer: I'm sorry, I hear you, Laura. But we have just voted on this, and it is being cut to zero.

Legislator Petit: So, you're not going to fund them at all?

Chairwoman Archer: No, they were not funded last year.

Legislator Petit: All right. Well, let's see what you do with People's Place then. Okay. Thank you.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. All right. Resolution 133, D&H Canal Society. I'll entertain a motion for discussion.

Legislator Ronk: I'll make a motion for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, I'll entertain a motion to amend this.

Legislator Ronk: I'll make a motion that we take the unanimous, this time it actually is unanimous on our spreadsheet, and cut the funding for this year.

Legislator Walter: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Do I have a second?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor on the amendment?

Legislator Ronk: Cutting to zero, I didn't clarify, because it's been recorded.

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. On the resolution as amended. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Legislator Bartels: Can I just clarify.

Chairwoman Archer: I apologize. Yep.

Legislator Bartels: Sorry. So when I'm looking at this, the appropriations crosswalk, under Eve, under Walter, I don't see things as zero. Is that just a misprint? Like for this one, Okay.

Chairwoman Archer: Yes.

Legislator Walter: I got confused.

Legislator Ronk: Yeah, on mine, I see D&H Canal, zero; and RCAL, zero?

Legislator Walter: That's the correct one.

Legislator Bartels: Okay, so there's two of them. I need to pull up a different one?

Legislator Walter: Those two were the only mistakes. So you're good for now.

Legislator Bartels: Okay, thank you.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, Hudson River Maritime Museum. I'll take a motion for discussion.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it for discussion.

Legislator Walter: Second that.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: I'll just say that I'm totally fine with what the majority said. I think I just didn't have enough information about, but yeah, so, I would make a motion that it gets cut. I respect the will of the masses.

Chairwoman Archer: So, you're making a motion to cut it to zero?

Legislator Walter: Yes.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislator Ronk: I'll second.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislative Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah. I think this is a necessary thing that we need to look at funding. But I don't think it should be funded through Legislative Programs. I think what we need to do is actually look towards the IDA on this, along with any other places where they can get it through economic development money. Because it is an economic development issue for the waterfront. If they can get the, you know more boat areas, that they're able to bring in large ships. That makes a significant difference in the Rondout area. So, my mindset is I would like the idea that they pursue that, and we need to help them pursue that.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, so I have an amendment on the table from Legislator Walter, with a second from Legislator Ronk, to amend it to zero. All in favor?

Opposed?

Okay, on the on the amended resolution, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So moved.

Resolution 135, People's Place. And this is for \$10,000. I'll entertain a motion for discussion. Chair Donaldson. Second?

Legislator Ronk: I'll second it for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you.

Chair Donaldson. You're on mute, you're on mute.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I mean, originally, I questioned the idea of adding for People's Place, but not making sure that we knew what it was for. But still, right now, I can see and right now, we're actually in a good position compared to what it's going to be like in the next few months, and three months, four months from now. And they are feeding and clothing the needy. And my mindset is, I don't see cutting that making sense to me. And because it may bring in people from all around the area, it's Kingston people, Esopus people, Ulster people, and anybody that could get there. So, I have a problem cutting this.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Thanks. Since John is on the call, I guess I'll ask the question I've been asking. Did they get Project Resilience money to assist in their mission of feeding people?

John, are you still there?

Legislator Bartels: John Milgrim?

Chairwoman Archer: John Milgrim?

Legislator Walter: Yeah, John Milgrim.

Chairwoman Archer: Well, we have Evelyn. Evelyn would you be able to answer that?

Deputy Executive Wright: I'm sorry, could you repeat the question?

Legislator Walter: Sorry. So, for People's Place, did they get Project Resilience money?

Deputy Executive Wright: They did get a small amount of Project Resilience money in the very beginning, if I remember correctly. And we are, you know, I would have to check if we're putting money into their grocery bag program right now or not, I don't know. They're not

Legislator Walter: Is that hard, is that hard to check?

Deputy Executive Wright: It's not hard to check. It might be hard to check during this meeting, but I can try to find out. But I can say that they're not receiving like a significant amount of ongoing money at this point, from us, no.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Bartels and then Haynes.

Legislator Bartels: So, just to explain what I was thinking. You know, I actually, the fact that we didn't fund them last year wasn't a non-starter for me. I was looking at what they're spending the money on. I remember in the deliberations last year, having those same questions about what they are going to spend our funding on. Because they kind of came telling us their full litany of what they do. And I remember Legislator Ronk, making a compelling argument about how there are food pantries across the County, including one in Shawangunk, and how do we make a decision? And I and I hear that. But given COVID, I've had a really difficult time cutting funding knowing that that funding was definitely going to feeding people and clothing people. And so, that feeding, most particularly, that really made, I kept them at full funding. I'm open to a discussion. But again, I think the money is definitely going to a good cause that's, that's needed. So I'm open to.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Haynes.

Legislator Haynes: I do believe also that, I mean, People's Places has been great. They've been supporting everyone during COVID and pre-COVID and whatnot. However, I do believe that there are organizations that have been receiving substantial amounts of money, at least one-time payments from other local cities or municipalities. So, I'm not saying that it was not in need, but I do believe that People's Place may have received money from the City of Kingston, as well. And I also do believe Family of Woodstock may have received funding also. So, it's something that you might want to just consider.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk

Legislator Ronk: Thank you. You know, I go back to, you know, sort of some of the same concerns I had during budget time that I think are amplified by COVID. There are food pantries all over this County that are hurting and that could use the money. And I understand that we want to feel good about ourselves. That we're, you know, helping an organization that feeds and clothes, especially during a time when feeding is necessary.

The food pantry I talked about in my district, you know, has seen an exponential growth in their usership and the Lions Club in Wallkill, which I'm a member of, hosted a drive-through barbecue

and raised \$3,000 for them, also donated \$1,000. My Republican committee has donated food to that and the other food pantry that covers the Town of Shawangunk. I just, you know, if we're going to spend \$10,000 feeding people, I don't think it should just be in Kingston and the surrounding area to Kingston. I respect that Legislator Donaldson says anybody that can get there is going to, you know, be able to be served there. But I also believe that, you know, if you live in Shawangunk, and you can't feed your family, you're probably not driving to Kingston to try and, you know, go to the one food pantry that the Legislature sees fit to fund. You know, I just think that if we're going to spend \$10,000, we should spread it around the County, and not just do it Kingston-centric, personally. That's why I don't think that we should spend this \$10,000 at this time.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: You know, I can understand your argument, but the differentiation is it's a population center, So, the amount of people that are being served here is significantly more than what's being served in Shawangunk. You're talking about, probably 10-times that amount, or more. So when you put money into things, a lot of times it's about the idea of getting the best bang for the buck, making sure that most people are actually fed, and that's a big difference. And so, when you're talking about this, and you're comparing, I don't think there's really a good comparison there.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk

Legislator Ronk: Thank you. Legislator Donaldson, you know through the Chair to Legislator Donaldson, are you under the impression that there's 10 times the amount of people in the City of Kingston than there are in the town of Shawangunk?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: No, I did not make that suggestion. I'm talking about the amount of people that are being actually served. That's what I'm talking about.

Legislator Ronk: Okay. I just think that you're making, you're making, that statement on the assumption and not actual facts. I don't know that the facts you know, back up the assumption.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: So, the City of Kingston, the Town of Ulster, and Esopus are all served very heavily by this group. It's not just City of Kingston people. I mean, City of Kingston people might benefit because they can walk to it, but it is servicing a lot more than the City Kingston. And you know, it is a population center, like I said.

Legislator Ronk: Yep. And the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, that I've spoken about several times, serves all of the students in the Wallkill Central School District, which includes students in Plattekill and Gardiner. You know, so again, you know, and the other one, you know, the Methodist Church in Pine Bush serves students in the Pine Bush School District which include Walker Valley, out possibly even, you know, towards Cragmoor. You know, again, I just think that there are food pantries all over the County that are just as deserving of funding.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, I'll entertain a motion on amending this resolution. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: I move that we eliminate the funding for this year.

Chairwoman Archer: Is there a second? Legislator Haynes. All in favor? I'm sorry?

Legislator Haynes: I second.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. All in favor on amending it to zero.

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed.

Group: Nay.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, I'll entertain an amendment to make a change here.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: I propose that we cut it by 50%, \$5,000.

Chairwoman Archer: Is there a second?

Legislator Gavaris: I'll second.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Gavaris, on the amended resolution, to reduce it to \$5,000. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? Chairman Donaldson, you're opposing it. Okay.

Legislator Walter: That was four in favor?

Chairwoman Archer: Four in favor. I think we had four. 1-2-3-4. Who, and we had who opposed? I'm sorry.

Legislator Haynes: Can you repeat that? Because I got confused, there.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. So, before us is an amended resolution to amend it to \$5,000. All in favor of the amended resolution.

Legislator Ronk: I'll be reluctantly in favor.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Opposed? Haynes and Donaldson. Okay. The resolution stands at \$5,000.

Resolution 136: Community Action.

Chairwoman Archer: I'll entertain a motion for discussion.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it for discussion.

Legislator Bartels: And I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you.

William Kemble: Excuse me, but you clearly state what the vote counts are at the end of each vote? Thank you. Thank you.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you, Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: So, this is one that I kept at full funding after reading their explanation again, their initial application, and then their explanation of what they're doing during COVID. I felt that it was critically important providing gap funding for people with home instability, etc. That's where my mindset was. So, I'm open to discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thank you. This was a typographical error on my part, I did not intend to eliminate this entirely. I, I, this is one of the ones that I would have had at a 50% cut. So it looks like a majority of the committee is at that. I'll make a motion that we reduce this by 50%.

Chairwoman Archer: Do I have a second?

Legislator Gavaris: Second.

Legislator Maio: Second.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Under discussion?

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah. I did not eliminate any of their funding because this funding goes towards helping people in many different ways. It helps throughout County, particularly in the Ellenville area, as well as the greater Kingston area, but it does help in other areas. But it really zeroes in on, you know, the less fortunate. Whether its food, whether it's clothing, whether it's actually a little bit of money that's able to get them into housing. And understand that they are recognized by the Federal government, and one of the only recognized places throughout the Country. And it's basically Community Action programs throughout the

Country and in fact, recently, we adjoined and actually took over part of the Sullivan County one. So, the Director here is also the Director of the Sullivan County one. And Sullivan County puts their own money into this. But all the money here goes directly to helping people in need. And as a result, and they are also, they do a great deal of outreach. They do have other things that they do for the county, such as the HEAP program, which makes them certified that when they give out money, they make sure that it is checked well. That whoever's getting the money is not getting some kind of money that that they don't really deserve. So, as a result, in other words, in the HEAP program alone, they are certified by the County. And the County does give them like \$19,000, I think it is, as part one of their sort of, you know, programs for certifying for HEAP. So, when you go there, it helps out everybody, no matter what it is. Do they recoup the entire amount with that \$19K, I don't believe so. But that's, you know, part of their programs is to make sure that they're doing whatever they can. And with COVID it's going to be, as I said before, we're in great shape right now. If you want to see what we would like two and three months from now. So these places like this, and People's Place, and even that place Shawangunk. I'm glad that somebody raised money for them. They're going to need more than we ever thought they were going to need.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: So same question, John or Evelyn. Did they get Project Resilience money? Or and Legislator Haynes, if you're aware, if you know that they get any other money to support these efforts during this time?

Deputy Executive Wright: They have gotten a small amount of Project Resilience funding for providing grocery bags to families in need.

Legislator Walter: Thanks.

Chairwoman Archer: We have a resolution on the table, an amendment to reduce the amount by \$50,000.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Because a majority, we're looking closer to the 50%. I'm wondering if the majority would consider a more modest cut, something like what Legislator Archer proposed, which I believe is in the realm of the 33%. I think that what Chairman Donaldson said is true. I mean, I was mostly looking at their services as it related to rental assistance, and HEAP, and all these things that I think are going to be compounded heavily, as we headed into cold months and potentially a relapse with COVID, or a second wave. So, I don't know if there's any, I know we have an amendment on the table, but if anyone, just as an offering up the question, if anyone would be open to just doing a third cut.

Legislator Walter: What would that be?

Chairwoman Archer: That would be \$19,250.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: That would be terrible.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk and Maio, you have the amendment on the floor?

Legislator Bartels: Legislator Ronk, you're muted.

Legislator Ronk: Sorry about that. I would rather move forward with the amendment on the floor. And then if that doesn't pass, I would be open to a third.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Can I say something?

Chairwoman Archer: Yes, Legislative Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah, just so you know, there's been a number of people that actually served on this and really know what they do. In fact, Reverend Collins, who is, you know, the former Legislator was on this group for I don't know how long and of course, it was one of the places that you know, he insisted would always be funded. And the idea of cutting this 50% is basically, really, I mean, taking food and clothing from people less fortunate, and it's the way I look at it. And I think there are other real points where we can cut. And I mean, the idea that, you know, I mean, I like soil and water, and I think we need to do what we can, but you know, at this point, I'm worried I'm really worried what it's going to be like three months from now.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. So why don't we take a vote on the 50% cut? All in favor of? Yes.

Legislator Ronk: Can I just

Chairwoman Archer: Yes

Legislator Ronk: Can I just say something real quick because, you know, I take a little bit of offense to the, "if you vote for this, you're taking food and clothing away from people," you know, what I'm concerned about, you know, aside from other things, is taking housing away from people, which is what we're going to do if we have to raise taxes and people can't afford their taxes. So, you want to talk about housing instability, just wait until we have to raise taxes, double digits. You know, I really take offense to that, you know, this is one of those things where, you know, if you don't vote in favor of this, you're against the kids, or you're against, you know, some other, you know, vulnerable group. You know, that's where, you know, emotional arguments take away from rational arguments, in my opinion. I take offense to that. I just had to get on the record.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. On the resolution to cut 50%.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: So, we have four aye, five aye, is that correct Eve? If so, Maio, Haynes. Ronk. Gavaris and Walter are in favor of the 50% cut.

Legislator Ronk: I've got to jump off the meeting. I apologize.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? The motion passes, a 50% cut.

Resolution 137: Arts Mid-Hudson. Now, oh I'm sorry, let me before I get.

Legislator Walter: I'll move to discuss.

Oh, right, right right.

Chairwoman Archer: No, no, no, let me on the, on the on the amended resolution of 50%. All in favor?

Opposed?

Okay. Same three. Archer Donaldson and Bartels were no.

Okay. 137 Arts Mid-Hudson motion for discussion.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Motion for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: And second?

Legislator Walter: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. We had an amendment at the last meeting on the table for an amendment to cut this to \$60,000.

Do we have to re-vote on this at this meeting?

Okay. So I'll take a motion.

Clerk Fabella: You never voted on the resolution.

Chairwoman Archer: We never voted on it. But it does it still stand, or do we have to put it back on the table?

Clerk Fabella: You have to vote on it, as amended, if you want to change it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. We have an amendment on the table for \$60,000. All in favor?

Opposed?

One opposition on this. Okay. On the amended resolution, all in favor to amend the resolution to \$60,000?

Legislator Bartels: I'm sorry to interrupt. Can you tell us what the count was on the amendment? Just because I couldn't quite tell.

Chairwoman Archer: Well, it looked like everyone except for Legislator Donaldson.

Legislator Bartels: No, Gavaris said Walter.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh Gavaris, I missed that. Okay. So we're going to have to, can I ask you to do with thumbs up then on the reaction button, this way, they can see who's voting up and who's not. Okay. It will make it easier. Okay, so all in favor of the amended resolution of \$60,000?

Legislator Bartels: Do we first have to do the amendment? So again, because we didn't.

Chairwoman Archer: No, we didn't. I thought we did already.

Legislator Bartels: Right. But I think that we had more noes to the amendment than you counted.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislator Gavaris: I was a 'no' on the amendment.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Sorry. Let's try again, on the amendment to reduce it. \$60,000. All in favor?

Okay so I'm seeing.

Legislator Bartels: I'm having a hard time with this reaction button. But I'll do my best.

Chairwoman Archer: So, are you?

Legislator Bartels: I am in favor amending to 60,000.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. So, Bartels, Maio, Archer, Is that a Haynes? And that's it.

Okay, opposed? Walter, Gavaris, and Donaldson, is that correct?

So, the amended resolution, on the resolution, as amended. All in favor?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'm a no.

Chairwoman Archer: So anyone else a no? All in favor?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'm not in favor, I'm trying to erase something.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Bartels, Maio, Haynes, Gavaris are in favor. Opposed: Walter and Donaldson, Did I get that right?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yep.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Motion carried.

Okay. Resolution 138: Cornell Cooperative Extension. I'll entertain a motion for discussion.

Legislator Bartels: So moved.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: So moved.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I make a motion to cut it 10%.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislator Bartels: Second that for discussion

Chairwoman Archer: Second. All in favor of a 10% cut for Cornell Cooperative? So, I have.

Legislator Walter: Sorry, what's the amount?

Chairwoman Archer: 10%, I didn't, I didn't fix the.

Legislator Walter: \$36,000

Chairwoman Archer: Yeah. \$36,200. Yeah.

Legislator Walter: Okay. I'll go for that.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, so all in favor of the 10% cut? Walter, Archer, Donaldson, Bartels.

Okay, opposed? Maio, Gavaris, Haynes.

On the amended 10% cut on the resolution, all in favor. Archer, Walter, Donaldson, Bartels.

Opposed? Haynes, Maio, Gavaris.

Thank you.

Mid-Hudson Library, Resolution 139. Currently awarded \$84,500.

Legislator Bartels: I'll move it for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, second?

Legislator Walter: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislative Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: This is another one that I left at full funding. The ask from the Library Association was very specific pre-COVID and it was to fund their online programming. Which as I recall from attending one of those meetings, it includes audio books and video. Videos available all kinds of things that now in the age of COVID, when many if not all of our libraries are closed as bricks and mortar, are providing programming, entertainment, education to our citizens.

It's also, to Legislator Ronk's earlier point talking about food pantries, and I do think that's something we need to struggle with about how being someone from the southern end of the county, how we meet our citizens across the County. The library, so far as I could tell, every program that we have before us is the one program that reaches every Ulster County resident equally. You can get a library card, and I've got tell you, thanks to Legislator, Criswell, I used my library card to sign up for Kanopy, which is an amazing online video service that's free, and has amazing videos for my nine-year old. Thank you, Peter. And access to really incredible artistic programming for adults. So, I think that we owe it to the libraries to follow through on the full funding. They've contracted for this service, and our citizens all have it available to them. And that was on the promise of the of the funding. So, I really would like to see this stay at full funding.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yes. We've been funding it this way when we created this formula quite a while ago, back in 2007, I think it was. And the formula has worked unbelievably good. We've worked through this, in other words, if they are every any human being that's got a library card in Ulster County has access to an unbelievable amount of programs.

And in fact, I have an old 1999 Mazda truck, a little truck. And of course, when I get that repaired, I go to a guy that does a lot of stuff on the side, and then you know, that's how he works. And he uses Chilton's, which if you wanted to buy Chilton's I think it's about \$1,000 a year for the, for the program. In order to use the program, he gets it for free with his library card.

You could pull up my truck and say, okay, this is where the parts are, and he can order and get it fixed. It saves him \$1,000 a year. So, the idea that people are able to use this no matter where they are, we use actually fund the libraries more than twice this amount. And then when we cut that may actually because we were funding individual libraries, which was foolish, this funds the Library Association, so I would support the full amount or I mean, I could understand people and possibly the 10%.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Yeah, I just all for those that don't know, sorry, if you all do know, you know, the, the programs that both the Chair and I are mentioning are, are but a small sampling of what's available through the online services. You can do Rosetta Stone, you can learn a new language, I believe they still have ancestry.com I mean, it's, it's a very, very robust set of programming that I think is really a lifeline for a lot of our citizens, especially at this moment.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: So I mean, I think libraries are invaluable if there was a way of tripling the funding, if that made sense in the world, I would do it. But in this, in light of what's going on and moving along, I think they'd understand a small cut. And so, I'd like to propose a 10% cut.

Chairwoman Archer: We have an amendment of 10% by Legislator Walter. Do I have a second?

Legislator Haynes.

Legislator Haynes: I will second that.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: May we speak on it?

Chairwoman Archer: Yes, Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Understand that they, you know, what this does is every library benefits from it because there's not, they would not be able to afford to do these programs on their own. So, that's how they're able to do this through the Library Association. So, any library by themselves might be able to do a couple of the programs. But this goes through the Association, which means every library can use these and it saves those other libraries money for other things that they're doing.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I also don't believe that this funding even fully covers all of the programming that they do remotely. So, I'm concerned that doing a 10%, you know, if it's something other than symbolic, I could, I guess be persuaded. But I feel like they really need this

money, and we made this commitment, and this is for programming that they're currently providing. So, I would really like to see the full funding move.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, so we have a motion to amend it by 10%. Made by Legislator Walter seconded by Legislator Haynes. All in favor of a 10% cut?

Maio Haynes, Walter, Archer.

Opposed? Gavaris, Donaldson, Bartels.

10% cut. On the resolution as amended, all in favor?

Legislator Bartels: Can I speak?

Chairwoman Archer: Walter

Legislator Bartels: Can I? I just want the record to reflect I'm going to vote for it. I'm not happy about the 10% cut, but I want to make sure it moves to the floor, and I don't want it to be reflected that I'm opposed in any way to the libraries.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. On the amended, on the resolution as amended.

Legislator Walter is a yes, Haynes

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: May I say something?

Chairwoman Archer: Gavaris, Donaldson, Maio

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll be a yes.

Chairwoman Archer: Bartels. Yes, Legislative Chairman Donaldson. Please.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll be a yes on this, I believe what they'll have to do is to prioritize some of the programs. That's what they're going to end up doing.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Thank you.

Legislator Haynes: Nobody's opposed to the libraries. I mean

Chairwoman Archer: Nobody is.

Legislator Haynes: this just whatever has to get done. It's very difficult. This doesn't mean we're in opposition to the library.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: No, nobody said it was.

Legislator Bartels: I don't mean that.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: They will have cut some of the programming, that's all.

Chairwoman Archer: Listen, this is painful for all of us, none of us want to be cutting any of this. So, I think we're all going on the record with that, but we need to move forward. The next one is, I think we have all our votes in, correct, Amber? Good.

Okay. Resolution 140: Don't be a monster. I'll entertain a motion for discussion.

Legislator Walter: So moved.

Legislator Haynes: Second

Legislator Maio: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, Haynes and Walter, or was that Maio? I'm sorry, I couldn't tell. Okay. Any discussion on this? Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Oh, yeah. I mean, it's a small amount. I put the money in for the funding. It's a small amount, but I am not committed to that. And maybe if everyone else decided they were going to zero it out, I'll just go along with the program.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I want to make a motion that we move their funding to zero.

Legislator Walter: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Do I have a second? Okay. Legislator Bartels and Walter. All in favor, on the amendment?

Archer, Walter, Haynes, Maio, Bartels, Donaldson, Gavaris.

On the amended resolution All in favor.

Everyone, no one's opposed. Thank you.

Resolution 141: Family of Woodstock.

Legislator Bartels: I'll move it for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: For discussion by Bartels. Seconded? Donaldson.

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: So, last week I mentioned, I think I mentioned in Ways and Means that I reached out to Commissioner Iapoce on this contract. Just to try to get an understanding of what the County does for supervised visitation. This is a supervised visitation contract with Family of Woodstock, one of the many contracts we have with Family.

Commissioner Iapoce, told me that supervised visitation is mandated by the court. And so, it's something that Ulster County does provide. And no child would ever not receive supervised visitation from the County. He didn't know that the history of how it came that we were splitting off some of the visitation to Family of Woodstock and he had asked for a month to reach out to Michael Berg and talk about the program.

Initially, some of the initial information that we surmised is that this may be supervised visitation that's happening in Family of Woodstock's homeless shelters to make for less disruption for the children in the shelter.

I'd ask that we postpone this, this one resolution for a month, any action on it because I'd like to give Commissioner Iapoce a chance to reach out to Michael Berg and to understand, and then to come back to us and tell us whether it's something he can bring in-house for this year, or whether he wants to continue the funding.

But regardless of the outcome, moving forward for next year, I really believe that this is something that once he has a handle on it, should be run through his office because it's something that he deals with on a day to day basis, and clearly should live in social services.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yes. The, I'm unsure of how that contract got in. I believe it was something that they began doing Family in the middle of the year, and somehow it got into Legislative Programs. And I do have a problem with it being there. Because non-custodial, supervised visitations are mandated by the State, as Tracy pointed out. My concerns is, is that I would hope that they're not being stopped at any point. They're still doing them, but I think there may be, you know, because of the COVID. I guess maybe they're being called off a certain amount. But they still need to do those, because if you think about it, if you're a noncustodial parent, and you don't get to see your child, not every one of them are in homeless shelters, some of them might have quite a bit of money. In fact, as a result, you would end up having a loss because if we didn't carry this out, because by that State, it's required. And so I don't have a problem with postponing it for the month. But you know, until we get a better handle on whether.

Chairwoman Archer: Are you making the motion to postpone, Chairman?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll do that with Legislator Bartels because, but like I said, this can't go on more than a month. And I am feeling it probably will continue with Family doing it. I don't see them bringing it in-house because of the cost. But having said that, I really think it should be shifted over to their budget in social services, not, it shouldn't be a Legislative Program thing.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Thank you. And I just want to assure everybody that Commissioner Iapoce did assure me that no child would not be served and it's his aim to get an understanding of the situation and will revisit it next month.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. On the proposal. Yes, sorry, Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: It seems that Legislator Petit wanted to say something.

Legislator Archer: Oh, thank you.

Legislator Petit: Actually, that was on the Don't be a Monster. That was long over.

Legislator Walter: Oh, sorry.

Legislator Petit: Thank you though.

Chairwoman Archer: Sorry, Legislator Petit, I did not see that.

Okay, on the resolution to postpone on the action to postpone. All in favor?

Okay. Unanimous. Thank you. So, it'll be postponed till next month.

Okay, Resolution 142 Dispute Resolution Center. This is CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). I'll take a, entertain a motion for discussion.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll move for discussion.

Legislator Walter: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah. I seconded the motion. I also want to point out, the CASA program it is going to continue once the courts started operating. I would assume they could handle a 10% cut because of the program because of not being handled, but they do have to train a great deal of volunteers. So, what they're probably behind on that training at this point. And once they open up, they're going to have to really go out for that training, which ends up costing, that's the money that they are ending up paying for the training. The volunteers, of course, are just that, they're volunteers. And if people don't know what the CASA program is, it is a court appointed special advocate. That's what CASA stands for, for in Family Court. And what they do is, you'll have social services there, there may be an attorney for the you know, the spouse, another attorney for the other spouse. This person is only concerned with the child and that's what they do. They advocate for the child. I've seen them take on social services. I've seen

them take on attorneys, and they do a report to the judge. So my mindset is I think it's important that this thing is funded, and I'm concerned that, you know, we don't want to lose this.

Chairwoman Archer: Any other? Sorry, Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris: I'd like to make a motion to reduce the amount to \$20,000.

Legislator Maio: I'll second that.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay on the amendment.

All in favor? Haynes, Gavaris, Maio.

Opposed? Archer, Walter, Donaldson, Bartels.

If I may, Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: You go.

Chairwoman Archer: No, go ahead.

Legislator Bartels: Well, I put in for, I think effectively, a 10% cut. As the Chair suggested, what I actually spoke a little bit to Commissioner Iapoce about CASA and got a little bit of inside information about that program and how they work directly with the judges. I don't know how active court is right now, I would assume that some of this Court has to still be happening because families are still in dispute, and these things can't be put off.

But I would be open to, Legislator Archer, did you do a 30? Did you do a 30?

Chairwoman Archer: I did a 30, I did a third.

Legislator Bartels: So, I would I would be open to a third cut in the spirit of compromise. I can make.

Legislator Maio: I'll second that.

Chairwoman Archer: You'll second that. So, the amendment to a third, which is \$26,500 was made by Legislator Bartels, seconded by Legislator Maio. All in favor?

Legislator Walter: Can I, sorry, can I have a? Is it, I mean, I guess I'm just worried about whether this is similar to the one before, of being clear whether this is really important, necessary, and has to be covered? I don't know enough. I don't know if anyone else could speak to that. But you know, on face value, it really seems crucial, but I'm not as familiar with, yeah, so I just.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson, would you like to respond?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I know at one time, sat down with the Commissioner of Social Services, the attorney who was sending letters out that were almost discouraging CASA members. And that was sort of a battle because CASA basically took on Social Services on a couple issues because of what they felt they were not doing for the child.

So, they this advocacy is, could we go without it? Yep. Can those kids go without it? I don't think so. I don't think it would be wise. I mean, I really think that this is a program that needs to be there. And I know that the Family Courts use it all the time. They had to, they assign a, mean a volunteer. And we've had volunteers, all the volunteers are professionals, I can tell you that. They come from that walk. In fact, one of the volunteers we had a couple years ago, was the person that took care of Social Services and was like the second in command in Orange County in California, which means she oversaw more employees in all of Dutchess County, I mean, all of Ulster County.

Chairwoman Archer: So, we, we have a, we have a Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: We also did receive a letter from the head of the Dispute Resolution Center saying they were notified, they're going to be getting a cut in their State funding. I mean, one of the things, one of the reasons that I proposed the third as a as a compromise is that if the courts, if it has been quieted during the height of the COVID period, that's essentially a third of the year. You know, it's March, April, May, but mid-March, mid. So, that's my thinking. But I do think when the courts are fully back in action, it's going to be ramped up heavily. And my impression is the program is very valuable, especially to the judges, in giving them a direct advocate for the child. So, I think it's something that we need to continue to support. Again, this is another one that I think we should be talking to the Commissioner of Social Services, or whatever department we end up having to move it in. Maybe it's not that one, but I probably shouldn't be something running through the Legislature long-term. But I definitely think we do need to keep funding.

Chairwoman Archer: Are you doing going to continue with your amendment to a third, Legislator Bartels? It's still on the floor. I don't know where we don't have a second though. Do we have a second?

Legislator Bartels: We did.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh, yes. Okay. Legislator Maio. Okay.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Can I say something also? Can I?

Legislator Archer: Yes, Chairman.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I mean I, it should be somewhere in probably the budget for the Executive. But the problem with funding it through Social Services is that then they are answerable to Social Services. And we want them answerable to the child. And that's the whole idea. Like for instance, like pointed out, we had a dispute with Social Services because CASA questioned what they did on a particular child. So, it was a thing that came down on CASA, that

I had actually, I intervened with when I was the Vice Chairman under Parete. So, we ended up fixing the problem, but it was a problem at points. So, I think Social Services overseeing it might be problematic. And I think we need to think about that, where, who oversees that. Because it is an issue that we have to think about.

Legislator Archer: Okay, so we have a amendment on the floor to cut a third, to bring it to \$26,500.

All in favor? Bartels, Maio, Haynes, Archer, Gavaris.

Opposed? Walter, Donaldson.

On the amended resolution to bring Dispute Resolution cut one-third.

All in favor? Okay, Haynes, Gavaris, Maio, Bartels.

Opposed? Walter and Donaldson.

Thank you so moved.

All right. 143: UPAC (Ulster County Performance Arts Center).

I'll entertain a motion for discussion.

Legislator Walter: I'll move to discuss.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Maio: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. On this one we're all over the place. Yes, Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: I just wanted to say, I confirmed with Legislator Ronk, he meant to put \$12,375.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislator Walter: A 50% cut.

Chairwoman Archer: The cut.

Legislator Walter: I had suspected as much.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, I'll entertain a motion. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I just want explain. I mean, I put I put mine to zero because they're essentially shut for the season. And, you know, I think they expect to be shut. I don't want that to be a long-term hold. I think of it as temporary, for this, for this year. But that's that was my thinking on my cut. I'm interested to hear what everybody else thinks.

Legislator Archer: Legislator Haynes.

Legislator Haynes: Do we know that they're shut for the rest of the year? Has that been deemed?

Okay. All right.

Legislator Bartels: I don't know that it's been deemed. But I think that that, I would, in fact, looking at Peter shaking his head, I would say it's not been deemed. But I don't know how optimistic we are about having large gatherings. I listen to the Governor's brief about theater. I know that Broadway has been postponed till...

Legislator Haynes: Indefinitely.

Legislator Criswell: Can I just say one thing.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Criswell. Yes, please.

Legislator Criswell: So even though they are closed, they still have to pay their electric bill. And that's what this is for.

Legislator Haynes: I don't agree with that.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Well technically Legislator Criswell, is technically correct. That's the way we, that's the way they wanted the money to be brought in. You know, so it went directly to their electric bill, and that's what it does. So, but having said that, when we're dealing with all the other issues, we have to consider that. I mean, when we are coming to those that are feeding and clothing the needy. And I also believe, and I support UPAC, I go to the many of the events there, along with the idea, I support the idea that they get money. And I would support a 50%, that, you know, that's sort of in between. That's the people that sort of thrown in there.

Legislator Walter: I'll second that.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: But they do have the ability to raise money, something that my concern was with the Mid-Hudson Arts does not have that kind of ability, and they give to small artists. I mean, when I looked at the two of these, I would have rather seen more money in the Mid-Hudson Arts.

Chairwoman Archer: So, are you making it, So, Legislative Chairman Donaldson, made the motion to cut them by 50%? It was seconded by Legislator Walter.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: It seemed like that was, that most people supported that. So, I went with the consensus.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Some had nothing and some had 50%. But.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. All in favor of the 50% cut? Maio, Haynes, Walter, Bartels, Donaldson, Archer.

Opposed? Gavaris.

Okay, all in favor of the amended resolution to cut UPAC by 50%?

All in favor?

Opposed? Everyone but John, John Gavaris opposed.

Okay, well, we got through this. I know it's been difficult, but I thank you all for your hard work. And you know, we have some tough news for the folks out there but, you know, hopefully, next year we'll have a, a better response.

Chairwoman Archer: All right. Moving on to Resolution 191: Establishing a policy.

Legislator Haynes: Can you give me one minute before you move on?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Before you move on, what was the percentage of cuts for the entire thing that we ended up with?

Chairwoman Archer: I don't have a running tab. Do you Amber?

Amber Feaster: If you give me a just a few minutes, I can work up something up.

Chairwoman Archer: That would be great. Thank you.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: We'll go back to the resolutions.

Chairwoman Archer: Yes, Resolution 191: Establishing a policy for funding non-county organizations.

Legislator Walter: I'll move to discuss.

Chairwoman Archer: A second? Okay, Legislator Haynes.

Sorry, my screen just went black.

Legislator Walter: There's a request that this is postponed by Legislator Ronk.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll agree with that postponement. I think we need to.

Chairwoman Archer: Seconded by Donaldson.

Okay. All in favor of postponement?

Opposed? All in favor. Thank you.

Resolution. I apologize. Yep. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I agree with the postponement, but I think especially in light of what we've just done in this committee.

Chairwoman Archer: I'm sorry, I can't hear you.

Legislator Bartels: I said, especially in light of what we've just gone through in this committee, I'd like to make a commitment that we're not only going to look at this resolution that we're going to talk about where some of these, these programs should go more appropriately, including dedicated arts funding, that was once floated by the previous executive. I think we have to entertain all of this. And sooner rather than later because we're heading into the budget cycle. So it's, I know the resolution that Legislators Ronk and Petit have proposed have everything coming through Ways and Means. But I think that we can be even more specific, and possibly, potentially, get some these things into more appropriate sectors within the Executive Budget, or other programmatic initiatives. So, ideally, for next month, we can we can start that conversation and conclude it relatively quickly, because the budget cycle is going to be starting in a couple months thereafter.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Anybody else?

Okay, let's move on to resolution 196: approving the execution of a contract amendment in excess of \$50K, entered into by the County, the trustees of Columbia University. This is to increase funding from the HEAL Communities grant from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2023, for an additional \$501,853.26, making the total contract, I think this number is wrong. \$791K. Didn't we get that corrected? Natalie?

Natalie Kelder: I'm not sure I'd have to look.

Clerk Fabella: It was corrected. I believe Amber has the right number but she's obviously working on something else at the moment, and it needs to be amended to the corrected value, both here, and on the floor.

Chairwoman Archer: Which is \$600 and change, correct? I don't have it in front of me. Hold on.

Deputy Executive Rider: I'm just, I'm going to pull up Amber's email from earlier. Sorry.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh, thank you, Marc. It's kind of hard to do here. Hold on.

Deputy Executive Rider: So, the correct total amount is \$696,148.26.

Chairwoman Archer: Great. Thank you, Marc. I'll take a motion.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll make a motion to change it to the number that Marc just gave.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Do I have a second on a, for discussion?

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, Marc, I'm, some of the things that we still have a concern about is not we've corrected the number on the total, which I appreciate. We still are showing a full-time data surveillance person, when in fact, this is a contract for the, for the, well, I guess that's the next one. But they kind of go together, 208 and 196. This is, we've already had a group functioning, we're going to be asked in the 208, to approve positions. And at this juncture, I feel like this whole piece has been an infringement on legislative powers, with regard to establishing jobs, moving CSEA jobs, replacing them with management jobs, establishing salaries without bringing it before the Legislature. And we've had people now in these jobs for how many months?

Deputy Executive Rider: A couple of months. You know, I'll just speak, I'd like to just speak on the resolutions separately, if I could. But this resolution is accepting \$566,000 in grant money from Columbia University for desperately needed opioid addiction prevention work. Our opioid deaths are on... have ticked back up and are on the rise overall. Opioid overdoses are on the rise. And we really need to have every resource available to be able to fight this addiction. This contract does that.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I have a, I think this resolution, 196, I don't have a problem with this going forward. I think this is accepting the money. 208 is a different issue. And at this point, so, I'd like to make a motion to move this one, 196, unless there's something that is telling that we shouldn't move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Well, here's what I would say. And I'll defer to our attorney on this one. You know, we've, they've been submitting invoices. They've been getting payment all along. They've put people in jobs. They've made major moves of people throughout the organization, to move people in here, and they backfill their old jobs. At this juncture, I think we should talk about this whole process and how we move forward in a very different way. And I don't think by postponing this for a month that it's going to impact us.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Well, what I'm saying is, I think 208's the issue that needs to be the one that we need to deal with. I mean this one here is accepting the money, right?

Deputy Executive Rider: Correct. It's actually the, approving the contract.

Chairwoman Archer: I would like to hear Counsel Ragucci's response to this.

Is he with us?

Christopher Ragucci, Esq.: Yep, I'm here.

Chairwoman Archer: Great. Thank you.

Christopher Ragucci, Esq.: Hi. Can you hear me?

Chairwoman Archer: Yes.

Christopher Ragucci, Esq.: I'm in my car. Sorry about that. Yeah. I mean, speaking generally to the issue of whether we could pass one and postpone the other, as this is contracted, and Marc knows, probably as well, and I'm not speaking for him, but I would suspect you would agree. It wouldn't be the cleanest if we just accepted the money without approving the positions that the particulars and the requirements of the of the contract requires. So, I would suggest that if there is the will of the body, we postpone both, or none, depending on what the will is. But not one, and not the other.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Alright, well after hearing that, I mean, when we take a look at Resolution 196 and Resolution 208, if you don't mind. Chairman Archer, if I can speak on that, 208?

All right, the County Executive transferred three existing county employees to a non-union management position which did not exist in the 2020 budget. Funds were simultaneously transferred from the three union employee positions that were provided for in the 2020 budget. This was done with no comment of this to the Legislature, or no knowledge of this with the Legislature. The transfers were accompanied by considerable salary increases, and now, 208 seeks to retro-actively obtain Legislative approval.

The Executive's unilateral salary increases, that he set, without any input from the Legislature. And by charter we are empowered to set salary on all officers and employees paid from County funds, and for employees not covered by the collective bargaining agreements.

So, the Legislature also improves all labor contracts and amendments. The charter does not grant the Executive the authority to increase salaries of County employees unless the salary range has been previously approved by this body. And the increase falls within our approval and salary range. I'm seeing Executive increase in salaries and the three County employees identified in resolution 208.

It's a serious encroachment into the power of the Legislature on basically its power of the purse. The idea that these positions were advertised in December without notifying the Legislature, it's unacceptable.

Though these positions are paid for by Columbia University, which has become a rather late comer for conducting studies on opioids. It still doesn't excuse the salaries set without legislative approval. So, I would ask you to postpone this and 2000, 208, rather.

Chairwoman Archer: On resolution 196. I have a motion to postpone. Is there a second?

I'll second it.

Legislator Bartels?

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. All in favor of postponement till next month.

Deputy Executive Rider: Can I speak on this or? I don't get to speak on this?

Legislator Archer: Well, I didn't see your hand up. Sorry. We're about we were voting. Go ahead Marc.

Deputy Executive Rider: I mean, again, much of this contract, and the funding, goes towards other interventions, other than staff. So, as far as what Legislative Counsel said, and, you know, I know he didn't try to put words in my mouth, but the fact that he was talking about it being clean, by not postponing, by postponing both of these resolutions, you are affecting the ability of the HEAL taskforce to be able to spend money. Again, in a time where we are backsliding on opioid overdoses and fatalities. You are taking one of the resources away, from us, as a County government, because you have concerns over the process of some staffing positions, that are, are fully processed. And I've heard your concerns and we've spoken about it many times. But again, I want to bring us back to the issue at hand which is this is desperately needed funding. This is putting future funding at risk from Columbia University. And the idea that you're willing to postpone, even for a month, in that time when we are, are desperately needing these additional resources, because people are dying, because you don't agree with the way that the Executive's Office hired staff. Which again, was out in the open, we posted positions.

Did we let you know? No. We actually let the entire County know by posting them online. One of them was a new position at the time. We hired two new positions. One of the people left. We then converted a CSEA position to a person that was doing data work, and will now spend half of her time in this HEAL study, and the other half continuing on the work. But the fact that you're willing to just delay this because of a process issue, is disappointing.

Chairwoman Archer: Well, and I will just say one thing, and it's very disappointing that when you put in an amendment in on February for the additional monies that you received from Columbia, you didn't put the jobs in. You never shared the information with this body. And you went and you moved forward as if there was no accountability here. So, I hear what you're saying. And we all believe this is important. But you've been operating without a contract, without approval, all this time. So, what's different?

Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Thanks. So, a couple things. One is, you know, I'm concerned about the allocation matching the contract because that can be a problem. I know that they are regularly being audited and things have to work. And maybe I'm reading things wrong, but you know, the resolution, it seems that the total salaries came to about \$377,770. Well, in the actual contract, the number was more like \$357K. And so, I'm a concerned, besides the other things that were mentioned, I'm concerned that these numbers aren't matching.

It is true, not a large proportion, but a proportion, the \$144K, is for discretionary use to do the intervention. But as far as I understood, part of that was a contract with SAMADHI, which I don't know where that's at right now. But you know, SAMADHI was delivering the services, actually for free, and were happy to be provided some support in order to do it. It is true that the more we do, the better in this County. But it's also, it's not true that this County is not doing a lot already. We have many organizations that are actively working to fight the opioid epidemic. I do appreciate having some money from Columbia, but I think you're characterizing it slightly more dramatic than, not the problem, but the hero ship of Columbia, a little bit more than is the reality.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: You know, the IDA area, this is a more serious issue for the Legislature. You're arbitrarily setting salaries. And it's a serious encroachment on the Legislature's power, and the ability to check on the Executive. That's why we have that power.

And advertising positions on the web, in December, is not an idea of telling us that you're going out hiring these positions. That's not the way it's done. It's done very simply by, A) give me a call, you could call the chairman of Ways and Means. You could have spoken about it in a leadership meeting, saying, 'look at going, we're putting out this advertising in December because we had this money coming in. And these are the salaries that we'd like to set them at.' But that's not the way it worked. It worked however, you wanted it to work.

Putting the, putting the positions on the web, not saying anything to us, setting salaries without us knowing it. Moving positions around. The only reason we found out it's our finance people can find out back handed. Which makes it also another issue, making it difficult for them to actually track what we need to track. So, unfortunately, this is being postponed. If you want to lay on someone, lay it on yourself.

Chairwoman Archer: And, and I would just like to say, we hear this all the time. And we have always approved funding and nothing changes. So, we can't throw out the Charter every time that there's a crucial need. And as I said, you've already been getting money. We asked for the audit from May 31st. We didn't get that. So, you know, we, we have to sit down and talk about how do we move forward, collectively. We're all concerned about the same issues. We all want to help fight this epidemic that is the scourge in our County. And, but we can't do it single-handedly, we have to do it collectively.

Marc.

Deputy Executive Rider: So, I just want to bring back one piece. And I may not have said this yet, and so I apologize. But when we fill a position as a fill-as, it's meant as a transitional fill-as. That we then will bring to the Legislature, which is what we're doing now. Can I apologize that we didn't do it in February? One of these positions wasn't created until May. And we brought it to the meeting, basically the next meeting. That's one of the positions that you all, many of you, have an issue with the process. We created it as a fill-as, and then that's a transitional period. We then bring it to the Legislature, which we did at the next meeting.

The other two, and one was creating a, taking a full time CSEA position, making it half a Department of Health and half HEAL. The other was a project manager that we had to have in order to move forward with the second part of the funding for year-two. I understand that we should have, you know, your part about bringing it in February.

But we are now here, asking for it in June, it's a few months later. We've had a pandemic. And quite frankly, we have a second epidemic, you know, issue where again, I'm going to say we have people dying of overdoses. And I don't think that I'm overselling the impact of this HEAL grant, because it brings a lot more than the \$566,000. And if they see that we aren't even aligned, and able to continue, then they won't move us forward to the next round, etc. And so, frankly, I think this is very important, and I think we're in a dire position.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels, did you have something you wanted to say? Okay, on the resolution to postpone.

All in favor? Donaldson, Bartels, Gavaris, Archer, Walter, Maio.

Opposed? I'm sorry, and Maio. Opposed Haynes. Resolution 196 is postponed till next month.

Chairwoman Archer: Resolution 208

Clerk Fabella: Can I just clarify that because, Dave, actually his motion was for both.

Chairwoman Archer: For both, okay.

Clerk Fabella: So we I just want to.

Chairwoman Archer: So, Dave, you want to have a motion to postpone Resolution 208. as well?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yes.

Chairwoman Archer: And do we have a second on that?

Legislator Bartels: It wasn't blocked. So let's move it first.

Chairwoman Archer: It wasn't blocked. So, yes.

Legislator Bartels: He said he wanted to do both, but he didn't make a motion to block, so. I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Right, so are you seconding, Legislator Bartels?

Legislator Bartels: I'm moving 208 for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. All right.

Legislator Walter: I'll second.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislator Bartels, did you have something you wanted to say?

Legislator Bartels: No. Now the floor's open.

Chairwoman Archer: Pardon me?

Legislator Bartels: No. I'll leave it to the Chairman because he had a motion.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Well, I just had the motion to postpone, I gave my reasonings before so, they are the same with this. I'm doing that because of advice by attorney. That if we're going to postpone, postpone them both.

Chairwoman Archer: And the postponement. Do I have a second?

Legislator Bartels: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. All in favor of postponement of Resolution 208 until next month.

Opposed? Legislator Haynes.

This has been postponed until next month.

Okay, Resolution, I think that's it. No. Resolution 220...

Legislator Walter: No, one more.

Chairwoman Archer: Pardon me?

Legislator Walter: Two more.

Chairwoman Archer: My pages were rearranged. Resolution 220. Pardon me?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: My iPad is running out of juice.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay I'll hurry up. Authorizing The Upgrade Of The Live Scan Equipment And Software For The Sheriff's Department, For The Ulster New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$175,000, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$175,000 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll move it.

Legislator Walter: I'll move it for discussion, second.

Chairwoman Archer: Second? Discussion?

Okay, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? No opposed.

Resolution 231: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Local Law No. 5 Of 1991 (A Local Law Adopting A Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax) To Clarify The Tax Law's Application To Short-Term And Vacation Rentals, To Be Held On Tuesday, July 14, 2020 At 6:15 PM.

Move?

Legislator Walter: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Seconded.

Chairwoman Archer: Discussion? Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah, there is a, I know some concern by Legislator Parete in reference to the money for housing being taken out. All the, you know, the idea about housing. He was quite upset about that. I'm not sure if he's going to support it as is. So, I'm unsure if we have the total support. I mean, is the housing issue, does that have to be taken out? Can anybody address that please?

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Yeah. So, I'm also very upset that the housing was taken out. But I understood. I mean, the way I'm understanding it is, since currently there is not a committee, a, a department, there's not a specific place to be put it, right now, in the County. It, it was, it, it felt vague. And if there had been, if we had a Department of Housing, or something like that, that we could allocate it to. But because there was no specific place, it felt uncomfortable to some, to include it. I do, and would express on the floor, the commitment to utilizing this funding towards that, towards affordable housing, and dealing with our housing stock problems. You know, I think that this resolution has taken many, many years to get passed. And if we could get one piece done now, then we can add on the other elements when it makes sense, in a logical manner. But I'm behind him. I agree 100%, with his, in concept.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: So my understanding in terms of the spirit of the amendment, which originated with Legislator Gavaris. And he could he could speak to it, I'm sure. But my understanding of the spirit of the amendment wasn't that there was no place to put the money and therefore it was vague. It was that the local law, as amended previous to his amendment, did not actually address the housing issue. It just authorized and required the contracting for third party collection of taxes with short-term rental providers.

I concur with Legislator Walter. And I believe Legislator Gavaris will speak for himself, concurs as well, that there's a commitment to provide some of this funds, if not all of this funds, I've heard a whole range depending on who you're talking to, for affordable housing in the County. And I do see this as the first step, that would be the next required step. And I believe we'd have to do that potentially through municipal Home Rule requests, changing the allocation of the funds. Because at the State level, the law says that, you know, that the, that the percentage, up to \$250,000 goes to tourism. That's something that I think we need to robustly undertake, in the immediate following of this passage.

I spoke with Legislator Parete today. And I recalled that he was the first sponsor of a short-term rental piece of legislation, that was back in 2006. Many of the same arguments that he was facing back then are the ones that we're hearing circulating now in terms of questions of legality of

third-party collection. And I think, it sort of flies in the face of the reality that we see, when we know that our Executive Offices are negotiating with Airbnb for one, when we know that 29, I believe it's 29 Counties across the state already have these agreements. That they haven't been tested and they haven't been challenged by the State.

So, while the State might may be lagging on getting up to speed in terms of allowing for third party collections in a purely legalistic way, I think what we have effectively done, and I said to Legislator Parete today, that I admit, I was on the other side of the argument back then. And that was a mistake, because what we've effectively done since then is left a lot of money on the table. And had we passed it in 2006, and had we had conversation.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: 16

Legislator Bartels: 16, sorry, 2016. And had we had that robust conversation about where to actually appropriate the funds, rather than the general fund, we would be in a better place. So, I think time is of the essence. I think we should pass this resolution today and then get on to the discussion about how we allocate the funds.

I also, just really quickly, I'm sorry I'm speaking so long. I also want to say that I do not believe that our passing this resolution will hinder negotiations with Airbnb, at all. We know that new things have happened in just the last days in terms of the Airbnb lawsuits against San Francisco in New York City. And, in fact, the Legislature in in various forms of writing, could direct the Executives Office, what we'd like to see in that contract. But in greater fact, the Executive's Office can say to Airbnb, that this contract has to go back to the Legislature for approval. And we know the Legislature has a certain will in terms of getting information on municipal rentals, etc. And that they're not going to approve it without that. We don't believe we'll approve it without that. So, I think we're in a good place to move this forward tonight.

Legislator Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Thank you. Oh, boy. So much was said. Yeah. So, I think in terms of the legality to this, because I think that's a sticking point for many people in the Legislature. Two things. One is, you know, my, and I don't know if counsel, Minority Counsel is here, but he was asked specifically about this and Laws and Rules, his answer about the legality was the State has neither supported or rejected it. I mean, he used more lawyerly terms, but he didn't say straight out you can't do it. He just said the State has not commented one way or another positively or negatively. And it's been several years that other counties have been doing this. I you know, I imagine its sort of like certain adultery laws where they're on the books, but nobody's actually enforcing them. I would like to know, and I you know, unfortunately, I don't think County counsel, in the past, County Counsel was held back by this too. And obviously, since they are proceeding with some kind of contract, County Counsel feels comfortable. And so, I don't know if Evelyn or John could speak to where County Counsel feels, in terms of the State, that, that, that concern over a third party being able to collect, and whether even they're considered a third party, as opposed to the actual party. But so, do you have a sense of where your Counsel, why they're comfortable now, when perhaps a year or two ago they weren't?

Yes, we did look into this. And I would say that I think this is the one thing that is not a problem with this resolution. I'm looking for the language, but essentially, we could make them a tax collection agent for us.

Legislator Walter: That's, that's important for us to know.

Deputy Executive Wright: We don't have issues about that. There are of course, a number of other concerns.

Legislator Walter: I got that. But the one I'm asking about is the legality. Because I do know that on the Republican caucus that was a primary conversation, is whether you're actually allowed to do this. So, you're saying from the County Counsel's perspective, that there's not a concern with legality, in terms of the State allowing this to happen?

Deputy Executive Wright: Not with the not with that issue of legality.

Legislator Walter: Okay.

Deputy Executive Wright: It's the issue of the contract that Airbnb proposed, contradicting our local laws, and needing to sort that out.

Legislator Walter: Okay. But in terms of the, I'm referring to more the State laws so thank you for answering.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah, this has been a long time coming in time to move forward on it. We've left a lot of money at the table. And I know, actually, I thought I actually put a resolution in but apparently, I did not, because I've argued them so many times and supported them. I think there's been four of them so far. It came forth with Elliott Auerbach pushing the agenda way back. And then we actually were advised, "Oh no, you couldn't do it," by the County Executive at that time, then County Executive. And they kept making that argument. And but yet more and more places, municipalities, counties, and so on, had done the exact same things, and had been collecting the money, and we have not. So, I would like to move forward on this. And I make a motion to call for the vote.

Chairwoman Walter: I'll second.

Deputy Executive Wright: Lynn, may I, may I say something first?

Chairwoman Archer: Yes, go ahead Evelyn.

Deputy Executive Wright: I just want to bring to everybody's attention the role that those decisions from New York City and San Francisco may have in what we want to do here. So, the issue that we've had with Airbnb in the past was that they wanted us to not have our registration

system. That we would get rid of our visibility for who is doing hosting, and they would not share any individual data with us.

And when we spoke with them a couple weeks ago, they indicated some willingness to move on the registration but were absolutely adamant that they would not share individual host data with us. Now they have agreed to in New York City and in California.

And they've done it there because there were local laws that required it, and they have been in a long legal process with them. We are just reviewing those decisions now to see what the implications may be for what we would prefer to ask from them under these new circumstances.

And I would respectfully, strongly, suggest holding off on this until we're able to A. have a renewed round of negotiation with them under these new circumstances and B. Consider whether you might want to put some stronger language into the local law, to require those things.

So, I really, I understand the sense of urgency here. But I think this would be an inopportune time to disrupt the negotiations we're having with them.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter

Deputy Executive Wright: The other thing, if I may. I haven't seen if there's updated text, to the local law, from last week, I haven't seen it. The old version is still on the website. But I just want to make sure you all understand that any money you directed to housing from this, right now, would come from other county programs.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Yeah. So there's no money directed to housing, the original language of 10% or \$150,000, whichever is the most, stands. There's no other allocations in there. And I think as Legislator Bartels brought up, either this time or in the past, this is for a public hearing. When it comes time for a contract, we are going to have to be regrouping on this again. And that would absolutely be the time where, if necessary, language has to go into our local law, encouraging these kinds of things. We can add that. This is for public hearing. And it's for a public hearing, a month away. And so, I, I see no problem with proceeding this way. Again, when it's time for the contract, we're going to have to regroup on that and the kind of language is going to need to be in there. This is just saying, "proceed."

Chairman Archer: Chair Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I made a motion for the vote. Could we move on this? Are we going to beat it to death?

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor of Resolution 231?

Legislator Ronk: Hold, Hold wait, Lynn. Lynn, can you hear me?

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk is back, Yes.

Legislator Ronk: Thank you. I'm only back on audio so I can't vote because I'm, you know, I'm driving hands-free right now, on the way back from the hospital. But I did want to weigh in on this. You know, again, I just want to reiterate some of the comments I made last night, and possibly last week that, you know, the law. Yeah, and listening to a little bit of, you know, Eve's ending there. You know, I don't believe the law is legally sufficient as it stands. It sounds as if Legislator Walter is interested in amending it, you know, after or before we vote in the contract. I just don't understand why we would move forward on a public hearing, and waste the taxpayers time and money, on having a public hearing. If we already acknowledged we're probably going to have to amend it again, I don't understand what the rush is.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Well, first, I want to suggest if you're instead of driving hands-free, put your hands on the wheel and the other...

What's that?

Legislator Ronk: I made the snare sound, like when you make a joke.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Okay, no problem. But this is a public hearing, and they're negotiating, and I think we should move forward on it. So I'll be a yes.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor of the resolution? Okay, that's Walter, Bartels, Gavaris, Donaldson.

Opposed? Haynes and Maio.

Legislator Walter: It's, sorry, can I just, because I'm not sure when Legislator Ronk came in, and I just wanted to make sure he heard.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: We voted, the vote was taken.

Legislator Walter: Yeah. It's, it's can I can I just mention, because he came late, that the question that he had brought up, that Evelyn had clarified the County Counsel assessed that they could make Airbnb a tax collecting agency. And they do not feel that it breaches the State law. So, I just wanted to make sure he knew that information. In case he hadn't heard.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks, thanks, I don't agree. I don't know that our counsel agrees. And I, I would love another month to understand.

Legislator Walter: I just wanted to make sure you heard her, that's all.

Legislator Ronk: I appreciate it, I get it, Thanks.

Legislator Walter: That's okay, I just wanted to make sure you heard.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, the resolution passed. And Amber, do you have an update of where we are with all the Legislative Program changes?

Amber Feaster: Yes, it's a total decrease of \$221,095. And it's roughly 26%.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, great. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I just, I just want to clarify, make sure that I have this correct, and that everyone here has this correct. That all those amendments will have to be made on the floor, per each resolution. And that where the amendment is moving the resolution to zero, it's not amending to zero, we'll be voting no, on the resolution. Correct?

Chairwoman Archer: That's my understanding. I did get a text from Jonathan. Jonathan, are you on? Do you want to kind of explain that?

Legislator Bartels: You're muted.

Legislator Heppner: I just wanted to make sure it was clear that because it's the committee, the night of session, that despite the amendments made in committee, these amendments, and please interrupt me, Clerk Fabella, if I'm incorrect, will have to be made again on the floor. And then voted on by the entire Legislature. And then, they would then be voted on again by the entire Legislature, as amended. But they will not go to the floor as, amended in committee, if it's voted on this evening's meeting, because it's, it's the night-of.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris: Is that still true even if this was a special meeting that we created?

Clerk Fabella: Anytime it's the day of session, nothing can be amended in committee, it must be amended on the floor. My issue with the zero, is just like a technical thing. I wish I had some more time to think it through. Because I really wish the resolutions that were zero would just be withdrawn. But that's not going to be the case. So, I think at this point, on the fly, the best thing would be to defeat it. There's no reason to pass a resolution with zero. So, I think the best thing is to defeat it.

Legislator Ronk: Me too.

Chairwoman Archer: Just some new business and I wanted to just update everyone. You know, we did put out an RFP for our budget analysis. And we, from what I gather, we got a great response. We had about seven is that correct, Amber? Companies respond to our RFP. We'd like to schedule, and I wanted to get it on everyone's calendar, a special meeting on Tuesday, June 30th, to review all of the applicants that have applied, that have responded to the RFP. We're working out with Purchasing how to do this with Zoom, and all that. So, I think Amber is going to take that on.

Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: How soon will we get their responses then?

Chairwoman Archer: Well, that's what we're trying to do. We're trying to give everybody sufficient time to review all the packages.

Legislator Bartels: So, Can, I'd like to request, I know that this is not the environmental request, but they probably sent hard copies, right? Don't they send bound hard copies or, so.

Chairwoman Archer: I think we're going to do it electronically this time.

Legislator Bartels: I would like my hard copy. I take notes. I flip around. I'd like my hard copies. I'll come up and get them if I need to, but I definitely would like my hard copies.

Chairwoman Archer: I'm sure we can arrange that. Anybody else want, while we're thinking about it, a hardcopy?

Okay, Chairman Donaldson, did you say you would like one? No.

Okay. All right. Is there anything else? Any other business?

I'll entertain a motion

Legislator Walter: Motion to adjourn.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Second?

Legislator Maio: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Mary Beth. Thank you so much.