

**Ways & Means Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: November 21, 2024 – 1:00 PM
LOCATION(S): Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Gavaris
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst,
Tyron Rogers, Legislative Tech Support Specialist
Amber Feaster, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Collins, Criswell, Hansut, Kovacs, Nolan & Roberts
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Harmon, Hewitt, Levine, Maloney, Stewart & Uchitelle, Clerk of the Legislature Fabella, Deputy County Executives Contreras, Capuano, & LaValle, Budget Director Juras, Deputy Budget Directors Reid & Quesnell, Comptroller Gallagher, Deputy Comptroller Dinstuhl, District Attorney Nneji, Assistant District Attorney Ahmed, Sheriff Figueroa, Undersheriff Mullen, Justin Watson, Tina Buono – CSEA, Laura Petit

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Chair Gavaris called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

Legislators, Elected Officials, and Budget Director Juras were in attendance to present the Proposed Amendments to the 2025 County Executive Operating Budget and the 2025 – 2030 County Executive Proposed Capital Improvement Program

Order of appearance:

Legislator Maloney:

- Proposed Amendment No. 5** – Increase to Dispatcher Annual Pay
- Proposed Amendment No. 6** – Increase to Correction Officers Annual Pay
- Proposed Amendment No. 7** – Increase to Buildings & Grounds Rates
- Proposed Amendment No. 8** – Hold MGT, Non-Union COLA Adjustments

Legislator Uchitelle:

- Proposed Amendment No. 23** - Office for the Aging Administrative Personnel

Legislator Hansut & Sheriff Figueroa:

- Proposed Amendment No. 10** – Funding for Sheriff Uniforms
- Proposed Amendment No. 37** - Fund Sheriff Cap Court Supplies
- Proposed Amendment No. 38** - Establish Two Deputy Sheriff Positions

Legislator Stewart:

- Proposed Amendment No. 39** - Increase Dept of Environment for Prof. Services

Legislators Hewitt & Stewart:

Proposed Amendment No. 4 – Funding for Composting Eco Toilet Feasibility Study

Legislative Chair Criswell & Legislator Hewitt:

Proposed Amendment No. 41 - Establish Director of Arts, Culture, and Open Space Position

District Attorney Nneji:

Proposed Amendment No. 40 - Establish Director of Projects and Law Enforcement Coordinator Positions

Legislator Hansut & District Attorney Nneji:

Proposed Amendment No. 34 - Reduce DA PT Pay and Establish Two ADA Positions

Proposed Amendment No. 35 - Establish DA Court Stenographer Position

Proposed Amendment No. 36 - Withdrawn

Legislator Hewitt:

Proposed Amendment No. 11 - Funding for Industrial Hemp Research - Econ Dev

Proposed Amendment No. 12 - Creation of three Bus Steward Positions

Proposed Amendment No. 13 - Creation of Public Ridership Coordinator Position

Proposed Amendment No. 14 - Increase to Dept of Environment for Zero Waste Events

Proposed Amendment No. 15 - Funding for Magnetic Levitation Feasibility Study

Proposed Amendment No. 16 - Contractual Funding for Legislative Board

Proposed Amendment No. 17 - UCSWCD Industrial Hemp Research & Equipment Funding

Proposed Amendment No. 18 - Funding for Legal Defense of Immigrants

Budget Director Juras:

Proposed CP Amendment No. 1 - Balance Bus Shelter Revenues and Expenses - Amending the Capital Improvement Program to adjust Galeville Bridge Replacement to reflect expenses based on opened bid documents. A resolution was passed in November of 2023 to reflect these costs.

Proposed CP Amendment No. 2 - Adjust Timeline of Government Operations Center - Amending the Capital Improvement Program to adjust the Bridge Substructure Repairs Project to reflect expenses for Leggs Mills Bridge and Rosendale Bridge based on opened bid documents. A resolution was passed in November of 2023 to reflect these costs.

Proposed CP Amendment No. 3 - Balance and Increase Mount Marrion Traffic Signal - Amending the Capital Improvement Program to add construction for the Bridge Superstructure Repairs Project to 2024. Bridges to be considered at this time are the Watson Hollow, High Falls, Coxing, Saugerties Reservoir, and Tuttle town Bridges.

Proposed CP Amendment No. 4 - Inclusion of Law Enforcement Technology Program - To remove the Open Space and Recreation Program from the Capital Improvement Program. The Program has yet to be established but has appeared in historic Capital Improvement Programs. The Program is designed for open space protection, farmland preservation, and explanation of public recreational opportunities. The County established an Agricultural Service Administrator position in 2024 which is designed to create a program similar to this.

Proposed CP Amendment No. 5 - Increase Expenses & Balance Revenues for Solar Array-Bridge Substructures are a primary structural element for all bridges. Ulster County is aware that it owns several bridges which have deteriorating substructure which support superstructures that are in fine condition. In 2024, two (2) bridges were repaired (Rosendale and Leggs Mills). The Capital Improvement Program should separate out which bridges are intended to be repaired for each of the years included. These repairs are expensive and

materials contain lag times so the information should already be known. The Capital Improvement Program should be reflective of the correlating Resolution which is forthcoming establishing the project(s).

Proposed CP Amendment No. 6 - Multiple Errors within Axon Body Worn Cameras - Quoting was requested and has been received for an upgrade to all Camera Systems. This amendment adds the Capital Project for the acquisition of new security cameras to County Buildings in 2024.

Proposed CP Amendment No. 7 - Revenue Reclassification for Turnwood Bridge - This Amendment adds the Reuse Innovation Center to the Capital Improvement Program. The County has budgeted and contracted for the Reuse Innovation Center Feasibility Study and it is foreseeable that the Reuse Innovation Center Project will be undergone, therefore, it should be part of the County's 5 year plan.

Proposed Amendment No. 25 - Reconsideration of Funding Source for Agricultural Service Administrator

Proposed Amendment No. 26 - Rename Fund Code for Health Insurance Fund to be Self Insured Medical Fund

Proposed Amendment No. 27 - Increase to Contracted Mental Health State Aid

Proposed Amendment No. 28 - Increase to OFA State Aid

Proposed Amendment No. 29 - Increase to DSS Office of Temporary Assistance

Proposed Amendment No. 30 - Mental Health Position Adjustment and Additional Personnel

Proposed Amendment No. 31 - Reallocation of Occupancy Tax to Transportation

Proposed Amendment No. 32 - Adjustments to Personnel Listing for Technical Issues

Proposed Amendment No. 33 - Adjustment to Bond and BAN Principal and Interest

Legislative Chair Criswell :

Proposed CP Amendment No. 8 – Inclusion of Established Bridge Projects - This amendment adds the Maple Avenue Sidewalk Replacement Project to the Capital Improvement Program. Ulster County has recently prioritized it's outdoor spaces through trails and parks initiatives, as well as it's environmental initiatives. Sidewalks play a vital role in both of these initiatives by establishing safe alternative transportation methods and creating rural trails. The Maple Avenue Sidewalk is in need of repair and a quote has already been prepared for the work necessary. There are several Federal grants currently available to fund sidewalks. For example, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) authorized under Section 1122 of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives, including on-and-off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving nonmotorized access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation; recreational trails projects; Safe Routes to School projects; and projects for the planning design or construction of shared-use pathways and sidewalks. Moreover, the Recreational Trails Program is a program is a State-administered Federal assistance program to provide and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail uses. This is a federal-aid (80/20) reimbursement program. This program is administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

Legislators Roberts & Kovacs:

Proposed Amendment No. 1 – Real Property Tax Decrease

Legislators Collins & Kovacs:

Proposed Amendment No. 3 – Rate Increases for Deputy Commissioners of Board of Elections

Legislator Kovacs:

Proposed Amendment No. 24 - Funding for Career Expo within Dept of Mental Health

Legislator Collins:

Proposed Amendment No. 2 – Increase to Legislators Annual Pay

Legislators Roberts, Collins & Comptroller Gallagher:

Proposed Amendment No. 9 – Office of the Comptroller Personnel Adjustments

Chair Gavaris:

Proposed Amendment No. 19 - Reclassifying Large Account Increases Pending Justification

Proposed Amendment No. 20 - Funding for Salary Study Adjustments Forthcoming

Proposed Amendment No. 21 - Creation of Data Analyst Artificial Intelligence Position

Proposed Amendment No. 22 - Funding for Contracted Case Management

Proposed Amendment No. 42 - Necessary Adjustments to ARPA Projects

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Kovacs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Criswell
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:44 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
Adopted: December 12, 2024