

**Ways & Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 16, 2022 – 5:30 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairman Gavaris
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
PRESENT: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, Ronk, & Walter
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Erner, Greene, Hansut, Heppner, Litts, Nolan, Petit, & Uchitelle, Legislative Counsel Gordon, Pascale, & Ragucci, Deputy County Executive Kelly, Comptroller Gallagher, Deputy Comptroller DeMarco – UC Comptroller’s Office, Director Litwin – UC Recovery and Resilience, Director Doyle – UC Planning, Deputy Director McGovern-Gronenthal – UC Environment, Bill Kimble – Daily Freeman

Chairman Gavaris called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

Resolutions for the August 16, 2022 Session of the Legislature

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion No. 1: MOTION TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 308, 309, & 310
Motion By: Legislator Walter

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolutions Blocked**

Motion No. 2: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution Nos. 308, 309, & 310**

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels stated that the County Executive’s Office requested a postponement and alerted the committee that the second appraisal was just received but has not yet been reviewed. Legislative Chair Bartels also thanked Director of Planning Doyle for the memo regarding the selection criteria.

Legislator Ronk wanted to know why the Executive’s Office would like these resolutions to be postponed. Deputy Executive Kelly explained that he has not yet received the appraisal and therefore cannot respond to it, in addition there are staffing shortages at this time.

Legislator Uchitelle noted that this is the third meeting where no progress has been made on these resolutions and requested to be included in any future conversations as he is the Chair of the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee.

Legislator Hansut, Deputy Chair of the Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee, also requested to be included in future conversations regarding the Government Operations Center.

Motion No. 3: **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution Nos. 308, 309, & 310**

Motion By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: Legislator Ronk

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 1

Disposition: **Resolutions POSTPONED**

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

Resolution Summary: This Resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2022 that provides for the collection of delinquent Village Real Property Taxes to be held on Tuesday, September 20th, 2022 at 7:20 PM in the Legislative Chambers in the County Office Building located in Kingston, NY.

Motion No. 4: MOTION TO AMEND AND APPROVE Resolution No. 343
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels requested clarification on the amendment presented before the committee and confirmed it had been reviewed by minority counsel.

Chair Gavaris provided the following amendment language for the committee:
“Delinquent village taxes existing prior to the commencement of enforcement proceedings by the County hereunder shall be the sole responsibility of the village and shall not be collected nor reimbursed by the County.”

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

Resolution No. 407: Amending The 2022 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program - Establishing Capital Project No. 645 – Renovation Of 21 Elizabeth Street – Elizabeth Manor Emergency Housing – Amending 2022 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Finance And The Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2022 – 2027 Capital Improvement Program to establish Capital Project No. 645, the renovation of 21 Elizabeth Street in the amount of \$200,000.

Resolution No. 408: Authorizing The Preliminary Architectural Professional Services In Connection With The Renovation Of 21 Elizabeth Street, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$200,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$200,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves \$200,000 of bonding for the preliminary architectural services in connection with the renovation of 21 Elizabeth Street.

Resolution No. 409: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$180,000.00 Entered Into By The County – LaBella Associates, D.P.C. – Department Of Finance And Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with LaBella Associates, D.P.C. in the amount of \$180,000 for architecture and engineering services for renovations at 21 Elizabeth Street.

Motion No. 5: MOTION TO BLOCK Resolutions No. 407, 408, & 409
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Motion No. 6: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolutions No. 407, 408, & 409**

Motion By: Legislator Walter

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislator Walter acknowledged the additional information that was provided to the committee but questioned the significant price increase. Deputy Executive Kelly explained that the original cost amount is an estimate and costs have been rising.

Chairman Gavaris pointed out that construction costs have decreased over the last six months. Deputy County Executive Kelly clarified that the cost estimate was done in-house with the Department of Public Works employees and the current numbers are from a designer. In addition, they are going to pursue funding that will cover the increased cost.

Legislator Walter stated that she would like the opportunity to review the projected funding for this project.

Legislator Ronk said he would support a postponement for the cost concerns and would prefer to better understand the costs associated with this project before getting too far into the project.

Nate Litwin, Director of Recovery and Resilience, noted that a postponement is an opportunity to provide further clarification but mentioned that the design, estimating, architecture and engineering documents are all items that the potential funding sources associated with the Homeless Housing Assistance Program would like to review.

Motion No. 7: **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolutions No. 407, 408, & 409**

Motion By: Legislator Fabiano

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolutions POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 420: Authorizing The Preliminary Site Preparatory Expense For The Installation Of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$317,807.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$317,807.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves \$317,807 of bonding for the preliminary site preparatory expenses for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

Motion No. 8: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 420

Motion By: Legislator Walter

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislator Walter clarified that the municipalities where the charging stations are to be located, will not be responsible for the electric and upkeep of the stations.

Legislator Greene expressed that renewable energy must be added to projects or in the end more fossil fuels will be burned.

Legislator Erner stated that he would love to see energy production moved away from Central Hudson.

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

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Chairman Gavaris moved on to the Forthcoming Local Laws portion of the agenda.

Resolution No. 11 – Requesting Enactment Of A Senate Bill And Assembly Bill In The New York State Legislature For A Special Law In Relation To The Hotel And Motel Room Occupancy Tax Rates In Ulster County

(Postponed for one month in Ways & Means Committee on August 9, 2022)

Resolution No. 189 – Establishing A Policy Prohibiting The Housing Of Incarcerated Individuals Transferred From Facilities Outside Of Ulster County, The “No More Incarceration For Profit Policy”

(Postponed in Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee on August 4th, 2022)

Resolution No. 340 – Funding ~~Capital Project No. 600~~ ARPA Food Security And Access - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

(No Action in American Rescue Plan Act Committee on July 27th, 2022 & August 10th, 2022, and Postponed in Health, Human Services, & Housing Committee on August 3rd, 2022)

Resolution No. 400 – Amending The 2022 Budget To Establish And Fund The Ulster County Agricultural Crisis Relief Program - Department Of Finance, Division Of Recovery And Resilience

(No Action in American Rescue Plan Act Committee on July 27th, 2022 & August 10th, 2022, and Postponed in Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture Committee on August 2, 2022)

Resolution No. 414 - Authorizing A Right To Cross The Right Of Way Owned By Ulster County Of The Ulster And Delaware Railroad Corridor Near Mile Point 4.8, City Of Kingston To The Hudson Valley Housing Fund Company Inc. – Department Of Planning
(Postponed in Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture Committee on August 2, 2022)

Resolution No. 417 - Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of County Owned Property, Located In The Town Of Gardiner To The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance (“UCEDA”), A Local Development Corporation For The Purpose Of Open Space Protection And Recreation
(Postponed in Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture Committee on August 2, 2022)

Comptroller Gallagher provided a brief update on sales tax, stating that the county is up 9.29% over the same period for 2021 and a sale tax report will be issued shortly. Occupancy tax is currently at 55% of the county’s 2022 budget and only includes the first quarterly filing. Comptroller Gallagher also shared that \$392,000 in interest was earned partially from \$103 Million that was moved to a deposit plus account. However, if those funds had been invested in NYCLASS Prime an additional \$95,000 could have been earned. Additionally, some deficiencies in bank reconciliations have been identified and a memo is forthcoming. Finally, Comptroller Gallagher shared that her office mapped all broadband within Ulster County and has identified 1,100+ unserved addresses in Ulster County. Discussion ensued on the broadband mapping, funding, and number of unserved addresses.

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:05 PM

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Kelder
Minutes Approved: September 13, 2022