

**Ways &  
Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** July 20, 2021 – 5:00  
**LOCATION:** Student Life Center, Vanderlyn Hall,  
SUNY Ulster Community College  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** John Gavaris, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster, and Jay Mahler  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr. (arrived at 5:26 PM), Tracey Bartels, Heidi Haynes, Mary Beth Maio, John Parete, and Eve Walter; and Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson (arrived at 5:05 PM)  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Lynn Archer  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Al Bruno, Brian Cahill, Tom Corcoran, Peter Criswell, Jim Delaune, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, Herbert Litts III, Craig Lopez, Laura Petit, Abe Uchitelle, and Mary Wawro; Legislative Counsel Christopher Ragucci; Legislative Counsel Victor Cueva; Minority Counsel Nick Pascale; Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella; Legislative Staff Fawn Tantillo; Deputy County Executives John Milgrim, and Evelyn Wright; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; Dr. Alan Roberts, SUNY Ulster President; Jamie Capuano, SUNY Ulster Vice President of Administrative Services; Dana Umble, SUNY Ulster Facilities/Special Events; Vanessa Shea, SUNY Ulster Operations Assistant; Kevin Smith, Ulster County Trails Advisory; Samantha Thomson, SUNY New Paltz; Ashely Dittus, Commissioner of the Board of Elections;

- **Chairman Gavaris called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM**
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**President of SUNY Ulster Dr. Alan Roberts** spoke from 5:01 PM to 5:27 PM providing an overview of the College’s achievements over the 2020-2021 fiscal year, including the turnover to online learning, progress on Capital Improvements, new programs and certifications that the College is offering, and the continuation of the Presidential Scholarship.

**Vice President of Administrative Services of SUNY Ulster Jamie Capuano** spoke from 5:27 PM to 5:34 PM providing an overview of the upcoming year’s proposed budget, emphasizing

that there is no tuition increase or staff layoffs proposed, that Federal money is providing the College with exciting opportunities, and briefing the Committee on changes to enrollment levels.

Dr. Roberts and Mrs. Capuano answered Committee questions from 5:34 PM to 5:39 PM and thanked the Committee for their ongoing support.

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**Motion No. 1: To block and postpone the following Resolutions:**

**Resolution No. 238** – Adopting Revised Ulster County Fund Balance Policy

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution adopts the County of Ulster Fund Balance Policy as amended and attached.

**Resolution No. 239** – Replenishing The Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund Of The County Of Ulster

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes and directs the Commissioner of Finance to make a transfer totaling \$1,450,562.72 from unassigned fund balance to the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

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

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Postponed

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**Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 294** – Creating Two Full-Time Positions Within Department Of Social Services And Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends the 2021 Operating Budget to fund Position No. 60101067 Early Intervention Specialist for an annual salary of \$48,430.00, and Position No. 60101366 Senior Typist for an annual salary of \$32,250.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** Legislator Ronk stated that he will be voting no because this is another request for a budget amendment mid-year, emphasizing that there is too much budget work being completed outside of the budget cycle.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Bartels, Haynes, Parete, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** Legislators Ronk, and Maio

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6

**No. of Votes Against:** 2

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 299** – Approving The 2021-2022 Ulster County Community College Budget – SUNY Ulster

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the 2021-2022 Ulster County Community College Budget, as filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, in the amount of \$30,819,750.00, providing for a contribution by Ulster County in the amount of \$6,400,863.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** None

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

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 4: To approve Resolution No. 315** – Authorizing Design Work For Improvements To The County Courthouse, 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 authorizes the issuance of \$200,000.00 Bonds for Capital Project No. 595 – Courthouse Fascia, Exterior Repairs & Roof Replacement for exterior repairs to the County courthouse including windows, fascia, and roof work.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Haynes

**Discussion:** None

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

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**Motion No. 5: To approve Resolution No. 322** – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Adjust The Salary Of The Director Of Budget And Innovation – Budget and Innovation Department

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution creates the new position of Director of Budget and Innovation for an annual salary of \$104,335.

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

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels stated that she has several concerns about this Resolution, including the mid-year budget increase, the fact that the work is already being completed, and the flow of reporting within the Department of Budget as they relate to the salary requested. Legislator Ronk noted that this position is being created to promote the Deputy Director of Budget, questioning if that position will then be hired into. Legislator Walter stated she has concerns when job titles and salaries are changed mid-year without Legislative approval.

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

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**Motion No. 6: To discuss Resolution No. 323** – Supporting The Recommendations Of The Recovery And Resilience Working Group For Utilization Of The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution resolves that the Legislature supports the recommendations of the Recovery and Resilience Working Group and urges the County Executive to direct resources of the Executive staff towards implementation.

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

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels requested postponing the Resolution, stating concerns over voting on a high-level plan and then being held liable to account for the details at a later date, emphasizing desire to communicate the Legislature’s requests for the funding. Legislator Walter stated that the proposed dollar values give her discomfort, questioning where the values came from.

**Motion No. 7: To postpone Resolution No. 323** – Supporting The Recommendations Of The Recovery And Resilience Working Group For Utilization Of The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution resolves that the Legislature supports the recommendations of the Recovery and Resilience Working Group and urges the County Executive to direct resources of the Executive staff towards implementation.

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

**Discussion:** Legislative Chairman Donaldson emphasized that the Legislature has final approval over the individual components of the plan and their associated expenditures as they are brought forth in the form of Resolutions. Legislator Parete stressed the importance of the funding and its potential effects on the community. Legislator Walter questioned why Inequality does not have its own heading within the plan when it’s one of the most important aspects of the funding’s intended usage. Chairman Gavaris asked if postponing the Resolution delays any of the projects. Deputy County Executive John Milgrim answered that the plan is merely a target and does not affect the projects. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright stated that she needs to have a team in place to begin working on the plan and that postponing Resolution No. 324 will delay the projects included in this proposed plan.

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

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**Motion No. 8: To discuss Resolution No. 324** – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Add Additional Positions To Administer The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends the 2021 Operating Budget in the amount of \$175,681.00 for the creation of three new positions: 13101500 Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of \$126,374.00; 13101505 Recovery & Resilience Project Manager at an annual salary of \$79,895.50; and 13101510 Asst to Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of \$56,564.00.

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

**Discussion:** Legislator Ronk stated he has concerns about the salaries requested, arguing that the salary proposed for the Director of Recovery & Resilience feels disrespectful to the Commissioner of Finance and disingenuous in nature. Further, Legislator Ronk suggested reviewing comparable positions within the County for salary considerations. Legislator Walter asked if the additional staff is necessary as the proposed use of the American Rescue Plan Act Funds is largely an extension of work that's already being completed by current staff. Legislator Walter also noted that without a spending plan in place, staffing needs cannot truly be determined as departmental staffing needs may be altered by the plan. Legislative Chairman Donaldson argued that the County needs to start moving on the plan and doing so requires these additional staff members. Discussion pursued on the appropriateness of the pay scale proposed in relation to the lines of authority within the Department, the sunset clause, and amending the Director's salary. Legislator Bartels questioned the 5% target for administrative overhead, noting that projects are directly correlated to overhead needs. Legislator Walter requested confirmation that the cost of administration is an approved cost which is eligible for reimbursement.

**Motion No. 9: To postpone Resolution No. 324** – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Add Additional Positions To Administer The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends the 2021 Operating Budget in the amount of \$175,681.00 for the creation of three new positions: 13101500 Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of \$126,374.00; 13101505 Recovery & Resilience Project Manager at an annual salary of \$79,895.50; and 13101510 Asst to Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of \$56,564.00.

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

**Discussion:** None

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

**Motion No. 10: To approve Resolution No. 324 – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Add Additional Positions To Administer The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Department Of Finance**

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends the 2021 Operating Budget in the amount of \$175,681.00 for the creation of three new positions: 13101500 Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of \$126,374.00; 13101505 Recovery & Resilience Project Manager at an annual salary of \$79,895.50; and 13101510 Asst to Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of \$56,564.00.

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

**Discussion:** Legislative Chairman Donaldson encouraged members to pass the Resolution to allow the body to vote on it. Legislator Ronk stated that he will not vote in favor of the Resolution without an adjustment to the salary levels. Deputy County Executive John Milgrim argued that the salary should be at a higher level than the Commissioner of Finance because the Commissioner’s position does not sunset. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright suggested that the Director position should be housed within the County Executive’s department, stating that it was placed in finance because of the Director’s involvement with the financial system but that the Director will report to the County Executive. Legislator Ronk requested the positions be housed in a Department that is transparent to the taxpayers. Legislator Walter noted that this is a scenario where a person is being moved and the position is being paid an annual salary based on the individual, not based on the duties being performed.

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

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**Motion No. 11: To approve Resolution No. 326** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$203,570.00 Entered Into By The County – Complete Building Solutions, Inc. – Department Of Public Works

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Complete Building Solutions, Inc. to amend the dates of Services at the Coordinated Children’s Services location at 280 Route 299, Highland, NY to reflect the dates for which services were performed, to extend the agreement for one additional one-year period, and to increase the not-to-exceed amount for janitorial services from July 31, 2021 through July 31, 2022 for an additional \$203,570.00, making the contract total \$871,490.00.

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

**Discussion:** Legislator Walter inquired if this expense is FEMA reimbursable. Deputy County Executive John Milgrim responded that the answer should be contained in the backup and he is unsure.

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

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 12: To approve Resolution No. 327** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$63,000.00 Entered Into By The County – United Way Of Ulster County Inc. – Department Of Employment And Training

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with United Way of Ulster County, Inc. to increase funding for the summer youth employment program from July 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021 for an additional \$63,000.00, making the contract total \$592,700.00.

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

**Discussion:** None

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

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved



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**Old Business:** None

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**New Business:** None

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Chairman Gavaris asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

**Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Walter  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Time:** 6:22 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Amber Feaster  
**Minutes Approved:** August 10, 2021