

**Ways &
Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 17, 2021 – 5:30
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building,
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: John Gavaris, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder and Amber Feaster
PRESENT: Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Lynn Archer, Tracey
Bartels, Heidi Haynes, John Parete, and Eve Walter; and
Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson
ABSENT: Legislator Mary Beth Maio
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Brian Cahill, Jonathan Heppner, Manna Jo
Greene, Kevin Roberts, and Abe Uchitelle; Legislative
Counsel, Victor Cueva and Nick Pascale; Clerk of the
Legislature, Victoria Fabella; Deputy County Executive
Marc Rider; Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; Sheriff
Figueroa; Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick; Director
of Planning Dennis Doyle; Senior Legislative Employee
Fawn Tantillo

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

Motion No. 1: To postpone 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.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Postponed

Motion No. 2: To postpone 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 Archer

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Postponed

Motion No. 3: To discuss Resolution No. 332 – 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 \$145,116.00 for the creation of three new positions: 13101500 Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of \$126,373.00; 13101505 Recovery & Resilience Project Manager at an annual salary of \$79,875.00; 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 Archer

Discussion: None

Motion No. 4: To amend Resolution No. 332 – 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 ~~\$145,116.00~~ 125,299.00 for the creation of three new positions: 13101500 Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of ~~\$126,373.00~~ 95,315.00; 13101505 Recovery & Resilience Project Manager at an annual salary of ~~\$79,875.00~~ 75,043.00; 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 Donaldson

Discussion: Legislator Ronk motioned to reduce the Director of Recovery and Resilience position from \$126,373 to \$95,315 annually, and the Recovery and Resilience Project Manager position from \$79,875 to \$75,043 annually, adjusting the cost of employee benefits accordingly.

Legislator Bartels added that through conversations with the County Executive, there was a verbal agreement to delay hiring the Assistant to Director of Recovery and Resilience by one month. Legislator Bartels also noted that she is willing to support this request for new positions from the County Executive and looks forward to Legislative involvement with the American Rescue Plan projects.

Legislator Walter stated that the final projects have yet to be decided and they could ultimately become an added burden for other departments, such as the Planning Department. In this scenario it could be more appropriate to add a position to Planning instead of the County Executive's Department.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Parete 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. 332 – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget To Add Additional Positions To Administer The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Department Of Finance, as amended

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2021 Operating Budget in the amount of ~~\$145,116.00~~ 125,299.00 for the creation of three new positions: 13101500 Director of Recovery & Resilience at an annual salary of ~~\$126,373.00~~ 95,315.00; 13101505 Recovery & Resilience Project Manager at an annual salary of ~~\$79,875.00~~ 75,043.00; 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 Donaldson

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Parete 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. 333 – Amending The 2021 - 2026 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project Nos. 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, And 604 Ulster County Recovery And Resiliency Projects – Amending The 2021 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Finance, as Amended

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2021-2026 Ulster County Capital Improvement Program to include the following Capital Projects: No. 597 - ARP Housing in the amount of \$4,500,000.00; No. 598 - ARP Mental Health and Addiction Recovery in the amount of \$5,000,000.00; No. 599 - ARP Non-Profit, Youth, and Community Programs in the amount of \$3,000,000.00; No. 600 - ARP Food Security and Access in the amount of \$350,000.00; No. 601 - ARP Small Business and Economic Recovery in the amount of \$6,000,000.00; No. 602 – ARP Infrastructure and Trails in the amount of \$6,000,000.00; No. 603 – ARP Green Home Retrofit and Workforce Development in the amount of \$3,000,000.00; and No. 604 – ARP Emergency Response and Preparedness in the amount of \$2,400,000.00, and amends the Capital Fund accordingly.

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

Discussion: None

Motion No. 7: To amend Resolution No. 333 – Amending The 2021 - 2026 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project Nos. 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, And 604 Ulster County Recovery And Resiliency Projects – Amending The 2021 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2021-2026 Ulster County Capital Improvement Program to include the following Capital Projects: No. 597 - ARP Housing in the amount of \$4,500,000.00; No. 598 - ARP Mental Health and Addiction Recovery in the amount of \$5,000,000.00; No. 599 - ARP Non-Profit, Youth, and Community Programs in the amount of \$3,000,000.00; No. 600 - ARP Food Security and Access in the amount of \$350,000.00; No. 601 - ARP Small Business and Economic Recovery in the amount of \$6,000,000.00; No. 602 – ARP Infrastructure and Trails in the amount of \$6,000,000.00; No. 603 – ARP Green Home Retrofit and Workforce Development in the amount of \$3,000,000.00; and No. 604 – ARP Emergency Response and Preparedness in the amount of \$2,400,000.00, ~~and amends the Capital Fund~~ accordingly.

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

Discussion: Legislator Bartels motioned to amend this resolution to establish but not fund the Capital Projects within the 2021-2026 Capital Improvement Program, stating that this will allow for time for legislative input and thanking the other Legislators and the County Executive’s Office for agreeing to this change. Legislator Bartels added that Legislator Cahill had concerns and was interested in separating this resolution out into separate Capital Projects but that this amendment will answer this concern as the individual Capital Projects will need to come back to the Legislature separately to be funded. Legislator Bartels agreed and vocalized concern in setting a precedent where multiple Capital Projects can be established at one time and have the funding transferred between them.

Legislator Ronk agreed with the concern of transferring funds between multiple Capital Projects and stated that if a future resolution is submitted in this manner, it will be broken out into separate resolutions.

Legislator Cahill confirmed that all his concerns had been addressed.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Parete 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. 333 – Amending The 2021 - 2026 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project Nos. 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, And 604 Ulster County Recovery And Resiliency Projects – Amending The 2021 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Finance, as Amended

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2021-2026 Ulster County Capital Improvement Program to include the following Capital Projects: No. 597 - ARP Housing in the amount of \$4,500,000.00; No. 598 - ARP Mental Health and Addiction Recovery in the amount of \$5,000,000.00; No. 599 - ARP Non-Profit, Youth, and Community Programs in the amount of \$3,000,000.00; No. 600 - ARP Food Security and Access in the amount of \$350,000.00; No. 601 - ARP Small Business and Economic Recovery in the amount of \$6,000,000.00; No. 602 – ARP Infrastructure and Trails in the amount of \$6,000,000.00; No. 603 – ARP Green Home Retrofit and Workforce Development in the amount of \$3,000,000.00; and No. 604 – ARP Emergency Response and Preparedness in the amount of \$2,400,000.00, ~~and amends the Capital Fund accordingly.~~

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Parete 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. 357 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$106,366.31 Entered Into By The County – Tyler Technologies, Inc. – Department Of Information Services

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Tyler Technologies, Inc. to expand the scope to include licensing of the MUNIS Employee Self Service module and extend the term of agreement for support and maintenance of various application from August 1, 2021 through December 6, 2022 for an additional \$106,366.31, making the contract total \$665,988.02.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 10: To block Resolutions No. 359 and 364

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Parete 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 the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 359 – Authorizing Design And Planning Costs In Connection With The Replacement Of Wilbur Bridge In The Town Of Wawarsing, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$85,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$85,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of Bonds in the amount of \$85,000.00 for the establishment of Capital Project No. 596 Wilbur Bridge, Town Of Wawarsing for the removal and replacement of Wilbur Bridge.

Resolution No. 364 – Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$39,800.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Design And Planning Costs In Connection With The Construction Of Energy Upgrades To The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, In And For Said County

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$39,800.00 Bonds for Capital Project No. 519 - Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades to increase the funding available for design services to enter into a design contract with a new firm for the replacement of the boilers at the Law Enforcement Center with energy efficient equivalents.

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

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Parete 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 approve Resolution No. 377 – Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget – Removing The Position Of Communications Specialist

Resolution Summary: This Resolution eliminates the Communication Specialist position in the 2021 Ulster County Budget for a savings of \$50,502.00.

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

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk stated that he had not received a satisfactory answer as to why this position is needed.

Legislator Bartels added that this position is vacant, and it is easier to have a discussion regarding a position while no one is in it, pointing out that the Executive’s Office can still add this position back in during the upcoming budget cycle and explain why it is necessary at that time. Legislator Bartels also noted that this position was given a substantial raise during the last budget cycle.

Legislator Uchitelle stated that it has never been more important or necessary for our County and the County Executive to communicate effectively, arguing that this position was already approved for the 2021 budget year in its entirety.

Legislator Walter reminded the Committee that there are two communications positions within the County Executive’s Office, and the Director of COVID Operations is still a funded and filled position within the County, which was created with the intent of fulfilling various communications regarding the public health emergency.

Legislator Haynes requested clarification on what this position entails. Deputy County Executive Rider explained that this position has many other responsibilities but was vital during COVID and will continue to be as we head into the third wave.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson reasoned that the Ulster County Legislature approved this position in the 2021 Adopted Budget, and it is an important position.

Legislator Walter added that the County Executive has a lot of employees, stating belief that the work is currently being completed, even without this position being filled. Further discussion pursued on the tasks this position is designed to complete.

Voting In Favor:

Legislators Gavaris, Ronk, Archer, Bartels, and Walter

Voting Against:

Legislators Haynes and Parete, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

No. of Votes in Favor:

5

No. of Votes Against:

3

Disposition:

Approved

Commissioner of Finance Gulnick spoke from 5:50 to 5:53 regarding the Ulster County Public Auction and the continuation of online auctions, answering all questions from the Legislature.

Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco spoke from 5:53 PM to 5:54 PM regarding the recently issued Q1 2021 report and the upcoming Q2 2021 report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

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

Adjournment

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

Time: 5:54 PM

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Kelder
Minutes Approved: September 7, 2021