

Ways & Means Committee Special Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: October 4, 2022 – 3:00 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
ABSENT: Legislators Ronk & Walter
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Erner, Nolan & Uchitelle, Deputy Clerk Mahler – UC Clerk of the Legislature, Deputy County Executives Kelly & Rider, Comptroller March Gallagher & Deputy Comptroller DeMarco– UC Comptroller’s Office, Director Macaluso & Dan Proctor – UC Information Services

Chairman Gavaris called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM

Resolutions for the October 18, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 486: Adopting The Ulster County Information Services/ Information Technology Security Policy – Department Of Information Services

Resolution Summary:

Motion No. 1: MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 486
Motion By: Legislator Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

Discussion:

Information Services Director Alan Macaluso highlighted the top 5 most recent cyber security attacks

- Suffolk County ransomware attack
 - Public safety offline for 25 days and counting
 - Financial systems were down but are back up
 - Large portion of their operations still down
- NATO - sensitive documents stolen and being sold on dark web
- Uber – hackers penetrated social engineering campaign, attacks against users by phone and email; administrative credentials compromised giving them access to their system
- Cisco – access to major corporate network gained through “back door” because employee credentials stored on Google drive
- Costa Rica – government had ransomware attack creating a national emergency
- And today Los Angeles County School District – ransomware attack yesterday. Los Angeles refused to pay the ransom, so the data is being sold.

3 main features of a Good IT Policy are People, Process and Technology

- People include end users and actual technical people
 - Understanding the risk
 - Proper training
 - Understanding the goods
 - Best practices for password management

- How to handle data and identifying data
 - Elevating suspicion about how data comes through
 - Email, text messaging, voice messaging
- Process – National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST) developed key operating standards that include
 - How to grant access to systems
 - How to articulate the need for change so users are not inadvertently exposing the system to risk
 - How to escalate and triage in case a system is compromised
 - How to implement this process for IT and county wide users
 - How to comprehensively upgrade protocols on a regular basis
 - Authentication and password management
 - How to detect suspicious payloads, emails and events
- Technology –
 - Showed technology upgrades from 2017 to 2023
 - THEMIS project to design and implement disaster management nationwide
 - For 2023 –
 - Working with SubTerra to develop a virtual cybersecurity Chief Information Security Office to improve capabilities
 - Initial phase of onboarding the Office of the New York State joint security operations center with a comprehensive endpoint detection and remediation system
 - Engaging with Department of Homeland Security to do an assessment and some frameworks for disaster recovery and continuity of operations.

Chair Bartels asked if the 2019 EisnerAmper assessment was cross referenced into the new policy. Director Macaluso said it was reviewed and some aspects were included. As the county onboards training for new staff includes cybersecurity training; cybersecurity training for all county staff is part of the annual training and they conduct a phishing campaign twice a year. The committee discussed this year’s phishing campaign in which 7.7% of the recipients clicked on the email and how to educate employees about the danger.

The committee discussed other aspects of the EisnerAmper assessment and concerns about email retention, hardware disposition, security breach containment. Director Macaluso discussed how behind the scenes support works and needs to be fluid and flexible to adapt accordingly. The committee discussed the difference between policy and process/procedure.

The committee discussed details of the phishing campaign and specific training that was provided to folks who fell prey to the phishing attempt; what additional training could and should be provided and other ways to ensure training is completed.

Director Macaluso described a monitoring system that watches for financial data, Social Security information, bank routing information and sends a flag when that data is detected. A discussion about cybersecurity ensued.

The committee discussed various aspects of the draft policy; penetration testing; use of county phones; employees working from home; how confidential data is shared between department and elected officials; and how to make the policy more relevant to Ulster County.

Motion No. 1: **MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 486 FOR ONE MONTH**
Motion By: Legislator Cahill

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Fabiano, and Gavaris
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: **4**
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED 1 MONTH**

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Cahill
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano

No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:12 PM

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Kelder
Minutes prepared by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: November 9, 2022