

Ways & Means Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: September 17, 2019 – 5:30
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building,
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Lynn Archer, Chairwoman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder
PRESENT: Legislators Richard Gerentine, Mary Beth Maio, Laura Petit,
and Hector Rodriguez, Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr. (5:35),
Legislative Chairwoman Tracey Bartels (5:35)
ABSENT: Legislator Joseph Maloney
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Manna Jo Greene, Kathy Nolan, Legislative Counsel;
David Gordon, Deputy County Executive; Marc Rider and John
Milgram, Deputy Director of Planning; Chris White, Department
of Social Services; Michael Iapoce and Pete Carney, League of
Women Voters; Tom Kadgen, Citizen; Nick Mercurio

- **Chairwoman Archer called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM**
-

Motion No. 1: To approve Resolution No. 386 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Catholic Charities Of Orange, Sullivan & Ulster – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the Execution of a contract with Catholic Charities for the operation of a warming center for individuals without shelter. 100% State Funded, \$1,622,000 10/1/19-9/30/22.

Motion Made By: Legislator Gerentine
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Rodriguez

Discussion: Michael Iapoce, Commissioner of Social Services, explained that a new submission has been completed for the 2019-2020 Code Blue Plan. Code Blue would begin sometime around November and extend through the end of March into early April. Counties are required to activate services to house everyone when the temperature drops below 32 Degrees. There are two activation cycles, the first is from 7PM to 9AM and the second is 9AM to 7PM. There are periods of time where they are running continually with activations. Expenses include but are not limited to space, monitors, security, and meals.

Legislator Gerentine asked Michael Iapoce what the cost to operate the program last year was and if the expectation is to get reimbursed for the expenses this year. Michael Iapoce explained it was about \$180,000.00 for 2018-2019 and \$405,000.00 is the budgeted amount for 2019-2020. The 2018-2019 season was 100% reimbursed and it is the expectation that the 2019-2020 season will be fully reimbursed as well. Michael Iapoce also mentioned that the cost could be lower if there are not as many activation days. Legislator Gerentine pointed out that many areas in the mountains often get much colder.

Legislative Chairwoman Bartels questioned why the Schedule A includes the term, “homeless adults” and asked if the Warming Center was only open to the homeless or if it was open to any adult. Michael Iapoce explained that it is not open to families or children. Anyone who passes the screening is allowed at the center but there is not criteria that someone must pass to be at the shelter. Michael Iapoce also explained that if someone runs out of heating fuel or their pipes freeze, the situation is essentially making them homeless. In addition, being homeless or not would not be used to disqualify someone from the center.

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gerentine, Maio, Petit, Rodriguez and Ronk
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	7
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Approved

Legislator Rodriguez asked Michael Iapoce, Commissioner of Social Services, about the approximate 10 vacant positions in his department and his plan is to get Social Services fully staffed. Michael Iapoce explained that recruitment and retention have been difficult, but the expectation is to fill these positions. The Department of Social Services is actively interviewing for these positions. In addition, there is a lot of turn over due to retirements.

Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 385 – Authorizing Preliminary Engineering/Design Expenses In Connection With The Reconstruction Of The Foundation At The County’s Department Of Social Services Building, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$31,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$31,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the issuance of \$31,000.00 bonds for Preliminary Engineering/Design Expenses for the reconstruction of the foundation of the Social Services Building.

Motion Made By: Legislator Rodriguez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gerentine, Maio, Petit, Rodriguez and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 388 – Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$452,000.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Replacement Of Windows At The Ulster County Community College Campus At SUNY Ulster Stone Ridge, In And For Said County

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the issuance of \$452,000.00 of bonds to pay part of the cost for replacement windows at the Ulster County Community College Campus at SUNY Ulster.

Motion Made By: Legislator Petit
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gerentine, Maio, Petit, Rodriguez and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4: To approve Resolution No. 390 – Amending Capital Project No. 479 To Provide For Additional Engineering And Right-of-Way Incidental Services For The Ulster County Midtown Linear Park (PIN 8761.82) – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends Capital Project No. 479 to provide additional engineering and right-of-way incidentals, the cost of which will be covered by grant funding from the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley in the amount of \$32,945.00.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gerentine, Maio, Petit, Rodriguez and Ronk
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 5: To discuss Resolution No. 401 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 9 Of 2019, A Local Law Amending Local Law 6 of 2014, To Improve And Strengthen The Sustainable Energy Loan Program, To Be Held On Thursday, October 10, 2019 At 6:15 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2019 to improve and strengthen the Sustainable Energy Loan Program, to be held on Thursday October 10, 2019.

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

Discussion: Legislator Ronk explained that he has been against this program since the beginning and believes it is a threat to the taxpayers since the County is backing the funding. In addition, no deals have been closed in Ulster County since joining.

Legislator Archer noted that the program enhancements are to help the program become more successful.

Legislator Petit pointed out that there is not a lot of information out in the communities. Perhaps if more people were aware, it would be more successful.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Bartels, Gerentine, Maio, Petit, and Rodriguez
Voting Against: Legislator Ronk
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Approved

New Business: None

Old Business: None

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Rodriguez
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 5:52 PM

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Kelder
Minutes Approved: October 10, 2019