

**Ways & Means Committee  
& Public Works & Capital Projects Committee  
Special Joint Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** October 27, 2021 – 4:00  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 876 1997 1221  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** John Gavaris, Chairman of Ways & Means and Dean Fabiano, Chairman of Public Works & Capital Projects  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Lynn Archer, Tracey Bartels, Heidi Haynes, Eve Walter, Jonathan Heppner, Herbert Litts III  
**ABSENT:** Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Mary Beth Maio, John Parete, and Manna Jo Greene  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Brian Cahill; Deputy County Executives Marc Rider, and John Milgrim; Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; Sheriff Juan Figueroa; Financial Analysts Tosca Sweeney; Deputy Commissioner of DPW Robert Parete; Deputy Commissioner of Finance for DPW Donald Quesnell; Undersheriff Eric Benjamin; Deputy Budget Director Christopher Kelly; Acting Commissioner of DPW Brendan Masterson; Sheriff Fiscal Assistant Melody Brooks

- **Chairman Gavaris called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM**
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Committee members agreed to go through the Capital Improvement Program starting from the bottom of the table of contents, moving up, and focusing on newly added or amended projects.

**UCAT Rooftop Solar CP#574**

Deputy County Executive Marc Rider explained this is not a new project but the bulk of expenditures are planned to take place in 2022. Committee members confirmed that the project is in part State funded.

**Transportation Planning Studies**

Deputy County Executive Marc Rider stated that this is an annual project.

**Reuse Innovation Planning Study**

Deputy Budget Director Christopher Kelly explained this project is being completed with the Department of Environment based on a working group recommendation to move towards a zero waste County. Legislator Litts confirmed there is no location currently.

### **Community Development Program**

Deputy County Executive Marc Rider stated this project started in 2020 with the intent of expanding Shovel Ready projects for local municipalities. Legislator Walter questioned what the delay in the project is. Deputy County Executive Rider explained a scoring sheet and a call for projects has not yet been completed. Further discussion pursued on this timeline.

### **Broadband Initiative**

Legislator Bartels confirmed there is anticipated State funding for Broadband infrastructure projects. Further discussion pursued on how much analysis has been completed on the needs of the various communities within Ulster County. Committee members expressed strong desire to move forward and make progress on the Broadband Initiative.

### **ARP Water and Sewer CP#602**

Legislator Walter clarified that this Project already exists within the Capital Improvement Program but the requirements within this specific project will be further refined to be consistent with the eligibility requirements for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Legislator Walter further emphasized the need for staff within the Planning Department to aid in the movement of these projects. Deputy Budget Director Kelly stated that the 2022 County Executive Recommended Budget includes one additional person for the Planning Department. Committee members expressed strong concern that the plan be completed, and municipalities be notified so they may prepare to apply for funding and prepare to start their necessary projects.

### **ARP Not for Profit and Community Support CP#599**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly explained this project will include a call for projects and formal applications for funding. Legislator Walter inquired as to how this third pool of County funding for such entities will avoid duplication of services, and how it will be communicated that this award will have a set end-date so that local organizations do not come to rely on it. Deputy Budget Director Kelly agreed that the one-time nature of funding will require clear communication. Discussion pursued on the Legislature's current Non-County Contract Agency funding for local not-for-profit organizations.

### **ARP Housing Smart Communities CP#597**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly stated this money will be used to help municipalities complete studies on housing, zoning, and short-term rentals in support of affordable housing.

### **ARP Housing: Jail Demolition CP#597**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly said this will speed along the demolition of the old jail so that an affordable housing project may be pursued in the future.

### **ARP Green Home Retrofit and Workforce Development CP#603**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly explained this program will work with RUPCO to enhance current programming. Legislator Bartels asked if there is backlog on the programs that already exist, as it does not appear to be a necessary duplication of services. Deputy Budget Director Kelly agreed to follow up with this information.

### **ARP Enterprise West CP#601**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly confirmed a Resolution was recently approved to contract with UCEDA on property surveys, legal fees, and property appraisals.

### **ARP Direct Aid to Business CP#601**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly stated that this Project builds upon a currently existing program within the Department of Economic Development, focusing on minorities and women-owned businesses. Deputy County Executive John Milgrim stated this expansion is intended to reach a greater quantity of businesses through less strict eligibility requirements. Legislator Walter requested the language be amended to better reflect who may be eligible for funding. Legislator Bartels expressed concern in the communication to local businesses of this opportunity and their abilities to access the funding. Legislator Walter further expressed concern that the democratic caucus wanted to emphasizing minority-owned businesses and the development of new businesses. Legislator Gavaris emphasized the need to choose sustainable businesses.

### **ARP Brownfields Redevelopment CP#597**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly stated this funding will be used to assess three dozen foreclosed properties to see if there is potential for rehabilitation.

### **U & D Corridor Trail – Shandaken**

Deputy County Executive Marc Rider stated this is a new project, to build and construct a project between Big Indian and Hide Park. Deputy County Executive John Milgrim provided further detail as to the trail's location and the need for the trail.

### **Stream Management Plan**

Deputy County Executive Rider stated there is no County-share funding for this project.

### **Open Space and Recreation Fund**

Deputy County Executive Rider stated this is an ongoing project for open space and agreed to follow up to inform Committee members if prior year costs pertain to acquisition.

### **Kingston Rail Trail CP#334**

Deputy County Executive Milgrim provided location detail. Deputy County Executive Rider stated this project has been held up due to an affordable housing project but is anticipated to continue in 2022.

### **Ashokan Rail Trail Structure**

Deputy County Executive Rider explained this is an ongoing project for maintenance.

### **ARP Infrastructure and Trails CP#602**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly explained this project will include infrastructure to close three gaps in trails, and also include funding for municipalities to improve their recreational sites. Chairman Gavaris asked if shared services agreements exist pertaining to recreational site development. Deputy County Executive Milgrim answered that it may be possible.

### **ARP Food Security and Access CP#600**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly explained this is funding for a coordinating position at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County to analyze and facilitate the local and regional food coalitions to address issues with food access and insecurity. Chairman Gavaris emphasized the need for a central department to aid in coordination and facilitation of programs, rather than adding a position in each department to complete the same, overlapping functions throughout the County.

### **Wolven Bridge Replacement CP#505**

Deputy Commissioner of Finance for DPW Donald Quesnell informed Committee members that there is a 9 month supply delay and DPW is currently working off of their best estimates for time frames. Chairman Gavaris confirmed the bridge is currently operational.

### **UCAT Facility & UCAT Electric Bus Charging Infrastructure CP#568**

Legislator Bartels asked what the current facility will be used for. Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated there is a need to store buses so they're not sitting outside all year. Deputy County Executive Rider confirmed this is not a new building but rather an expansion to the existing facility. Legislator Bartels asked how much extra the maintenance costs will be. Deputy Commissioner Quesnell emphasized the need for the bus storage. Deputy County Executive Milgrim answered that the buses are expensive and in-door storage was meant to preserve their lifespan. Legislator Walter asked if this facility is being designed to support the intention of a 100% green fleet. Deputy County Executive Milgrim answered that further infrastructure in-route will be required and there are other cost-factor issues relating to electricity, emphasizing that this will be a ten year process. Legislator Walter asked again if this facility is being designed to support the intention of a 100% green fleet as ten years is within the buildings lifespan, emphasizing that solar should be included to support the electric costs and the green mission. Deputy County Executive Milgrim answered that the building has not yet been designed.

### **UCAT Bus Replacement & UCAT Bus Maintenance Facility Equipment**

Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick stated this is a reoccurring project. Legislator Walter asked if there is a breakdown for the price variances for diesel buses versus electric. Deputy County Executive Milgrim said that State reimbursement is only eligible for a specific type of bus, stating the County completed an analysis to design a 10 year plan to phase in electric buses and that the intent is to move diesel buses to different routes as electric buses are accumulated, subject to technology developments. Chairman Gavaris informed Committee members that the current range on the qualifying electric buses is only 80 miles. Further discussion pursued on evolving electric vehicle technology and available funding streams. Legislator Walter emphasized the need for more specific five-year plans that display how the County is moving towards an ultimate goal. Legislator Litts emphasized the need to plan strategically based on changes in technology and cost.

### **Tongore Bridge CP#261**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated the project is within the Town of Olive.

**Sundown Bridge CP#390**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated the project is within the Town of Denning.

**Shawangunk Kill Bridge Rehabilitation CP#539**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated the project is currently in progress.

**Samsonville Road Culvert Replacement CP#540**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated the project is currently in design.

**Salt Pre-activation System**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated the intent is to reduce the quantity of salt needed by pre-wetting it so that it sticks to the roads, that the project has been included in the Capital Improvement Program in prior years but was delayed.

**Route 299 Shoulder Widening CP#488**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated the un-funded County share is currently around \$3 million and the anticipated start date is 2022. Legislator Bartels expressed support for the project as it enhances the safety of County residents, stating desire to create a policy that requires expansion when properties are foreclosed on. Legislator Walter emphasized this support.

**Route 28A Slope Stabilization**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this project is to fix a current issue that has been identified.

**Reconstruction of Various Roads**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell explained this is an annual project that saves money by allowing the County to complete the work in-house. Chairman Gavaris inquired of exploring additional machinery to recycle materials already in use which will result in additional savings. Acting Commissioner of DPW Brendan Masterson agreed to research this alternative.

**Phoenicia Bridge Replacement**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell informed Committee members that this has been added due to its high cost. Chairman Gavaris asked that a carve-out for the creation of a look-out be added to the design research.

**McKinstry Bridge Replacement CP#577**

Deputy County Executive Rider stated they hope to finish this project in 2022.

**Highway Equipment**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this is an annual, reoccurring project to replace equipment.

### **Guide Rail Replacement Program**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell informed members that this is contracted work.

### **Golden Hill Roads**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this was pushed out intentionally while the Golden Hill Water Tower Replacement is being complete so that heavy equipment will not drive on the new roads.

### **Galeville Bridge Replacement**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this is another expensive bridge intended to be completed in the future. Legislator Haynes inquired as to the movement away from iron-truss bridges.

### **Fantinekill Bridge CP#508**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this project is intended to be started next year.

### **DPW Large Culvert Program**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell informed Committee members that this will be completed with in-house labor. Chairman Gavaris confirmed the project will be completed with steel. Legislator Litts accredited DPW for their hard work and abilities which save the County money and allow for many more repairs to take place.

### **DPW Bridge Program**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated the intent is to amend this year's Capital Fund budget, adding a larger contingency value than is typical due to fluctuations in the cost of materials.

### **Creekside Drive Slope Failure CP#551**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this should be finished in 2022. Legislator Walter asked if an analysis has been completed on all of the bodies of waters within Ulster County to identify future needs based on anticipated flooding. Deputy County Executive Rider agreed to reach out to the Departments of Environment and Planning.

### **Bridge Superstructure Repairs & Bridge Substructure Repairs**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell said this project was so successful in 2021 that they would like to evolve this into an annual, reoccurring project. Legislator Cahill confirmed the process for identifying bridges.

### **Bridge Flag Response**

Legislator Bartels asked how the County was responding prior to the development of this project. Deputy Commissioner Quesnell answered that operating funds were utilized but as costs became larger, it was decided that the maintenance should be moved to Capital. Legislator Bartels stated support for this work.

### **Bennett Road Bridge**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated construction is planned to begin in 2022, confirming that the bridge is closed.

### **Asphalt Overlay of Various Roads**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this is an every-three-year capital project and includes inflationary costs, allowing DPW to “catch up” on roads they were not able to get to within that period.

### **ARP Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Center CP#598**

Deputy Budget Director Kelly confirmed that the working group is in the early stages. Legislator Walter noted that the project is a Stabilization Center and is for mental health and substance abuse crisis, asking that the language be adjusted to reflect this, also noting that the Respite Houses approved by the Legislature are not currently included in the project.

### **UCLEC Kitchen and Laundry Equipment**

Melody Brooks explained this project replaces current equipment and provides for better fire protection.

### **Port Security Grant**

Ms. Brooks informed Committee members that the value of the grant awarded is lower than was anticipated and an amendment will be necessary.

### **County Wide Radio System CP#482**

Legislator Bartels asked which site is planned for the upcoming year, asking if this information could be included within the detail of the Capital Improvement Program for the upcoming three years. Deputy County Executive Rider agreed to follow up. Chairman Gavaris asked if employing a technician to repair radios has been explored.

### **Black Creek Upgrade CP#594**

Ms. Brooks noted the project is currently on hold.

### **Site Work Improvements CP#542; Roof Replacement and Exterior Site Work CP#466, 468, 486, 489, 493; Facilities Master Plan CP#491; Infrastructure Improvements CP#469, 483, 485, 524, 527; & Equipment and Technology CP#465, 481, 527, 541, 545, 546**

Deputy County Executive Rider stated these projects are overall multi-year site work improvement projects needed to create the Master Plan. Legislator Walter inquired if solar is being explored for the roof replacements. Deputy County Executive Rider confirmed that solar feasibility studies are being completed but he will add a comment requesting to include green roofs as well.

### **Veteran’s Cemetery Renovations CP#528**

Deputy County Executive Rider noted the project is ongoing and unfortunately needs expansion.

### **UCOB Water & Sewer**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this project will take place in future years, confirming that interior and exterior work is included.

### **UCOB Elevator Upgrades**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this project is a few years out and will require design. Legislator Cahill asked if the building's life expectancy is being considered. Deputy County Executive Rider informed committee members that the project has been pushed out because they're not convinced it will be completed, clarifying that this project is for a freight elevator.

### **UCOB Energy Upgrades CP#519**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this project is currently in the design phase.

### **Trudy Resnick Farber Building Repairs**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell clarified that this project is for maintenance and cosmetic work.

### **New Tax System Software Upgrade CP#564**

Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick noted this project was held off due to COVID but will hopefully move forward in January of 2022.

### **Security Improvements Various Buildings**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this project will utilize a consultant to advise on best practices, confirming that \$150,000.00 is the expected price of the consultant.

### **Salt Shed Fabric Roof Replacements**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated project is to replace the roofs on the salt sheds.

### **Roof Replacement Program**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell noted the cost may change based on the results of the bid, that DPW is working with the Department of Environment on the project. Legislator Bartels noted the issues with the current roof. Chairman Gavaris questioned why a warranty doesn't exist on the roof. Deputy County Executive Rider agreed to review.

### **Relocation of Various Departments CP#556**

Deputy County Executive Rider informed Committee members that Board of Elections is the bulk of the anticipated 2022 expenditures. Legislator Walter questioned if space exists within the buildings the County already owns and if that assessment process is included. Legislator Bartels emphasized the potential need for a space analysis. Deputy County Executive Rider answered

### **Records Storage Building**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this does not include the roof but is general maintenance on the building.



### **Quarry Complex Renovations**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this project is not intended to take place for a few years.

### **Pump House Control Upgrade Kingston Water Dept**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this was pushed out intentionally while the Golden Hill Water Tower Replacement is being complete as this may impact the control needs.

### **Perrine's Bridge Restoration**

Deputy County Executive Rider informed Committee members that this has been pushed out to review if New York State funds are available. Legislator Bartels stated concern that the bridge needs care and the cost to repair and maintenance may increase as the bridge continues to deteriorate, requesting further information on the current cost estimate.

### **Personal Computer Replacements CP#588**

Commissioner of Finance Gulnick confirmed there is a small delay in the project. Deputy Budget Director Kelly agreed to confirm with Information Services that software upgrades are not holding the project back.

### **Information Services Technology Upgrade CP#587**

Deputy County Executive Rider stated the bulk of the project is completed.

### **HVAC/Weatherization Various Buildings**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this is a reoccurring project and the next building to be addressed will be UCOB.

### **Gold Hill Water Tanks CP#495**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated the useful life of the water tank has been exceeded.

### **Fairground Improvements CP#550**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this project is for electric and sewage and wastewater improvements that are required to maintain permits.

### **EV Charging Stations**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell confirmed that four charging stations for the fleet and four charging stations for the community will be completed, and that the work includes electrical requirements.

### **Enterprise West Redevelopment Project CP#576**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell said they cannot expend funds from the Capital Project as the County does not have ownership of the facility. Legislator Bartels asked if modification will be pursued. Deputy County Executive Rider agreed to follow up.

### **Government Operations Center**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell said this is for siting and design.

### **Dominion Voting System**

Deputy County Executive Rider said this is for new Board of Elections voting machines.

### **DSS Basement Restoration CP#548**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell informed Committee members that this project is currently in design and they're in the process of assessing if storage or office space is best for the use of the area, disclosing there are ground-water issues.

### **Development Court LED Lighting Retrofit**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell said this project is being facilitated by the Department of Environment and involves a third-party contract agency. Chairman Gavaris confirmed that some reimbursement is available.

### **Courthouse Parking Lot Improvements**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell noted there is a flood issue during heavy rain and this project will address this issue.

### **Courthouse Fascia, Exterior Repairs & Roof Replacement CP#595**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell said design is complete and the project will be worked on during 2022. Legislator Bartels noted the ongoing costs of the project.

### **County Clerk Records Digitization Conversion**

Chairman Gavaris confirmed this project is fully outsourced and no in-house personnel is being utilized.

### **County Storage and Warehouse Facility**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this is for both Buildings & Grounds and the Sheriff's Office.

### **Central Auto Vehicles**

Deputy County Executive Rider confirmed this is the County's policy on fleet management and replacement.

### **Carr Building Renovation**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell noted that this project is for maintenance and is not intended to begin within the upcoming year.

### **Boiceville Substation Improvements**

Deputy Commissioner Quesnell stated this is concrete slab work on the building.

Chairman Gavaris asked if there were any questions on the debt schedules within the Capital Improvement Program, noting that some bonds exceeding current interest rates exist and there may be cost savings here. Legislator Archer confirmed with Commissioner of Finance Gulnick that an analysis will be shared with the Legislature pertaining to outstanding debt and potential savings.

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**New Business:** None

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**Old 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 Litts  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Time:** 7:03 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Amber Feaster  
**Minutes Approved:** November 9, 2021