

**Ways &  
Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** December 21, 2021 – 5:30  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing: 1-646-558-8656,  
Meeting ID: 841 5037 1906  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** John Gavaris, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Lynn Archer, Tracey Bartels, Heidi Haynes,  
Mary Beth Maio, John Parete, and Eve Walter  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr.  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Brian Cahill, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan  
Heppner, Herbert Litts III, and Laura Petit; Legislative  
Counsel Christopher Ragucci; Legislative Counsel Victor  
Cueva; Minority Counsel Nicholas Pascale; Clerk of the  
Legislature, Victoria Fabella, Deputy County Executives  
Marc Rider, Johanna Contreras, and John Milgrim;  
Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller Alicia  
DeMarco; Sheriff Juan Figueroa; Legislators-elect Kathy  
Nolan, and Joseph Maloney; Kevin Smith, Ulster County  
Trails Advisory Committee; Mike Baden, Town of  
Rochester Supervisor

- **Chairman Gavaris called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM**

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**Motion No. 1: To approve the minutes of the November 17, 2021, November 22, 2021,  
November 23, 2021, and December 2, 2021 Special Meetings**

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 570** - Authorizing The Purchase Of Replacement Maintenance Equipment At The Ulster County Community College Campus At SUNY Ulster Stone Ridge, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$100,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$100,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$100,000.00 Bonds for Capital Project No. 541 SUNY Ulster – Facilities Equipment.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Walter

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Archer

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 581** - Authoring The Issuance Of An Additional \$637,300.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of Infrastructure Improvements At The Ulster County Fairgrounds, In And For Said County

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$637,300.00 Bonds for amendments to Capital Project No. 550 Fairground Improvements to increase the funding available for construction of the sanitary sewer and campground area improvement.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Walter

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 4: To approve Resolution No. 584** - Authorizing A Portion Of The Cost Of The Construction Of The Broad Street Hollow Bridge In The Town Of Shankdaken, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$10,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$10,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$10,000.00 Bonds for amendments to Capital Project No. 580 - Broad Street Hollow Bridge, Town Of Shandaken to increase the funding available for design services due to the inflation cost of materials.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 5: To approve Resolution No. 586 -** Authorizing The Replacement Of Bridges, Throughout And In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$815,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$815,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$815,000.00 Bonds for the establishment of Capital Project Nos. 616 Lyonsville Bridge in the Town of Marbletown for \$175,000.00, 613 Crystal Spring Bridget in the Town of Shandaken for \$140,000.00, 614 Myer Bridge in the Town of Saugerties for \$202,000.00, and 615 Glen Brooks Bridge in the Town of Shandaken for \$298,000.00.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 6: To approve Resolution No. 588 -** Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$2,850,000.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Upgrade To The Countywide Radio System, For Said County

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$2,850,000.00 Bonds for amendments to Capital Project No. 482 – Countywide Radio System to expend the remaining balance of the \$6,000,000 on components of the radio system buildout including: Project Management, Construction of Radio Communications Towers and Microwave Links.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 7: To approve Resolution No. 591 -** Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$573,100.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Purchase And Installation Of Black Creek System Equipment In The Ulster County Jail, In And For Said County

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$573,100.00 Bonds for amendments to Capital Project No. 594 – Black Creek Upgrade to increase the project for J&J Sass Electric to perform all electrical work not covered by Black Creek.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 8: To approve Resolution No. 609 -** Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Catskill Mountain Railroad Company, Inc. – Department Of Public Works

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Catskill Mountain Railroad Company, Inc. from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 for revenue to permit operation of a tourist railroad on the eastern segment of the U&D corridor in the amount of \$50,000.00.

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

**Discussion:** Legislator Archer asked if further information on the contract was received. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider vocalized strong concerns over procurement practices, saying that if the Resolution is passed as a two (2) year contract there is a good chance the County Executive will veto it. Legislator Walter asked what would happen if the Resolution fails and there is no contract. Deputy County Executive Rider answered that if the contract is amended back to one (1) year the County Executive would agree with it. Legislator Archer asked how the sponsors feel about amending the contract back to one (1) year. Legislator Greene answered that they are not willing to rescind the amendment for two (2) years which came out of the Public Works and Capital Projects Committee. Legislator Greene emphasized that the sponsors do not feel any of the explanations provided justify changing the contract back to one (1) year. Legislator Bartels noted that the amendment would likely fail on the floor so the Committee needs to consider a yes or a no to a two (2) year contract, acknowledging that if the County Executive is contemplating a veto then the Legislature will have to address it in the upcoming year.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Bartels, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Archer, and Haynes  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 2  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 9: To approve Resolution No. 610 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$905,634.00 Entered Into By The County – NCACOMP, Inc – Insurance Department**

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with NCACOMP, Inc. for Self Insurance and Workers' Compensation third party administration from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 in the amount of \$905,634.00.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 10: To approve Resolution No. 647** – Establishing A Policy To Provide Budget Transparency

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution establishes a Policy requiring that any proposed operating budget for any ensuing fiscal year preceding the date of adoption of this legislation to contain a personnel listing, which shall include, but not be limited to: position number, position title, name of employee, employee's standard work hours, previous year's adopted compensation, and the proposed recommended compensation for the ensuing fiscal year.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 11: To approve Resolution No. 651** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$500,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Accucare N & H Inc. – Department Of Health

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Accucare N & H Inc. to increase funding for COVID-19 related nursing services from December 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021 for an additional \$500,000.00, making the contract total \$1,009,040.00.

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

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gavaris, Archer, Bartels, Haynes, Maio, Parete, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**New Business:**

**Resolution No. 650** – Authorizing The Required Steps For The Transfer Of Certain Real Properties Owned By Ulster County And Located At The Site Known As IBM Tech City East, Town Of Ulster, To The Ulster County Economic Development Alliance, Inc.

**Discussion:** Deputy Clerk of the Legislature – Finance Amber Feaster informed Committee members that this Resolution was postponed in Laws & Rules for the purpose of hearing the public’s input at tonight’s Public Hearing, and that there will be a Special Joint Meeting of the Ways & Means Committee and the Laws & Rules Committee to vote on the Resolution immediately following the Public Hearing.

**Comptroller Gallagher** – Office of the Comptroller update on office tasks and areas of focus

**Discussion:** Comptroller Gallagher informed Committee members revenues at the end of the third quarter were strong, expenses were lower than expectations, and her Office is anticipating a surplus even larger than last year’s due to these findings. Comptroller Gallagher continued that Ulster County incurred substantial job growth in two sectors: hospitality and government.

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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 Walter  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Time:** 5:45 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Amber Feaster  
**Minutes Approved:** February 8, 2022

**Ways &  
Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Transcript**

**DATE & TIME:** December 21, 2021 – 5:30  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing: 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 841 5037 1906  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** John Gavaris, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Lynn Archer, Tracey Bartels, Heidi Haynes, Mary Beth Maio, John Parete, and Eve Walter  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr.  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Brian Cahill, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, Herbert Litts III, and Laura Petit; Legislative Counsel Christopher Ragucci; Legislative Counsel Victor Cueva; Minority Counsel Nicholas Pascale; Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella, Deputy County Executives Marc Rider, Johanna Contreras, and John Milgrim; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller Alicia DeMarco; Sheriff Juan Figueroa; Legislators-elect Kathy Nolan, and Joseph Maloney; Kevin Smith, Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee; Mike Baden, Town of Rochester Supervisor

- **Chairman Gavaris called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM**
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**Chairman Gavaris:** All right, I'd like to call the December 21st Meeting of Ways and Means to order.

Can I have approval of the minutes from November 17th, and 22nd, 23rd, and December 2nd meetings.

**Legislator Bartels:** So moved.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Second?

**Legislator Archer:** Second.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Archer. Discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? So carried.

Resolution 570: Authorizing the purchase of replacement maintenance equipment, maximum estimated costs of \$100,000 and authorizing the issuance of bonds. Can I have motion?

**Legislator Archer:** I'll move it.



**Chairman Gavaris:** Walter. Second, Archer. Discussion? All those in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Opposed? So carried.

581: Authorizing the issuance of additional \$637,300 for the infrastructure improvements at the Ulster County Fairgrounds. Could I have a motion?

**Legislator Bartels:** So moved.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Second? Walter. Discussion? All those in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Opposed? So carried.

584: Authorizing a portion of the cost of construction in Broad Street Hollow Bridge. Could I have a motion?

**Legislator Bartels:** So moved.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Second? Walter. Discussion? All those in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Opposed? So carried.

586: Authorizing replacement bridges throughout and in the Ulster County. Could I have a motion?

**Legislator Bartels:** So moved.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Second, Walter. Discussion? All those in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Opposed? So carried.

588: Authorizing the issuance of additional \$2,850,000 bonds for the upgrade to the countywide radio system. Could I have a motion?

**Legislator Bartels:** So moved.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Walter. Second, Bartels. Discussion? All those in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Gavaris:** So carried.

591: Authorizing the issuance of an additional \$573,100 for the Black Creek system. Could I have a motion? Legislator Archer. Second? Haynes. Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? So carried.

5, sorry, 609: Approving the execution of contract for \$50,000 entered into to by the Catskill Mountain Railroad.

**Legislator Archer:** I'll move for discussion.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Second? Walter. Discussion?

**Legislator Archer:** Did we get any further information on this? I know it's amended at two years at this juncture. Did we have any outstanding questions on this?

**Chairman Gavaris:** I don't think we did.

**Deputy Executive Rider:** I spoke with Jonathan earlier today. So I don't, I don't know if that was relayed.

**Legislator Archer:** Okay.

**Legislator Walter:** It wasn't.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels:** I was just gonna say, it wasn't, is it something that you could share with the committee?

**Deputy Executive Rider:** Sure, I, I mean, so, what I had said last night, you know, we have strong concerns over procurement, and we're gonna have to take a close look at this, if it passes it two years. I

think there is a good chance that the, the Executive would veto it. He, he really doesn't want to, but from, from a procurement perspective, again, I've shared these concerns with every committee for the last month, so.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Walter.

**Legislator Walter:** Thank you, just as a point of process, though, if we vote it down, then there's nothing on the table. There's not even a one-year contract. Correct? Or what, what, happens if, if it doesn't get approved? If someone could explain?

**Deputy Executive Rider:** So, if it got amended on the floor back to one year, we would have, we would agree with that, and you know, as long as that passed, it would, it would go through and they would have a one-year contract.

**Legislator Archer:** And, sorry.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Legislator Bartels and then Archer.

**Legislator Bartels:** Legislator Archer can go first.

**Legislator Archer:** Yeah, I thought that and, and, and, and I thought, and Manna's here, I thought I saw her. I know Manna and was going to speak to Herb. I see that Herb is here. Are you guys willing to amend this to just for the ease of ensuring the process and that there's no gap in licensing for the railroad to amend it back to the one year, which was the original submission?

**Legislator Greene:** Legislator Archer, are you speaking to me directly?

**Legislator Archer:** Well, I, through the Chair to both you and Herb, because I thought it, you would left it the other day that you wanted to speak to your cosponsor on this.

**Legislator Greene:** I did and we're not willing to rescind the amendment for two years. That stands, you know, coming out of Public Works and where we don't think that any of the explanations justify changing it back to one year.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Legislator Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels:** Thank you. So yeah, I mean, I think Legislator Walter has, you know, in her question, crystallized the problem, you know, we're, what we, what we have before us is a two-year renewal. There is not, not only is there not the sponsors willingness to amend to, to a one year. I have full belief that if we did propose that as an amendment on the floor, that it would fail. That's my

understanding. I mean, we could do that as a token, but that the amendment would fail. So what's before us is the two year and it's a, it's a yay, or nay on the two year, and a nay means that there's no contract in place, but it's it's, it appears it's going to pass. So if the Exec is, is contemplating a, a veto, that's something that we'll have to address in the coming term, certainly. But I mean, I, yesterday in caucus, I also felt like Legislator Walter made a compelling argument related to timing and COVID and a local business that that moved me a bit so I have a little more comfort with voting for this. But I also have awareness that if this were to pass, which it appears, it will, that we are very likely going to have to deal with it in the coming term.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Any other discussion? Legislator Greene.

**Legislator Greene:** I did check with Attorney Ragucci and the, there was a question of if there, if it was vetoed, and there is no contract, can we address it in January, and he said unquestionably, yes, and I believe that Legislator Litts checked with Republican Counsel as well.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Any other discussion? All right, all those in favor? Opposed? One, two, two opposed. All right. Motion carried.

Let's see, 610: Approving the execution of a contract for \$905,634, with, for the insurance. Can I have a motion? Walter. Second, Archer. Discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? So carried.

647: Establishing a policy to provide budget transparency, as presented before. Can I have a motion? Legislator Archer. Second, Walter. Discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? No opposed. Okay. Carried unanimous.

Late Resolution 651: Approving the execution of a contract amendment for \$500,000 for Accucare. Can I have a motion? Legislator Walter. Second, Bartels. Discussion? All those in favor? Opposed? So carried.

And another new resolution 650, authorizing the required steps of the transfer certain real properties known as IBM Tech City East was postponed so.....are we acting on this now Amber, or later?

**Deputy Clerk Feaster:** 650 was postponed in Laws and Rules for the purpose of hearing the Public Hearing today. So there will be a Special Meeting between the Ways and Means Committee and the Laws and Rules Committee after the Public Hearing to vote on the resolution.

**Chairman Gavaris:** [inaudible] okay, any other discussion today? All right. Comptroller Gallagher, anything?

**Comptroller Gallagher:** Thank you. I just wanted to fill you in on a couple items from our third quarterly report that I thought you would find of interest. Right now, our revenues, at the end of the third

quarter we're at 73% of budget, compared to last year, we were only 63% of budget. Granted last year was the pandemic, but even the year prior, we were at 61.9% of budget. So it just shows you that we are way ahead in revenues.

On the expenditure side, we were at 57% of budgeted expenditures in '21, at the end of the third quarter. I'm going to compare to the prior two years. Last year, we were 55.8%. Given all the cuts that you and the County Executives administration put into place, and even in 2019, we're only at 61.9% of budgeted expenditures.

So we are, what my message to you is, we are way below on our budgeted expenditures and way ahead on our budget and revenues. You guys are looking at a surplus probably even larger than last year. Not a firm prediction, but I just thought it would be helpful to you.

And then let me just also say we're in the third quarterly report, which will come out next week, you'll also see that some substantial job numbers have come back. Leisure and Hospitality which I don't think is anybody surprise, grew year over year by 16.7%. I mean, I'm sorry, 16.4%, adding 1,100 jobs in the year ended, you know, the end of October, and then also local government came back with 600 more jobs. In, so I thought that would be helpful information for you. Thanks. That's all I've got. I look forward to putting a report out next week. Thanks.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Legislator Walter.

**Legislator Walter:** Thank you, um, through the Chair to the Comptroller, and maybe this will be in the report. It's great, you know, we all like money and extra money. But, you know, for me, it's like sometimes not meeting the budgeted expenditures are good, and sometimes they're bad. Will your report kind of delineate sort of where it's bad that we didn't spend the money as opposed to where it was good?

**Comptroller Gallagher:** The report doesn't make a judgement, but it does show what departments that's in and I don't unfortunately have it on my screen right now to share with you but I'd be happy to follow up with you one on one and then if you have specific questions about those programs, I'd be more than happy to look into it.

**Legislator Walter:** Great, thank you.

**Comptroller Gallagher:** Yeah, thanks.

**Chairman Gavaris:** Anything else? Otherwise, I'll entertain a motion to, are we adjourning or, yeah okay. Motion to adjourn? Walter. Second, Bartels. All those in favor? Opposed? All right 6:40, we'll see everyone then. Thank you.