

**Ways &
Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: December 15, 2020 – 5:00
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by dialing 1-646-558-8656,
Meeting ID 935 6914 7997
PRESIDING OFFICER: Lynn Archer, Chairwoman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster, and Jay Mahler
PRESENT: Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Tracey Bartels, John Gavaris, Heidi Haynes, and Eve Walter; and Legislative Chairman David B. Donaldson
ABSENT: Legislator Mary Beth Maio
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Criswell, Heppner; Minority Counsel Nick Pascale; Deputy County Executives Marc Rider, and Evelyn Wright; Comptroller March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller Christopher Quirk

- **Chairwoman Archer called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM**

Motion No. 1: To approve Resolution No. 426 – Amending The Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations – Ulster County Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution revises the Policy for Appropriating Funding to Non-County Organizations to correct for infringement upon the authority given to the Legislative Programs, Education, and Community Services Committee.

Motion Made By: Legislator
Motion Seconded By: Legislator

Discussion: Chairwoman Archer requested that the Resolution be postponed as no one was present to speak on the Resolution.

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 427 – Authorizing And Appropriating A One-Time Compensatory Time Payment To Certain Employees Of The Ulster County Board Of Elections, as Amended

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes a one-time payout of all accrued compensatory time, including compensatory time for hours worked over 105, accrued as of November 21, 2020, to be issued in December 2020 for eight (8) current employees of the Ulster County Board of Elections.

Motion Made By: Legislator

Motion Seconded By: Legislator

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: Legislator Ronk

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 1

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 3: To approve Resolution No. 439 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Resource Allocation Plan And Inter-Municipal Agreements With The Various Municipalities To Be Funded Under the Resource Allocation Plan – Youth Bureau

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the Ulster County Youth Bureau’s 2020 Resource Allocation Plan in the amount of \$194,911.00, authorizes the Chair to sign the resource allocation plan and any other contracts or agreements required as a result of this funding, and authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute inter-municipal agreements with the various municipalities which will be funded under the approved allocation plan.

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 4: To approve Resolution No. 449 – Amending Capital Project No. 519, Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades – Amending The 2020 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Buildings & Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends Capital Project No. 519, Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades to increase the funding available for design services for boiler replacement in the amount of \$54,000.00.

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

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: Legislator Bartels

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 1

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 5: To approve Resolution No. 450 – Authorizing Design And Planning Costs In Connection With The Construction Of Energy Upgrades To The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, Estimated And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$54,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$54,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$54,000.00 Bonds for Capital Project No. 519, Ulster County Law Enforcement Center Energy Upgrades to increase the funding available for design services for boiler replacement.

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

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: Legislator Bartels

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 1

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 6: To approve Resolution No. 453 – Authorizing Design And Planning Cost In Connection With The Reconstruction Of The McKinstry Bridge In The Town Of Gardiner, In

And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$120,000.00,
And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$120,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the issuance of \$120,000.00 Bonds for Capital Project No. 577 McKinstry Bridge, Town of Gardiner.

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

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 7: To block Resolutions No. 455 and 456.

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

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 8: To approve the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 455 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$106,365.00 Entered Into By
The County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Youth Bureau

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Family of Woodstock from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for the Family House Shelter in the amount of \$106,365.00.

Resolution No. 456 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$79,870.00 Entered Into By The
County – Family Of Woodstock Inc. – Youth Bureau

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Family of Woodstock from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for Transitional Living in the amount of \$79,870.00.

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

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 9: To approve Resolution No. 467 – Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 14 Of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 17 Of 2007, A Local Law To Create The Department Of The Environment And The Office Of Coordinator Of The Department Of The Environment For The County of Ulster

Resolution Summary: This Resolution adopts Proposed Local Law No. 14 of 2020, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 17 Of 2007, A Local Law To Create The Department Of The Environment And The Office Of Coordinator Of The Department Of The Environment For The County of Ulster.

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

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: Legislator Ronk

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 1

Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 10: To approve Resolution No. 470 – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Accept The National Association Of County And City Health Officials Implementing Opioid Overdose Prevention Strategies At The Local Level Grant, And Amending The 2021 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to accept and sign the award and contract provided by the National Association of County and City Health

Official's Implementing Opioid Overdose Prevention Strategies at the Local Level Grant, and amends the 2021 Ulster County Operating Budget in the amount of \$497,359.00.

Motion Made By: Legislator

Motion Seconded By: Legislator

Discussion: None

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

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

Old Business: None

New Business: None

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 5:17 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster

Minutes Approved: February 9, 2021

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- **Chairwoman Archer called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM**

Chairwoman Archer: Started I'd like to call the December 15th Ways and Means meeting, committee meeting to order. Natalie, could you take roll call?

Natalie Kelder: Archer

Chairwoman Archer: Here

Natalie Kelder: Ronk

Legislator Ronk: Present.

Natalie Kelder: Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Gavaris.

Legislator Gavaris: Present.

Natalie Kelder: Haynes

Legislator Haynes: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Maio

Walter.

Legislator Walter: Here.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. So do we have Legislator Criswell? Yes we do. Okay, so I'll take a motion to for discussion to move Resolution 426.

Legislator Ronk: So moved.

Legislator Bartels: And I'll second that.

Chairwoman Archer: Second? Thank you.

So Legislator Criswell, you want to speak to this, this is the amending the policy for funding non-county organizations.

Legislator Criswell: Yes, thank you very much. So, we kind of went round on, on this a bit in democratic caucus. And I wanted to say that I think this is actually a lot more simple than I, I think it got sort of spun into. What my intention was, was to basically just reinstate the oversight of the committee to what it originally was approved of in January, in the original committee approvals. And so I think that that's what this language does. And I think it's a fairly simple move. I know that there was some conversations about other areas that would need to be looked at and adjusted so that we're making sure that the right committees are oversight of the right issues and things like that. And I, I totally agree with that. But I think that's a separate issue than what this is tonight. And I'd say let's tackle that in the next year. And I'm all for that and happy to sit on any sort of committee that's going to do that.

Chairwoman Archer: And wasn't there an amendment that you were going to propose?

Legislator Criswell: There was questions about one particular word, which was about sole oversight. And so

Chairwoman Archer: Sole jurisdiction, right.

Legislator Criswell: Sole jurisdiction, thank you very much. Sorry. And if, if striking sole jurisdiction, will make this move forward. I'm happy to make that amendment.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Any other questions? Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Thank you, I, I appreciate the willingness to strike the word sole, that would make me more comfortable. You know, this is one that um, and we did go round and round on it yesterday, that I've struggled with a little bit, because I think we still haven't found a way to deal with this comprehensively. And I also feel like this leaves out certain, certain committees and,

and certain organizations, one example being Soil and Water, but in consideration of my colleagues wishes, those who serve on on the art, you know, the programs committee, and in consideration of the need to, to have work to do moving forward, starting, starting in January, I'm willing to, to move this forward with the understanding that we're going we're going to do that work. And I of course, take you at your word Legislator Criswell. So I'd be willing to move this forward, although I would like to see that word sole stricken because I'm just afraid it would have impacts in terms of Ways and Means financial oversight. And then I would look forward to working with the programs committee throughout the year to figure out a way to address not only this aspect, but then figuring out how to handle it through whichever, whichever other committees are relevant, as well.

Chairwoman Archer: So are you making the, a motion to amend the,

Legislator Ronk: Can't amend, without amending on the floor.

Chairwoman Archer: I guess we'll have to amend it on the floor tonight. Right, right.

Legislator Bartels: I think we'll have to amend it on the floor, but as long as I, as long as there's the understanding and agreement and I'd be happy to have Legislator Criswell make that amendment to strike the word sole I would second it. I mean, it's, it's his resolution.

Chairwoman Archer: On the floor. Okay. All right. Any other questions on this?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah, I'm sorry, I'm late. I couldn't get in. I was dialing, they gave me the wrong number.

Chairwoman Archer: Well you're here now, please let the record show Chairman Donaldson is joined us.

Alright, so any other questions on this one? Okay, all in favor of moving, all in favor of approving 426?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I think I am. I didn't hear all the information but

Legislator Ronk: You are Dave.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Okay.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? Any opposed?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Well if Ken, if Ken says I am then sounds good to me.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Resolution 427 authorizing and appropriating a onetime compensatory time payment to certain employees of the Ulster County Board of Elections, as amended. Move?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels. Legislator Bartels, do you want to speak to this?

Legislator Bartels: I could I just draw the committee's attention to the amendment which is, which is highlighted in the packet which would extend the, the period to the first pay period in January. January, I don't I don't have it open in front of me.

Chairwoman Archer: 16th, 16th.

Legislator Bartels: 16th I want to say, and that would allow time for for for the drawdown of comp time, which is already happening is my understanding.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk

Legislator Ronk: Thank you. Um, I've made this point a couple times in Laws and Rules regarding this resolution last month and this month. Um, you know, I, I agree with Legislator Bartels that there's currently a drawdown happening, you know, due to the restrictions for the number of people that can be in a county offices at the same time, and the fact that Board of Elections work really can't be done from home, they're gonna have an awful lot of opportunities to draw down their comp time. Um, you know, I don't see the reason to move forward on a payout. We, we don't pay out comp time for any other department. So, I, I feel strongly, I know that the argument that gets made often on this is it's grant funded, so we don't have to worry about it. A) grant funding is still taxpayer dollars. And B) we could use that grant funding for other items that are needed at the Board of Elections, that that we're eventually going to have to go back to the taxpayers for. So I, I understand that, you know, these are our political friends and appointments and whatnot but I, I just can't see a you know, spending taxpayer money to pay out comp time for eight individuals when they absolutely are going to have the opportunity to draw down their comp time moving forward.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Haynes, then Bartels.

Legislator Haynes: I'm going to go ahead and support this like I have been but with it being contingent to the fact that we are still going to look into how to address this issue because I'm fairly certain that we're still going to, we haven't done anything to correct this moving forward.

So I trust in Legislator Bartels and, and, you know, anybody else that was, you know, willing to lead the charge on this and take a look at this moving forward.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, thank you, Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Thank you. I would just, I appreciate the comment from Legislator Haynes. And I look forward to working with you in whatever capacity you want to in that regard as well. And I commit to that, I just also did want to point out that the grant funding that we're using is for expenditures previous to December 31st. And the expense, the grant request, filing must be by January 30th. And that's just a point of information.

Chairwoman Archer: Great. Okay. All in favor of Resolution 427? Okay, opposed?

Legislator Ronk: I'm a no.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, Legislator Ronk's a no. Everyone else is yes.

Resolution 439: Authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a resource allocation plan and intermunicipal agreements with the various municipalities to be funded under the resource allocation plan for the youth bureau. Move?

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it.

Legislator Bartels: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Legislator Bartels move, Legislator Ronk seconded.

Now these as you will see, I think Natalie sent out everybody the contracts that we received from Deputy Rider. So hopefully you've all had a chance to review those. Any other questions on this? No, all in favor of Resolution 439?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? Okay, so moved.

Resolution 449; Amending the Capital Project number 519, Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, energy upgraded.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Second?

Legislator Walter: I'll second.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you, Legislator Walter. Any questions? Okay, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So moved.

Resolution 450 is the bond for the energy upgrade.

Legislator Bartels: Did you see, I'm sorry.

Chairwoman Archer: Yep.

Legislator Bartels: Chair Archer, did you see I'm, I'm going to be a no to protest no. I'll speak to it on the floor.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't catch that.

Legislator Bartels: I Just wanted to make sure you saw my hand.

Chairwoman Archer: I did not. So thank you for bringing that to my attention. So on 449, you're a no.

Okay. 450; Authorizing the design and planning costs in connection with the construction of energy upgrades to the Law Enforcement Center.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Walter: I'll second.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Any questions, concerns? Okay, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? Legislator Bartels.

Okay. Resolution 453; Authorizing the design and planning cost in conjunction in connection with reconstruction of the McKinstry bridge in the town of Gardiner and in for the County of Ulster for \$120,000.

Legislator Ronk: Move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels. Any questions? concerns? All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So moved.

I'll take a motion to block Resolutions 455 and 456, Family of Woodstock.

Legislator Ronk: I'll make a motion to block them.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Walter: I'll second.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. On the block, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? Okay. Okay, on the resolutions, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So moved.

Resolution 467; Adopting the Proposed Local Law Number 14 of 2020, a Local Law Amending Local Law Number 17 of 2020, to create the Department of the Environment and the Office of Coordinator of the Department of Environment for the County of Ulster. Move?

Legislator Bartels: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Walter: I'll second.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Any questions, concerns? Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Yeah, thanks, I'm gonna be a no, on on the adoption of this law. Um, you know, I respect the reasoning behind the title change, but due to the fact that the individual in the position was, you know, given a, a raise in the Executives budget, of course, it was removed as part of the rate increase resolution, but I believe that they will or desire is still there to raise the salary of the position. If that is part of the reasoning behind the title change, or if the title change is part of the reasoning behind the salary increase, then we should be honest with the taxpayers when it comes to the financial impact of this resolution, which is listed at none. You know, I've heard a lot of arguments about the, you know, the reason for the title change is that there's more staff there. So it should be a Director position instead of Coordinator. I remember that over the years, when we've when we've added to the staff of the department. It was because the Director was doing too much work and needed to have people to be able to spread the work around. And

then, you know, the reasoning behind changing it to Director from Coordinator and raising the salary is because now there are, you know, people under her and she's got more work to do. So to me, there's a lot of circular logic there that makes it so I just can't be, feel comfortable supporting this at this time.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I feel very comfortable supporting it. What's before us is the title change, not a not a salary change. I strongly support the idea of a salary increase for this position, but could not do it this year, which is why I voted no to the raises. But you know, I've been at events with the coordinator of the Department of the Environment, big events, and I can tell you that there's something in that title that just doesn't give the respect it deserves to, to the person in that position and to the department itself. And so I think this has been a long time coming. And while it's just one word, I think it means a lot. And it would mean a lot to to the person in the position. But I think it would mean a lot to the county in terms of stepping up to acknowledging the importance of the department to give the Department a Director. This, this Coordinator has brought in over \$6 million in direct grants to the county. She's done an incredible job. And again, it's, it's a small thing. It's a one word change, but I think it's a really important distinction and it's, it's a sign of respect and so I strongly support this.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. I just want to make it clear that my position on this has nothing to do with the individual in the position. Apparently, there's some sort of delusion going on that I'm against this person or trying to drag her name through the mud. That's absolutely not the case. I think she's done a great job for the county. I just think that we should be honest with our intentions when we're passing these things to the taxpayers. Um, you know, if the intention is; that there's going to be a salary increase at some point, in part due to this title change, then we should be honest with the taxpayers. I think that what's being perpetrated here is some dishonesty. That's all.

Chairwoman Archer: Any other questions, concerns? Okay. All in favor of resolution 467? Opposed? Legislator Ronk's the only opposition.

Okay, moving forward Resolution 470; Authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to accept the National Association of county and city health officials implementing opioid overdose prevention. Take a motion to move for discussion.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, second?

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay thank you. Any other questions or concerns on this? Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Not a question or concern. I just want to say that I'm I'm really grateful that we're getting this grant, we in Laws and Rules, because it was a late we got an, you know, a detailed explanation from Mr. Martello yesterday. And, you know, it's, it's there's a lot of exciting work that's about to happen. And so I just want to recognize and acknowledge that and say that I'm looking forward to it.

Chairwoman Archer: Great. Thank you. All right. All in favor of the resolution?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? Okay, so move.

Anybody have any new or old business?

Okay, I listen, I just want to wish everyone, take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy, safe and healthy holiday. And also thank you for all your hard work this year. I really appreciate it. So with that, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Ronk: So moved.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Walter: I'll second it and thank you for your great leadership.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh thanks. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Have a good one everyone, see you shortly.