

**Ways & Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: April 18, 2023 – 5:00 PM
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Gavaris
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
PRESENT: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Roberts (arrived at 5:05), Ronk, & Walter
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Criswell, Erner, Hansut, Maloney, Nolan, Petit, & Uchitelle, Legislative Counsel Gordon & Ragucci, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature Feaster – UC Clerk of the Legislature, Deputy County Executives Contreras & LaValle – UC Executive’s Office, Sheriff Figueroa – UC Sheriff’s Office, Comptroller Gallagher & Deputy Comptroller DeMarco – UC Comptroller’s Office, Interim Commissioner of Finance Juras – UC Department of Finance, Deputy Commissioner Millian – UC DPW Fleet (via teleconference, Deputy Commissioner Rylewicz DPW Administration

Chair Gavaris called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM

Resolutions for the April 18, 2023 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 101: Amending The 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Program – Establishing Capital Project No. 656 – 2023 County Fleet Vehicles – Amending The 2023 Capital Fund Budget – Department Of Public Works (Central Garage)

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2023 – 2028 Capital Improvement Program to increase by \$490,000.00 and establishes Capital Project No. 656, 2023 County Fleet Vehicles, in the amount of \$2,540,000.00.

Motion No. 1: **MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 101, AS PRESENTED**
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels explained that the presented amendment is for the removal of one vehicle for the Department of Human Rights in the amount of \$60,000 because there was never an official approval from the Executive’s Office for the addition of the vehicle.

Legislative Chair Bartels stated that the take home vehicle policy and the Department’s Standard Operating Procedures should be reviewed within the Public Works, Capital Projects, & Transportation Committee.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Ronk, & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED AS PRESENTED**

Resolution No. 102: Authorizing The Purchase Of County Fleet Vehicles, For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of ~~\$2,600,000.00~~ **\$2,540,000.00**, And Authorizing The Issuance Of An Aggregate ~~\$2,600,000.00~~ **\$2,540,000.00** Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes \$2,540,000 of bonds for the purchase of county fleet vehicles.

Motion No. 2: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 102, AS PRESENTED
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels noted that the amended version contains the decrease of \$60,000 for the unapproved Human Rights vehicle.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Roberts, Ronk, & Walter
Voting Against: Legislator Gavaris
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED, AS PRESENTED

Resolution No. 123: Establishing A Policy To Formalize Procedures Relating To Future Hiring Freezes

Resolution Summary: This Resolution establishes a Policy to formalize the procedures related to any future hiring freezes.

Motion No. 3: MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 123
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Legislator Walter asked if Legislative Counsel Ragucci had any concerns regarding the proposed policy.

Legislative Counsel Ragucci suggested adding language to carve out any existing contracts that may be affected.

Legislator Ronk suggested postponement to allow for Legislative Counsel Ragucci and Minority Counsel Pascale to work together on potential amendment language.

Motion No. 4: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 123
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts, Ronk, & Walter
Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 127: Establishing A Policy To Prioritize ~~Feeding~~ **Meals For** Ulster County Residents Living In Emergency Housing

Resolution Summary: This Resolution establishes a policy to provide meals for Ulster County residents living in emergency housing.

Motion No. 5: **MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 127**
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislator Uchitelle explained that significant amendments have been made but felt that they were substantial changes to the policy and should therefore be reviewed in the committee of original jurisdiction and requested the Resolution to be referred to the Health, Human Services & Housing Committee.

Motion No. 6: **MOTION TO REFER Resolution No. 127 to Health, Human Services & Housing Committee**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts, Ronk, & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution REFERRED to Health, Human Services & Housing Committee**

Resolution No. 153: Amending The 2023 County Budget To Fund The Maintenance Of Tax Foreclosed Property Located At 701 Grant Ave., Town Of Ulster – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2023 Ulster County Budget to fund the maintenance of tax foreclosed properties located at 701 Grant Avenue in the Town of Ulster, in the amount of \$169,134.00.

Motion No. 7: **MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 153, AS PRESENTED**
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels explained that after extensive discussion with the County Executive’s Office, the budget has been updated to include all current tenants, while cleaning, fuel, snow removal, maintenance and other repairs, garbage removal, were all adjusted downward. Legislative Chair Bartels went

on to explain that these cuts were made by the new property manager from the old property manager's original budget.

Legislator Ronk expressed concern that the property is now publicly owned, and some level of due diligence is needed.

Legislator Nolan stated that the numbers are estimates and the Executive Offices' best guess.

Legislator Maloney questioned who will oversee the procurement process for Vetere Real Estate LTD, as the company must follow county procurement guidelines. Deputy County Executive LaValle explained that the property manager will work with the Ulster County Department of Public Works to follow the proper procurement process.

Legislator Cahill noted the size of the building and questioned if the maintenance firm has worked with similarly sized buildings. Dean Rylewicz, Deputy Commissioner of DPW, explained that Vetere previously managed 368 Broadway, and two properties affiliated with Kingston Hospital, all of substantial size.

Legislative Chair Bartels stated that the contract is in draft form and that the Legislative attorneys are going to review the contract with the County Attorney as the contract intends for a joint bank account and the county was going to reimburse the firm for half a million dollars of tax payments.

Chairman Gavaris stated that he toured the building, and noted the extreme size of the building.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts & Walter
Voting Against: Legislator Ronk
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED AS PRESENTED**

Resolution No. 154: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For ~~\$1,082,435.00~~ **\$195,200.00** Entered Into By The County – Vetere Real Estate LTD. – Department of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract in the amount of \$195,200.00 with Vetere Real Estate LTD. for property management agreement at 701 Grant Avenue.

Motion No. 8: **MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 154, AS PRESENTED**
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels stated that the detail behind this contract is in Resolution No. 153 and the taxes and Central Hudson portions have been removed as they will be paid directly from Ulster County and the previously discussed decreases have all been applied.

Legislator Ronk expressed dissatisfaction with the way the amendments have been implemented and stated opposition to the resolution in addition to Resolution No. 153.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts & Walter
Voting Against: Legislator Ronk
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 1
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED AS PRESENTED**

Resolution No. 180: Authorizing The Bridge Substructure Repair For Various Bridges, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$118,275.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$118,275.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$118,275 of bonds for Capital Project No. 585, Bridge Substructure Repair, for professional services.

Resolution No. 182: Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$450,000.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of Retrofit Lighting At The Development Court, In And For Said County

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$450,000 of bonds for Capital Project No. 611, Development Court LED Lighting retrofit.

Resolution No. 185: Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$600,000.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Purchase Of A Replacement Voting System, In And For Said County

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$600,000 of bonds for Capital Project No. 621, Voting System Replacements.

Resolution No. 187: Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$30,000.00 Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York, To Pay Part Of The Cost Of The Replacement Of A Large Culvert On Awosting Road (C.R. 109A) In The Town Of Shawangunk, In And For Said County

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$30,000 of bonds for Capital Project No. 640, Large Culvert Program for the culvert on Awosting Road in the Town of Shawangunk.

Resolution No. 189: Authorizing The Pavement Preservation Of Various Roads Throughout And In And For The County Of Ulster, New York At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$650,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$650,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$650,000 of bonds for Capital Project No. 659, pavement preservation of various roads, for road materials.

Resolution No. 191: Authorizing Improvements To Bridges For Flag Response, Throughout And In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$110,250.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$110,250.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the issuance of \$110,250 of bonds for Capital Project No. 660, 2023 Bridge Flag Response for bridge materials.

Resolution No. 193: Authorizing Preliminary Design For Bridge Superstructure Reconstruction, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$65,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$65,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes \$65,000 of bonds for Capital Project No. 661, Bridge Superstructure Repairs, for professional services.

Resolution No. 196: Authorizing The Guide Rail Replacement Program Throughout And In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$150,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$150,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes \$150,000 of bonds for Capital Project No. 602, 2023 Guiderail Replacement, for construction expenses.

Resolution No. 198: Authorizing The Replacement Of The Stream Culvert In A Tributary To The Sawkill River, Under A Portion Of Wittenberg Road In The Town Of Woodstock, In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$250,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$250,000.00 Bonds Of Said County To Pay The Cost Thereof

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves \$250,000 of bonds for Capital Project No. 663, Woodstock Culvert #2, for bridge materials.

Motion No. 9: MOTION TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 180, 182, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 196 AND 198

Motion By: Legislator Walter

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts, Ronk & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolutions BLOCKED

Motion No. 10: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution Nos. 180, 182, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 196 AND 198.

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Cahill

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Roberts, Ronk & Walter

Voting Against: Legislator Gavaris

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 1

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 199: Establishing A Policy To Provide Healthy, Locally Sourced Food To Those Facing Food Insecurity, Through Community Supported Agriculture

Resolution Summary: This Resolution establishes a policy to provide healthy and locally sourced food to those facing food insecurity.

Motion No. 11: MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 199, AS PRESENTED
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels stated that with Legislator Sperry, they are asking for a postponement and will come back next month with a more comprehensive policy for the 2024 Budget but are also interested in implementing Legislator Erner's suggestion of a pilot program.

Motion No. 12: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 199
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts, Ronk, & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

Resolution No. 213: Adopting Revised Ulster County Fund Balance Policy

Resolution Summary: This Resolution adopts a revised Ulster County Fund Balance Policy, adjusting the various thresholds.

Motion No. 13: MOTION TO DISCUSS Resolution No. 213
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels explained that after extensive comments from Comptroller Gallagher, more time is needed to review the policy.

Motion No. 14: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 213
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts, Ronk, & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution POSTPONED**

Resolution No. 214: Amending The 2023 County Budget To Defund Two Grant Positions In The Finance Department, And Fund Two Grant Positions in the Budget Division – Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2023 Ulster County Budget to defund two grant positions in the Department of Finance for \$120,970 combined and fund two grant positions in the Division of Budget for \$150,000 combined.

Motion No. 15: **MOTION TO APPROVE Resolution No. 214, AS PRESENTED**
Motion By: Legislator Walter
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion: Legislator Walter stated support to have these positions moved to the Division of Budget and noted that these positions will ultimately pay for themselves, and money is being left of the table.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts, Ronk, & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 215: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2023, A Local Law Amending The Ulster County Charter, (Local Law No. 2 Of 2006), And Amending The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster, (Local Law No. 10 Of 2008), To Establish The Department Of Budget, To Be Held On Tuesday, May 16, 2023 At 7:20 PM

Resolution Summary: This Resolution sets a Public Hearing, to be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at 7:20 PM, on Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2023, a local law amending the Ulster County Charter and amending the Administrative Code for the County of Ulster and establishes the Department of Budget.

Motion No. 16: **MOTION TO ADOPT Resolution No. 215, AS PRESENTED**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter

Discussion: Legislative Chair Bartels explained that the amendment allows the Legislature to confirm the appointment for the Director of Budget and allow the Director to also report to the Ulster County Legislature.

Legislator Maloney stated that even though it was in the Charter, the Legislature previously had no access to the Commissioner to Finance and suggested additional charter changes to provide more oversight to the Legislature.

The committee discussed the budget estimates and lack of adherence to the charter from the previous administration, regardless of what is written in the Ulster County Charter.

Legislative Chair Bartels redirected the conversation and asked if any additional specifics need to be added to the Resolution for the Public Hearing.

Legislator Ronk stated that no damage will be done by moving forward, however, further delaying this Resolution could be detrimental.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Bartels, Cahill, Gavaris, Roberts, Ronk, & Walter
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED AS PRESENTED**

Comptroller Gallagher stated that in light of recent events the Comptroller’s Office has a series of requested changes for the Charter Revision Committee, however, it does not appear that suggestions will go to ballot this year and therefore Legislative approval will be needed. In addition, a Real Property Audit and 2022 Sales Tax Update have been issued and the office is currently auditing IDA (Industrial Development Agency) and Solar Pilot Agreements, also reviewing CARES I, various capital projects, and working with UCEDA on the iPark transactions.

Legislator Maloney noted that the Legislature added the Quality Analyst to the Comptrollers Department and questioned if Legislators would be allowed any input into the various tasks or reviews that are assigned. Comptroller Gallagher was agreeable and explained that the plan was to create different groupings of contracts to aid in the direction of the analysis.

Chairman Gavaris moved on to the Forthcoming Local Laws portion of the agenda.

Resolution No. 486 of 2022 – Adopting The Ulster County Information Services/ Information Technology Security Policy – Department Of Information Services
(Postponed for one month in Ways & Means on 4/11/23)

Resolution No. 86 - Amending The 2023 Ulster County Budget To Create Two Fully Reimbursable Full-Time Positions – Ulster County Industrial Development Agency
(Postponed in Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts, and Agriculture on 4/3/2023)

Resolution No. 87 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$430,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Ulster County Industrial Development Agency
(Postponed in Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts, and Agriculture on 4/3/2023)

Resolution No. 126 - Dedicating Funding To Housing Justice
(Postponed in Health, Human Services and Housing on 4/3/2023)

Resolution No. 155 - Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Lands Owned By Ulster County Located At 701 Grant Avenue, Lake Katrine (Town of Ulster), To Be Held On Tuesday, May 16, 2023 At 7:15 PM
(Postponed in Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts, and Agriculture on 4/3/2023)

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

Adjournment

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

No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 5:58 PM

Respectfully submitted: Natalie Kelder
Minutes Approved: May 9, 2023