

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, PLANNING & TRANSIT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES - February 2, 2009  
MEETING HELD AT: UCAT – One Danny Circle, Kingston, NY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT: Hector Rodriguez – Chair  
Gary Bischoff  
Peter Loughran  
Wayne Harris  
Joseph P. Roberti, Jr  
Catherine Terrizzi

ABSENT OR EXCUSED: Mary Sheeley

OTHERS ATTENDING: Dennis Doyle, Director, UC Planning  
March Gallagher, Deputy Director of Economic Development  
Vic Melville, League of Women Voters

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and asked for a motion to approve the November minutes. **Motion was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Terrizzi. All were in favor.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mulligan Metro-North Route Contract – was listed on new contract abstract form for January’s Legislative meeting but due to questions that arose, was referred back to committee for review and clarification; **Dennis Doyle explained that the leasing of the buses are required under FTA rules and that Mulligan has franchise rights to the corridor we need to access in order to operate the Metro North bus run.**
- Empire State Games – due to state funding cuts, members were informed that ESG have been cancelled
- Empire Zone Funding – the full Legislature support the recommended funding (\$15,000 for was placed in contingency)

NEW BUSINESS:

Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning, updated the Committee members on the following:

- Federal Stimulus Package – Transportation Council may benefit. List of projects that are out on the website for commentary until February 15, 2009 are – Kerhonkson Bridge, Railroad Projects, Waterfront Projects, Rail Trails and Transit Projects. Local governments were contacted regarding projects and guidance was sought from the NYS Transportation Department. **Director Doyle emphasized when funding is announced, whatever project(s) have been chosen will need to be completed ready to go – designs done, votes taken, contracts reviewed, etc. – there will be less than 150**

**days to work with. Monies will be provided to have projects happen – not be planned for.**

- **February 5<sup>th</sup> ... Technical Committee will begin reviewing projects and look at what's on the TIP**
- **March - Policy Committee will meet**

#### Transportation Council Updates:

- Transportation Council completed the Marlborough Study and are working with Marlborough officials to adopt the study; completed the Uptown Kingston study and City of Kingston officials are being requested to adopt the study;
- Intersection of Albany Avenue, Chandler Drive and Broadway in the City of Kingston is currently being considered for next year's planning efforts.
- Ulster County air quality was deemed \* non-attainment area" which can affect transportation issues; monitoring of air quality is done in Belleayre region (Dutchess and Orange also deemed to be non-attainment )

#### Housing Consortium Updates:

- Housing Consortium working on public information campaign
- Ulster is involved with multi-county study on affordable housing needs

#### Economic Updates:

- Performance Contract for UCDC will likely be modified; Legislators Rodriguez and Lomita will set up meeting with County Executive Hein to discuss benchmarks
  - **Legislator Loughran would like to see as part of the discussion an alternative, 'fall-back' position as to what will take place if UCDC fails; he would like to see concrete goals involving job creation in addition to the retention concerns, which seem to be commonly used as a measure of success;**
- Director Doyle introduced and praised March Gallagher, new Deputy Director of Economic Development, as an asset to the County based on her prior relationship with the County through UCDC, IDA, etc.
- Deputy Director Gallagher took a few minutes to highlight what is already being done:
  - County Executive is looking at co-location of various departments
  - Banks are being worked with to assist small businesses
  - Credit Crunch Seminar, sponsored by UCDC and Chamber, was held at SUNY New Paltz
  - Winston Farm... a forum was hosted on Jan. 29 to share with locals what the farm may be used for; public survey has since been issued and a meeting will be held Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Tech City to discuss survey results
  - County Executive Hein's Economic Task Force was convened and made recommendations concerning development and Ulster Tomorrow

#### RESOLUTIONS:

**Resolution** - Authorizing The Ulster County Executive As The Designated Federally Authorized Recipient For Filing Of Applications, Receipt, And Disbursement Of Federal Transportation Assistance Funds Pursuant To 49 USC 5307 (a) (2), Title 23 United State Code – Ulster County Area Transit **Motion was made by Legislator Bischoff, seconded by Legislator Loughran. All were in favor.**

**Resolution** - Adopting Ulster Tomorrow – A Sustainable Economic Development Plan for Ulster County As An Element Of Ulster County’s Comprehensive Plan Pursuant To Article 12-b Of General Municipal Law – Planning **Motion was made by Legislator Bischoff, seconded by Legislator Loughran. All were in favor.**

**Resolution** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Legislature To Call Public Hearings To Satisfy The Public Participation Requirement For Ulster County’s 2009 Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) And As Needed To Seek Comments On Past CDBG Program Performance – Planning **Motion was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Bischoff. All were in favor.**

*Discussion: Public Hearings will be held in March and early April; commentary will hopefully provide feedback on housing rehabilitation and ownership issues.*

**Resolution** - Appointing Member And Alternate Member To The Ulster County Planning Board – Town Of Olive **Motion was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Harris. All were in favor.**

*Discussion: Town of Olive made recommendations; 4 year terms*

**Resolution** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Ulster County Development Corporation For Specific Solar Consortium Related Services – Amending The 2009 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County Development Corporation **Motion was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Bischoff. All were in favor.**

*Discussion: Legislator Terrizzi expressed concerns as to what has occurred with the money provided to date. She is not aware of any concrete evidence that the money has produced jobs, new companies, etc. Legislator Terrizzi has visited two universities with engineering programs (Clarkson and Cornell) and neither had any extensive knowledge or seems to be actively involved with the Solar Consortium initiatives. Legislator Loughran joined Legislator Terrizzi, inquiring about what has actually taken place to date.*

*Legislator Rodriguez will be providing Legislator Terrizzi (and all committee members) with information as to what has been paid out, what services and goods have been provided, etc. to date. He also suggested Legislator Terrizzi meet with Frank Falatyn of FALA Industries who has been a driving force on this project.*

*Legislator Bischoff spoke very supportively of this project, mentioning a number of reasons to support this resolution and keep the Solar Consortium efforts moving along.*

*Legislator Harris also spoke supportively, pointing out “innovation” is the way to invest based on national forecasts and we are “priming the pump;” mentioned Frank Falatyn is an “Ulster County Guy” who has proven himself and could’ve left the area, but did not - Frank’s vested in the community.*

**Resolution** - Appointing Member To The Ulster County Industrial Development Agency **Motion was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Bischoff. All were in favor.**

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 pm

Moved by Legislator Bischoff, seconded by Legislator Loughran. All were in favor.