

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, PLANNING & TRANSIT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 27, 2008
MEETING HELD AT: UCAT – ONE DANNY CIRCLE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Hector Rodriguez – Chair
Joseph P. Roberti, Jr. – Deputy Chair
Gary Bischoff
Peter M. Loughran
Mary F. Sheeley
Wayne Harris
Cathy Terizzi

ABSENT:

OTHERS ATTENDING:

David Donaldson, Chairman of UC Legislature
Dennis Doyle, Director, U.C. Planning
Lance Matteson, UCDC
Cynthia Ruiz, UCAT
Nancy Schaef, Dept of Employment
Albert Stappy
John Ahn

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

The previous meetings minutes were not approved.

CHAIRMAN DONALDSON

Chairman Donaldson informed the committee that he will be meeting with Mayor Sottile on transit issues including better coordination or integration to better service users. He added that these are preliminary discussions and he wanted the committee to be informed. Legislator Rodriguez stated that we also need to understand the funding streams for these operations.

CYNTHIA RUIZ – UCAT

Ms. Ruiz introduced Al Stoppy, a new Maintenance Coordinator for UCAT, to the committee.

Action Items:

1. Contract signed with DOT for new Metro North service. (Requires Mr. Donaldson's signature)
2. **Resolution for United Way posters for 211 to be put on UCAT buses**
3. **Motion to Approve made by Legislator Harris, Seconded by Legislator Sheeley. None were opposed.**
4. DSS would like HEAP posters on buses – OK per policy
5. Received letter from Clean Sweep of New Paltz for bus services – OK
6. Need \$4,500.00 to buy tires – OK by Committee (sign off)
7. Bus #35 needs a Turbocharger (a cost of \$3,285) - OK by Committee (sign off)

8. Five year old Cutaway Bus requires Engine Replacement (cost of \$9,943.45 includes installation with warranty) OK by Committee (sign off)
9. Ms. Ruiz would like to donate old bus to Highland Fire Department for evacuation training for schools– OK by consensus

Ms. Ruiz stated that the peak fleet needs have changed and she wanted to increase from 14 to 18. Requested 4 large and 4 small buses to replace four and add four. She stated that she was awarded \$1.975 million for the total project that will include 3 hybrids and 4 cutaways.

LEGISLATOR RODRIGUEZ

Resolution to Reappoint Cynthia Ruiz as Director of Public Transit

Moved to Executive Session by unanimous vote at 6:32 p.m. Motion by Legislator Sheeley, seconded by Legislator Loughran to move out of session at 6:51.

Motion to approve appointment of Ms. Ruiz made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Roberti. All were in favor.

Legislator Loughran asked if there would be a bus for the (St. Patrick's Day) parade. Ms. Ruiz stated there will be.

Ms. Ruiz informed the Committee that Mary Howard has resigned then discussed various personnel changes in her department. Ms. Ruiz stated a consultant will need to be hired to work on the Human Services Plan with Ms. Howard's departure. She added that Mr. Doyle offered to find money in the UCTC budget.

DENNIS DOYLE – PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Action Items

1. **Resolution Appointing County Planning Board Member and Alternate from the Town of Wawarsing**
Motion to approve by Legislator Sheeley, seconded by Legislator Loughran.
2. **Resolution Endorsing Kingston/Ulster Airport**
Motion to approve by Legislator Bischoff, seconded by Legislator Loughran.

Mr. Doyle spoke to the committee about the Community Development Block Grant program. We've held the first public hearing on the program considering testimony from those involved in the current work we are doing and the current needs. The applications are due in April and we will hold one more public hearing. Legislator Rodriguez stated his recommendation would be for the homebuyer program because we seem to be the most in need. The maximum amount of the grant is \$700,000. Mr. Doyle explained that the grant would be administered by staff in the Planning Department and the program delivery would be run through RUPCO. Mr. Doyle further explained that the RUPCO program delivery fee would be between 10-15%. The administrative fee goes to the county. Mr. Doyle stated that this program is not intended to take advantage of foreclosures. The guidelines for this homebuyer program have very strict lending guidelines. Legislator Harris stated that he felt it was a good time to do this program.

Legislator Terizzi stated that she is a real estate broker and she knows these home buyer programs are working and they are also very good at educating the consumer. Legislator Loughran asked for the eligibility requirements for the program. Mr. Doyle answered that the eligibility is based on the number of children in families with a low to moderate income.

Moved to approve by Legislator Bischoff, seconded by Legislator Loughran.

Housing Strategies Report

Mr. Doyle stated we are in the process of moving these reports out to the communities and are scheduling four public meetings to be held around the county with a final meeting held in Kingston in the late spring. The goal is to have the county adopt the Housing Strategies report as an element of its comprehensive plan similar to what was done with the Open Space Plan.

Legislator Rodriguez stated it was his understanding that there would be a resolution adopting Ulster Tomorrow as part of the county's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Doyle stated we could do a similar review for Ulster Tomorrow but he did not have a resolution yet. Mr. Matteson stated that the Ulster Tomorrow overview document and action plan matrix have changed somewhat. Legislator Rodriguez stated that documentation that should be incorporated in a meaningful way.

A discussion was held regarding whether or not an informational session on Ulster Tomorrow should be held for the entire Legislature and the manner in which it should be presented. Mr. Doyle stated that there has not been an opportunity to inform the Ulster Tomorrow steering committee of the legal requirements for adopting items into the comprehensive plan. Legislator Rodriguez asked if Mr. Doyle had a timeline in mind. Mr. Doyle stated he hoped to have the plan adopted by early summer.

Mr. Doyle stated the Housing Campaign contracts have been signed and there will be a kickoff meeting in March to begin the design of the campaign. He added that we are also working on a tri-county housing study looking at fair share needs with Dutchess and Orange counties. Mr. Doyle stated the study is being funded by Dyson and should be finished in April.

LANCE MATTESON - UCDC

Mr. Matteson discussed the need for a left turn lane on South Putt Corners Road for SP Systems/Vertis. The County Highway Department is making it a requirement and the issue is how to pay for a turning lane. A shoulder improvement and bike lane are already planned for that road. Mr. Doyle stated the recommendation also came from the County Planning Board's initial review of the site. One solution could be to add improvements to the Ulster County Transportation Council's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Matteson added that we need the company's cooperation as well. Mr. Rodriguez asked if we needed a resolution for a TIP amendment. Mr. Doyle stated that there is another round of funding coming up. Mr. Matteson stated the importance of keeping jobs in the county needs to be stressed.

Action Items

Resolutions for:

Solar Consortium - \$200,000

Ulster Tomorrow Oversight - \$48,000

CFI - \$100,000

Mr. Matteson stated the Solar Consortium is anxious to get moving. Prism will be shipping product in a year. \$8 Million in venture capital likely to be production not market.

Consensus of Committee

Mr. Matteson stated the money will go to UCDC.

Motion two preliminary approved resolutions for contracts with UCDC and sub recipient TSEC and preliminary approval for UCDC to fund the UT initiative.

Consensus of the two preliminary resolutions was yes by committee – Legislator Roberti had left earlier.

Lance Gillette was discussed

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Motion made by Legislator Sheeley, seconded by Legislator Loughran.