

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE REPORT

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Ways and Means Committee

DATE: March 5, 2008

TIME: 4:45 P.M.

PLACE: Library/Conference Room B
Ulster County Office Building
244 Fair Street - 6th Floor
Kingston, New York

LEGISLATORS PRESENT: Chairman A. Lomita and Legislators B. Cahill,
F. Dart, D. Gregorius, S. Cummings, and G.
Noonan

LEGISLATORS ABSENT: Legislators J. Provenzano, S. Zimet and R.
Gerentine

OTHERS ATTENDING: County Administrator M. Hein; Deputy County
Administrator A. Smith; Deputy County
Administrator S. Ronga; Deputy County
Administrator M. Dellay; Sr. Management
Analyst F. Fawcett; Legislator P. Terpening;
Assistant County Attorney B. Havranek and
President of UCDC L. Matteson

Before the meeting started, Chairman Donaldson addressed the Committee to inform them that the Quadracentennial Committee requested \$80,000 to fund their efforts for events. He reminded the Committee that they all knew the request was coming and that Dutchess had budgeted \$100,000. We will have to create a line – perhaps in Tourism budget. He will propose a Late Resolution next week for session for \$70,000.

I) **RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No. 82 Establishing Capital Projects Nos. 309 - 310 For
Reconstruction Of Various County Bridges – 2008 Bridge Replacement Program
– Public Works- Highways And Bridges - Amending Capital Program 2008-2013
And The 2008 Capital Project Fund

Motion offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Cahill.

Ways and Means Committee
March 5, 2008

Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 83 Authorizing The Reconstruction Of Various Bridges And Box Culverts Throughout And In And For The County Of Ulster, New York, At A Maximum Estimated Cost Of \$380,000.00, And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$380,000.00 Serial Bonds Of The County Of Ulster, New York – 2008 Bridge Replacement Program

As a bonding Resolution tied to Resolution No. 82, no vote was required or taken.

Resolution No. 84 Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget – 2007 Unexpended CHIPS Funding – Public Works (Highways And Bridges)

Motion offered by Legislator Cummings, seconded by Legislator Cahill.
Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 85 Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget – Transferring Personnel Monies Between Divisions And Creating A Non-Benefited Part-Time Position – Mental Health

Motion offered by Legislator Cummings, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.

Legislator Lomita thought it would be a good idea for the County Administrator's Office to keep an accurate running list of positions that are eliminated in an attempt to shift funding to another line. Too often, the positions crop up in the budget next year without notation and therefore are not eliminated at all.
Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 86 Requesting Transfer Of Funds To Provide Temporary Personnel Services For Staff Vacancies From Disability And On Leave Without Pay – Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget – Social Services

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.
Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 87 Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget – Reclassifying Automotive Mechanic II Position To Lead Automotive Mechanic – Ulster County Area Transit

Motion offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.
Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 88 Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget To Accept Funding From The New York State Office Of Temporary And Disability Assistance For Community Solutions For Transportation (CSTVIII) Program – Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) – Social Services

Motion offered by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Cummings.
Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 89 Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Funding From The New York State Department Of Health For Cost Of Living Adjustments (COLA's) For The Rape Crisis Program – Probation

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Dart.

Legislator Cummings asked how it could be considered a COLA when it does not increase salaries.

Legislator Cahill – It is an increase in allocations to programs.

Legislator Dart – It is more an increase allocated to the cost of doing business than a COLA.

Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 90 Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The Town Of Marbletown Relative To Conversion Of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program – Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget – Information Services

Motion offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Cummings.
Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 91 Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Renew Lease Agreement With Chester Properties, Inc., For The Offices Of The Public Health Clinic – Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Motion offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Cahill.
Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 92 Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Renew And Extend An Agreement With The City Of Kingston And City Of Kingston Consolidated School District For Lease Of Land At Dietz Stadium –

Public Works (Highways & Bridges)

Motion offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Cahill.
Adopted unanimously.

Resolution No. 93 Approving The Creation And The Funding Of "Ulster Tomorrow", An Economic Development Marketing And Strategy Plan – Authorizing The Chairman To Enter Into An Agreement With Ulster County Development Corporation – Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County Development Corporation

Motion offered by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Cummings.

Legislator Lomita informed the Committee that this was an attempt to set up benchmarks for deliverables which were never set up before this.

Assistant County Attorney Havranek – This Resolution was pulled last month because it did not have deliverables. She met with Lance Matteson on this issue and on the Solar Consortium. We are now clear on what we want. Last year we gave \$248,000 as a package, but this year we are breaking out the \$48,000 for Ulster Tomorrow to consider separately. She had high praise for the way that Lance was approaching these issues.

Legislator Noonan – The item addressed in Benchmark #5 should have a notation that the findings will be presented to the full Legislature.

Assistant County Attorney Havranek – It will be amended to say "provide a full explanation to the entire legislative body."

Adopted unanimously with the amended language.

Resolution No. 94 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 2008 Ulster County Budget – Ulster County Development Corporation

Motion offered by Legislator Cahill, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.

Legislator Noonan requested that the same amending language be used on this resolution to address the full Legislature.

Assistant County Attorney Havranek agreed to the amendment.

Adopted unanimously with the amended language.

Resolution No. 97 Establishing A Policy For Certain Fiscal Controls To
Temporarily Restrain Budgetary Spending

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Cummings.

Legislator Lomita expressed his desire to hold this Resolution over until next week because Committee members were absent and the original wording was too political. The assumption is that there is some blame to be levied for the current fiscal state of the State.

Legislator Dart – There is no doubt that we are in a true recession and we need to be fiscally careful but we have to be careful not to cut our nose off in spite of our face. We have to hire for mandated positions in the jail, Public Works, Golden Hill, etc. This is the most foolish resolution I have seen in 18 years. The County Administrator is watching the situation carefully already.

Legislator Lomita – We should be looking for a bi-partisan compromise.

Legislator Cahill – County Administrator has already demonstrated that we will do what we have to do in order to be fiscally prudent. The resolution as written is too political and I will vote NO now and later.

Legislator Noonan – The resolution states “non-mandated” positions only and the reason it says optimistic is that we missed our numbers last year by \$3 million. We see how the State is shifting the burden to the County in the Jail, Nursing and Medicaid.

Legislator Lomita – We are all on notice about the economy and will do what we need to when it is necessary.

Legislator Gregorius – worried about term “essential” in the proposed amendment – Who determines that?

Legislator Noonan – We should act now and be ahead of the curve. Why are there still 31 managers in County cars running around? One is even assigned to someone living outside of County.

Legislator Lomita – to Legislator Noonan – Give me a list and I will bring it up to the Oversight Committee. Gov. Spitzer has his own problems and we may not like the answers he is coming up with but we should work on this in a bi-partisan way to get the best resolution.

Legislator Dart – Travel outside of the County is necessary for needed “Train The Trainer” seminars. They are simply not offered here.

Legislator Cummings – All of your comments are good and have legitimacy. All we are trying to say is that these issues need greater scrutiny.

Legislator Lomita – Let’s all work on an action plan to deal with the impending State Budget. It may not end up as bad as it seems.

Vote was taken and the motion defeated.

2 AYES (Legislators Noonan and Cummings)

4 NOES (Legislators Lomita, Cahill, Dart and Gregorius)

Resolution No. 99 Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget To Transfer
Housing Initiative Funds From Mental Health To Social Services

Motion offered by Legislator Noonan, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.
Adopted unanimously.

Motion to adjourn offered by Legislator Dart, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Lomita, Chairman
Ways and Means Committee