

**Energy, Environment and Sustainability Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: November 3, 2025 – 4:00 PM
LOCATION(S): Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Hewitt
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Lizvett Noriega, Legislative Administrative Assistant; Tyron Rogers, Legislative Technical Support Specialist
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Litts, Nolan, and Stewart (arrived @ 4:10 PM)
MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislator Walls
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Minority Leader Roberts; Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle – UC Executive’s Office; Executive Director Marc Rider – UC Resource Recovery Agency; Director Andy Bicking – Department of Environment; Director Dennis Doyle – Planning Department; Councilwoman Diana Cline – Town of Hurley; Marian Schoettle – Member of the Public

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Chair Hewitt called the meeting to order at 4:08 PM.

Motion No. 1:	Motion to Approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2025 Meeting
Motion Made By:	Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Donaldson
Voting in Favor:	Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Hewitt, Litts, Nolan, and Stewart
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	6
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Minutes Approved

Department heads under the committee’s purview were in attendance to discuss the County Executive’s Proposed 2026 Budget and Proposed 2026-2031 Capital Program as it pertained to their departments.

Order of appearance:

1. Ulster County Department of Environment – Director Andrew Bicking

The following questions were asked of each department:

- Did you make any requests that were not included in the Proposed Budget or Capital Program?
- Are there any new programs, projects or initiatives planned for 2026? Any being eliminated?
- Do you feel the Proposed 2026 Budget and, if applicable, Capital Program, for your department is right-sized, including staffing, for your needs/workload?

Department responses and committee discussion can be via the Ulster County Legislature’s YouTube channel at:

Resolutions for the November 18, 2025 Session of the Legislature:

Resolution No. 178 – Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2025, A Local Law Providing For The Protection And Restoration Of The Esopus Creek, Rondout Creek And Wallkill River In Ulster County, And Providing For The Rights Of The Residents Of Ulster County To Clean Water And A Healthy And Productive Ecosystem, To Be Held On Wednesday, December 3, 2025 At 6:00 PM

Resolution Summary – This Resolution sets a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2025, A Local Law Providing For The Protection And Restoration Of The Esopus Creek, Rondout Creek And Wallkill River In Ulster County, And Providing For The Rights Of The Residents Of Ulster County To Clean Water And A Healthy And Productive Ecosystem, to be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2025 At 6:00 PM.

Disposition: **No Action Taken**

Resolution No. 447 – Opposing The Development, Construction, And Operation Of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) In Ulster County

Resolution Summary – This Resolution opposes the development, construction, and operation of Battery Storage Systems (BESS) anywhere within the boundaries of Ulster County, NY, urges the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and other relevant state agencies to prioritize safe alternative energy storage technologies and siting strategies that minimize risks, and supports a moratorium on all BESS projects in Ulster County until such time as regulations are established and the concerns regarding fire safety, environmental impacts, and community impacts are fully addressed.

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Amend Resolution No. 447 as Presented**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Voting in Favor: Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Hewitt, Litts, Nolan, and Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Amended as Presented**

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 447 as Amended**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Voting in Favor: Legislators Litts, and Stewart

Voting Against: Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Hewitt, and Nolan

Votes in Favor: 2

Votes Against: 4

Disposition: **Resolution Defeated**

Resolution No. 487 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$10,920.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Livingston Energy Group, LLC – Department Of Environment

Resolution Summary – This Resolution approves execution of a contract in the amount of \$10,920.00 with Livingston Energy Group, LLC., to expand the Scope of Services to include retractable cable management systems for the EV charging stations in the rear of the County’s Office Complex at 1 Development Court, Kingston, and to increase the not-to-exceed amount to reflect the additional Services – turnkey electric vehicle charging station installation for the term 9/29/25 – 10/31/29.

Motion No. 4:	Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 487
Motion Made By:	Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Greene

Voting in Favor:	Legislators Donaldson, Greene, Hewitt, Litts, Nolan, and Stewart
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	6
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Resolution Adopted

New Business –

- Chair Hewitt – Industrial Hemp Conference registration is open. Conference will be on December 9th at the Best Western.
- Minority Leader Roberts & Legislators Greene, and Nolan – Spoke on the UCRRA Interviews

Old Business –

- Legislator Greene – Spoke on the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS); Filling spots for Climate Smart; 70x30 Working Group; NYSEDA announced a grant for electric vehicles and charging stations for schools; Attended the Chamber Breakfast – Guest Speaker – John Milgram with NYC Department of Environment Protection (DEP).
- Legislator Stewart – Spoke on Blink installing 15 additional EV charging stations in the Town of Marbletown, making Marbletown the most electric vehicle friendly community in the entire state of New York.

Adjournment

Motion Made By:	Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Nolan
Votes in Favor:	6
Votes Against:	0

TIME:	5:20 PM
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Respectfully Submitted: Lizvett Noriega, Legislative Administrative Assistant
Approved: December 2, 2025

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