

**Ways & Means Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** November 18, 2025 – 2:00 PM  
**LOCATION(S):** Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chair Gavaris  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst,  
Tyron Rogers, Legislative Tech Support Specialist  
Amber Feaster, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature - Finance  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Legislators Collins, Criswell, Hansut, Kovacs, Nolan & Roberts  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Legislator Uchitelle  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator Hewitt, Deputy County Executives Amenda, Capuano & LaValle, Budget Director Juras, Deputy Budget Directors Reid & Quesnell, Commissioner of Finance Rioux, Probation Director Naccarato

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Chair Gavaris called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM

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**Legislators were in attendance to present Proposed Amendments to the 2026 County Executive Operating Budget and the 2026 – 2031 County Executive Proposed Capital Improvement Program**

In order of appearance:

**Legislator Criswell**

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 3 – Comprehensive Countywide Intermunicipal Water & Sewer Feasibility Study

**Legislator Collins**

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 4 – Increases to the County Clerk’s Office

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 5 – Establishing a New Transportation Planner Position

**Legislator Hansut**

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 1 – Increase to the Department of Probation

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 2 – Double Funding for the ThinkDIFFERENTLY Initiative

**Legislators Collins**

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 6 – Occupancy Tax Apportionment for Housing Initiatives

**Legislator Hewitt**

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 7 – Immigrant Food Insecurity Program

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 8 – Traffic Calming Safety Measures

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 9 – Establishing a Deputy Commissioner of DPW – Parks Position

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 10 – Continuation of Industrial Hemp Research and Education Funding

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 11 – Greening the Food Services Industry Program

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 12 – Regional Tiffin Program

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 13 – Intermodal Transfer Center Planning Studies

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 14 – Residential Solar Feasibility and Interest Outreach

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 15 – Additional Bus Driver Positions

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 16 – Victory Garden Preservation Program

**Legislator Gavaris**

Proposed Budget Amendment No. 17 – Increased Funding for the EMS Stabilization and Enhancement Plan  
Proposed Budget Amendment No. 18 – Sunset of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Positions  
Proposed Budget Amendment No. 19 – Reduction to Large Increases and Historically Overbudgeted Accounts  
Proposed Budget Amendment No. 20 – TECHNICAL: Necessary Adjustments for Bond Sale  
Proposed Budget Amendment No. 21 – TECHNICAL: Adjustments to the Personnel Listing  
Proposed Budget Amendment No. 22 – TECHNICAL: General Ledger and Personnel Listing Variances

***Proposed Budget Amendments to the 2026-2031 County Executive Recommended Capital Program*****Legislator Roberts on behalf of Legislator Litts**

Proposed CP Budget Amendment No. 1 – Fairgrounds Bleachers

**Legislator Hewitt**

Proposed CP Budget Amendment No. 2 – Reduction to Department Relocation Management  
Proposed CP Budget Amendment No. 3 – Elimination of Paradies Lane Solar Installation  
Proposed CP Budget Amendment No. 4 – Electrification Multimodal Centers Title Change

**Legislator Gavaris**

Proposed CP Budget Amendment No. 5 – TECHNICAL: Establishment of Capital Projects 740 & 741

Committee discussion can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature's YouTube channel at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/x7rQTxAmm7s?si=f7bybZC9im4y68GW>

**Adjournment**

<b>Motion Made By:</b>	Legislator Nolan
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Collins
<b>Votes in Favor:</b>	7
<b>Votes Against:</b>	0

<b>Time:</b>	4:08 PM
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<b>Respectfully Submitted:</b>	Natalie Kelder, Legislative Financial Analyst
<b>Approved:</b>	December 11, 2025