

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : April 11, 2016, 5:00pm
LOCATION : Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
CHAIRMAN : Mary Wawro, Chairman – Present
RECORDER : Danielle Wayman, Program Assistant, Ulster County Community College
LEGISLATORS PRESENT : Leg. David B. Donaldson, Deputy Chairman, Leg. Jennifer Schwartz Berky, Leg. James H. Delaune, Leg. Craig V. Lopez
OTHERS PRESENT : Alan P. Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster; Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive; Lee Reidy, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County; Elizabeth Higgins, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Leslie Zucker, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Melanie Forstrom, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County; Teresa M. Brundage, Aid to Leg. Lopez
QUORUM : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT CHAIRMAN WAWRO CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:00 PM AND TOOK ATTENDANCE.

Motion #1 to Approve Minutes:

Text of Motion: To approve the Minutes of the March 9, 2016, Regular Committee Meeting.

Motion Made: Leg. Lopez

Seconded: Leg. Donaldson

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion to approve the minutes of this Committee from March 9, 2016, was unanimously approved.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ULSTER COUNTY

Reported By: Lee Reidy, Executive Director; Elizabeth Higgins; Leslie Zucker; Melanie Forstrom

Resolution: None

Reported: Melanie Forstrom reported on the Healthy Communities Programs of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County. The Community Club reaches about 400 youth per year. Healthy Communities offers a number of afterschool programs (Tech Wizard, TOPS, & Bike Safety). Healthy Communities also offers many Special Interest Programs (Public Presentation Program, Agricultural Literacy, Vet Science, Tractor Safety, & Healthy Communities). Healthy Communities also offers the Relatives as Parents Program, Nutrition Education Program, Live Well Kingston (which is a transitioning program), and Creating Healthy Places To Live, Work, & Play. Melanie Forstrom added that the Vet Science Program connects to SUNY Ulster's Veterinary Technology Program. Melanie Forstrom added that the Vet Science program is run with Dr. Beth Alden. Leg. Donaldson asked about the age of the drivers in the Tractor Safety Program. The drivers are youth from 13-19 years old. The youth are eligible

to be certified at 14 years old. Melanie Forstrom added that adults are permitted to audit the course, providing there is room. Melanie Forstrom reported that the County Appropriation allows Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County to run the youth portion of the Ulster County Fair, the Agricultural Literacy Program, the 4-H Club, and the Public Presentation Program. Melanie Forstrom distributed an Economic Impact Statement. The County Appropriation of \$77,000.00 for the 4-H Program has a value of \$323,000.00. Melanie Forstrom addressed opportunities and challenges that face the 4-H and Healthy Communities Programs. The opportunities included connecting and training residents in initiatives that meet community needs. The challenges include securing additional funding. Leg. Lopez asked about the process for creating the Economic Impact Statement. Melanie Forstrom explained the process. Leg. Lopez asked for the breakdown. Leg. Donaldson added that the County appropriation of \$77,000.00 helps to leverage additional grants. Melanie Forstrom added that this year a club enrollment fee has been implemented for the 4-H Clubs (\$100.00 per club). Clubs are encouraged to fundraise so that the children do not have to pay this themselves. Melanie Forstrom hopes that this will also increase the size of the clubs. Melanie Forstrom explained that they are trying to move away from 5 member clubs. These clubs by design are supposed to be sustainable; some clubs have been around for over 50 years. Leg. Donaldson asked about the total number of employees. Lee Reidy stated that there are about 30-35 employees. Leg. Donaldson wanted to make it clear that the County Appropriation, and monies leveraged from that help employ 30-35 employees.

Leslie Zucker reported on the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. Leslie Zucker reported that the program is "fairly self-sufficient" received \$ 6.3 million in funding over 5 years. The County funding has helped to leverage the \$ 6.3 million. Leslie Zucker explained that Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County is in partnership with the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District and the NYC DEP to run the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program. Leslie Zucker explained that the NYC DEP is the primary funder for this program, and that is where the \$ 6.3 million comes from. Leslie Zucker reported that she primarily works with the towns of Woodstock, Hurley, Olive, Shandaken, and Ulster County. Leslie Zucker reported that there are 4 Cornell Cooperative Extension Staff working on the program. In 2014, Cornell Cooperative Extension entered into a collaboration with the Ulster County Department of Environment to bring a full-time Environmental Planner (Aaron Bennett) out to the watershed to work on flood hazard mitigation with the communities. One of Cornell Cooperative Extension's main duties is to coordinate and organize the stakeholders. In 2015 Cornell Cooperative Extension held 30 meetings. Leslie Zucker presented the committee with a brief "slideshow". Leslie Zucker reported that there are currently 10 grant funded projects running right now (totaling about \$ 766,000.00). Leslie Zucker added that the Catskills have seen an increase in larger/heavier storms over the past 10 years, assuming this trend will continue these watershed programs are helping to educate the surrounding communities. Leg. Schwartz-Berky brought up the 2010 debate over the Stonyclove and the issue with "it filling up under the bridge". Leslie Zucker explained that the site has been "treated" and the channels were engineered. Structures were put in place to increase the velocity to sediment was moved. Leslie Zucker reported that "so far it has been performing". Leg. Schwartz-Berky asked for a copy but noted that she may be able to get it from the Legislative Aide. Leslie Zucker added that it would be published online (www.ashokanstreams.org). Leg. Schwartz Berky questioned how Aaron Bennett was paid. Deputy County Executive Crannell confirmed that Bennett is an Ulster County Employee, whose employment is not contingent upon grant funding. The County receives revenue to offset Bennett's salary. Leslie Zucker added that "it has been really valuable" having Aaron Bennett.

Liz Higgins reported on the Commercial Agriculture Program & the Community Horticulture Program. Liz Higgins reported that there are currently 5 Agriculture Program Staff, 1 Program Assistant, and 1 Master Gardener & Community Horticulture Staff Member. Liz Higgins added that these positions are all full-time. Liz Higgins reported that the Commercial Agriculture Program is largely grant funded. The Eastern New York Commercial Horticulture Program is largely funded by the County (\$107,000.00). Liz Higgins

reported that Ulster County has a “large apple industry” and as such needs “a lot of technical assistance”. The County contribution also allows Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County to “participate in more grant projects and respond to growers’ needs”. Recently the team has been working with growers to combat stink bugs, as well as conduct research on the impact. Liz Higgins reported that The Master Gardener Program. This program receives \$10,000.00 from the County, the rest of the program is funded by program generated income or grants. Liz Higgins reported that Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County has also partnered with CRISP (Catskill Region Invasive Species Program). Liz Higgins added that they are working with urban landowners to manage small parcels cooperatively. Liz Higgins reported that Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County received a larger grant from the New World Foundation.

Lee Reidy thanked the committee for the opportunity to present the program “snapshots”. Lee Reidy reported that Cornell Cooperative is over 100 years old. They have been working in Ulster County since 1913. Lee Reidy added that there are satellite offices in Highland & Phoenicia. Lee Reidy explained that they are an educational organization, not a service organization. Lee Reidy thanked the committee and the County for their support. Leg. Schwartz Berky asked about the New World Foundation, she was “interested in the way they’re funding” projects. Leg Schwartz Berky asked if they are expecting specific outcomes. Lee Reidy added that the New World Foundation is interested in the “kinds of things we can do”. Lee Reidy explained to the New World Foundation that they are education, they are County, and they’re also regional- and “we still need to be able to do that”. Lee Reidy added that they are “working a lot with field trials.

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reported By: Dr. Alan Robert, President SUNY Ulster

Resolution: None

Reported: Leg. Donaldson asked if the President could report on the State budget. President Roberts reported that the College asked the State for a \$285.00 increase to base aid, and the State gave \$100.00. President Roberts reported that with the increase in base aid and the decrease in enrollment the College is submitting a lower budget this year than it did in previous years. President Roberts reported that the College is looking to “economize” and reduce some programs. President Roberts identified some programs that are growing. The College will also be rolling out some new initiatives. The Human Services Program will be offered at the Kingston Center of SUNY Ulster (KCSU) with Ulster-Greene ARC. ARC has over 800 employees that are looking for training. President Roberts also explained that due to the decrease in high school graduates the College is anticipating a 6% decrease in enrollment. President Roberts believes that this year will be the worst year for the College. President Roberts hopes that after this year the graduation rates will level off. The College is working on decreasing the total budget by 5%. President Roberts anticipates having a proposed budget to present in the next 3 to 4 weeks. Leg. Donaldson asked how these changes and initiatives have/ will affect the fund balance. President Roberts stated that the fund balance in September was about \$500,000.00, and right now the College has spent about \$200,000.00 of that. President Roberts added that the College has put a “freeze” on spending as of January. President Roberts reported that the College will need to invest in electronics, adding “technology is the most expensive”. President Roberts concluded by thanking the committee for endorsing the College’s request for a \$285.00 increase to base aid.

Motion #2 to Approve Resolution No.175:

Text of Motion: Confirming The Appointment Of The Ulster County Historian

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 175 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Leg. Schwartz Berky stated, "he's wonderful".

It should be noted that the committee decided to block vote Resolutions 187, 188, 189, & 190

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No.187:

Text of Motion: Approving the Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- Any Time Home Care Inc- Office For The Aging

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 187 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Leg. Donaldson asked about the services, "are they personal care services?" Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell explained that these services are basic care services to help keep the elderly in their homes. Leg. Donaldson asked about the eligibility of clients. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell explained that these individuals are people above the standard for Medicaid. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell added that income is a factor, but not the only factor. Leg. Donaldson asked if the clients contribute. A brief discussion regarding Medicaid "spend down" ensued. Leg. Schwartz Berky asked if the committee could visit the program, stating "I don't know as much about these programs as I'd like to". Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell explained about the meals, and how the programs have been able to "stock the clients' pantries". Leg. Schwartz Berky shared about meal delivery programs and pointed out that it is better for the community to age in place. Leg. Donaldson credited Ken Crannell for all the work he has done "to make sure it was done and done right". Chairman Wawro pointed out that these programs are going to continue to grow.

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No. 188:

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- A&T Healthcare LLC- Office For The Aging

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 188 was unanimously approved.

Discussion:

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No.189:

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- Always There Family Home Care- Office For The Aging

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 189 was unanimously approved.

Discussion:

Motion #3 to Approve Resolution No. 190:

Text of Motion: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County- Litson d/b/a Wilcare- Office For The Aging

Motion Made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Schwartz Berky

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 190 was unanimously approved.

Discussion:

Motion #4 to Approve Resolution No. 248:

Text of Motion: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 2016, A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 3 of 2012 (A Local Law To Provide For An Exemption From Real Property Taxes For Real Property Owned By Veterans Who Rendered Military Service To The United States During The “Cold War”), To Be Held On Tuesday, May 10, 2016, At 6:15 PM

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Delaune

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 248 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Leg. Donaldson asked about the time frame being used for the “Cold War”. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell explained that the time period is “State prescribed”. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell explained that the exemption would be 15% up to \$45,000.00. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell explained that there was something technical with the law, and the State is just trying to correct it. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell added that the County impact would be 2 cents per \$100,000.00. Leg. Schwartz Berky confirmed that the dates are 1947-1991.

Motion #5 to Approve Resolution No. 249:

Text of Motion: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2016, (A Local Law Amending Local Law No. 4 Of 2012, To Increase The Maximum Allowable Real Property Tax Exemption Pursuant To Section 458-a Of The Real Property Tax Law Entitled “Veterans’; Alternative Exemption”), To Be Held On Tuesday, May 10, 2016 At 6:20 PM

Motion made: Leg. Donaldson

Seconded: Leg. Delaune

Voice Vote: Yes

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Disposition: The motion passed, Resolution No. 249 was unanimously approved.

Discussion: Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell explained that the impact would be 30 cents per \$100,00.00 in assessed value.

Motion #6- TO ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Lopez and seconded by Leg. Donaldson. Chairman Wawro declared the meeting duly adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Dated the 11th day of April 2016

Danielle Wayman, Recorder
Minutes approved on May 9, 2016