

ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
Legislative Programs, Education & Community Services Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME : March 5, 2014/ 5:30pm
LOCATION : Ulster County Community College, St. John Business Seminar Room, George Clinton Hall, Room 108, Stone Ridge, New York
CHAIRMAN : David B. Donaldson, Present
RECORDER : Janet Salanitri, Adm. Assistant, SUNY, Ulster Co. Community College
LEGISLATORS
PRESENT : Legs. Craig Lopez, Mary Wawro, Lynn Archer and Donald Gregorius
ABSENT : None
OTHERS
PRESENT : Kenneth Crannell, Deputy Ulster County Executive;
Dr. Donald C. Katt, President and Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration, both representing SUNY Ulster County Community College;
R. Michael Lamoree, Executive Director, Community Action Committee;
Eve Madalengoitia and Linda Marsten-Reid, both representing Arts Mid-Hudson (formerly Dutchess County Arts Council);
Lee Reidy, Executive Director and Mary Marsters, Program Director, both representing Cornell Cooperative Education;
Teresa Brundage, Assistant to Leg. Lopez;
Victor Melville and Tom Kadgen, both as Observers for League of Women Voters;
Jim Cosgrove and Margie Menard, both for The Ulster County Library Association;
Michael Berg, Executive Director of Family of Woodstock;
Richard Heyl DeOrtiz, Executive Director of CASA; and
Christopher White of Ulster County Planning.

QUORUM: : Yes

A QUORUM BEING PRESENT AND ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS BEING IN ATTENDANCE, CHAIRMAN DONALDSON CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:31 pm.

MOTION #1:

Text of Motion : Resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee of January 22, 2014.
Notes: The January minutes were not voted upon in February as there was not a quorum present of those members who were present at the January meeting. Leg. Archer and Chairman Donaldson were excused from the February meeting. Leg. Gregorius was not appointed to this committee until February, 2013 and abstained from this vote.

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez
Seconded : Leg. Archer
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Lopez, Wawro and Archer.
Opposed : None
Abstained : Leg. Gregorius (not a member of this Committee for the January meeting).
No.in favor : 4
No. Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed – Minutes of January 22, 2014 meeting of this committee unanimously approved as presented.

MOTION #2:

Text of Motion : Resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting of this Committee of February 12, 2014. Notes: Leg. Archer and Chairman Donaldson were excused from the February meeting and abstained from this vote.

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez
Seconded : Leg. Wawro
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Legs. Lopez, Wawro and Gregorius.
Opposed : None
Abstained : Chairman Donaldson and Leg. Archer (excused from February meeting).
No.in favor : 3
No. Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed. The Minutes of the February 12, 2014 meeting of this committee were unanimously approved as presented.

ARTS MID-HUDSON (formerly Dutchess County Arts Council):

Report by : Eve Madalengoitia and Linda Marsten-Reid

Report : Linda Marsten-Reid thanked the Legislature for recognizing the organization's name and logo change. They are now Arts Mid-Hudson which is more all-encompassing. She read a portion of a letter-report from Mt. Tremper Arts which had received \$7,000 in funding in 2012 stating they leveraged that into \$42,000 in other funding including grants and expect to generate even more this year. She said this is what this arts funding is for. Chairman Donaldson thanked Ms. Marsten-Reid and her organization for the everything Arts Mid-Hudson does within this County, including securing other funding for arts organizations in Ulster. He said this funding really does give us more back than we pay out and he wishes it could be more.

Ms. Madalengoitia handed out copies of the Ulster County Cultural Services and Promotion Fund application which has an April 29th deadline. She said application seminars will be held April 2, 3 and 4 for groups needing assistance. She also showed a graph showing increases in applications, number funded and number of new applicants. Leg. Archer said this funding is more important than ever now that other funding for the arts is declining and agrees with Chairman Donaldson's remarks.

Resolution: Resolution #73 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #3 – RESOLUTION #73

Text of Motion: Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to Execute an Agreement with Arts Mid-Hudson, f/k/a Dutchess County Arts Council for the 2014 Appropriation in the sum of \$46,000.

Motion Made : Leg. Gregorius
Seconded : Leg. Archer
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Archer, Wawro, Gregorius and Lopez
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 5
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #73 unanimously approved.

ULSTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER:

Report by : No report.

Resolution : Resolution #74 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #4 – RESOLUTION #74

Text of Motion : Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to Execute an Agreement for the Maintenance of Facilities for Ulster Performing Arts Center for the 2014 Appropriation in the sum of \$18,750.00

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez

Seconded : Leg. Archer

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Wawro, Archer, Gregorius and Lopez

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #74 unanimously approved.

FAMILY OF WOODSTOCK, INC.:

Report by : Michael Berg, Executive Director

Report : Mr. Berg said this appropriation was for the Supervised Visitation Program run through Family of Woodstock which oversees supervised visits by non-custodial parents with their children as assigned by Child Protective Services and/or Ulster County Family Court. He said that in 2013 over 207 families were served and caseworkers made more than 115 reports to the Court. He said the Family Court was happy with this program because it served all of the parties. Mr. Crannell said the County Executive feels this program is very important and that it performs a valuable service to the residents of Ulster County.

Resolution : Resolution #77 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #5 – RESOLUTION #77

Text of Motion : Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to Execute an Agreement with Family of Woodstock, Inc. for the Supervised Visitation Program for the 2014 Appropriation in the sum of \$20,000.00.

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez

Seconded : Leg. Gregorius

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Wawro, Archer, Gregorius and Lopez

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #77 unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

Report by : James Cosgrove, President and Margie Menard, Treasurer

Report : Mr. Cosgrove said he has given a full presentation to the County Legislature before and would be glad to do so again if the Legislators felt it warranted. He wanted to thank this committee and the full Legislature for the funding the County gives to the UC Library Association. He said the monies used to be portioned out to the various libraries; however, now we use the money to buy data bases which all the libraries have access to. Now everyone in the county who has a library card can access these data bases. Ms. Menard said the Info Portal on the County website provides access to everyone equally. Chairman Donaldson said doing it this way reaches more people and avoids a lot of unnecessary duplication.

Resolution : Resolution #78 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #6 – RESOLUTION #78:

Text of Motion : 2014 Appropriation for the Ulster County Libraries Program - \$74,250.00.

Motion Made : Leg. Gregorius

Seconded : Leg. Archer

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Archer, Gregorius, Wawro and Lopez

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #78 unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE, INC.

Report by : R. Michael Lamoree, Executive Director

Report : Mr. Lamoree said they utilized the funding from last year to rehabilitate the kitchen and bring it up to code. It now a fully licensed food establishment and they have been delivering meals to The Rondout Center and other places. There is a mobile food pantry and they are delivering food packages mostly consisting of canned goods, to senior citizens around the county, especially in the more remote areas Chairman Donaldson asked about fresh fruit and vegetables and Mr. Lamoree said that was only about once a month now but he hoped to increase that to three times a month in the spring. Chairman Donaldson said he would like to hold a committee meeting at Community Action this spring and Mr. Lamoree said he would be more than glad for the committee to come and tour the facility. This will be further discussed at the end of tonight's meeting.

Resolution : Resolution #75 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #7 – RESOLUTION #75:

Text of Motion : Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to Enter Into an Agreement with Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. for the 2014 Appropriation in the sum of \$16,750.00

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez

Seconded : Leg. Archer

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Archer, Wawro, Lopez and Gregorius

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #75 unanimously approved.

CASA (COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES)

Report by : Richard Heyl DeOrtiz, Executive Director

Report : Mr. DeOrtiz said the number of children served by CASA has increased; there were a total of eighty-two children served last year. Also, they have trained an additional seventeen advocates who are each paired with a child. He said most of the children are referrals from Social Services or Family Court and he is currently looking into therapy programs. The main goal is for the child to have permanency or direct placement and as part of this are monitoring and working with the children after they are returned to their parents. Chairman Donaldson said the cost of maintaining a child in a restrictive setting sometimes exceeds \$200,000 so this is a better solution to some of these problems in all respects. Leg. Archer asked if the number of children being seen is steadily increasing and Mr. DeOrtiz agreed. He said there is no shortage of volunteers but it takes considerable time for training.

Resolution : Resolution #76 -for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #8– RESOLUTION #76:

Text of Motion : Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to Execute an Agreement with Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for the 2014 Appropriation in the sum of \$24,000.00.

Motion Made : Leg. Archer

Seconded : Leg. Gregorius

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Wawro Archer and Lopez.

Opposed : None

No.in Favor : 5

No.Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #76 unanimously approved.

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ULSTER COUNTY

Report by : Lee Reidy, Executive Director and Mary Marsters, Program Director

Report : Ms.Reidy said the big news was the purchase of Gill Farms and its conversion into an organization to work with new and existing farms to increase their ability to work their farms environmentally and economically soundly. She also discussed her budget which this year is over \$5 million of which \$2.5 million is from grants and contracts that will go back into the county. Ms. Reidy said \$2 million is from the New York City DEP for the Ashokan Basin project. Other grants and contracts include working with groups such as local and state Health Departments on child and family nutrition. She said there is an emphasis on collaboration, especially with the thought of leveraging other funding. Ms. Reidy said the County appropriation is what gives CCE access to both Cornell, state and federal funding. We really need the support of our sponsor county. Ms. Reidy said her office will be contacting each Legislator to set up personal interviews in an effort to find out each persons area of expertise and get to know everyone personally. She would also like to bring her agricultural person to the next meeting to discuss agriculture in the County.

Chairman Donaldson said he would like to have a meeting at Cornell Cooperative Extension's offices if that was possible, and it was tentatively set for the April meeting.

Resolution : Resolution #79 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #9 – RESOLUTION #79:

Text of Motion : Authorizing the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to Execute an Agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Ulster County for the 2014 Appropriation in the sum of \$312,475.00

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez
Seconded : Leg. Gregorius
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro.
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 5
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #79 unanimously approved.

SUNY, ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Report by : Dr. Donald C. Katt, President and Mark Komdat, Dean of Administration

Report : President Katt advised that it was projected the college would return to pre-recession enrollment; however, although it is going down slightly, the decrease is not as much as he originally thought it would be. He said the college had exceeded its enrollment projections for the fall and is off to a good start for the spring semester, thanks in part to our Collegian Program which is very strong.

President Katt said one of the resolutions before this committee is for the Kelder Center (which was the former Jacobson House), and he explained the past and the future use of the building. He said it is currently vacant, in need of repairs, and the college has to get approval of the Legislature to establish this as a Capital Project so we can get access to SUNY Construction Fund dollars. In addition to the SUNY Construction Fund he detailed where the balance of funding would be coming from and stated that no additional county money would be required.

Manna Jo Greene, a legislator and a neighbor, asked about the NYSERDA grant. President Katt said this grant was to a contractor to build a pressure house to teach sustainability and energy techniques. She also asked what energy efficient steps were going to be in place with the renovation. Dean Komdat said there would be many, including green building materials, energy efficient windows, the HVAC system and others.

Resolution : Resolution 94 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature.

MOTION #10 - RESOLUTION #94:

Text of Motion : Amending the 2014-2019 Capital Program Establishing Capital Project No. 405 – the Renovation and Repair of The Kelder Center – Ulster County Community College.

Motion Made : Leg. Archer
Seconded : Leg. Gregorius
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Gregorius, Archer, Lopez and Wawro
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 5
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #94 unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

Report by : Chris White, Deputy Director

Report : Mr. White said he was here on behalf of the resolution submitted by the County Executive to amend capital project #370, the STRIVE project, to provide for the increased cost of architectural services associated with environmental design and construction, and also for the purchase of the building itself. Mr. White reviewed the prior history of this project as more fully set forth in the body of the resolution including the \$439,000 grant from NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation for Green Infrastructure elements which is part of the scope of this resolution. When questioned, Mr. White said there has been no work done on the building to date except for inspections and hazardous materials testing. He said the green infrastructure elements funding grant is recent and a new portion of this project and that is the reason for this resolution. Chairman Donaldson asked when the college could expect to hold its first class and Mr. White said he thinks the fall of 2015.

Mr. White said they have tried to incorporate everything possible to increase the energy efficiency of the building during the design phase. Examples are the replacement of all exterior windows, all lighting will be energy efficient and many others.

On the funding side, Mr. Crannell said the Flatbush Avenue building should be ready by mid to late April. The Veterans' Agency is currently located in the BRC as is the Youth and Human Rights Office.

Resolutions : Resolution #96 - for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION # 11 - RESOLUTION #96:

Text of Motion : Amending Capital Project #370, STRIVE – SUNY Ulster Satellite Campus to Include the costs of building acquisition, design of green infrastructure elements, and additional Architectural services.

Motion Made : Leg. Wawro

Seconded : Leg. Lopez

Voice Vote : Yes

In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Archer, Gregorius, Wawro, and Lopez

Opposed : None

No. in Favor : 5

No. Opposed : 0

Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #96 unanimously approved.

ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING:

Report by : No Report – Three contract approval resolutions to be voted upon as follows:

Resolutions : 1) Resolution #87 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature
2) Resolution #88 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature
3) Resolution #89 for the March 18, 2014 session of the Legislature

MOTION #12 ON RESOLUTION #87:

Text of Motion : Approving the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County Of Ulster – Ulster Home Care, Inc. – Office for the Aging (\$200,895.00)

Motion Made : Leg. Wawro

Seconded : Leg. Archer

Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Wawro, Archer, Lopez and Gregorius
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 5
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #87 unanimously approved.

MOTION #13 ON RESOLUTION #88:

Text of Motion : Approving the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County Of Ulster – Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc. – Office for the Aging (\$192,555.80)

Motion Made : Leg. Lopez
Seconded : Leg. Wawro
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Wawro, Archer, Lopez and Gregorius
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 5
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #88 unanimously approved.

MOTION #14 ON RESOLUTION #89:

Text of Motion : Approving the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000 entered into by the County Of Ulster – Litson Health Care, Inc. – Office for the Aging (\$523,242.00)

Motion Made : Leg. Archer
Seconded : Leg. Lopez
Voice Vote : Yes
In Favor : Chairman Donaldson, Legs. Wawro, Archer, Lopez and Gregorius
Opposed : None
No.in Favor : 5
No.Opposed : 0
Disposition : Motion passed. Resolution #89 unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Donaldson discussed meeting at other venues during the next few months. It was agreed that the next meeting of this Committee would be held on April 2, 2014 at 5:30pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Kingston Plaza, Kingston. In the event that date is not available for CCE, arrangements could be made to meet at Community Action. All dates to be confirmed with the Legislative Clerk's Office.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION #15:

There being no further business before this committee, on motion duly made by Leg. Lopez and seconded by Leg. Archer and carried, Chairman Donaldson declared the meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Dated the 12th day of March, 2014.

Janet Salanitri, Recorder

Minutes Approved On April 2, 2014