

**Ways & Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** November 17, 2014 – 1:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Karen L. Binder Library, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, COB  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Richard Gerentine, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Donald J. Quesnell  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislative Chairman Parete, Legislators Archer, Donaldson, Wishnick Legislative Counsel Weiner, Deputy County Executive Kenneth Crannell, Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick, Sheriff Paul Van Blarcum, Jamie Capuano, Kenneth Juras, Tom Gibney, Lena Serrano, Lisa Cutten, Howard Baul, Dennis Pitcock, Patricia Doxsey of the Daily Freeman, Clerk of the Legislature Victoria A. Fabella

- **Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM**
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**General Discussion:**

- Burt Gulnick introduced the staff of the ACE department to answer questions regarding what they have done. Lisa Cutten gave a summary of the proceedings of her department including hands on training, implementing the finance system, and streamlining departments. Legislator Gerentine stated he wanted to clarify that the committee asked for a quarterly or biannual report regarding what the ACE division would be doing for their next 6 months. Lisa Cutten stated currently they are working with D.S.S. services and how they are billing interdepartmentally as well as other procedures they are looking into in D.S.S. Legislator Belfiglio asked about the time clocks and asked to verify why they do not work with the New World System. Burt Gulnick gave the explanation as for why this is the case. For the departments that do not use this system currently, it was explained how they track time. Legislator Bartels asked for a report of who is not on the time keeping system. Legislator Rodriguez agreed with Legislator Bartels regarding the report and getting more departments on the system.
- Sheiff Van Blarcum spoke regarding his request at the previous meeting. He spoke regarding Legislator Bartels' amendment and how the Sheriff's association found that his office is doing nothing wrong and he is ready to sit down and talk about it. Legislator Donaldson spoke regarding the memorandum of agreement and how it ended at the end of December. He quoted a specific section regarding the Sheriff's duties and how the Chairman of the Legislature did not have to sign off on this and he felt the Legislative body could not dictate the day to day operations of the Sheriff's office. He felt the situation could

be easily solved by the executive branch. Legislator Rodriguez stated we could set a policy to end this practice and the MOA would have to reflect it. Ken Crannell stated this agreement has been identical for many years and he warned this document has to be approved by the state and it can affect our reimbursement. Legislator Parete said this is not our policy and to say it is is disingenuous. Legislator Gerentine said the legislative body can pass a policy to change the proceedings of the agreement. Sheriff Van Blarcum said he would follow the MOA. Ken Crannell said nothing in the MOA mandates the Sheriff to check for warrants at D.S.S. Legislative Counsel stated he felt it would be best at this point to discuss this in executive session. Legislator Bartels said the MOA states the Sheriff has to follow county policy. She felt the language is open to interpretation and wanted to know if any language could be stricken per state regulations. Legislator Gerentine said we will not jeopardize our funding and we will look at what is legal and what isn't. Legislator Rodriguez said he is assuming we will iron out some issues before tomorrow and it would make sense to hold off on Legislator Bartels' amendments until tomorrow. Legislator Provenzano said she talked with Sheriff Van Blarcum and asked him to attend a Public Health & SS meeting.

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<b>Motion No. 1:</b>	<b>Amendment 1 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014</b>
<b>Text of Motion:</b>	<b>Approving Amendment 1 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet</b> – Transferring favorable finding of consultants from Community College Tuition to Contingency.
<b>Motion Made By:</b>	Legislator Gerentine
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Rodriguez
<b>Discussion:</b>	None.
<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez
<b>Voting Against:</b>	None
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	9
<b>No. of Votes Against</b>	0
<b>Disposition:</b>	Carried

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<b>Motion No. 2:</b>	<b>Amendment 2 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014</b>
<b>Text of Motion:</b>	<b>Approving Amendment 2 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet</b> – Increasing appropriation for the Arts Mid-Hudson Program – from contingency
<b>Motion Made By:</b>	Legislator Briggs
<b>Motion Seconded By:</b>	Legislator Belfiglio

**Discussion:** Legislator Rodriguez said he is probably going to be a no on many of these due to his concern in spending. Legislator Bartels said she struggled on a few of these and that she inclined to support the programs at this point that went through the process and attending their committee's meetings regarding requests for increases in funding. Legislator Gerentine stated that he feels all contract agencies are deserving but we must look out for the taxpayers; thus she has concerns funding any agencies for additional funds. Legislator Maio asked if we can change the dollar amount. Legislator Briggs said that these agencies have gone through committee and he felt that we are investing in arts and entertainment and it is a wise investment. Legislator Donaldson said all of his amendments were unanimously passed by his committee. Legislator Belfiglio stated this goes hand in hand with everything including economic development and it is a win-win for everyone. Legislator Gerentine stated he felt the increases are hard to justify. Legislator Bartels said to play devil's advocate they why give them any money at all and she reminded everyone about the process for this year and how it was originally listed as a flat increase by Ways & Means. Legislator Archer stated this is still less than what they have received in the past and she feels this is a commitment to the Arts in our community. Legislator Maloney said this enhances Ulster County and it makes it more attractive.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Gerentine  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 3:** **Amendment 3 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 3 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – Increase appropriation for Community Action Program- from contingency

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Provenzano  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Discussion:** None.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Gerentine

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against** 1  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 4: Amendment 4 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Approving Amendment 4 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – Moving funds for CASA program from DSS Admin, back to Legislative account

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Maloney

**Discussion:** Legislator Provenzano said she has concerns leaving it as a contract and feels it has a better chance of getting better in the department of D.S.S.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, J. Parete  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Maloney, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6  
**No. of Votes Against** 3  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 5: Amendment 5 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Approving Amendment 5 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – Increase appropriation for the Cornell Cooperative Extension – from contingency

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Maloney  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Discussion:** Legislator Gerentine said again he feels they are a great program but cannot give that kind of money. Legislator Archer explains the additional expenses they have taken on. Legislator Donaldson said the money they get from us they leverage much more from other places and they have 40ish employees.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Gerentine, Rodriguez  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against** 2  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 6: Amendment 6 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Approving Amendment 6 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – Increase appropriation for the Eating Disorder Coalition – from contingency.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Belfiglio

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels said she had a little bit of issue with this because departmentally they did not increase an increase.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Belfiglio, Briggs, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Maio, Rodriguez  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 4  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 7: Amendment 7 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Approving Amendment 7 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – Increase appropriation for the Awareness Program – from contingency

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Belfiglio  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Provenzano

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels if this went through committee. It was stated that Awareness does not report to a committee.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Gerentine, Rodriguez  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 2  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 8: Amendment 8 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Approving Amendment 8 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – For UC Coalition against Narcotics related to the supply of Narcan Kits – from contingency

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Belfiglio  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Maloney

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels stated this resolution was for Narcan Kits. Legislator Belfiglio said that the money is going to be used to get awareness of this coalition on public service announcements. Legislator Parete stated these groups are recently formed by the legislature and we may need something to help fight the heroin addiction. He wanted to point out that we were told that last week we got told we can get free Narcan Kits and some EMS groups have no idea about it. Legislator Rodriguez said if we want to go in this direction we should make a full plan. Legislator Maio agreed. Legislator Belfiglio said in order to help this committee we do need seed money. Legislator Briggs asked if when this comes back around that it would come to the Law Enforcement committee.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Belfiglio, Maloney, J. Parete,  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Briggs, Maio, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 3  
**No. of Votes Against:** 6  
**Disposition:** Defeated

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**Motion No. 9:** **Amendment 9 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 9 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – For the funding of the positions of EMS Coordinator and Deputy EMS Coordinator – from contingency.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Parete

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels asked if this would be like the fire coordinator and asked if it went through committee. Legislator Briggs said it did not go through committee and gave an explanation as to their responsibilities. Legislator Bartels verified that it is not benefited. Legislator Belfiglio stated that it is hard to get volunteers and Rich Parish does it right now and he isn't going to do it forever. Legislator Provenzano stated she doesn't recall that every contract agency was instructed by W&M had to report to their agencies for an increase. Legislator Briggs spoke about the work being done and how it is vital. Legislator Parete said the EMS community is reaching a critical mass and whoever takes this has an awful lot of work to do.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 9  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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A five minute break was taken at 2:35 and the meeting was called back to order at 2:40

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**Motion No. 10:** **Amendment 10 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 10 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – Walker Valley Burn Tower Panels – from contingency

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** Legislator Rodriguez wanted to clarify this will be available for all fire departments.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 9  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 11:** **Amendment 11 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 11 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – Creating appropriations for the Federated Sportsmen – from contingency

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Maloney

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels spoke on the lateness of this agency and not receiving a request.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Belfiglio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Briggs, Maio, Rodriguez  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4  
**No. of Votes Against:** 5  
**Disposition:** Defeated

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**Motion No. 12:** **Amendment 12-14 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Postponing Amendment 12-14 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet until the Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting :**

**Amendment 12** – Deleting Entire Sheriff Security Division

**Amendment 13** – Deleting Retirement and Benefits associated with Amendment 12

**Amendment 14** – Moving Sheriff Building Security and associated lines into contingency(Amendments 12,13)

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Rodriguez

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels stated she recommended making this suggestion to legislature as a means of maintaining our authority over the policy. Legislator Gerentine state he agrees that this legislature has full authority to set policy. He recommended that the legislature set a policy regarding this issue. Legislator Rodriguez moved to postpone. Legislator Donaldson said he felt in some ways this is in some ways very irresponsible and this should be solved through the memorandum of agreement. Legislator Provenzano requested that we have some calls made to clarify questions regarding the MOA. Legislator Bartels wanted to make clear she wanted to strike certain sections of the agreement. Ken Crannell stated that he didn't know if the right thing would be to strike something in the MOA. He went on to explain the differences of security between buildings. Legislator Parete spoke about signing in at the Health Department and Family Court and he feels this practice is not unusual. Legislator Bartels stated the fact that we have differences of opinion is part of the problem. She agreed with Ken Crannell and what he had said earlier. Howard Baul from the CSA said we would be lucky to get information from the state in 3 weeks let alone tomorrow.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 9

**No. of Votes Against** 0

**Disposition:** Postponed until November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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**Motion No. 13:** **Amendment 15 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Withdrawn by Legislator Gerentine

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**Motion No. 14:** **Amendment 16 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 16 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – Amendment changing Comptroller Budget, Employees reflected at 37.5hr work week.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Gerentine

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Motion to Amend:** Legislator Bartels moved to amend the Amendment to strike Association dues as well

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Rodriguez

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 9

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels explained her amendment and how it was in reference to the BAR dues explained last week. Burt explained the how the amendment would be effected. Legislator Bartels requested the amendment show the specific reasoning. Legislator Gerentine said his intent with this is to move it to contingency where if the money gets requested we would be aware of where it is going. Legislator Gerentine said we are creating a policy for the month of December regarding travel. Legislator Donaldson said the conference policy should be made across the board. Legislator Rodriguez asked where the 6000 came from in the Conference expenses in the amendment. Burt explained they are instate costs. Legislator Maloney stated all out of state conferences should be checked and he thinks the current policy ceiling should be brought way down. Burt Gulnick stated he believed that the travel of the comptroller was approved by the executive after it was paid for. Legislator Gerentine invited all recommendations for the policy being made. Legislator Provenzano felt that once we approve the budget any department can do what they want with the funds assigned. Legislator Briggs said this is a lesson learned and we should draw a line in the sand and move forward.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 9  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 15:** **Amendment 17 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 17 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – Allocating fund for an Audot of the Comptroller’s Office – from funds of Amendment 16.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Rodriguez

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Discussion:** Legislator Rodriguez said this amendment is per the discussion in W&M with regards to topics brought up about Comptroller’s Office. Legislator Maloney has asked do we know if all departments have been audited. A list was requested of who has been audited and who does it go to.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 9  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 16:** **Amendment 18 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 18 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – County Budget Office Technical Amendment for Mental Health/Social Services

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Rodriguez

**Discussion:** None.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 9

**No. of Votes Against  
Disposition:** 0  
Carried

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**Motion No. 17:** **Amendment 19 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 19 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – Renaming Legislative Counsel Position and adjusting Salaries

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Maloney  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Provenzano

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels spoke regarding the history of legislative counsel's salaries. She stated she cannot support it due to the increase from 2011-2015. Legislator Maio stated later on perhaps we should look into having 2 counsels. Legislator Provenzano said she felt Majority/Minority counsel are both equal and should be paid the same. Legislator Donaldson explained when they went from 2 to 3 counsels. Legislator Bartels explained when the lawyer was budgeted on the contractual line. Legislator Provenzano said in order for this legislative body to digest everything that comes in front of it we should have the best of the best. Legislator Parete said he thinks everyone deserved an unvarnished recommendation.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano

**Voting Against:** Legislator Bartels, Rodriguez

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7

**No. of Votes Against** 2

**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 18:** **Amendment 1 Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Approving Amendment 20 of Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet** – Adjusting salary of Director of Tourism – from contingency

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Gerentine

**Motion to Amend:** Legislator Briggs moved to change his amendment to represent a \$3,500 increase

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Maio

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Gerentine  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against** 1

**Discussion:** Legislator Briggs spoke regarding reasoning behind amendment. Legislator Rodriguez stated he is in an awkward position he will be voting note but the individual is a good friend. He stated he is a fantastic individual. Legislator Wishnick stated the position would be easier to fill than other positions and that should be taken into account. Legislator Maio asked Burt Gulnick about being potentially budget neutral. Legislator Maio asked Legislator Briggs if he would consider lowering the amount. Legislator Maloney stated tourism generates a great deal of sales tax for our county and this man does a very good job. Legislator Belfiglio mentioned the position review that was handed out and he felt that tourism is a big draw to this county. Burt Gulnick recommended to judge the position not the person.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Gerentine  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against** 1  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**Motion No. 19:** **Amendment 21 Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Packet – November 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Postponing Amendment 21 presented in meeting** – To move funds from outside counsel line in the County Attorney's office to contingency

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels explained the reasoning behind the amendment and how it is not personal. She explained her concerns on how it is increasing roughly \$60,000 this year. She explained about the outside counsel regarding the Catskill Mountain Railroad. She recommended we postpone it until tomorrow to allow Bea to talk about her concerns. Burt mentioned in 2012 two other divisions used over \$100,000 in outside counsel and gave reasoning behind

them. Legislator Gerentine said we are working on a policy for lawsuits as well.

<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, Maloney, J. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez
<b>Voting Against:</b>	None
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	9
<b>No. of Votes Against</b>	0
<b>Disposition:</b>	Carried

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### **General Discussion**

- It was decided that the Sheriff and the Comptroller's office did not submit an amendment for the committee to consider with financial implications so nothing was voted upon.
  - Legislator Maloney had an amendment prepared to submit to the committee but upon asking the commissioner of finance about the family court furniture and where and when it was budgeted for he decided not to present the amendment; Commissioner Gulnick said he would find the money in this year's budget for what was requested.
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### **Old Business**

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There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Maloney, seconded by Legislator Maio and carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:51pm.

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**Dated the 24<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2014**  
**Donald J. Quesnell, Fiscal Analyst**  
**Minutes Approved On: December 10, 2014**