

**Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** August 4, 2020 – 5:15pm  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom / Dial in by phone: (646) 558-8656  
Meeting ID: 990 9434 3712  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Chairman James Delaune  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Jay Mahler, Nettie Tomshaw  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Peter Criswell, Thomas Corcoran, Mary Wawro  
**ABSENT:** Legislator John Parete  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes

**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislator’s Brian Cahill and Laura Petit  
Dr. Alan Roberts, President, SUNY Ulster  
Jamie Capuano, VP for Administrative Services, SUNY Ulster  
Marc Rider, Deputy County Executive  
Susan Koppenhagen, UC Director Office For The Aging  
Jerry Sheehan, Asst to VPs for Academic Affairs &  
Enrollment Mgt SUNY Ulster / Recorder

Chairman Delaune called the meeting to order at 5:20pm

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**Motion to Approve Minutes and Transcript** of the July 7, 2020 Meeting of the Legislative Programs, Education and Community Services Committee

**Motion By:** Legislator Wawro  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Criswell

**Voting in Favor:** Legislators Delaune, Criswell, Corcoran, Wawro  
**Voting Against:** None  
**Votes in Favor:** 4  
**Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Motion Passed

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**SUNY Ulster Update:** **Dr. Alan Roberts,**  
**President**  
**SUNY Ulster**

Refer to annexed transcript

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Ulster County Legislature  
**Legislative Programs, Education and  
Community Services Committee**

**Meeting Transcript**  
**August 4, 2020**

**Chairman Delaune**

So, I will call the meeting to order of the Legislative Programs Education and Community Services Committee. Tuesday, August 4. Let's see. Nettie, do you want to do attendance, please?

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Sure. Okay.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Jim Delaune.

**Chairman Delaune**

Here.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Tom Corcoran.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Here.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Peter Criswell.

**Legislator Criswell**

Here.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Mary Wawro.

**Legislator Wawro**

Here.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

John Parete.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Dave Donaldson.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Ok, four present.

**Chairman Delaune**

All right, very good. Can I get a motion to approve the minutes and transcript of the July 7 meeting?

**Legislator Wawro**

I'll move it.

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll second it.

**Chairman Delaune**

Okay. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. (4-0)

**Chairman Delaune**

All right. Dr. Roberts, you're up next.

**Dr. Alan Roberts**

Well, thanks, Jim. And I want to just thank the Legislature, in general, for approving our budget. I know times are hard and you didn't even blink an eye. And you just, you know, no cuts. Thank you. It means a lot to us. Because we're going to be changing. There'll be some challenges coming this fall. You know, right now we're down in enrollment. And the biggest challenge there is not all students want to same. You know, some want to come back. Some don't want to come back. Some really prefer not online. Some want to be face-to-face. So, it's there's not a one size fits all to this. And in juggling and trying to get as many of those students to feel comfortable, and whatever modality we have is our challenge. We've been getting anywhere between 30-90 calls per day. So, the students are out there, we just we got to move them to action. And you know, that's what we're going to be looking for. We got probably three more weeks to get this to where we need it to be. And well, it's all hands-on deck, and everyone's doing a darn good job.

**Dr. Alan Roberts**

I have to give Jamie kudos because she's working... You know, she'll work 80 hours one week and come Friday afternoon, they change the plan. So, she's all weekend. And she did tell us about this new system that she had that I just would like to share with you. She's actually created a fast track entry for our students, where students can come in, and they're in front of a screen, they swipe their card and their temperature is taken at the same time. So, we literally can have no lines waiting through the traditional way we do it. Now they come in, we ask questions. We take their temperature. So, we've expedited that by tenfold. And that's it's a unique system. And I think I don't know how you figured that out or where you got to Jamie. But that's, that's really going to work well.

**Jamie Capuano**

It's all about teamwork.

**Dr. Alan Roberts**

We'll know more next time we meet, but right now we're going to do the best we can to get the students here.

**Chairman Delaune**

Great, thank you. Any questions? Being none, we'll move on to resolutions. Thank you, Dr. Roberts. Thank you, Jamie.

**Dr. Alan Roberts**

Thanks.

**Chairman Delaune**

Resolution 269: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With Required Assurances For The Medicare Improvements For Patients And Providers Act (MIPPA) And Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Include Additional Funding From The New York State Office For The Aging – Office For The Aging.

**Chairman Delaune**

Do we have a representative?

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Yes. I'm here. Susan Koppenhaver, How are you.

**Legislator Delaune**

Can I have a motion?

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll move this for discussion.

**Chairman Delaune**

Thank you, Peter. Second?

**Legislator Corcoran**

Second.

**Chairman Delaune**

Very good. All right. discussion.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Anybody have any questions about this program or what it does?

**Chairman Delaune**

Why don't you tell us what this is all about.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

So, MIPPA is, you know what the acronym stands for. And basically, when we have seniors come in who are not qualified for Medicare, or I'm sorry, Medicaid, but they really don't have a whole lot of extra income. We have our Medicare and MIPPA specialist meet with them. And they're able to save a little bit of money on the Medicare deductible, or premium. I think it's the premium actually. And because of their income level, it doesn't apply to everybody. But it applies to some people. And they meet a

specialist. She's one person who meets with a lot of people. And \$135 is \$135 off. So, they're very grateful for it. She's been doing it for years. She talks about Medicare and the savings plan wherever she goes out in the community. Her name is Eleanor Minsky and works about eight months out of the year and saves people a lot of money, who are eligible for the program. And that's what MIPPA does.

**Chairman Delaune**

Great. And this grant application is for how much?

**Susan Koppenhaver**

I think the total amount is about \$15,000 and change.

**Legislator Corcoran**

\$15,758.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Yeah.

**Chairman Delaune**

Right. Any other questions? All right, I'll call for a vote. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. (4-0)

**Chairman Delaune**

Any opposed? There being none. That resolution passes. Resolution...

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Thank you.

**Chairman Delaune**

Resolution 270: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With Required Assurances For The NY Connects Program With The New York State Office For The Aging – Office For The Aging

**Chairman Delaune**

Can I get a motion?



**Legislator Corcoran**

Motion.

**Legislator Criswell**

Okay. I'll second that.

**Chairman Delaune**

Very good. Discussion? Can you tell us a bit about this program too, please?

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Sure. Sure, NY Connects has been operating out of the OSA offices for quite a while. We have two full time NY Connects staff, plus somebody else who partially funded by the grant. And NY Connects has a really broad outreach for the community. It's, it's not only for seniors, it's also for disabled folks. So, we have connections in the community with places like RCAL and the independent living centers for support. We help them. They help us. They refer to us. We refer to them. And it's really for folks who not only want to stay at home but may need some help, adaptive equipment, which is part of what RCAL does. Support. Personal support. Things like that.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

NY Connects staff also are trained to be able to help folks begin, for instance, a Medicaid application, which is a pretty extensive, and complicated task. They are able to do heat applications for people, which actually go all year starting in January, because we have a cooling season too. And they can start folks on a SNAP application. They're familiar with the Medicaid application process. They have, you know, dozens and dozens of resources at their fingertips. And they're on the phone talking to people about all sorts of things. They're familiar with how we do our legal representation. They're familiar with how MIPPA works. they're familiar with Medicare. And they can refer to those programs.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

So, they're sort of like a, I would call them, like a gatekeeper, more than anything else. So, it's like, oh, you have this problem. I can refer you to the MIPPA counselor, and then you need to go, and let me send you a SNAP application in the mail if they know that their income levels qualify. So, they, they really have their fingers in a lot of different pies. And they're sort of an invaluable resource that we have for both the seniors and the disabled. And like I said, the connections in the community with the independent living centers and the places like RCAL. So, they do, they add sort of a, I don't know, I guess you would call it sort of a background of wealth to our office.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

So, we've been really happy with that. We've actually, lately, I don't know if you know, we've been handing out the farmer's market coupons. We just started that last week. And we have a couple of representatives from the regional NY Connects office coming to help us. Which is great and really part of what they do. You know, reach out help people figure out what they need. I'm calling for one thing, but I might now... they'll figure out that they need three more things. So, they get them on that too. So, they've been really helpful with that as well during the whole pandemic. With the meals, and the delivery, and the shopping and the problems that people have had throughout this time.

**Chairman Delaune**

Sounds like a wonderful program.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

It is it really is.

**Chairman Delaune**

Yeah. And the amount you're requesting?

**Susan Koppenhaver**

It's a lot of money. And I don't I'm sorry, I don't remember how much it was like \$257,000, or something.

**Legislator Corcoran**

You've got it. \$257,000.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

I can't believe I remembered that. Yay.

**Legislator Corcoran**

You did, you're right on the button.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Yeah, it's a lot of money. Like I said, it covers two full time salaries. It covers part of another person's salary. And a number of us also chip in. It chips into our salaries as well. So, we're all sort of doing it. Parts of it. I guess. I've been doing a lot of it lately and it goes far and wide.

**Chairman Delaune**

Legislator Criswell has a question.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yeah, just the finances. So, in the financial impact statement, it says that \$193,000 is for the 2020 budgeted county revenue dollars and about \$64,000 is for 2021. And I'm just trying to understand, is this a contract that goes over to [inaudible].

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Yes. Yes, and yes, exactly.

**Legislator Criswell**

So, does it go from June to June or something like that? Or it spans a two-year period? Or is it two full calendar years? Or...

**Susan Koppenhaver**

They... if there's money left over; they can carry it. And if they have, if some of the contracts have different calendar months. So, you're looking at one of those, one of those contracts right there that isn't following the calendars that some of the other contracts are.

**Legislator Criswell**

Is it money that has to be used or else it goes away or is it...

**Susan Koppenhaver**

No, we can carry it. It's actually very flexible as far as what we can do with it, it can apply in a lot of different situations.

**Legislator Criswell**

Okay, that's...

**Susan Koppenhaver**

What people do. Yeah. Does that answer your question.

**Legislator Criswell**

That there's not really strict usage on this. Okay thank you.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Not as strict as some other things that we get. For instance, the law degree that we taught, not the degree, but the law contract that we have. It's only one funding, and it's pretty strict.

**Legislator Criswell**

Okay. Great. Thank you.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Looks like it looks like April 1, 2020 through March 31st, 2021.

**Legislator Criswell**

Thank you.

**Chairman Delaune**

Okay. Any other questions? All right, then I'll call for a vote. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. (4-0)

**Chairman Delaune**

Any opposed? Seeing none that carries.

**Susan Koppenhaver**

Thank you very much.

**Chairman Delaune**

Yes. Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – T. McElligott, Inc. – Ulster County Community College.

**Chairman Delaune**

Dr. Roberts or Jamie, do you want to handle this one?

**Chairman Delaune**

Can I get a motion?

**Legislator Corcoran**

Motion.

**Chairman Delaune**

Second?

**Legislator Criswell**

Second (raised hand)

**Jamie Capuano**

So, I can jump in on this. So, this is a project we've received notification from SUNY that they're providing emergency funding for us to advance our HVAC project. So, this project was slated to kick off in March/April, right when COVID hit. So, this contract was ready to go at that point, the State pulled all contract approvals and pretty much put a moratorium on all contract approvals, pending the outcome obviously, with what's happening with COVID and financial situations. They reopened that process and allowed us to submit an emergency request for this project. This project will be a contract to replace non-operable HVAC units in our Vanderlyn classroom building. And this is imperative for us as we think through reopening so that we can ensure that we're able to change filtering units and that we're providing proper HVAC. As of right now, the HVAC units are not operational.

**Chairman Delaune**

Very good. Any questions?

**Legislator Corcoran**

It's 50/50, right? State/County?

**Jamie Capuano**

Correct.

**Chairman Delaune**

Legislator Criswell, do you have a question?

**Legislator Criswell**

Just a quick question. In the summary budget section, I just noticed that there's no numbers in the budget and I was wondering why that I don't see any here.

**Legislator Corcoran**

\$79,500

**Jamie Capuano**

Yeah. \$79,500 is a contract amount. I can talk to Eric Stock on the contract abstract.

**Legislator Criswell**

I just don't see any of the breakdown here. I'm looking at summary budget. Like there's lines for personnel, for fringe, for equipment, everything, there's nothing in any of that. Do you see what I'm seeing, any legislators who are looking at this, page 18, 19, 20, 21?

**Legislator Corcoran**

That I don't have.

**Legislator Criswell**

It's the backup for the resolution.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Yeah, yeah.

**Legislator Criswell**

Yeah. It's just there's no there's no breakdown of any of the any of the budget numbers. So...

**Jamie Capuano**

So, we can pull that information and get you that information, make sure it's in there should be absolutely loaded up into the New World System. So, we can pull it down and get it to you.

**Legislator Criswell**

Okay.

**Legislator Haynes**

We appreciate it.

**Legislator Criswell**

The place where the numbers come in, it's where they show the breakdown of it by county and the state. That's where I first started seeing numbers because the actual totals.

**Jamie Capuano**

No, it's just it's a 50/50 State share on this as all of our projects that are. So, we'll absolutely get you that.

**Legislator Criswell**

Okay, sounds great. Thank you.

**Chairman Delaune**

All right with that, I'll call for a vote.

**Chairman Delaune**

All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. (4-0)

**Chairman Delaune**

Any opposed? That passes.

**Chairman Delaune**

Thank you, Dr. Roberts, Jamie.

**Dr. Alan Roberts**

Thank you, Jim. Take care everyone.

**Chairman Delaune**

Any new business? Any old business?

**Chairman Delaune**

All right. There being none., I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

**Legislator Corcoran**

Motion to adjourn.

**Chairman Delaune**

All right. Can I get a second?

**Legislator Criswell**

I'll second that.

**Chairman Delaune**

Very good. All in favor?

**Committee Members**

Aye. (4-0)

**Legislator Criswell**

Tag-team thing tonight, aren't we?

**Legislator Criswell**

All right.

**Nettie Tomshaw**

Doing good.

**Legislator Wawro**

Bye everybody.

**Chairman Delaune**

Thank you, all.

**Jamie Capuano**

Good night, thank you everybody.

**Legislator Delaune**

See you next month.

**Legislator Corcoran**

I'll see you later, Jim.

**Chairman Delaune**

Yes.