

Ways & Means Committee Special Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: December 6, 2017 – 5:30
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building,
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Richard Gerentine, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Amber Feaster
PRESENT: Legislators Thomas Briggs, Chris Allen, Tracey Bartels,
Carl Belfiglio, Mary Beth Maio, and James F. Maloney
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Manna Jo Greene, Jennifer Schwartz Berky, and
Hector Rodriguez; Nicholas Pascale, Legislative Counsel; Kyle
Barnett, Legislative Counsel; Ken Crannell, Deputy County
Executive; Burt Gulnick, Commissioner of Finance; Legislator
Elects Joseph Maloney, Kathy Nolan, and Brian Woltman

- **Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM**

Motion No. 1: To postpone Resolution No. 444 - Approving Assignment And Assumption Of The Hudson River Valley LLC PILOT Agreement To 300 Grant Ave, LLC

Resolution Summary: This Resolution states the Legislature's consent to the assignment and assumption of the PILOT by 300 Grant Ave and requests the UCIDA to take the necessary steps to provide for such assignment and assumption.

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

Discussion: Legislator Bartels confirmed that this Resolution has already been discussed and approved by the Economic Development Committee. Legislator Maloney explained that the agreement has been approved by the Kingston City School District, Town of Ulster, and the UCIDA. Legislator Rodriguez emphasized comfort in the agreement with the aforementioned parties' involvement. Legislator Maloney explained that there is a 30 year Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement (PILOT) which was negotiated back in 1998, running through 2029 with the total payments remaining a little under \$13,455,000, and that the purpose of the Resolution is to pick up what's outstanding on the agreement for the remaining 12 years. Further, Legislator Maloney explained that the property is the head trauma center, which currently has 325 full time

employees, 25 part time employees, and 25 independent contractors and therapists, emphasizing that the center has been an economic engine in the County and a major employer.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Briggs, Allen, Bartels, Maio, and Maloney
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6 (Belfiglio Abstained)
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Chairman Gerentine asked if there was any other business or questions. There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Briggs
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 5:39 PM

Motion No. 2: To re-open the meeting

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Discussion: Legislator Greene explained that she and Legislator Heppner were working on a Budget Amendment which would create a new position for an Energy Coordinator in addition to the staff that already exists, stating that she had multiple meetings with the Executive Branch which led her to feel that the need for the duties proposed had not been met. Legislator Greene said that the Departments of Environment and Economic Development, where she hoped the position would be housed, are doing everything they can, but that someone needs to go out to businesses to help them to figure out how to do energy retro-fits, how to install solar, and how to finance these changes. Further, Legislator Greene explained that when a county-wide Recycling Coordinator was hired, a team

was created that took the County's recycling rate from 4% to 40% in a decade, that she wants to see our businesses go from less than 4% energy efficiency and renewable energy to 40% in less than a decade, and that she believes the way to do this is to charge someone with the responsibility of helping businesses. Legislator Greene said that she doesn't want the amendment to disappear, as she believes it is essential, but that the reasonable thing to do at this late hour is to carry the amendment through the committee process in the upcoming year to determine need, to determine availability of resources, and to decide where the position should be housed, and that, upon learning that the benefit rate is at 59%, the possibility of having this work outsourced should be considered.

Chairman Gerentine reiterated that Legislator Greene's intent is to ask the Committee to keep an open mind for next year and asked that she consider ways to finance the new position out of money other than Contingency.

Legislator Belfiglio expressed concern that the duties proposed seem like a great deal of work for a single person and asked if it would be prudent to hold a conference for local businesses once or twice a year, inviting businesses to come, then using that opportunity to show the businesses their possibilities rather than creating a new position. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell said that the County is planning to hold such a conference in the upcoming year. Legislator Greene said that in her experience, both are necessary, as businesses need follow up. Ken Crannell stated that it was expressed in prior meetings that the Administration does not support this proposal and that he is reluctant to discuss outsourcing such tasks and would prefer to have staff perform them.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Belfiglio
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 5:49 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster
Minutes Approved: December 12, 2017