

Ways & Means Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: April 18, 2017 – 5:30
LOCATION: KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building,
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Richard Gerentine, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Legislators, Chris Allen (arrived 6:40), Tracey Bartels, Carl Belfiglio,
Mary Beth Maio and James F. Maloney
ABSENT: Legislator Thomas J. Briggs
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Hector Rodriguez and Manna Jo Greene; Nicholas Pascale,
Legislative Counsel; Kyle Barnett, Majority Counsel; Christopher Ragucci, Minority Counsel; Ken
Cannel, Deputy County Executive; Burt Gulnick, Commissioner of Finance; Dennis Doyle, Director
of Planning; Steven Peterson, Director of Emergency Management; Don Quesnell, Deputy Director of
UCAT; Jennifer Clark, County Attorney’s Office; James Holloway; Ilona Ross; Tom Kadgen, League
of Women Voters; Ross MacPhee, James Halloran, Clare Flemming, John Michalski, Stone Ridge
property owners.

- **Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM**

Chairman Gerentine introduced Don Quesnell, the former Legislative Financial Analyst and the new Deputy Director of UCAT. He also introduced Amber Feaster the new Legislative Financial Analyst and Jennifer Clark, a new attorney in the County Attorney’s office. The committee welcomed and congratulated all of them on their new positions.

Chairman Gerentine told the committee that the sponsor had requested the committee take no action on Resolution No. 13 - Adopting Proposed Local Law No. 9 of 2016 (A Local Law Regarding Campaign Finance Reform in Ulster County) because a group of legislators was meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 to discuss it

Resolution Summary: This resolution would adopt a Local Law to establish regulations regarding the acceptance of campaign financing by Ulster County Level Elected Officials.

Disposition: No Action Taken

Motion No. 1: To approve Resolution No. 149 - Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – CT Male Associates – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with CT Male Associates in the amount of \$82,406 on behalf of the Ulster County Department of Public Works to provide design services for the development of a County Wide Fire Training Facility.

Moved by: Legislator Maloney
Seconded by: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: Chairman Gerentine summarized the changes that have made to the contract the included the scope of work and the amount. His understanding was that meetings were held with the fire districts, siting committee and neighbors. Concerns were outlined in various emails.

Mr. Doyle gave an overview of the amended contract and how the new contract would allow the county to do the preliminary environmental site work usually done for the site plan review and gather information relative to the site near SUNY Ulster as well as a more in depth analysis of alternative sites. This information would include environmental concerns and help determine if such a training center would be feasible on this and/or alternative sites.

Mr. Doyle brought a large aerial photograph of the 40 + acre site. The project is anticipated to take up approximately 2 acres and about 4 acres will be disturbed to site it. He pointed out that there were several areas it could be sited on this property and gave some examples noting that the closest houses would be about 1000 feet away.

Mr. Doyle detailed some of the work to be done in this contract that included visualization studies, traffic studies, analysis of the soil types and delineation of wetlands. Additionally the contract will allow the county to do a more thorough examination of alternative sites that were considered as well as take a look at other alternative sites that might be suitable. When the work is finished he expects to have a comprehensive understanding of what sites will work both environmentally and operationally.

Mr. Doyle said this site is owned by Ulster County and was purchased around 1971 by the College with State funding. This facility would be associated with SUNY Ulster and would meet the requirements for an educational facility.

Mr. Doyle told an interesting side note: Dr. Roberts, the current SUNY Ulster President, had a Center of Excellence for Fire Training at his previous campus and was very receptive to this project.

Legislator Bartels had trouble seeing what the changes to the contract were without track changes. She questioned spending over 5% of the budget on just the environmental surveys and thought there was a less expensive way to get this information. She said she just learned about the educational component of the project that might make it eligible for additional state funding but at the same time she is not sure it is the right site before spending any money. She emphasized that she supports the project conceptually but just questioned spending the money at this point for environmental work to be more certain it was an appropriate site.

Chairman Gerentine, a developer himself, felt that the county does not have the expertise to do the level of environmental studies needed to make a determination about this site and that is why we need to invest in experts who can do the environmental studies. The questions and concerns neighbors and legislators have will need that level of expertise to begin to evaluate the site.

Chairman Gerentine and Mr. Doyle said this was a reasonable investment in a project of this proportion. Mr. Doyle reminded the committee that this contract includes an analysis of alternative sites as well. While he doesn't expect it, in the event that analysis uncovers a better site, the studies will be done for that site.

A discussion ensued about what sites were considered, the criteria developed by the siting committee; the existing fire training facilities; sections of the contract; the need for better understanding about how these facilities work and what other administrative buildings are needed.

Legislator Greene felt it would be helpful take a month to answer the easy questions; gather additional information and share more information with the community as a whole.

Mr. Doyle felt the questions from neighbors were helpful in moving forward Mr. Doyle said that this contract would allow address concerns. He feels the community deserves a thoughtful and professional response. Simply waiting a month will not give us any answers.

Chairman Gerentine reminded everyone that contract was only for the preliminary environmental analysis. The Legislature would need to approve additional contracts and resolutions before this project could move forward.

The committee had a discussion about the best ways to move forward.

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Gerentine, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney and Ronk
Voting Against:	Legislator Bartels
No. of Votes in Favor:	6
No. of Votes Against:	1
Disposition:	Approved

Motion No. 2: To approve Resolution No. 179 - Supporting A Grant Application To The Federal Transit Administration To Apply, Accept and Administer 5339(B) Funding For Building Improvements And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications Or Agreements To Accept Funding- Department of Public Transportation (UCAT)

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the County Executive to execute any required applications, agreements and amendments to accept the funding agreement with the Federal Transit Administration for \$62,500 on behalf of the Department of Transportation.

Moved by: Legislator Maloney
Seconded by: Legislator Maiio

Discussion: Mr. Quesnell explained the short time line and how the funds will be used.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Gerentine, Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Maio, Maloney and Ronk

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Approved

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Chairman Gerentine asked if there was any other business, hearing none

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Belfiglio

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted: Fawn Tantillo, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: May 9, 2017