

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: June 3, 2019 – 6:15 PM
LOCATION: Law Enforcement Center, 380 Boulevard, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Lynn Eckert
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Collins (arrived at 7:09 PM), Haynes, Heppner & Ronk
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Archer, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider – UC Executive’s Office, Director Doyle – UC Planning Department, Director Steve Peterson & Deputy Director of Fire Services Everett Erichsen – UC Emergency Management/Emergency Communications, Sheriff Figueroa & Superintendent John – UC Sheriff’s Office, Chief Jared Mance – Ulster County Fire Chief’s Association, Chief Jerimiah McDonough – Spring Lake Fire Company, Sam Appa – Ulster Hose (retired), Jack Hayes

Chairwoman Eckert called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

She thanked Sheriff Figueroa and his staff for giving the members a tour of the facility. She added that it was very helpful and gave everyone a better understanding of the multitude of things that happen on a daily basis.

Motion No. 1: Moved to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the May 6, 2019 meeting

Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 4

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Minutes APPROVED**

Resolutions for the June 18, 2019 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 233: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Division Of Criminal Justice Services For Participation In The Crimes Against Revenue Program – Ulster County District Attorney’s Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution authorizes the Chair to enter into an agreement with NYS DCJS in the amount of \$143,600 for participation in the Crimes Against Revenue Program (CARP) for the term January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.

Motion No. 2: **Motion ADOPT Resolution No. 233**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion:

Chairwoman Eckert advised the members that Jessica Schutzman from the District Attorney’s Office sent an email with details of the program which was distributed to the members (appended to these minutes.) She also asked Legislator Ronk to share information on the program. Legislator Ronk explained that the county has been receiving this grant from the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services for this program for a number of years. He added that the types of crimes the program targets are similar to those commonly referred to as “white collar” crimes. He added that the DA’s Office has seen a lot of success in recovering funds through the program.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 234: Amending The 2019 Ulster County Budget To Adjust The Annual Salary Of The District Attorney As Required By The New York State Judiciary Law – Ulster County District Attorney’s Office

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2019 Budget to increase the salary of the District Attorney by \$2,800 to \$202,800 as required by Section 183-A of the New York State Judiciary Law.

Motion No. 3: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 234**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk stated that the County Legislature has no say in the District Attorney’s salary as it is determined by the state. He added that the salary is tied to the County/Supreme Court Judge which is based on United States District Court Judge salaries.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 4
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Eckert advised the members that Resolution No. 235 would be set aside while Superintendent John gathered additional information on the service provided for the committee's discussion.

Resolution No. 236: Amending Capital Project No. 483 – Public Safety Training Center To Increase Funding For Construction – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends Capital Project No. 483 to increase the funding available by \$6,234,855 for construction services of the Public Safety Training Center burn building and site work plus contingencies, in keeping with the results of RFB UC19-142C.

Resolution No. 238: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – C.T. Male Associates Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Geology, D.P.C. – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with C.T. Male Associates Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Geology, D.P.C. in the amount of \$182,200 to expand the scope of design work for the Public Safety Training Center to include construction administration, observation and testing, inspections and storm water pollution prevention plan.

Resolution No. 239: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Profex Inc. – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Profex, Inc. in the amount of \$5,400,000 for 2019-2020 for portion of general construction work for the Public Safety Training Center, site work and burn building.

Resolution No. 240: Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Foremost Electric Corporation – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Foremost Electric Corporation in the amount of \$66,750 for 2019/2020 for portion of general construction work for the Public Safety Training Center, electrical site work.

Motion No. 4: **Motion to BLOCK Resolution Nos. 236, 238, 239 & 240**

Motion By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolutions BLOCKED**

Discussion:

Deputy County Executive Rider advised the members that the bids on the project were returned the prior week. He informed the members that there was a three-million-dollar difference between the two bids received. He explained that the county's CM was familiar with the work of Profex Inc. and was confident that they would honor their bid price despite it being substantially lower than the other.

Regarding CT Male, he explained that the contract for construction and inspection services, although previously awarded, is not executed until the county is ready to move forward with a project. He added that the bids for the administration building all came back at over a million dollars, so the county is taking that component off the table for the time being and will be reevaluating options.

Legislator Archer asked if the county has reviewed the burn building in Cortland. Mr. Erichsen responded that the county did look at the structure, but explained that it is a different building. He provided an explanation of the differences of the structures including the building materials and interior design and building materials. He added that the burn building that is being proposed will provide a number of training opportunities, adding that they could accommodate up to 5 different scenarios and three different fire companies at one time. He advised the members that Ulster County has 50 different fire companies, one of the highest in the state.

Legislator Archer asked if there was any other funding coming in for the project. Planning Director Doyle informed the members that there was a \$4.5 million appropriation in the NYS Budget which is a 50% match. He added that a signed lease is required between the county and SUNY Ulster for the Dormitory Authority to sign off on the funding. Deputy County Executive Rider added that the county will be going back to the state for additional funding. Legislator Ronk stated that there are currently fire training classes being conducted at SUNY Ulster.

Legislator Archer asked if the county's state elected representatives have been contacted. Mr. Rider responded that they would be following up with the representatives. Legislator Archer asked if the fire companies have been asked to contribute, adding that they are taxing entities. Legislators Ronk and Haynes responded that the fire districts would face tax cap issues, adding that they have equipment and operational needs that they have to finance.

Legislator Heppner stated that he was happy the county was moving forward with the three-story building and asked if the county was comfortable with the way things were progressing. Mr. Rider responded that the initial estimate to add the third story was estimated at +/- \$700,000 but new estimates have come back closer to +/- \$400,000. He added that the county would be adjusting annual figures in the budget to cover the bond payments. Legislator Ronk also expressed his pleasure with the county moving forward with the three-story building. Mr. Erichsen stated that the third story will provide a lot more training opportunities and will greatly assist with skills firefighters need to remain safe.

Legislator Heppner asked if the any members of the fire community present would like to comment. Chief Jared Mance, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Ulster County Fire Chief's Association, stated that the building is sorely needed and is an important step in improving training for members. He added that the facility will be used by all first responders, not just firefighters.

Legislator Eckert asked if the incoming County Executive was approached for his thoughts on the project. Mr. Rdier responded that he is supportive of the Training Center. Legislator Eckert asked what explanation Legislators can offer to constituents who want to know why there was such a substantial increase in the project price tag. Mr. Rider stated that the scope of the project has changed since it was first proposed, including the size and material of the building. He added that fire behavior training has also evolved. Legislator Heppner commented that he expects a valuable return on investment with the building, adding that the paid City of Kingston Fire Service will also be utilizing the facility.

Mr. Erichsen emphasized the importance of fire behavior training. He advised the members that the ability to offer this type of training is extremely limited at the moment and is paramount for the safety of firefighters. Chairwoman Eckert thanked everyone for the discussion and for traveling to the Law Enforcement facility for the meeting.

Legislator Ronk asked Chairwoman Eckert to call the question

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution Nos. 236, 238, 239 & 240 ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 235: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Justice Benefits Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Justice Benefits, Inc. in the amount of \$50,000 to extend the term of agreement for optimization of Federal financial participation for inmates.

Motion No. 5: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 235**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk asked if the Sheriff could provide some details about the service. Chairwoman Eckert briefly described the programmatic details provided in the meeting materials. Legislator Archer asked if there was a history or trend data about the revenue the service has identified. Deputy County Executive Rider advised the members that the amount the county pays the provider is determined by the amount of revenue identified.

Sheriff Figueroa explained that the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, SCAAP, reimburses the county jail for the approximately 30-35 illegal alien individuals housed in the jail for the costs of

housing them. He added that the firm reviews the costs and advises the county on the reimbursements that they would be entitled to. He informed the members that the vendor also advises them on other reimbursement opportunities that they find when conducting their review. He stated that the county receives between \$30,000 - \$38,000 in reimbursements annually as a result of their service. Legislator Archer asked if there were other providers of the service and if the county was satisfied with the service. Sheriff Figueroa responded that, in his short time with the county, he has not heard anything negative about the vendor or the service they provide. He added that the Sheriff's office has no grant writers on staff compared to Orange County's six. He advised the members that he was submitting a grant to address the opioid crisis and was receiving assistance in drafting the application from SUNY New Paltz.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 259: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – LexisNexis – Ulster County Sheriff

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with LexisNexis in the amount of \$53,338 to extend the term of agreement for legal research kiosks in the Ulster County Jail.

Motion No. 6: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 259**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Heppner

Discussion:
Sheriff Figueroa stated that the service was a huge investigative tool.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 265: Calling Upon The State Legislature To Adopt, And The Governor To Sign, Legislation To Provide A New York State Income Tax Exemption To Volunteer Firefighters, Volunteer Ambulance Workers, and Members of A Volunteer Medical Services Personnel Squad

Resolution Summary: This resolution calls upon NYS Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature to support Assembly Bill 7655 and Senate Bill 5564 to amend the tax law, in relation to providing a state income tax exemption for volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers, and members of a volunteer medical services personnel squad.

Motion No. 7: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 265**
Motion By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Collins

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk explained that the state legislation the memorializing resolution is supporting would provide an exemption from state income tax for volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers, and members of a volunteer medical services personnel squad. He added that the impetus behind the legislation is to aid in addressing retention problems that volunteer first responder agencies are facing. Legislators Collins, Eckert and Heppner asked to be signed on to the Resolution as co-sponsors.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Resolution No. 266: Calling Upon Members Of The United States Congress Representing Ulster County To Support H.R. 1629, the “Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2019” Also Known As The “911 SAVES Act”

Resolution Summary: This resolution requests the NYS Congressional delegation representing Ulster County support US House Bill HR 1629 and requests that companion legislation be introduced in the US Senate to direct the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to reclassify public safety telecommunicators as a "Protective Service Occupation.”

Motion No. 8: **Motion to ADOPT Resolution No. 266**
Motion By: Legislator Heppner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

Discussion:

Legislator Ronk reminded the members that Ulster County 911 dispatcher Mike Davis appeared before the committee in May to let them know about the classification disparity and to advocate for their support of HR 1629, the “Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2019” or “911 SAVES Act”. Chairwoman Eckert thanked Legislator Ronk for asking her join him in sponsoring the Resolution.

Emergency Management/Emergency Communications Director Peterson said 911 dispatchers are true first responders, adding that they are first on the scene and provide vital information to both the caller and the supporting units in the field. Sheriff Figueroa added his support for first responders, informing the members that call records of dispatchers are often used in court. He advised the members that there was an incident on Saturday in New Paltz and the work of the dispatchers allowed law enforcement to locate the suspect’s vehicle within minutes of the incident.

Legislators Archer, Collins, Haynes and Heppner asked to be added to the Resolution as co-sponsors.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Collins, Eckert, Haynes, Heppner & Ronk
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 5
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Resolution ADOPTED**

Chairwoman Eckert asked the members if there were any events or comments they would like to share. Legislator Ronk reminded the members that the swearing in of the new County Executive would be on Friday, June 7th.

Sheriff Figueroa provided a CD of the 2018 Sheriff's Office Annual Report to Legislative staff to be shared with the full Legislature.

Legislator Ronk thanked the Sheriff for providing the tour of the facility and apologized for any disruption it may have caused. Chairwoman Eckert stated that the employees she spoke to during the course of the tour provided very positive feedback about the Sheriff's leadership.

Chairwoman Eckert asked if there was any other business, and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Collins
No. of Votes in Favor: 5
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Minutes Approved: July 1, 2019