

Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning & Transit Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: August 5, 2014, 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Karen L. Binder Library, 6th Floor, COB, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Thomas J. Briggs
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Krista Barringer, Deputy Clerk
PRESENT: Legislators Chris Allen, Lynn Archer, Herbert Litts, III, James F. Maloney, Mary Beth Maio, and Kenneth Wishnick
EXCUSED: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Woodstock Land Conservancy/Friends of Catskill Mountain Rail Trail Representative Kevin Smith, Deputy County Executive Kenneth Crannell, Ulster County Trail Advisory Council Representatives Kathy Nolan and Steve Rice, Ulster County Planning Department Director Dennis Doyle and Deputy Director Chris White, League of Women Voters Representative Tom Kadgen, NPS Rivers and Trails Program Representative Karl Brand, Catskill Mountain Rail Road Representative Ernie Hunt, Glenford Resident Meg Carey, City of Kingston Economic Development Director Gregg Swanzey, and New York City Department of Environmental Protection Representative Jim Bogner.

Chair Briggs called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

MOTION NO. 1 RESOLVED To Approve the Minutes of July 1, 2014

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio
Discussion: None
Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Allen, Archer, Briggs, Litts, Maloney, Maio, and Wishnick
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition:

Carried

Motion No. 2 **Resolution No. 275 – August 19, 2014**

Motion Made By: Legislator Archer for discussion only

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney for discussion only

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 275** - Establishing A
Policy For A “Rail With Trail” Along The County-Owned
Ulster And Delaware Railroad Corridor

Resolution No. 275 Summary: This Resolution establishes a policy to support a segmented “rail with trail” plan to convert the U&D corridor to a rail trail only in the segment between Kingston and Boiceville; and supports and encourages the continued operation of a tourism railroad along an appropriate section of the U&D corridor west of the Ashokan Reservoir; and requests the County Executive submit a plan outlining projects and secured funding sources to advance planning and design for the rail trail conversion; and develop and solicit a request for proposals for potential tourism railroads to operate west of the Ashokan Reservoir in the future.

Discussion:

Legislator Archer noted two items surfaced regarding this resolution. She provided a handout (attached) which offered a visual of the current rail and trail system throughout Ulster County. She stated this map demonstrated the importance for the County to develop a position on forward policy. She stated with these resolutions would provide future direction to enact an integrated trail system. In regards to the other things that had surfaced, she noted there were questions regarding the funding and how much it would cost to build the trail system. She stated the reality of a trails system would be that they build it as they go. She stated she requested an update on the money sitting on the sideline waiting on to be used for planning purposes and provided a handout entitled Funding Available for Ulster County Rail Trail Project (attached). She noted there was about \$7.5 million earmarked toward trail conversion. She noted some of it was committed, some was waiting for finalization and some was secured.

Legislator Archer noted there was concern around the easement and the need for the County to have a railroad lawyer. She stated she met with the Planning Department and the County Executive to get a full understanding of where the County was at. She provided a letter (attached) from the consulting attorney for railroad issues regarding easements.

During the vote, Legislator Maio noted she had a couple of issues brought up to her and she would like to discuss them with Counsel tomorrow.

Roll Call Vote: No

Voting In Favor: Legislators Allen, Archer, Briggs, Litts, Maloney and Wishnick
Voting in Abstention: Legislator Maio (for more information)
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 6
No. of Votes in Abstention: 1
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 3 Resolution No. 294 – August 19, 2014

Motion Made By: Legislator Archer

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 294** - Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – RUPCO Inc – Planning Department

Resolution No. 294 Summary: This Resolution states the Ulster County Legislature has examined the contract, and hereby approves the contract with RUPCO, Inc. in the form as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature or as modified with the approval of the County Attorney and Legislative Counsel for \$487,000.00 in additional Federal Revenue dollars.

Discussion:

Department of Planning Director Doyle stated the funding was all revenue, that RUPCO would take an administrative portion of about \$62,000 and the rest would go to the recipients. He noted the home ownership program for about 15-17 homes with a generation of an estimated \$2.3 million in private mortgages associated with it.

Legislator Wishnick noted housing for low-income people was identified by Legislative Chairman Parete as the single most, if not closest to the most, important issue for the County. He felt if the Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit Committee was the committee with oversight for housing and this is the single most significant effort the County is making in terms of helping low income people, then it was worth more than a quick push through through Committee. He requested Department of Planning Director Doyle explain how the program works and what else the County can do to expand it to meet the Chairman’s challenge in providing affordable housing in the County.

Department of Planning Director Doyle noted this resolution was for a Community Development Block Grant aimed at low and moderate income housing. He noted the grant applications since 2003 switches between housing rehabilitation funding and

homeownership funding. He stated over the years they provided funding at an estimated \$3.5 million in housing program work in block of about \$750,000 and \$500,000. He stated the housing rehab program, does anywhere between 23 – 30 housing units and they were just finishing a grant that they received in 2012 which will do about 24 units of \$15,000 - \$35,000 worth of rehab. He provided additional details regarding eligibility for the two types of programs as well as the successful farm worker housing program done in the past.

Legislator Wishnick asked how much of the housing need has been met through this project. Department of Planning Director Doyle replied he would need time to do further research better characterize how much need is being met. He noted other efforts included a housing needs assessment completed in 2006/2008. He stated this assessment placed a value of the need for each municipality; focusing on the housing need moving forward relative to the total demand. He stated the estimate is between 10% and 20%. He stated the assessment looked at future and new construction and provided language to the municipalities that they could include in their zoning codes and used when granting density bonuses. He spoke about the CFA applications which provide for low income tax credits and Federal home loans.

Legislator Wishnick asked if the Planning Director agreed that there will still a lot more need for housing and if there were any programming options the Committee should be looking into. Department of Planning Director Doyle replied he would need to prepare a response for the Committee. He noted the Goldman Sachs settlement identified various irregular activities in the mortgage industry and a similar City Bank settlement of \$162 million for New York State which may increase land banking options. He stated they were still reviewing how this money will be used. He noted of the top ten municipalities for mortgage foreclosures rates, the City of Kingston was currently listed at number three (#3).

Legislator Wishnick asked that Department of Planning Director Doyle return to the Committee when he has additional options for the Committee.

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Allen, Archer, Briggs, Litts, Maloney, Maio, and Wishnick
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	7
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Carried

Motion No. 4 **Resolution No. 291 – August 19, 2014**

Motion Made By: Legislator Maloney

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Allen

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 291** - Amending Capital Project No. 334 To Provide For Preliminary Design And Environmental Review For The Rail Trail Connector Link From The City Of Kingston To The Town Of Hurley – Department Of Planning

Resolution No. 291 Summary: This Resolution amends the Capital Fund Budget to increase Appropriation #HH.7197.0334-4300.4355, Engineering Services and Right of Way Incidentals by \$105,000.00 and to increase Revenue #HH.7197.0334-3500.5710, Serial Bonds by \$105,000.00.

Discussion:

Legislator Litts inquired as to if this included the portion of the rail trail which is currently under litigation. Department of Planning Director Doyle noted this capital project was established in 2010 and the request is to re-fund the project with additional funding. He noted the two options proposed in the project include the O&W corridor in one proposal and the U&D corridor in the other. Department of Planning Deputy Director White replied the answer was yes and that construction under this Federal aid application would not happen for at least three years and would be subsequent to the lease expiration at May 2016.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Allen, Archer, Briggs, Litts, Maloney, Maio, and Wishnick
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 5 Resolution No. 293 – August 19, 2014

Motion Made By: Legislator Archer

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maio

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 293** - Authorizing The Implementation And Funding In The First Instance 100% Of The Federal-Aid Eligible Costs Of A Transportation Federal-Aid Project (Kingston Rail Trail), And Appropriating Funds Therefor – Department Of Planning

Resolution No. 293 Summary: This Resolution authorizes Ulster County to pay in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the cost of preliminary engineering and right-of-way incidental work for the Project or portions thereof, making the sum of \$245,000.00 available from Capital Project No. 334 to cover the cost of participation in the above phases of the Project noting that in the event the full federal and non-federal share costs of the project exceeds the amount appropriated above, the Ulster County Legislature shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon the notification by the County Executive thereof; that the County Executive of Ulster County be and is hereby authorized to execute the Federal-Aid Highway and Marchiselli-Aid Local Project Agreement, in the form as filed with the Clerk of the Legislature or as modified with the approval of the County Attorney, as well as all necessary additional agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or applicable Marchiselli Aid and any amendments thereto on behalf of Ulster County with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project and providing for the administration of the Project and the municipality's first instance funding of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal-aid and state-aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible; and that in addition to the County Executive, the following municipal titles: Director of Purchasing, Commissioner of Public Works and Planning Director are also hereby authorized to execute any necessary Agreements or certifications on behalf of the Municipality /Sponsor, with NYSDOT in connection with the advancement or approval of the project identified in the State/Local Agreement. The Resolution requires a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project and notes the resolution shall take effect immediately.

Discussion: None
Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Allen, Archer, Briggs, Litts, Maloney, Maio, and Wishnick
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 6 **Resolution No. 294 – August 19, 2014**

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 294** - Amending Capital Project No. 370, STRIVE – SUNY Ulster Satellite Campus, To

Include The Costs of Additional Architectural Services And
Construction Management Related To Hazardous Material
Abatement And Green Infrastructure Elements

Resolution No. 294 Summary: This Resolution amends Capital Project No. 370 and the Capital Fund by creating Budget Line #HH.2497.0370-2300.2550, Construction (Hazardous Material Abatement) and increasing the Appropriation Lines #HH.2497.0370-4300.4300, Architectural Services by \$65,250.00 and #HH.2497.0370-4300.4505, Professional Services by \$18,470.00 as well as to increase Revenue Line #HH.2497.0370-3500.5710, Serial Bonds by \$83,720.00.

Discussion:

Legislator Litts confirmed this was on top of the money already appropriated and that it was just for hazardous abatement and green infrastructure. Department of Planning Deputy Director White noted the resolution did three things – increased the architecture and engineering by \$65,250, increased the construction management by \$18,470 and created a hazardous abatement line that would be filled next month when the bids came in. He provided detail to these extra costs and the hoops NYSERDA was requiring for the grant. He noted with the speeding up of the asbestos abatement would increase the up-front costs with the expectations that the cost for whole construction would decrease as contractors going in would not have as much unknowns when they go in. He stated the asbestos abatement was expected to begin the first week of September with the rest of the construction starting in November.

Legislator Archer asked if the Planning Department anticipated the asbestos issue; to which Department of Planning Deputy Director White replied they did and the cost was on target to their original number for asbestos. He noted what was unknown was the asbestos on the outside of the building. Legislator Archer confirmed they were close to their original numbers. Department of Planning Deputy Director White replied they were investing extra money with the anticipation of savings in the construction management phase.

Deputy County Executive Crannell discussed the recent Daily Freeman article. Department of Planning Deputy Director White stated they would come back to the Committee next month with bid numbers.

Legislator Litts recommended that in the future whenever resolutions request increased monies, which have already been voted on or appropriated for certain projects, that they also get a detailed listing of what they are for. He noted if Department of Planning Director Doyle and Department of Planning Deputy Director White were not at the meeting, he would have had no idea what this was for and probably would have voted against it. He felt in an effort to get all the information needed to make an educated vote, they receive something in writing enumerating what these dollars are being spent. He

stated there are several tens of thousands of voters that will only read what it says in this resolution and not know what it contains. He concluded if they had that information in the Resolution, he felt it will be a better informed decision.

Legislator Maloney asked how much money had been spent so far. Department of Planning Deputy Director White replied they were about to close on the building which would be \$300,000. He stated they were at about \$440,000 without the purchased and noted they had committed funds for construction management which would bring the expenditures to an estimated \$450,000. Department of Planning Deputy Director White discussed the design and construction management rate to the total cost of about 11%. Department of Planning Director Doyle noted this was typically seen more for rehab projects than new construction.

Roll Call Vote: No
Voting In Favor: Legislators Allen, Archer, Briggs, Litts, Maloney, Maio, and Wishnick
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Carried

Motion No. 7 Resolution No. 296 – August 19, 2014

Motion Made By: Legislator Maio for discussion

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Archer

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 296** - Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The SUNY New Paltz Student Association To Expand Public Transit Service For The New Paltz Area – Amending the 2014 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Public Transportation (UCAT)

Resolution No. 296 Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature to sign an agreement with the SUNY New Paltz Student Association, for a two year term, to fund the local municipal share of the costs of expanding bus transit service between the Town of New Paltz, the Village of New Paltz, and the State University of New York at New Paltz in order to connect services in Ulster and Dutchess Counties. The resolution amends the 2014 Ulster County Budget to create a Personnel Line #5630-2013, Bus Dispatcher, Part Time and increase Appropriation Line #AA-5630-5904-1400-1400, Part Time Pay by \$13,848.00; #AA-5630-5904-4510-4510, Insurance, Administrative by \$333.00; #AA-5630-5904-4670-4670, Communication Equipment Rentals by \$219.00; and AA-5630-5904-4690-4690, Maintenance, Auto Repair by \$1,040.00. In addition, the resolution increases Revenue Line #AA-5630-5904-3120-1750, Departmental Income, Bus

Operations by \$1,728.00; #AA-5630-5904-3120-1789, Departmental Income, Other Transportation Income by \$6,179.00; #AA-5630-5904-3300-3589, SA, State Operating Assistance by \$7,133.00; and #AA-5630-5904-3400-4589, FA, National Transit Data by \$400.00. The resolution notes the continuation of this expanded service is contingent upon the local operating funds being provided by the SUNY New Paltz Student Association and bus fares being available and adequate to cover the costs of the service and that if funding for this service is inadequate or discontinued, then the service and/or positions will be eliminated as well.

Discussion:

Legislator Maio noted the proposal was fully reimbursed and asked if UCAT was dispatching already on weekends. Deputy County Executive Crannell replied this would expand the service on weekends. He stated they usually did not have service on the weekends and all residents, including the college students, would have access to the service. He discussed the additional riders and fares. In response to questions from Legislator Archer, Deputy County Executive Crannell noted the pilot was for two years and would assess it mid year.

Legislator Archer and Deputy County Executive Crannell discussed the college paying any extra costs. Legislator Litts stated the math did not add up. Deputy County Executive Crannell replied the Student Association was paying the local share. He noted the 90% Federal revenue was anticipated to be received annually and that the Student Association and rider fees would cover the remaining 10% local share. Department of Planning Director Doyle noted the Federal revenue is an allocation. Legislator Litts stated it should be indicated as revenue applied for and typically received. Deputy County Executive Crannell stated if the Federal funding was gone then the service expansion would be cut. He discussed this was a loop in New Paltz only and does not go to the MetroNorth.

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Allen, Archer, Briggs, Litts, Maloney, Maio, and Wishnick
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	7
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Carried

Motion No. 8 **Resolution No. 297 – August 19, 2014**

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

Text of Motion: **Resolved to approve Resolution No. 297** - Supporting A Grant Application To The Federal Transit Administration For Funding For The Replacement Of Buses And Authorizing The Ulster County Executive To Execute Any Required Applications Or Agreements To Accept Funding – Department Of Public Transportation (UCAT)

Resolution No. 297 Summary: This Resolution supports a grant application to the Federal Transit Administration’s Bus and Bus Facilities Program: Ladders of Opportunity and authorizes the County Executive to execute any required applications or agreements, and any amendments to any documents, to accept funding agreement with the Federal Transit Administration.

Discussion:

Legislator Maio noted the County’s portion was only \$110,000.

Legislator Maloney noted it was for four (4) buses.

Deputy County Executive Crannell indicated they were smaller buses.

Roll Call Vote:	No
Voting In Favor:	Legislators Allen, Archer, Briggs, Litts, Maloney, Maio, and Wishnick
Voting Against:	None
No. of Votes in Favor:	7
No. of Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Carried

New Business:

Legislator Maloney asked the representatives from the Executive’s Office and Planning regarding the Ulster Gardens project. He noted this project is for 26 affordable units an additional 56 online in September/October and their desire to establish bus service. Department of Planning Director Doyle noted they were working with them in the site plan design phase for a bus stop and would follow up with them.

Legislator Archer stated she had been working on a comprehensive plan for Broadband and had put together an framework of what the County needs to do in regards to high speed internet. She stated she made a presentation to the Legislative Chairman and the County Executive and hoped to bring it to the Committee by the next session. She noted the IDA applicants’ highlighting high speed as a critical infrastructure issue. She stated she approached this plan for what is needed in the future. Chairman Briggs stated she was penciled in for the September committee meeting.

Old Business: None

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Maloney

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:05 PM

Dated the 13th day of August, 2014

Krista J. Barringer, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved on: September 22, 2014