

**Ways & Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** February 12, 2014 – 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Karen L. Binder Library, Sixth Floor, County Office Building  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Richard Gerentine, Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Fawn A. Tantillo  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Richard Gerentine, Tracey Bartels, Carl Belfiglio, Thomas J. Briggs, Mary Beth Maio (arrived at 5:15) and Hector Rodriguez  
**ABSENT:** Legislators James F. Maloney and Richard A. Parete  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Herbert Litts, III, Jeanette Provenzano, Kenneth Ronk, Kenneth Wishnick, Acting Commissioner of Finance Burton Gulnick, Sheriff VanBlarcum, County Attorney Beatrice Havranek, James Hanstein – Sheriff’s Department, Deputy Executive Crannell, Asst. County Attorney Plonski, Deputy County Comptroller Joseph Eriole, Tom Kadgen - League of Women Voters.

- **Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.**

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**MOTION NO. 1**                      **Approving the Minutes of January 22, 2014 and January 30, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Resolved to Approve the Minutes of January 22, 2014 and January 30, 2014

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Rodriguez  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs and Rodrigues

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Carried

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**MOTION NO. 2**                      **Resolutions No. 52 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 52 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Anytime Home Care, Inc. – Office For The Aging

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Rodriguez  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Text of Motion:** Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to sign a contract with Anytime Home Care, Inc. to provide services through the Ulster County Office for the Aging in the amount of \$297,366. (74% State, 23% County, 3% Other)

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs and Rodrigues

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Carried

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**MOTION NO. 3 Resolutions No. 53 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 53** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Atlantic Pavement Marking, Inc. – Department Of Public Works

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Briggs

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Resolution No. 53 Summary:** This resolution would approve the execution of a contract with Atlantic Pavement Marking, Inc., an outside agency, to paint Ulster County Roads at a rate of \$299.99 per mile for 42.5 miles of centerlines and \$198.99 per mile of 850 miles of shoulder/edge lines for a total amount of up to \$296,637.25 in 2014. This is a continuation of an existing contract.

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels said she remembered when the county first made the switch from doing this work in house to contracting with an outside agency. She asked if the county had ever done a cost benefit analysis to insure this is still the most affordable way to do this.

There was a brief discussion about reports and information legislators and counsel recalled from previous years.

Legislator Briggs noted that he served on Public Works Committee last year and Legislator Dean Fabiano, Chairman of Public Works, had assured them this was a “dynamite price.”

Legislator Bartels said when the county switch to an outside agency she didn’t recall that the county laid people off to do it. She said she wanted a bigger picture of what the true savings actually is.

Legislator Gerentine said he would ask for a cost benefit analysis.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs and Rodrigues

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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Legislator Maio arrived at 5:15

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**MOTION NO. 4 Resolutions No. 61 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:** **Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 61** – Authorizing The Commissioner Of Finance To Sell Real Property Acquired By Court Order Pursuant To Article 1 1 Of The Real Property Tax Law – Department Of Finance

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Rodriguez  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Resolution No. 61 Summary:** This resolution directs the Commissioner of Finance to prepare and distribute a list of properties scheduled for sale at public auction for unpaid taxes and to set a date for said auction.

**Discussion:** Legislator Rodriguez recognizes that this is a standard resolution they execute annually but year after year he has concerns that the list be reviewed by the Planning Department, the Department of the Environment and others to insure properties are considered for open space and other public uses before they are sold at auction.

Commissioner of Finance Gulnick said the list was provided to Planning and the Department of the Environment. It was an extensive list and no recommendations have been received yet. He discussed an ad hoc committee that drafted a policy to insure this happens.

Legislator Bartels agreed with Legislator Rodriguez that something more needed to be done to insure these Departments review the list early in the process to insure these public interests are evaluated and considered.

Chairman Gerentine asked Commissioner of Finance Gulnick to provide the committee with a copy of the policy or draft policy.

Deputy Comptroller Eriole told the committee that his office was looking into the State Laws and the county process in dealing with tax foreclosure of properties. He noted that many of the property owners are not deadbeats but just people who are having financial trouble and are willing to pay something. He noted the State Law doesn't allow much flexibility in setting up payment schedules making it almost impossible for owners to pay even when they have the ability to pay something. He complimented the County Finance Department for doing an excellent job within the constraints of the law. He welcomed any input from the committee and promised to keep them apprised of his progress as his office continues to examine the process and perhaps create more options.



There was a brief discussion about how useful this would or would not be. Chairman Gerentine said the County Attorney would ask.

Legislator Wishnick pointed out a typo in the SBL # of Resolution No. 62. Then he asked if it was reasonable to require the new owners provide insurance or a performance bond.

County Attorney Havranek said the County has signed conveyance agreements on these two properties that indemnify the County.

Legislator Bartels asked County Attorney Havranek if the conveyance agreements are done on all properties or are they unique to properties with potential hazards like these and what her confidence level was that the conveyance agreements would hold up in court.

County Attorney Havranek said the conveyance agreements were unique to the properties and, like any other contract; the County does the best they can and hope that the agreements hold up in court if necessary.

Legislator Bartels asked if the County would need to follow this process with all properties moving forward.

County Attorney Havranek assured the committee that if a property presents a real hazard, the county would not take possession of it in this way. Attorney Havranek said there might be other programs or brownfield grants that would present a viable alternative.

There was a discussion about various scenarios the County may encounter in tax foreclosure and remediation of a variety of issues the County faces; issues with these specific properties; the county's liability in different situations and the laws that limit the options the County has.

<b>Voting In Favor:</b>	Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Rodrigues
<b>Voting Against:</b>	None
<b>No. of Votes in Favor:</b>	6
<b>No. of Votes Against:</b>	0
<b>Disposition:</b>	Carried

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**MOTION NO. 6**

**Resolutions No. 64 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**

**Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 64** – Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Transportation – To Accept The New York State Share For Mass Transportation Projects For Federal Fiscal Year 2013 – Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit)

**Motion Made By:**

Legislator Rodriguez

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Resolution No. 64 Summary:** **Resolution No. 64 Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chairman of the County Legislature to execute an agreement (Contract No. K007046), and any amendments thereto, with the New York State Department of Transportation in order to accept the New York State share for Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Mass Transportation Capital Projects (PIN# 8TRU 76; PIN# 8TRU 14; and PIN# 8TRU 62), in the total amount of \$154,500, in the form as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature, or as modified with the approval of the County Attorney, Counsel to the County Legislature, Chairman of the County Legislature, and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Economic Development, Tourism , Housing, Planning, and Transit Committee.

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Rodrigues  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**MOTION NO. 7**                      **Resolutions No. 65 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**                      **Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 65 –** Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The New York State Department Of Transportation To Accept New York State Funds For Ulster And Dutchess County Public Transit Service (LINK) – Department Of Public Transportation (Ulster County Area Transit)

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Rodriguez  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Briggs

**Resolution No. 65 Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chairman of the County Legislature to execute an agreement, and any amendments thereto, with the New York State Department of Transportation to accept reimbursement for the operation of the LINK service (Project ID# 8823.24.126) in an amount not to exceed \$270,000, in form as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature or as modified with the approval of the County Attorney.

**Discussion:** Legislator Rodriguez noted that the LINK was the most successful public transportation system in Ulster County

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Rodrigues  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**MOTION NO. 8**

**Resolutions No. 66 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**

**Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 66** –Amending The 2014 Ulster County Budget To Include Additional Allocations Of Funds To Ulster County From The New York State Office For The Aging – Office For The Aging

**Motion Made By:**

Legislator Rodriguez

**Motion Seconded By:**

Legislator Briggs

**Resolution No. 66 Summary:** Amend the 2014 Ulster County Budget in order for the Ulster County Office for the Aging to utilize an additional \$4,764 allocated to Ulster County by New York State. This additional funding was allocated due to the increase in Ulster County's Senior population.

**Discussion:**

None

**Voting In Favor:**

Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Rodrigues

**Voting Against:**

None

**No. of Votes in Favor:**

6

**No. of Votes Against:**

0

**Disposition:**

Carried

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**MOTION NO. 9**

**Resolutions No. 67 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**

**Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 67** – Amending The 2014 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Reinvestment Funding For Family Of Woodstock – Department Of Mental Health

**Motion Made By:**

Legislator Rodriguez

**Motion Seconded By:**

Legislator Briggs

**Resolution No. 67 Summary:** This Resolution would amend the Ulster County Budget to accept additional funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health Reinvestment Funding for Family of Woodstock for the operation of an Office of Mental Health (OMH) Outreach Program as outlined in a letter dated December 23, 2013.

**Discussion:**

None

**Voting In Favor:**

Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Rodrigues

**Voting Against:**

None

**No. of Votes in Favor:**

6

**No. of Votes Against:**

0

**Disposition:** Carried

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**MOTION NO. 10**                      **Resolutions No. 68 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**                      **Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 68** – Amending The 2014 Ulster County Budget To Accept Additional Reinvestment Funding For Gateway Community Industries, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

**Motion Made By:**                      Legislator Rodriguez  
**Motion Seconded By:**                  Legislator Belfiglio

**Resolution No. 68 Summary:** This Resolution would amend the Ulster County Budget to accept additional funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health Reinvestment Funding for Family of Woodstock for the operation of an Office of Mental Health (OMH) Outreach Program as outlined in a letter dated December 23, 2013.

**Discussion:**                              None

**Voting In Favor:**                      Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Rodrigues  
**Voting Against:**                        None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:**                6  
**No. of Votes Against:**                0  
**Disposition:**                            Carried

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**MOTION NO. 11**                      **Resolutions No. 69 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**                      **Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 69** – Amending The 2014 Ulster County Budget By Transferring And Appropriating Sequestered Funds From Contingency Into Various County Departments

**Motion Made By:**                      Legislator Rodriguez  
**Motion Seconded By:**                  Legislator Briggs

**Resolution No. 69 Summary:** In the 2013 Budget cycle, the County Executive developed sequestration, a unique budgetary tool which provides for a progression of spending cuts should Ulster County’s 1% sales tax not be extended. In January of 2014 the sales tax was extended. This resolution amends the 2014 Ulster County Budget transferring and appropriating the sequestered funds from contingency into various County Departments.

**Discussion:**                              None

**Voting In Favor:**                      Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Rodrigues  
**Voting Against:**                        None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:**                6

**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**MOTION NO. 12                      Resolutions No. 70 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**                      **Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 70** – Resolution No. 70 - Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2014 (A Local Law Applying The Salary Revisions Of Resolution No. 69 of 2014 To All County Officers Serving For Fixed Terms) To Be Held On Tuesday, March 18, 2014 At 7:00 PM

**Motion Made By:**                      Legislator Belfiglio  
**Motion Seconded By:**                Legislator Briggs

**Resolution No. 70 Summary:** This resolution would set a date and time for a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2014.

**Discussion:** There was a lengthy discussion about the merit of parts of Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2014 centering on the salaries of the Election Commissioners. The Committee members felt they needed additional information before setting a public hearing and asked to hold the resolution until the February 19<sup>th</sup> Ways and Means meeting when additional information would be available and the Election Commissioners could attend.

**Disposition:**                              Postponed

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**MOTION NO. 13                      Resolutions No. 71 – February 18, 2014**

**Text of Motion:**                      **Resolved to Approve Resolution No. 71** – Appropriation For The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District

**Motion Made By:**                      Legislator Rodriguez  
**Motion Seconded By:**                Legislator Briggs

**Resolution No. 71 Summary:** This resolution authorizes the Commissioner of finance to pay the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District sum of \$91,500.00 to be used by the Directors as authorized pursuant to Section 223 (1) of the County Law.

**Discussion:**                                None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio and Rodrigues  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 6  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Carried

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**New Business:** None

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**Old Business:** None

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There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Rodriguez, seconded by Legislator Briggs and carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM.

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**Dated the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of February, 2014**  
**Fawn A. Tantillo, Senior Legislative Employee**  
**Minutes Approved On: March 12, 2014**