

**Ways &  
Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

**DATE & TIME:** April 21, 2020 – 5:00  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by dialing 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID 687 948 489  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Lynn Archer, Chairwoman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster, and Jay Mahler  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Tracey Bartels, John Gavaris, Heidi Haynes; Mary Beth Maio, Eve Walter, Legislative Chair David B. Donaldson  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Brian Cahill, James Delaune, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, Laura Petit, and Abe Uchitelle; Minority Counsel, Nicholas Pascale; Legislative Counsel, Christopher Ragucci; Deputy County Executives, Marc Rider, and Evelyn Wright; Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick; Deputy Commissioner of DPW-Finance, Donald Quesnell; Comptroller, March Gallagher; Tom Kadgen, League of Women Voters; Mid-Hudson News; Victoria Fabella, Clerk of the Legislature; Laurie Lichtenstein, Confidential Secretary to the Chair of the Legislature

- **Chairwoman Archer called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM**

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**Motion No. 1: To approve the March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting and March 17, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Walter  
**Discussion:** None  
**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 2: To discuss Resolution No. 131** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$91,500.00 to be expended towards the costs associated with operations of the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Walter

**Motion No. 3: To postpone Resolution No. 131** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Ulster County Soil And Water Conservation District For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$91,500.00 to be expended towards the costs associated with operations of the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Haynes

**Discussion:** Legislator Ronk noted that he intends to make a motion to reconsidered all Legislative Contracts in order for the Ways & Means Committee to have a discussion on what items are vital to move forward on and at what value considering current budget constraints with the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislator Bartels asked that the Legislature reach out to the associated organizations so that everyone potentially impacted is aware of what's going on. Legislator Ronk agreed communication is important and added that the body may decide to request some organization's create a plan to operate with less funding. Discussion pursued on the urgency of funding to the organizations in question and the timeline of discussions. Chairwoman Archer confirmed agreement in communicating with all organizations to discuss the next steps and to inform them whether action is required on their part. Legislative Chairman Donaldson emphasized concern over the need to fund Dispute Resolution Center's (DRC) Court Appointed Special Advocacy Program which concerns children in need, noting the negative costs associated with not-fulfilling these services, and the potential alternatives of not completing this program. Chairwoman Archer noted that it may be possible to take a second look at the contracts in discussion later in the year once the pandemic's impact is better known and understood.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Postponed

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**Motion No. 4: To discuss Resolution No. 142** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$39,750.00 with Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. for providing advocacy services for abused and neglected children as assigned by Ulster County Family Court.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Motion No. 5: To postpone Resolution No. 142** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$39,750.00 with Dispute Resolution Center, Inc. for providing advocacy services for abused and neglected children as assigned by Ulster County Family Court.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Walter

**Discussion:** Legislative Chairman Donaldson explained that he doesn't have an issue with this postponement only because of the timing of meetings. Legislator Bartels requested notification if a Special Joint meeting between the Ways & Means Committee and the Legislative Programs, Education, and Community Services Committee is successfully scheduled prior to the next upcoming Ways & Means Committee meeting.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter  
**Voting Against:** Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** Postponed

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**Motion No. 6: To discuss Resolution No. 171** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation – Department Of Public Works

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation from April 7, 2020 to May 15, 2020 in the amount of \$137,500.00 for the installation of upgraded natural gas and electric services to the County’s building located on Enterprise Drive (formerly known as the Bank of America Building) in the Town of Ulster to prepare the building for use as a surge hospital for treating patients infected with the Coronavirus.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Donaldson

**Discussion:** Legislator Bartels noted the need to separate the property from the potential use of the property, asking Deputy Commissioner of Public Works – Finance, Donald Quesnell if any other money has already been spent regarding this building, what other contracts concerning this property are in the works, and if there is an understanding of the routine, reoccurring costs of maintaining this building. Donald Quesnell assured the Committee procurement laws are being followed, answering that interior work is being completed in-house and no other expenditures have been incurred at this time. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider answered that multiple quotes have been received to get the HVAC unit up and running, and for electric and plumbing maintenance, but that no contracts have been executed. Further, Marc Rider explained that Central Hudson provided a range to estimate the electric costs on the building in various states, stating that electric and gas will cost approximately \$100,000 a year if the building is empty and approximately \$400,000 a year if it is up and running in full. Legislator Bartels emphasized that this is money the County likely won’t have, stating that she is not comfortable with this timing of this contract. Legislator Walter agreed, adding issue with the contract having “COVID” attached, stating that she is not compelled to believe the County will need to use this building for in this capacity citing multiple reasons. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright accentuated the contract is about responsible ownership of the building, stating Central Hudson told the County Executive that the building is dangerous and a temporary fix which had previously been completed will likely damage the building, that she is in agreement it’s not clear this facility will be needed for COVID response, but that having this contract completed provides for flexibility in future use. Legislative Chairman Donaldson stressed the building’s vacancy timeline which may lead to danger and increase the risk of higher maintenance costs, stating that although the building may not be used for COVID, it still must be

properly maintained. Legislator Ronk noted the reimbursement of \$60,000. Marc Rider confirmed that currently Emergency lights are on which are using power. Discussion pursued on the inclusion of the word “COVID” in the Resolution, the current state of affairs as they relate to revenue loss, future maintenance costs on the building, other unknown costs associated with the building, the necessity of “step-down” facilities, and the impact of postponing the Resolution a month. Legislator Bartels asked if there is intention to move forward on more work and other contracts for maintenance on this building. Marc Rider answered yes, some work will be done but the building will not be prepared to become a surge hospital or other COVID-related facility without legislative involvement. Legislator Walter noted the sense of urgency created around this building for multiple, changing reasons, asking that the Resolution be postponed for the purpose of gathering more information and understanding the intent and other associated costs.

**Motion No. 7: To postpone Resolution No. 171** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation – Department Of Public Works

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation from April 7, 2020 to May 15, 2020 in the amount of \$137,500.00 for the installation of upgraded natural gas and electric services to the County’s building located on Enterprise Drive (formerly known as the Bank of America Building) in the Town of Ulster to prepare the building for use as a surge hospital for treating patients infected with the Coronavirus.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Walter

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Bartels, and Walter

**Voting Against:** Legislators Ronk, Haynes, Maio, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Votes Abstained:** Legislator Gavaris

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 3

**No. of Votes Against:** 4

**No. of Votes Abstained:** 1

**Disposition:** Failed

**Motion No. 8: To approve Resolution No. 171** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation – Department Of Public Works

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation from April 7, 2020 to May 15, 2020 in the amount of \$137,500.00 for the installation of upgraded natural gas and electric services to the County’s building located on Enterprise Drive (formerly known as the Bank of America Building) in the Town of Ulster to prepare the building for use as a surge hospital for treating patients infected with the Coronavirus.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Donaldson

**Discussion:** Legislators Bartels and Walter stated struggle in approving this Resolution at this point in time. Legislator Bartels stated she will be voting against due to the lack of information provided. Discussion pursued on the information that would potentially be available in a week if the Resolution were to be postponed, the use of the word “COVID” within the Resolution, other maintenance costs associated with the building, and the County’s requirements as the owner of the building. Chairwoman Archer stated that she is willing to approve the Resolution under the understanding that the County Executive will come before the Ways & Means Committee before any other additional expenditures are approved, even if they are under the required thresholds.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Haynes, and Maio, and Legislative  
Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** Legislators Bartels, and Walter  
**Votes Abstained:** Legislator Gavaris  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 5  
**No. of Votes Against:** 2  
**No. of Votes Abstained:** 1  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 9: To approve Resolution No. 146 – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Rising Ground, Inc. – Department Of Social Services**

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Rising Ground, Inc. to increase the not-to-exceed amount for foster care services in the amount of \$150,000.00, making the contract total \$350,000.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 10: To approve Resolution No. 147** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. to increase the not-to-exceed amount for foster care an additional \$100,000.00, making the contract total \$300,000.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Donaldson

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 11: To approve Resolution No. 148** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Gateway Community Industries, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Gateway Community Industries, Inc. to increase OMH, OASAS & OPWDD State Aid an additional \$195,449.00, making the contract total \$2,720,814.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Donaldson

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 12: To approve Resolution No. 149** – Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment Causing The Aggregate Contract Amount To Be In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County – Visual Computer Solutions Inc. – Ulster County Sheriff

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with Visual Computer Solutions Inc. to extend the term of agreement and increase funding for police/corrections officer scheduling software and hardware support and maintenance from May 31, 2020 to May 31, 2021 for an additional \$11,926.30, making the contract total \$130,735.20.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Walter

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 13: To approve Resolution No. 155** – Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Terminate The Agreement For Professional Services With The Research Foundation For The State University Of New York By And Through SUNY New Paltz’s Benjamin Center

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chairman of the Legislature to mail written notice of termination in accordance with Article 28 of the Agreement for Professional Services with The Research Foundation For The State University of New York by and through SUNY New Paltz’s Benjamin Center.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Donaldson

**Discussion:** Legislator Walter asked for clarification of the reasons behind the Resolution. Legislative Chairman Donaldson provided several reasons, including emphasis supplemental work completed by Legislative staff, the contract’s term, and the impact the COVID-19 pandemic will be on the upcoming budget. Legislator Bartels emphasized the timeline of the contract, stating interest in



the Benjamin Center re-bidding once the Request For Proposal (RFP) is out, emphasizing importance in hearing how various firms can help in what is anticipated to be a trying time. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider confirmed there is no obligation to award upon completion of an RFP. Legislator Ronk suggested the possibility of legislative financial staff completing the services in-house to save the money as part of the Legislature's contribution towards savings. Legislator Walter disclosed her former professional relationship with The Benjamin Center, providing counter-arguments for the reasons stated. Legislative Chairman Donaldson and Legislator Ronk expressed a great deal of respect for Dr. Benjamin, emphasizing preference in a firm with an accounting background.

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, and Maio, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** Legislator Walter  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 7  
**No. of Votes Against:** 1  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 14: To approve Resolution No. 156** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Amendment To The Contract With The New York City Department of Environmental Protection To Continue Delegation Of Administration Of Section 18-38 Of The Watershed Regulations

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute a five-year contract (CAT-490) and any future amendments thereto with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection commencing upon execution, in the amount not to exceed \$150,000.00, to continue delegation of administration of Section 18-38 of the Watershed Regulations. Further, this Resolution resolves that if funding for this program is eliminated, the program will be eliminated as well.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 15: To approve Resolution No. 157** – Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends the 2020 Ulster County Budget to allow for payment of 2019 and 2020 contractual obligations for State, Federal, and other grant obligations to allow processing and payment in the year 2020, resulting in additional appropriations dollars of \$196,796.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Walter

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 16: To approve Resolution No. 158** – Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Child Abuse Or Neglect Prevention And Treatment Act (CAPTA) Comprehensive Addiction And Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends the 2020 Ulster County Budget in the amount of \$70,000.00 to accept funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for federal Child Abuse or Neglect Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2019 (CARA) funding which are to be used to assist in the identification of families experiencing substance abuse disorders, and in the development, implementation, and monitoring of plans of safe care with infants and families affected by substance abuse.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 17: To approve Resolution No. 159** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Intermunicipal Agreements With The Town Of Saugerties And The Village Of Ellenville To Provide The Services Of Domestic Violence Investigators To The Ulster County Family And Child Advocacy Center – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute intermunicipal agreements with the Town of Saugerties and the Village of Ellenville, and any related amendments, to provide the services of investigators to the County’s Family and Child Advocacy Center to investigate all reports of allegations of child sexual abuse, serious physical abuse including any child fatalities, domestic violence, as well as trafficking and exploitation cases.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Walter

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 18: To approve Resolution No. 160** – Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Allocation Of Funds From The National Center On Child Abuse And Neglect To Enhance The Family Assessment Response Program – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends the 2020 Ulster County Budget to reflect an increase in funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for \$5,263.00 in funding from the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) for the improvement of the Family Assessment Response Program to be used exclusively to provide families with access to short-term or one-time goods and/or services to meet their needs to help keep their children safe and to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 19: To approve Resolution No. 161** – Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept An Additional Allocation Of Funds From The New York State Office Of Children And Family Services To Continue Safe Harbour Programming – Department Of Social Services

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution amends the 2020 Ulster County Budget to reflect an increase in funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in the amount of \$43,350.00 for the continuation of Safe Harbour programming for calendar year 2020 to be used exclusively to expand and enhance services to raise awareness of the problem of sexual exploitation of children, and to provide for services to address the needs of sexually exploited children.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 20: To approve Resolution No. 162** – Authorizing The Chair 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) (UCAT)

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the 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 including Saturday Service in an amount not to exceed \$360,000.00.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 21: To approve Resolution No. 163** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Grant Application With The Department Of Justice Bureau Of Justice Assistance Grant For The Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, And Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) – Sheriff’s Office

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to authorizes the application for the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Grant-Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-based Program (COSSAP) in order to implement an opioid response hotline, increase availability of MAT within the jail and County-wide, and to incorporate education and workforce training within the Sheriff’s Office.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 22: To approve Resolution No. 164** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Lease Agreement With The Town Of Wawarsing For A Substation Of The Ulster County Sheriff’s Office – Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into a lease agreement with the Town of Wawarsing for an Ulster County Sheriff Substation for the term of May 1, /2020 through April 30, 2025 at the Joseph Y. Resnick Airport.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Walter  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 23: To approve Resolution No. 165** – Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Intermunicipal Agreement For The Sharing Of Information Relating To Short-Term Rental Properties With The Town Of Marlborough – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an intermunicipal agreement for the sharing of inventory information pertaining to the advertising of short term rentals and any related amendments with the Town of Marlborough.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Walter  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None  
**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 24: To approve Resolution No. 166** – Authorizing The Conveyance Of County-Owned Properties To The Original Owners – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Commissioner of Finance to accept payment of the full amount of back taxes on certain parcels of real property acquired by the County by reason of non-payment of taxes as disclosed therein.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson  
**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8  
**No. of Votes Against:** 0  
**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 25: To approve Resolution No. 167** – Authorizing The Conveyance Of County-Owned Properties To The Original Owners – Department Of Finance

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution authorizes the Commissioner of Finance to accept payment of the full amount of back taxes on a certain parcel of real property acquired by the County by reason of non-payment of taxes as disclosed therein.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Bartels  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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**Motion No. 26: To discuss Resolution No. 172** – Implementing A Voluntary Separation Program For Eligible Ulster County Employees

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution permits employees eligible for retirement by December 31, 2020 to apply for retirement through the County Executive to receive an additional contribution on their County Health Care Share.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk  
**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Discussion:** Legislator Ronk stated he feels this will be a worthwhile endeavor but expressed concern that this Resolution gives a sweeping authority to the County Executive without any legislative oversight. Further, Legislator Ronk clarified he is considering an amendment to aid in the balance of this, providing an example of the concept behind such an amendment. Legislator Bartels stated she is open to having this discussion and feels postponing the Resolution for a week is reasonable, asking about the financial impact of the Resolution. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider answered savings are anticipated to be around \$5 million, the majority of which will be achieved through vacancy savings as the

County Executive does not anticipate filling the positions of those individuals who take advantage of the retirement incentive and intends to fill essential positions internally. Legislator Bartels inquired of the long-term costs. Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick noted the uncertainty of any estimates produced. A document was shared with the Committee which provided an example of costs and savings of employees in various labor categories, emphasizing savings are achieved from the vacancy. Discussion pursued on the estimates provided, the quantity of individuals who may be eligible to take advantage of the incentive, the ability for the County Executive to approve each case at any point during the calendar year, and the process moving forward.

**Motion No. 27: To postpone Resolution No. 172** – Implementing A Voluntary Separation Program For Eligible Ulster County Employees

**Resolution Summary:** This Resolution permits employees eligible for retirement by December 31, 2020 to apply for retirement through the County Executive to receive an additional contribution on their County Health Care Share.

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Ronk

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Bartels

**Voting In Favor:** Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter, and Legislative Legislative Chairman Donaldson

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Postponed

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**New Business:** Legislator Ronk thanked Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick, for all of his hard work, noting the added difficulty in his job due to the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on the County’s revenues and expenditures.

Chairwoman Archer notified Committee members that quarterly reports are available, asking that Committee members please review them and provide feedback. Further, Chairwoman Archer stated that the Legislature is partnering with the Commissioner of Finance to ensure there is no lag in the Legislature’s understanding of revenues and expenditures during this difficult time.

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**Old Business:** None

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Chairwoman Archer asked the members if there was any other business, and hearing none;

**Adjournment**

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Walter

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Ronk

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 8

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Time:** 6:51 PM

**Respectfully submitted:** Amber Feaster

**Minutes Approved:** May 12, 2020

**Ways &  
Means Committee  
Regular Meeting Transcript**

**DATE & TIME:** April 21, 2020 – 5:00  
**LOCATION:** Powered by Zoom Meeting by dialing 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID 687 948 489  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Lynn Archer, Chairwoman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Natalie Kelder, Amber Feaster, and Jay Mahler  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Tracey Bartels, John Gavaris, Heidi Haynes; Mary Beth Maio, Eve Walter, Legislative Chair David B. Donaldson  
**ABSENT:** None  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Legislators Brian Cahill, James Delaune, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, Laura Petit, and Abe Uchitelle; Minority Counsel, Nicholas Pascale; Legislative Counsel, Christopher Ragucci; Deputy County Executives, Marc Rider, and Evelyn Wright; Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick; Deputy Commissioner of DPW-Finance, Donald Quesnell; Comptroller, March Gallagher; Tom Kadgen, League of Women Voters; Mid-Hudson News; Victoria Fabella, Clerk of the Legislature; Laurie Lichtenstein, Confidential Secretary to the Chair of the Legislature

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ways & Means April 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting via zoom. I appreciate seeing everyone healthy and happy there. I hope happy anyway. Um, can we go ahead and call the roll call Natalie?

**Natalie Kelder:** Archer.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Here.

**Natalie Kelder:** Ronk.

**Legislator Ronk:** Present.

**Natalie Kelder:** Bartels.

**Legislator Bartels:** Here.

**Natalie Kelder:** Gavaris.

**Legislator Gavaris:** Present.

**Natalie Kelder:** Haynes.

**Legislator Haynes:** Here.

**Natalie Kelder:** Maio.

**Legislator Maio:** Here.

**Natalie Kelder:** Walter.

**Legislator Walter:** Here.

**Natalie Kelder:** Donaldson. Is on mute.

**Chairwoman Archer:** But he's here we can see him, there's Dave.

Okay, just a couple of things. This is our first zoom meeting. I know everybody's been through, but I figured I'd go over a couple of things. One, if I step away, I just want to let everyone know I have a sick puppy who needs to go out constantly so I may just have a way to let her out the door so I apologize if I step away from the camera. Also

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Ken's right there, what do you mean you have a sick puppy that has to go out?

**Legislator Ronk:** Well, that's a blast in the past Dave.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Also, also, of course, now they're going to start barking, excuse me one second.

**Legislator Ken Ronk:** Just for the edification of the folks who were not here back then. I believe it was 2012. Dave referred to me in a press release as an inexperienced Republican attack puppy.  
You're on mute Lynn.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Your mute button.

**Legislator Ken Ronk:** Still muted.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yeah, okay. That was they were on cue. So they were showing you what could happen during the meeting.

**Legislator Ken Ronk:** It's all good.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yes, it is.

Also, when we're not talking I most folks are on mute that helps keeping background noise. Also, for the record and for anybody whose on the phone, audio, it's helpful to identify yourself when you're speaking, so if you wouldn't mind doing that, and we'll try and be clear on motions and votes just so everything is recorded. So with that, why don't we get into this?

Can I get a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>?

**Legislator Ronk:** So moved.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second?

**Legislator Walter:** Eve seconds.

**Chairwoman Archer:** So Ken approved.

**Legislator Ronk:** I moved it, Eve seconded it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yes, thank you. Okay. Resolution 131 authorizing the chair of the Ulster County legislature into an agreement with Ulster County soil and water this is to execute an agreement in the amount of \$91,500 to be expended towards associated costs with the operation of Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District. Move?

**Legislator Ronk:** I'll move it for discussion. Ken.

**Legislator Walter:** Eve seconds.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken?

**Legislator Ronk:** Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair, I, at this time would like to make a motion that we postpone this resolution for the time being. I'm going to be making a motion to reconsider on all the contracts that we passed last month. And I think that we should refer them back to the Ways and Means Committee to have a discussion on what we can and can't move forward with with the current budget constraints. And I don't think that we should move forward on these two until we get everything back and we can have discussions amongst ourselves on what's vital to move forward on and what's not.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** Thank you. Um, yeah, I'm open to that. I just want to make sure that we're reaching out to each of these organizations so that they understand that it's, that if it is that we're having those conversations that we're having the conversations across the board, that it has to do with budget constraints, that you know if the money's there, etc, etc, just so that they're not it's not operating in a vacuum and it doesn't get away from us and get reported out as if we're just canceling funds.

**Legislator Ronk:** Before we have too deep of a discussion on it. Somebody should probably second it if it's going to get seconded.

**Legislator Haynes:** I'll second it, Heidi.

**Legislator Ronk:** Um, yeah, I tend to agree with you, Madam Chair, may I?

**Chairwoman Archer:** Go ahead.

**Legislator Ronk:** Um, I tend to agree with you, Tracy. I think that's something that we should definitely do. Um, I thought it was premature to do before, you know, we make the decision as as, as a collective that that's what we want to do.

**Legislator Ronk:** But I definitely think that we should reach out to them to let them know that the funding isn't, isn't being taken away. But we're going to have some serious discussions. And I think some of these organizations that we end up funding are going to have to come back with a plan for less.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Any other comments? Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** So when, just so that we have the full story, when would we be having this other kind of discussion? Because I think if we're reaching out and saying this, I think we should have some kind of plan.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Well, Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** Yeah, I mean, I think that the you know, just so everyone knows, you know, because we haven't met as Ways and Means. Legislator Archer and I and leadership have had these discussions with the County Executive's office. The State budgets splits, the budget year for funding for Municipalities and Counties, among other things into three separate time periods. The Governor refers to them as pandemic adjustment periods. The first period is the month of April. The second period is May in June, and the third period is July through the end of the year.

I would, I would be hard pressed to make any firm decisions prior to at least the commencement of the third pandemic adjustment period. Because I think that that's when you're going to have the best idea on where some of the, you know, where some of the cuts are going to come down. I think many of the cuts are going to come down in the first two pandemic adjustments, because, you know, we're still on pause until right now at least May 15th. I think that we all can infer that it's going to go longer than that. And I think that that's when the State is going to see them the largest amount of a reduction in revenues, as well as the County receiving, you know, sort of the same, you know, commensurate reduction in revenues.

So I don't think that we're going to have a good enough idea on where we're at financially as a County until after at least July.

Most of these contracts are reimbursement. Some of them have some of the money coming up front, but most of the contracts are reimbursement and a lot of the monies are paid in the third and fourth quarters. Correct me if I'm wrong Amber and Natalie on that. But you know, a lot of the organizations I think come back to us in the Fall for a lot of their reimbursements so I don't think that I don't think it's an emergency for us to do them immediately.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Amber, you want to confirm that?

**Amber Feaster:** Some, a select amount, are quarterly payments and some are paid at the end of the year, once their work is completed.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Which ones are they?

**Amber Feaster:** Don't Be A Monster's at the end of the year, Awareness is at the end of the year, Cornell Cooperative is quarterly, Family of Woodstock's quarterly. I'm trying to think of who else there is.

**Legislator Ronk:** Library's

**Amber Feaster:** DRC is called quarterly, library is just once a year and they usually want it immediately.

**Legislator Ronk:** Right, for their you know subscriptions.

**Chairwoman Archer:** What about UPAC and Arts Mid-Hudson?

**Amber Feaster:** UPAC is quarterly, Arts Mid-Hudson usually wants it before June or July.

**Chairwoman Archer:** We we have some discussion to have with regards to this. Dave, you have something?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Yeah, this first one is the Ulster, the Soil and Water are sitting on large reserves. So I mean I I don't think they're going to be hurting at this point on, you know, so I mean, I think, you know, this one can easily be put off.

And then you add the next one that's on there is the Dispute Resolution Center, which is basically it's actually the Casa program. Now, I did have conversations with the Director of that time I'd be moved over to dispute resolution to run the CASA program, I believe was two years ago Marc? Or three years ago. Marc do you remember?

**Marc Rider:** Yeah, it was two or three, one of those.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Two or three years ago, we moved over because, you know, CASA was having trouble keeping a director on because they just weren't paid all that well and they have to they're the ones that organize all the Casa volunteers and, you know, do the training. So the training still needs to be done, but I'm making the assumption that training has been put

off, because a lot of Courts and such have been put off. So I would assume that they would be able to probably put it off a little bit, but it's not something that I would support cutting unless they're able to actually do their mission. Due to the fact that, you know, the courts have been somewhat suspended, so therefore they are not doing the training. So they're the Family Courts and not appointed members to actually serve as the Court Employees Special Advocates for the children yet. So, you know, he said, the last conversation I had with the Director, so I would assume that this would be able to be put off for the month. But it's something that I believe it would be foolish for us to put it on much longer because if all they have to do is keep one child out of placement it saves us \$140,000 a year.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** So, I mean, it seems like a lot of these have slightly different nuances in terms of when the payment is how serious it is to stop. Is there a way, I don't know if next week is too soon, but like can we just actually have the time to take the chunk of them with information that we need to know and decide whether we're going to be regrouping on them in July or September? But I just sort of feel like they're all somewhat different.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken. You're on mute, Ken.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** You're on mute.

**Legislator Ronk:** Sorry. I totally agree with that. And that's why I think that we should, you know, postpone them all in committee. I mean, we can, we can revisit them as soon as next month. I don't think that we can do it next week, because we're not going to have all of them before us next week. Um, you know, we have to go to our legislative meeting, do a motion to reconsider, and then we'll get them all back as a block. But I definitely agree that's my reason for wanting to postpone them all below or refer them all back to Ways and Means rather than try and make decisions on the fly because they are all different and there are they all have different nuances. And you know, some of them we may find more important than others during this pandemic.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** Aren't some of them still held in Programs? Programs didn't move all them out last, last week, they only move the one out. So, Vicky's holding up her fingers, the two are still in Programs. So we just want to remind ourselves of that. I mean, I agree with what he was suggesting. And what Ken saying, I don't know, we could even have a Special Meeting to discuss this. That could be a Joint Ways and Means Programs meeting or however you want to work it just so that we actually can work through all of them in greater detail, but I don't think that's going to happen within one week.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I don't either. And I think as as Ken has highlighted, these are the ones that are before us. Remember last month we approved a number of them. So if we're going to do this, we're best looking at everything and not one-offs. So I do think it calls for a Special

Meeting to be convened and look at everything if in fact we reconsider the ones already approved, which is what you're recommending on floor correct, Ken?

**Legislator Ronk:** Yes.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Well the uh, just so you make it clear the CASA one actually passed the Legislative Programs because of the necessity and the problem with once we come out of this is the Courts are going to need moving kind of quickly on dealing with you know, children in the Courts and to Family Court. So naturally, there was the understanding that Legislative Programs we discussed it at length and that's why that would move out and the others did not, just as a point of information.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, so on. Go ahead Ken.

**Ken Ronk:** Tracey had her hand up first, I think.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I didn't catch it sorry, Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** Ken, you can go, but thank you.

**Legislator Ronk:** I'll probably say the same thing, you know.

**Legislator Bartels:** My couple of questions were... One, when does CASA get paid? And two... I think, based on your earlier comment, Legislative Chairman Donaldson could wait a month to have the comprehensive conversation.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Yeah. You might be able to, but I mean, I'm, like I said it moved out there because a number of the members are concerned about, you know, if it holds up anything, we didn't want that to happen. I don't think it would only because of the logistics of the Courts right now.

**Legislator Bartels:** Does Amber have any information of when they get paid? And how?

**Amber Feaster:** They are Quarterly.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Amber?

**Legislator Ronk:** She said quarterly.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I'm sorry. I didn't hear that. Ken, did you have something?

**Legislator Ronk:** I mean, I was just going to say that, you know, I respect the position of Legislative Programs in deciding that they want this one to move forward and then not moving forward, others, I just, I think that we need to have a holistic conversation because, you know, there's going to be I'm sure, organizations that we cut the funding entirely, but I think that we're going, you know, I mean, we've got a \$30 to \$40 million budget gap, I think that all of the



organizations are going to try to are going to have to, you know, show us some sort of a way that they can do with a little bit less in order to, you know, try and help us find a way out of the mess. That's why I think we need to do it all together.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** Just in light of that, if we're going to regroup in next month, is there something specific we're asking these organizations to do? To follow up with what Ken was just talking about? Making suggestions for lower amounts or or something? Are we going to prepare them for this?

**Chairwoman Archer:** Clearly, we're going to have to and we'll reach out to what Jim and and, and see. I mean, obviously, they should be part of a Joint Meeting. They have a lot of input into this process. And we'll come up with a a structure. I think I've had some conversations with folks, I think Jim has as well.

People are anticipating this, they recognize the situation and what this means. They're already asking what does it mean? And I think that in my conversations with a couple of folks has been, look, we, you know, we're stepping into the unknown.

And at this time, I think it's prudent to step back and reassess and look what absolutely needs to be done in light of the pandemic. What we can hold off on and listen, if worst case scenario doesn't pan out by end of year we can, we can always take a second look at things but I think for now, it's the it's the prudent course of action.

Okay, on the... if there's no other questions?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Yeah, I do have one comment.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** I understand where people are coming from. But on the other hand, for instance, the City of Kingston actually increased the funding to some of the groups that, you know, help out the needy. I mean, I mean, we have to look at those angles also. We can't just turn around and say well we've got to deal with everybody the same way because we shouldn't be dealing with everybody the same way. Some we need to move forward to. I certainly understand that, you know, we don't necessarily have to give UPAC their \$25,000, even though I mean, I love UPAC and I go there but that is a lot different than helping out the needy somewhere. It's a totally different, you know, organization and a totally different need. So that's what my concern is. I don't want to see us get caught up in the idea where everybody has to feel the pain equally, or things of that nature. Because many people that are feeling a lot of pain and the only way you're going to deal with it is you're actually funding those that are funding the need so I am for those that like, for instance, the CASA program that is dealing with children that are in, you know in, before, Family Court.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I agree. I mean, the whole point of looking at everything all at once is so that we can have that discussion and make informed decisions about those programs that have a

real need and that's been compounded by the pandemic. So I think we're on the same page and I think having the conversation would be helpful.

**Legislator Ronk:** Yeah

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, on the postponement?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** What are we postponing?

**Chairwoman Archer:** Excuse me?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** What are we postponing?

**Chairwoman Archer:** We have to vote on the postponement? Don't we? Yeah.

**Legislator Ronk:** Yeah, we're voting on the postponement of the first resolution Dave.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Alright, well we had a deeper conversation so I wanted to make sure.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yeah. All in favor?

**Group:** Aye

**Chairwoman Archer:** Is there anyone opposed? Postponement passed. Okay. On Resolution 142. This is the resolution

**Legislator Ronk:** Lynn, Marc as a question.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Marc, go ahead.

**Marc Rider:** You had said in your email that you were going to take 171 out of order and that's the only reason Don's here. So if you, that'd be great.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Let me just finish 142 because I think that we've already talked about it, then we'll go to that. Thank you. Thanks for reminding me.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, Resolution 142. This is the CASA money, the resolution.

**Legislator Ronk:** I'll move it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second?

**Legislator Bartels:** I'll second it, Tracy.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay. Ken?

**Legislator Ronk:** I make a motion, as we did with the Resolution 131, that we postpone this for a month, or until our next meeting, I should say.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second?

**Legislator Walter:** Eve will Second.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Eve is second. All in favor of the postponement?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Anybody opposed?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** I'll be opposed to it, just for purpose.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay make your point, that's fine.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** But, I don't have a real problem with it. The reason I don't have a real problem with it is because the next meeting is rather quick. It's coming up pretty fast, so it's not really a full month of a postponement.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay. Okay so...

**Legislator Ronk:** Hold on a sec.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken

**Legislator Ronk:** I said to our next meeting, our next meeting is next week. [laughter].

**Legislator Walter:** But you meant next month?

**Legislator Ronk:** I meant our first meeting next month, whether it be a joint meeting or yeah, I just want to clarify that for the

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** For the next monthly meeting.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, is everyone clear? Do we have to take the vote again? Are we good?

**Legislator Ronk:** I think we are good, it was just a clarification.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay. Okay. All right. So I'm going to, yes, Tracey. You're on mute.

**Legislator Bartels:** Sorry. Um, can we just, you'll stay in touch with us regarding the possibility of a Special Meeting prior to the next normal Ways and Means meeting? Because I think the next normal Ways and Means meeting could be insane if we're doing all of these as well.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yeah, no, I'm gonna reach out to Jim, who I see is on the line, and we will come together and see when we can schedule a meeting to sit down and discuss this.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Thank you.

**Legislator Bartels:** Okay.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I'm going to take a Resolution out of order. Now that we have Don here. This is Resolution 171. This is the resolution that approves the contract with Central Hudson in the amount of \$137,500 for the installation, upgraded natural gas and electric services to the Counties building located in the old Tech City.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I'll take a motion

**Legislator Ronk:** I'll move it. Ken.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** I'll seconded it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken, you had something?

**Legislator Ronk:** I moved it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Oh, okay. I thought you, alright.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Seconded.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Any discussion? Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** I wasn't I wasn't really prepared to lead off the discussion. But, um, so, you know, we've we've talked about this a lot and the need to, to make the connection for the property as separate from the potential use of the property, which we've heard about a lot of possibilities.

One of my concerns is that and I, you know, I do have some questions for Don regarding this. One of my concerns is that in the same way that we're looking at the two resolutions ago, we're looking at programs that we're going to reevaluate in terms of the expense in light of the pandemic and the blow to our budget. It's not so much for me a question of if we're, we need to do this, but of when we need to do this. And one thing that I'd like to know is, have we spent any other money regarding this? I'm going to ask you a few Don.

Have we spent any other money regarding this? What other contracts are in the works in terms of RFPs, for beyond just I know, we're talking about the the connection, but we're talking about the

connection because we're talking about greater things with the property. And And lastly, has anyone run the numbers or the expectations of what the maintenance costs are going to be once the building is de-winterized, even if it remains vacant?

**Don Quesnell:** So a lot of questions there. In short, we're following procurement law on everything we do. In terms of contracts and Marc might be able to speak to that a little bit better than I can. But everything might not require an RFP for what we're looking for. FEMA typically requires three quotes as a bare minimum. We don't know if FEMA will reimburse funding for this building at this time. We're look into that as well.

We are doing a lot of interior work in house labor. We don't have any real expenses on the books at this time. So the Central Hudson contract would be the first major expense for this building to get going forward.

**Marc Rider:** I'll just add to that, that I mean, I think that we've touched on this in other meetings, talking about some of the other ancillary costs that were, you know, getting the HVAC up and running and the elevators fixed and other things and I know they've gotten multiple quotes on some of those contracts so that they're ready to go if necessary. Some of the electrical work and the plumbing work. I think we gave a quote all in somewhere in the \$220K range.

**Chairwoman Archer:** So I'm going to

**Marc Rider:** And then just to answer Tracy's first question. The maintenance costs, we did reach out to Central Hudson and asked what the cost would be to have the building in various states. And, so the electric and the gas in basically an empty building looks like it'll run approximately about \$100,000 a year for electric and gas and when it was kind of up in the Bank of America heyday and all the computers are running and everything else was about the \$400,000 range for electric and gas carrying costs.

**Legislator Ronk:** Lynn, Eve's got her hand up.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I'm sorry, go ahead, Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** Thanks. Sorry. But well, I guess, Tracy before I move to a slightly different side of this, do you want to follow up with anything? Because I am going to sort of take it off of total amount.

**Legislator Bartels:** I mean, I don't, not specifically, I just my research said about \$100,000 a year for the vacant building based on the square footage that you were you were telling us that the building was and therein sort of lies my concern that if we don't need it for what we originally expected we might need it for. And we start down this road that, you know, I think we need to be looking at this as an expense, just like every other expense, including the contracts that we're looking at right now. I mean, these, this is money that we, we very likely aren't going to have. So we're going to be making some very difficult decisions down the road.

And I know that we're going to need to make this connection eventually, which is again, why I'm saying, for me, it's not a question of if, it's a question of when, and I'm not sure that I'm comfortable with this timing right now, given all the information that I've gotten. But Eve you can now move on.

**Legislator Walter:** I guess I mean, I agree. I think my my challenges the fact that it has now COVID attached to it. Because from our conversations that we had last week, there I am still not compelled to believe that we are going to necessarily need this. We were told by the hospital that these steps step down was not a part of the culture of the care provision. That our experience in New York City is that they weren't being utilized. The, I'm not quite sure what's happening in the high school, but we know when there's potentially space in the other hospitals, we know that there are extreme, you know, three levels of likely extreme risk low level, but it seems like even if it's if the numbers surge that we, it looks like we're probably okay. And so I just want to feel compelled that this is something that's really truly necessary right now, in order to respond to Covid because that's not the feeling I got from the meeting last week.

**Dr. Evelyn Wright:** This is Evelyn, may I add something and response to that?

**Chairwoman Archer:** Please

**Dr. Evelyn Wright:** You know, I just want to emphasize that at the base, this is about responsible ownership of this building, which we took into our ownership. The Central Hudson people told us that the contractor who did the temporary fix job on the current power system was stunned that it was still working. It could fail at any time and the building would lose power and the damage to the building could be more costly than what we're doing now. So, we see this at the base as being about we own this thing, we have a responsibility to take care of it and to not make the situation over there worse. It's not, Eve, I agree. It's not clear that we're going to need this for Covid response. But having the building properly supplied with electricity and gas and ready to be used gives us flexibility, whether it's to whether, you know, God forbid we need it for Covid response, and situations change, or whether we can use it for flexibility space for County facilities. It gives us the chance to use it and potentially, to sell it and have revenue from that. So it's just a necessary first step to be able to do anything with it in the in the future. And it's also, is preventing what could be a worst situation unfolding if the power through the Tech City power plant fails at any moment.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Dave?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Well, yes, also, what has happened with that building, it has had no maintenance for almost three years. And a building sitting there for that long, it starts to become, you know, really dangerous in that it could cause as Evelyn's pointing out, a lot more money to deal with it later on. We had a conversation with leadership, we had a conversation with the County Executive and he understands at this point it's most likely not going to be used for Covid but it's still a property, it has to be maintained. If we don't, as they're pointing out, we could end up spending a hell of a lot more later on. So my mindset is, it's our building, we have to take care of it.

Not only that, but there are possibilities right now they're talking about the idea of the number of homeless going up. If we had that building open, it's almost like a warehouse in most of the building and it can be used for something of that nature if you need to. I wouldn't suggest that we tried to sell it at this point, because, you know, I don't know what we would get for it. I don't think the numbers would be right. It would be better to hold on to it. But we can also put it out for bid for rentals or things like that. If companies really want to use something of this nature. It's a you know, nice building, otherwise it just needs repairs, and we we have to act on I think this is the time I certainly understand that it's just like with many of the other things. We can put off maybe giving Soil and Water money, we can put off, you know certain things, but some things you just can't put off, you got to deal with it when you got to deal with it. And I think that this point that this is the building we're going to have to deal with, whether, you know, we like the idea or not.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** Thank thank you. Um, you know, just to echo some of the things that Dave said and disagree with them a little bit.

You know, I think that the number one priority for the County has to be to get this building back on the market so it can be on the tax rolls again. It's not just for us, but it's also for the town of Ulster, the School District. You know, it is a valuable piece of property and I believe strongly that we need to invest in this property, especially at this point because I don't know if it was brought up or not, I don't remember it, but we've been discussing it for a little while. That central Hudson is covering part of the cost of as a reimbursement, something like \$60,000. Marc?

Marc's signaling. Yes, that's about \$60,000. So one of the things that we have going for us is that Central Hudson doesn't have a lot of work going on right now. And if we were able to get them in, there, doing this work now. I think that they're more likely to give us that reimbursement than if we waited to do it. You know, so I understand Tracy's comment that you know, we be watching every cent and I think that this is part of watching every cent is making sure that we invest in what is now our property so we can get back on the tax rolls. You know, because let's not forget that the reason the County owns this is because Mr. Ginsberg didn't pay his taxes forever. So I think we strike while the iron is hot, personally.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** Two questions this \$60,000 that we've heard about with central Hudson in terms of a reimbursement. Is that, Is that included in this number? This \$137,000? Or is it going to be \$60,000 less than 137,000?

**Don Quesnell:** Well, it's \$137,000. But that's a usage reimbursement.

**Legislator Bartels:** Can you explain what that means?

**Don Quesnell:** That means as we used natural gas or electricity that \$60,000 gets credited back to the County.

**Legislator Bartels:** Okay, so it's \$137,000 and then once we start having bills, they're going to credit us \$60,000 worth of bills.

**Don Quesnell:** Right.

**Legislator Bartels:** Which, you know, I'm not sure that that's times that is time sensitive, because I'm sure central Hudson is going to be happy to have a big customer back on, you know, on their on their rolls. But the other question I have is actually for Evelyn. Evelyn talked about if the power goes out in there, can you explain, because I thought the building wasn't powered right now. So I'm confused what that comment was.

**Dr. Evelyn Wright:** The building is getting some power from the Tech City power system. So you know there's emergency power in there. Marc can probably say more about how much but the the issue is that know IBM has their own power plant and they had the entire campus wired together. And and that power plant was built, I don't know in the 40s and has been steadily failing. Central Hudson has said they will not go in there because they think it's so dangerous and it evidently had, I think it was four connections to the campus, and three of them, well all four of them failed. Three of them failed, one of them was was literally duct taped back together essentially, in electrical terms, as an emergency fix. And that was, I want to say in 2017. And like I said central Hudson said that they were astonished that that temporary fix that was supposed to buy Ginsburg some time so he could have been fixed properly, which he never did, that they were shocked that that was still operating. So we went, we would have, instead of almost no power to building, we would have literally zero power to building if that were to fail.

**Marc Rider:** Yeah, right now currently, there's emergency lights, there's things that that is taking power onto that. That West side of the campus, the Bank of America building has some power running into it. And it's just getting it from the East side of the campus, which, you know, currently, we're not even. We don't even have a way just to pay, Mr. Ginsburg for currently. Nor do I think would we, but.

**Legislator Bartels:** Just for clarification, so that power plant that everyone's talking about is powering the East side of the campus.

**Marc Rider:** Yes.

**Legislator Bartels:** as well, even in the state that Evelyn's describing.

**Marc Rider:** Yes, and so if that fails, then all of those tenants will need a place to go as well. Just so we're all aware and potentially, you know, I don't know that this will make much of a difference but getting us off of that, our small load, off of that kind of transformer area, which would probably be helpful for that area as well.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Heidi, then Eve.



**Legislator Haynes:** Yeah, question for Don. Once we have the utility of the electricity moved over to the Bank of America building, are we still reliant on any other utilities coming from that other side from the side? From the East side?

**Don Quesnell:** Marc, I'm not 100% positive, but I don't believe so. Because I think the waters coming off the main right? It's not coming from the East side?

**Marc Rider:** I don't believe we're relying at all.

**Legislator Haynes:** From an ownership perspective, does this make us you know, self-sufficient?

**Legislator Ronk:** Self-reliant

**Don Quesnell:** Yes, it would give us our own meter.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** Yeah. I mean, I'm not, I'm completely compelled that this is important and and somewhat timely, I guess I feel like in this environment right now, where we're talking about potential cuts to lots of services and other programs. All I'm, what I'm feeling is, and a month is not, if not, maybe maybe not even a whole month from now when our, that plan to sort of have that Special Meeting and look at all of this, my feeling is that this sense of the resolution should be corrected to not have Covid on it. So it doesn't have that sense of Covid urgency, and that we just look at it along with all the other ones is my feeling. And I think that when we do that, we're going to find that several of them we want to really respond to sooner and others we feel we'll delay, but I don't see how this necessarily rises more importantly, than some of the services that are going to have to be cut.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** Thanks, Lynn. Um, you know, to Legislator Walters point, I agree that we should amend the resolution to take Covid off of it. I really do. I think it I think it might have not been the best, the best way to frame the discussion on this. I understand the County Executive, you know, his point when when this started, but I think it's come become obvious that we're very unlikely to for that purpose at this point.

But I don't necessarily agree with lumping it in with the contract agencies because it's an entirely different, it's an it's an entirely different piece of County Government. This is a Capital Project to repair one of our buildings, these other contracts, that we're holding off are contracts for agencies that apply to us for funding, you know, sometimes through legislators sometimes, you know, you know, on a regular basis, um, you know, I just, I think that you're talking about, you know, apples and midsize cars, you know, when you're trying to lump them together, I don't, I don't think that we should think about Capital Projects that were that we're doing on a regular basis to either improve our roads, bridges buildings, as the same As the funding for UPAC or the funding for the Maritime Museum,

**Archer:** Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** Thanks. Yeah, I mean, you know, I think when you talk about bridges and roads, we're talking about public safety. And I agree with Legislator Walter, you know, in the spirit of I think the way that she meant it not not to lump a Capital Project with funding for an arts program, but to say that we're going to have really hard decisions. I mean, we may have to let people go, you know, we may have, we may have to cut services, not Legislative Program services, but real services. And so when you start down a path right now to it's one thing to just make the connection, \$137,000 connection, then you start the meter, then you start looking at the problems then you start with the sprinklers and, and, and the elevators and everything else and who knows What that cost is, even as we're thinking about what people's jobs might have to go, what services might have to go and that's my concern that I don't right now have a full picture.

And this is a new thing and I'm not sure if, as Legislator Walter said, one month would make such a negative difference to the connection to Tech City given that if it's not urgently needed for Covid and on the on the other side, when it gets us the time to really have a big picture look of what we're looking at.

**Chairwoman Archer:** And I'd like to just add on to that. I think anytime you take a building of this age and start to do repairs, there are always unforeseen repairs that are not anticipated that are going to cost us a lot more money and a time where we need to be very conservative where we are spending money. I think it is one of those topics that I think this was the spirit of what he was talking about as well that it merits in we're likely discussion in a fuller understanding right now we know the electric's \$137K, and yes, we need to maintain the building. But I think that before we spend any other money on this building, we have no understanding of the recovery of this economy and when this building potentially could be put on the market to be sold, and, and what carrying costs, we really will have just to preserve the investment. So I think it warrants a more lengthy discussion, because when we started this discussion, it was to be a step down facility. And now it has many other things

Marc.

**Marc Rider:** I mean, I've been on all these conversations. I've been on the leadership calls with the hospitals. I think there's there's a lot there. I don't think we're out of the water as far as knowing what this is going to need, knowing what in a month and a half our needs going to be. And moving forward with this contract is takes time after the contract is in place to get us to the spot where we, you know, if we wait until May then this work is not done till July in August. I mean, we've talked about various different uses that aren't only stepped down facility uses.

But 1,000 people went through Javits this week, and to say that step down facilities aren't used at all. I think that that I wasn't going say anything on the call with the doctors the other day, but we don't know where we're going to be at yet.

And we don't know what a second peak is going to look like. And I'm just concerned that as we start to push this off, we have central Hudson lined up to do the work now. I don't think we can

guarantee that they're going to refund our \$60,000 or reimburse us \$60,000 in the future, they want to do the work now where they're not busy. And so I am concerned and I just want to go on the record that I would be concerned pushing it off by month.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** Thanks Lynn. You know, just to sort of piggyback on on what Mark said, um, you know, and honestly, I think to piggyback a little bit on what you said. You know, I wouldn't be in favor if there were five contracts for us today. One for plumbing, one for the elevators, one for, because you're absolutely right, buildings of this age. Once you start getting into the walls, you're going to find problems that once, we as a government, find we need to address.

Um, you know, I don't think though, that we should put off doing the electric and gas work because of what we might find down the road. I think that that's something that regardless of the use. And again, I want to, again go on record in this meeting and say I think that used as a step-down facility may have been a poor choice as a way to frame the discussion on doing this work.

I think that a lot of focus is being put on that now, even though it's unlikely to be needed. Yeah, is that very unlikely, I would say almost entirely unlikely. I say almost, um, but I do think that the work needs to be done, and we're better off to do it now. Today's dollars are always cheaper than tomorrow's dollars.

And quite frankly, to Tracy's point about, you know, this could mean a job or etc. You know, it could be a job or 10 depending on how long this stays off the tax rolls. You know, that's something that, you know, that's something that we have to consider is that, aside from the fact that we've been making the town and the school district whole for taxes on this building for years. Now, it's off the tax rolls and nobody's receiving the tax dollars for that which affects every other taxpayer in the County, not to mention the County budget.

So to me, I think that we need to start moving in the direction of improving our property that we now own. To invest for the taxpayers.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Dave and then Tracey.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** We take a look at this regardless of what you like, or what you wish we could happen, the reality is we have to do this building. We have to do the electric and gas in this building, whether we want to do it now or you want to wait a year. If the longer you wait, the more problems you end up having, in my mind, just putting it off, it's not an answer. It's got to be done and I certainly understand that as we get there, we may have to spend more money but it's got to be done the electric and the gas has to be done.

Now they've framed it with the Covid idea. And I, like Ken, and others know, feel pretty sure that it's not going to be used for that. Now we could take that out of the resolution, but that would be kind of foolish too. Because right now we're looking at the idea of trying to get some kind of reimbursement. I doubt it we will. But at least we have the ability to try to get some kind of reimbursement from FEMA, which you're not going to have otherwise.

The longer you put it off, the less chance that you're going to get that any kind of FEMA money, but I don't believe you're going to get any of it anyways, because it's a national wide FEMA emergency, and they're going to be quite, you know, they're going to be looking at things with fine tooth comb, who's going to get reimbursed so I don't think you're going to get reimbursed, but there's an outside possibility.

And my mind said is, I think we need to move this forward and move on to the next resolution.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** Yeah, I mean, I, I hear Ken on the on the tax issue, and I think it's a, it's a very worthwhile point. But to the issue of Ken you said you, you know, you agreed with me and talking about all those other contracts were before us. Well, we heard at the start of this discussion that a lot of those contracts may or may not even come before us, they're going to be RFPs that are set out and lead out for, you know, 50,000 under \$50,000 here and there for plumbing and, and over all the things we I mean, we've been in these conversations about plumbing, about sprinklers about elevators.

So if there was some kind of assurance that they weren't moving on forward with the building on starting to put money into it beyond this connection, I think it would be a different discussion. But I'm just, I feel like we're having both conversations simultaneously.

We're having a conversation about getting the building ready for use, whether it's for Covid, or for a homeless crisis. And we're having the bill, the conversation about needing to make the connection to maintain the building, as there is like two separate conversations happening simultaneously.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** And thanks. I won't keep belaboring the point. I think that, you know, this has a chance to keep going around in circles. But I, I understand what you're saying about the fact that the Executive's Office and the Purchasing Director can sign off on contracts under \$50,000, for all the things that we maybe wouldn't support moving forward on at this moment.

But I mean, with due respect, this is the only one that's before us, and they could do that whether we renew the electric and gas or not. You know, so to me, while I understand your point, and I would hope that the Executive, you know, as you know, as he's been, I think working pretty well with the leadership during this crisis. I would hope that he would, and Marc, you can pass, and Evelyn, you can pass this along to him, I would hope that he would have the courtesy to have that discussion with us before he started signing off on contracts. Um, but to me, I mean, you know, right now we have this contract in front of us. I think that's what we have to focus on, not what Pat could do on his own.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, Tracy.

**Legislator Bartels:** So, can I ask a question then of Marc and Don? I mean, is there is there the intention to start moving forward on other contracts to upgrade and do more than just make the connection?

**Marc Rider:** No, I mean, I think that there would be certain work that would potentially have to be done. Again, just like to finish the connection. Both, you know, going into the building. So there's some other electrical work that's outside of the Central Hudson contract. And to make the building safe when they de-winterize that they took all the sprinkler heads off for the fire safety sprinklers, etc. I think as a publicly owned building some of that work we would want to do, but we're not going to get the building ready to be a shelter, or get the building ready to be a surge hospital without talking to you all.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Could you, is there a way Marc, if you already anticipate you know what things you're going to need to do once the electric connection occurs before it becomes a facility for whatever? Can you share that information, at least phase one, this is what it looks like. And here's the other I mean, I assume you guys have already put some sort of plan together with regards to this. And sharing that could go a long way.

**Marc Rider:** Yeah, I think Pat has already stated that that would happen, in leadership meetings.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay. Anybody else? Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** Um, so I don't know if I'm allowed to do this but and it may not pass but I'm going to go back to my original feeling of you know that there's a there's a sense of urgency was created around this, it was not necessarily accurate because it was tied with the Covid. Now I hear a sense of urgency for other reasons. Although, you know, a lot of good timing because the former owner, you know, that it got passed through, I do feel more comfortable having more information about this and seeing the the, the various different kinds of expenditures and impacts on our, our full budget that includes programs and includes this, and so I would like to make a motion to postpone this to our next month meeting, just putting that out there.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Is there a second to the postponement?

**Legislator Bartels:** I would second that.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay. All in favor of the postponement?

**Group:** Yes.

**Chairwoman Archer:** And opposed?

**Legislator Ronk:** I'm opposed.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** I'm opposed.

**Legislator Gavaris:** I'm going to abstain for purposes of employment.

**Chairwoman Archer:** So on the resolution, all in favor?

**Legislator Ronk:** Do you want to announce the vote on the postponement?

**Chairwoman Archer:** I'm sorry. Do you have it Amber?

**Amber Feaster:** I believe it's five in favor, two against, and one abstained.

**Legislator Ronk:** On the, on the postponement?

**Chairwoman Archer:** I'm sorry, I wasn't clear. I'm for postponement.

**Natalie Kelder:** I think it was 3-4.

**Chairwoman Archer:** 3-4. Thanks Natalie

**Amber Feaster:** Oh, Lynn, you are opposed?

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yes.

**Amber Feaster:** Okay.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Wait. I'm confused, Who voted to postpone and who voted not to postpone?

**Legislator Ronk:** Legislator Bartels and Walter voted.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I'm sorry, I am confused. I am voting to postpone.

**Legislator Ronk:** Legislator, Archer Bartels and Walter voted yes to postpone. Legislator is Donaldson, Ronk, Maio, Haynes voted no to postponement. And then Legislator Gavaris abstained.

So it'd be three yes to postpone four no to postpone and one abstention. Correct?

**Chairwoman Archer:** The postponement does not pass.

**Legislator Ronk:** Sorry. I just want to make sure that we get it all clear because the no, the no votes are the ones that are the most important in these meetings.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yes. Thank you. On the resolution as it stands, all in favor?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Aye.

**Legislator Ronk:** Aye.

**Legislator Haynes:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

**Legislator Gavaris:** I am going to abstain again.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracey what's your vote on this?

**Legislator Bartels:** I'm telling you, I'm really struggling.

**Legislator Haynes:** So was I Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** You know. I think we need more time, I think we need more information. I'm opposed.

**Chairwoman Archer:** You're opposed. Okay, so three opposed, one extension, and the remaining are approving three, 171.

Okay, we'll go back to the agenda. Don, thank you for joining us, appreciate your time.

**Legislator Ken Ronk:** The resolution fails.

**Chairwoman Archer:** It's down.

**Legislator Ronk:** If the vote count stays that way, we move forward, the resolution fails because Legislator Donaldson's in the room, which means that the raises, we need five votes to pass it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I see that

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Well, you wouldn't have otherwise you would have four.

**Legislator Ronk:** Well, the issue is that the entire committee is in attendance. And under our rules, when the entire committee is in attendance, the chairman's presence raises the number required to pass. It raises quorum, you know, so if you were in the room and one of us were absent, you replace our vote. When you're in the room and all of us are here, and it raises quorum. And, and Legislator.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, let me let me let me try this.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** It would not be there anyway.

**Chairwoman Archer:** If I may, please, if I may. Um, that's correct. And on just wondering would it be best to get more, do you think there's time between now and next week to get information to get you comfortable before we vote on this?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Make a point right now, I'd like to make a point that what Ken is talking about, if I was not here it would still fail, because it would be

**Legislator Ronk:** Correct.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** 3-3 with one abstention.

**Legislator Ronk:** With one abstention, the abstention is, yeah...

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** So no, I mean, there's not much we can do. I mean, we know what the information is. I mean, I don't I don't get the postponement in the first place. Because we know what the information is. You either understand that you have to move forward with this building or you don't.

**Legislator Bartels:** I'd rather postpone.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** It's not going to change next week. It's not going to change a month from now.

**Marc Rider:** I'm just going to say I'm not going to have any more information by next week.

**Don Quesnell:** I agree.

**Marc Rider:** It's not going to be possible.

**Legislator Ronk:** I mean, If it will make a difference I would postpone it until next week. I'm not in favor of postponing it to next month because to me there's not more information that's going to affect my vote on this in a month. And over the years we have we have postponed countless resolutions for a month expecting more information in the next month we just move forward on it. I think that visits important move on this this month.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracy

**Legislator Bartels:** Oh, I just leaned forward.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Oh okay, I thought you were

**Legislator Bartels:** I'm, you know, I'm struggling. I'm struggling with this one. Being honest, because because I hear I hear the arguments I've been, you know, I particularly Legislator Ronk, talking about the tax rolls and needing to get it back on the tax rolls, and the marketability of the building and our responsibility as owners which is not the conversation we've been having. Up until this day, we've been having a conversation about the utilization of the building. for other purposes. And I'm concerned, I am concerned about a money pit. But, um, you know, I'm struggling. It's rare. It's a rare, rare moment for me to be so torn.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Eve.



**Dr. Evelyn Wright:** This oh

**Chairwoman Archer:** Go ahead Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** Do you want to go first Evelyn?

**Dr. Evelyn Wright:** If I may, I just want to address the Covid thing, because I think that you all are right in looking at the situation now. It doesn't look like we're in immediate need of it. Although as Marc said, we have no idea what this epidemic is going to do next. I just want to say that that wasn't thrown in there as a justification. Things look very different three weeks ago, when we were thinking that we were really going to need to quadruple our hospital bed space in the County. And it was part of our agreement with the Kingston School District that the facility there was not a permanent one that we were working on something that could be more permanent. And so whether you'll feel that that's relevant now or not, it was not put in there lightly. It's just that the situation is rapidly changing around us.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** So, thanks, I appreciate that. I don't think when it was first put in there, I know for myself, I didn't think it was put there lightly at all. I think that's why we asked for more information last week, which for myself was very helpful. I'm more referring to feeling the sense of urgency and whether if it was a Covid emergency, it's a very different story right now than if it's not. I'll just also I take, you know, it's not to me a matter of I need information, I don't need information, I can just have it and therefore I should. I think it's really important to recognize that there are, as I said many times, there's going to be a lot of things that are going to have to be cut and I would just, I think we really need to look at this all together. It's not a matter of, I don't think anyone who, I mean I don't want to speak for the other people who proposed, it is not a feeling like this isn't important. It is just that giving us the time. I think that in our current economic situation, I don't think we are going to find a buyer that is knocking on the door tomorrow. Because everyone in the economy is struggling right now. So I'm just suggesting that the time that it takes between now and next month would allow us to look at all of these. Look at the budget and the things that need to be cut, all together. And I'll say, Chairman, Legislative Chairman Donaldson, that you make this very strong, compelling argument for some of the programs and why it's really important. And so I think that we just need to look at all of this together, which is why I'm not suggesting I'm against the whole thing I'm just, this is why I suggested the postponement.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Dave.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Letting you know when we take a look at this the Covid situation. I know when they first called me, when they first had John Milgrim call me in reference to the building and in reference to the Covid. And it was a conversation we had right off the bat was that the building had to be done anyway, we just we just got possession of the building not that long ago. So once you get possession of the building, you know you're going to deal with it, particularly when it sat there for three years without you know, any maintenance in it.

So the point is, is it's got to be done. Now, we can make the argument we're not going to use it for Covid and I know, we know we aren't because when we set up the meeting with the doctors, we are, we wanted, I wanted to make sure and I wanted to make sure it was clear with everyone that had hospital beds that could be used. So and I also wanted to make it clear when we talk to Pat, the County Executive, that if he did anything other than this. He understood, in other words, I had a conversation with some of the people, the maintenance people, and they were pointing out, you really have to get this done. You can't just keep putting it off. And the, with the conversation was that along with the doctors that we knew we didn't have to use it, but it just happened to correspond with that. So I'm pointing out that we have the building, we have to do this anyway. And now we may be able to use this for the Covid. So it didn't correspond because of the timing. But having said that, it still has to be done and I understand, believe me, I understand, I'd love to put off a lot of stuff. I mean, I want to make sure that the needy are taken care of. I want to make sure that least amount of people that would have to be laid off will be laid off. I mean, I understand that. But on the other hand, we own a building. And we have to do that maintenance work that has not been done. And as they pointed out, they do not know how long it's going to last. The emergency part of the electric. So, to me putting it off, it's not going to solve anything because a month from now, we're just going to be voting yes to do because we really don't have a choice. Now, I really wish I could say, yeah, we had a choice, but I don't see a choice.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I just have one question and then Eve.

Marc, are we, I mean, I've heard all of this about the electrical is kind of cobbled together so to speak. Is there a concern from a fire hazard perspective?

**Marc Rider:** Yes, I mean, the New York Power Authority, I want to say it was 13, 14 months ago came down when we were first trying to relocate farm bridge. And they wanted to shut that other power source off completely. And they they believe there was a fire hazard at the time.

We asked them because of the tenants that were there to allow them to continue to operate that electrical work. But as you know, others have said that central Hudson is surprised that it's still working. But once that switch fails, who knows what is going to happen with the electric including could be, you know, a catastrophic failure, failure that could be a fire of some kind, I don't know.

**Chairwoman Archer:** So as a follow up to that Marc, you know, say hypothetically say this passes, how quickly would Central Hudson to be in there making these changes?

**Marc Rider:** The next day. I mean, we're using in house, labor to trench and do everything. You know, the the DEC gave us a quick turnaround permit to trench through the bloom because they they want this to happen now. So they would be in there essentially the next day.

**Don Quesnell:** Yes.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yes. Okay, Eve I'm sorry. You had a question?

**Legislator Walter:** Yeah. I mean, and again, back to the point of, we know everything we need to know, my challenges with the words this. This has to get done is I'm actually not quite clear I know what this is. I mean, I know what this particular resolution is asking for. But I've heard repeatedly and myself I've owned an old house. I don't actually have a full sense of the extreme cost, the middle cost, the lowest cost. All the other things that will have to happen, once this step happens. And I don't have a sense of what the larger picture is. And I don't know if we're talking hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars and I you know, what is going to be the next resolution saying now this has to be done. So I think having again more information about the different elements that need to truly be done and beyond this one is useful information.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken

**Legislator Ronk:** I I don't agree. Um, you know, this is a specific project to upgrade the utilities. When you're when you're doing utility work, you don't worry about whether or not you're going to have to replace this asbestos on your front porch. Um, you know, it's just not it's not a comparable thing. It's not, you know, the, you know, the work to improve the utilities isn't going to affect all of the other things that you're going to need to do.

You know, some of the some of the internal work the plumbing work might affect or be affected by other things that you're going to need to do. But this contract is with central Hudson for improving the utilities outside of the building, I do not agree that we should have a comprehensive look on everything that needs to be done in the building before we approve the improvements to them before we improve the gas line, the electric line, those are things that need to happen regardless of if we did anything inside.

**Chairwoman Archer:** So having said all of this, I will agree to I'm going to change my vote to supporting the electrical work with a caveat Marc. And and and this is critical Marc and Evelyn, you know we have assurances from you we're going to have a conversation. I think it would be quite meaningful to have a conversation with the Ways and Means with regards to additional ideas for the building, additional work that you're doing before any contracts get signed with any plumbers with any electricians. I think we need really need to understand the full scope of what this is because we're now going to have carrying costs. And again until you start to tear things apart, you have no idea what what other additional work is. And I think this is one of those kind of cascade, what is that?

**Legislator Ronk:** Money Pit

**Chairwoman Archer:** Money Pit, Thank you. Money pit that will, I think come back to haunt us. And I think and I mean, I think it's important to get the electrical fixed and upgraded. So it doesn't present a hazard so we don't lose the building. But as it relates to anything else, elevators, sprinkler systems, etc. We really need to have a robust conversation about the potential for this building.

**Marc Rider:** But thats

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Yeah, I mean, this is, yeah, I think you could consider it a stabilization of the building. It's sort of like, if you have a hole in the roof, you've got to take care of that even though there may be a bunch of other things that have to be done. Well you fix the roof and then you can let the building stabilize otherwise the weather's coming into it. And this is very similar in that you're stabilizing the building. After that, we don't know what's going to lead it may turn into a money pit. But the reality is, it's something we still have to do, regardless of how you look at it, you can't. There's no other way of looking at it. It's got to be done and it's on point.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, I think we've had a sufficient conversation around this. I think we're at a stage where it will move forward. And we'll have more conversation and hopefully set something up to have additional conversation around this. Okay.

Anything else?

**Legislator Ronk:** No just the official votes 4-3 with one abstention.

**Chairwoman Archer:** No, I changed mine.

**Legislator Ronk:** Yes, four in favor, three opposed, one abstention.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I'm sorry, yes.

**Marc Rider:** Five, five.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Five.

**Legislator Ronk:** Five, I apologize. Yes.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Thank you.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** What do you mean?

**Legislator Ronk:** Five to five yes, two no, one abstention. That's that's the vote total.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Right.

**Legislator Ronk:** That's why I want to get it out there because I know we're all confused a little bit on vote totals. I want to make sure that for the record and the public is listening that everything's right.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Thank you, Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** You're welcome.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, and Thanks, Don. Appreciate your time.

**Don Quesnell:** Thank you.

**Legislator Ronk:** Thanks Don.

**Chairwoman Archer:** So resolution 146. Is the approving the contract with Rising Ground Inc.

**Legislator Ronk:** I'll move it.

**Legislator Bartels:** Tracy.

**Legislator Bartels:** Ken and I both moved it, so.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay. All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed? Mary Beth? Oh okay.

Resolution 147, approving the execution of a contract in excess of \$50,000 with Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc.

**Legislator Ronk:** I'll move it, its foster care.

**Chairman Archer:** Foster Care.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Second.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 148 approving the execution of a contract amendment in excess of 50 with gateway community industries.

**Legislator Ronk:** Ken will move it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second?

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Seconded.

**Chairwoman Archer:** all in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 149 approving the execution of a contract causing the aggregate contract amount to be in excess of 50.

**Legislator Ronk:** In honor of Carl Belfiglio, Ken will move it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, this is for Visual Computer Solutions, Inc. Ken moved it. Do I have a second?

**Legislator Walter:** Eve will second.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

I'd like to finish it out. Just for the folks that I don't have a copy of this before them.

**Legislator Ronk:** I apologize.

**Chairwoman Archer:** That's quite alright.

**Legislator Ronk:** I often jump the gun on you Legislator Archer.

**Chairwoman Archer:** I know, you're always pushing us along, which is fine.

Resolution 155, Authorizing the Chair of the Legislature to terminate the agreement for professional service with the Research Foundation, State University of New York through SUNY New Paltz, Benjamin Center.

**Legislator Ronk:** Ken will move it.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** I'll second it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Any discussion? Eve.

**Legislator Walter:** Yeah, I would like to understand a little bit more about this decision. I also noticed I didn't, and maybe I just missed it. I didn't see anything about what the original contract had said. But I guess I would like to know a little bit more about why this was proposed.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Dave.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** We had several conversations with what they accomplished for us, and it was short of what we wanted and felt that we needed. And felt that our own staff was able to do somewhat of a better job. The other thing is it was a three-year contract, which we

normally do not enter into. We normally enter into one year contracts that are renewable. And there was a change in leadership in the organization, and also because of the Covid situation. We're going to need some people that comes in that's done thousands of these things, not two.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracy.

**Legislator Bartels:** Just just speaking for myself. So Dave, I just want to echo what Dave said in terms of normally when these contracts go out, they're one year contracts with an opportunity, two opportunities to renew for a year This was, it was I think of it as an oversight. And by the time that we saw it, we couldn't change it without reletting the whole RFP. Given, for me, given the current circumstance and the current state of what I expect our budget to be like, which is going to be unlike any budget I've ever seen. I would just like to re-let the RFP. That means that the Benjamin Center can rebid too, but I'd like to have conversations, with all the perspective analysts to talk to them about what they can offer and how they're, how their group could best position and help us work through this really difficult budget cycle.

And I'm open to any any opportunity I've been through multiple of these RFP processes while sitting on Ways and Means, it happens in Ways and Means, and so our committee is the one who will do it. Again, so I'm going to keep an open mind. But I would just like to be able to have that conversation with the a whole variety of organizations, in particular in relation to the budget crisis that I'm anticipating.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** Thanks, A question to Marc. You know, through the Chair, obviously, if we were to go out to RFP, just to confirm we're under no obligation to award to one of the companies, right, we could go out to RFP and decide we don't want to award any of them?

**Marc Rider:** Yes. That's correct.

**Legislator Ronk:** Yeah, thank you, Marc. That's, that's one thing that I want to just put on the table here as well, that, you know, the County Executive has sent out a memo, which we've all been in receipt of to all county departments, asking for a 10% reduction in in spending or a plan for 10% less for their departments.

I got to tell you, and I know that, you know, they both love hearing it. I think Amber and Natalie did a fantastic job last year during the budget process. I would say almost all of the amendments that we came up with, were done by them and not our budget consultants. I don't think it's out of the realm of possibility that come August, you know, we would rather do it in house this year and be able to save that money, then hire one of the other companies as well. I think that's a definite possibility.

So to me, that's another reason to cancel the contract while we have the opportunity to do so, and then figure out where we are in a couple of months. We may want to save that money as part of our contributing to saving money for the county as a whole. And really, I've been in the

legislature now 12 and a half years and we've never had a more competent financial staff to be able to do such a job. So I think that that's a definite possibility for us. I'm not saying that's the be all end all. And I definitely think that we should do the RFP. But um, you know, we might be in a position where we'd rather lean on our highly competent staff than to spend the \$60 or \$70,000.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Eve.

**Chairwoman Walter:** Okay, so if for me to vote on this, I have to understand what it is, what is the reason and I was given quite a few reasons. And some of them I'm okay with and some of them I'm not.

And so, you know, for us in terms of it being a three-year contract, whether it was an oversight or not, it was a three year contract. I will say that I've personally had a three-year contract. So it's not the only time that has happened, but it was and for.

Well, let me pause and say yes, I you probably all know that I worked for the Benjamin center for many years and I was part of it from its from the start. However, I had nothing to do with this particular project, I didn't get any money from it. I no longer work for the Benjamin Center, and I would no longer be a part of this project, or I would not, I was never part of the project and I wouldn't. So I just wanted to clarify that.

But if you're breaking a contract that was for three years, you would need a very good reason. I think that if the reason is because Jerry Benjamin has retired, he is serving on the Benjamin Center. And so that's not a very good reason, because he can still continue to do it.

If the reason is because you think somebody who's more knowledgeable. I think the reason why you gave the RFP to Jerry Benjamin in the first place was because of all of his knowledge and experience. So I have trouble with that one.

If you're saying that, given this time with the pandemic and we need to make a 10% cut and give and due to that and this may not be an expense, then I actually am a little much more okay with that answer and then I will say don't put it up for RFP if we can't afford it, we can't afford it.

But I really don't buy deciding that because Jerry Benjamin has retired this three-year contract, is that enough reason to breach a three year contract, there has to be more reason and I have not heard. And I know I'm new, and I haven't heard that, there was such dissatisfaction with it, prior to this pandemic.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Dave and then Ken.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Well I, basically, the contract says as a matter of convenience, we can cancel at any times. We do not have to give any reason for that matter. We aren't breaching anything. We don't, like I said, we do not need any reason to cancel this contract whatsoever. All right. The reasoning is yes. Many people were upset with what the product was. It was wasn't what we expected. And the reason they went with and let me make a point. I have a great deal of respect for Jerry Benjamin. And when we were looking at it, I did not was not



happy with it, I didn't really want to support it at that point. Because that is not what their real expertise is. As far as I'm concerned.

There are companies out there that do this all the time, for various counties, and that's what their real specialty is. They know how to deal with this these type of issues and they come up with deliverables that we can use to make amendments to the budget. That did not happen. Um, so I wasn't, you know, happy with the performance.

I happen to like Jerry a great deal and the reason I ended up actually put me over the vote for that was because Jerry Benjamin was there full time, all the time. He was putting in five days a week dealing with it. He is no longer doing that. I mean, the only reason I ended up going with it, right, because I didn't like the other ones. I really didn't like the performance in the ends. And so as a result, I mean, that's just one item out of the many. And the idea that Yeah, we've had three year contracts for certain things, but we've never done three year contracts for the budget analysis. We've always had one year renewables. That's what we've always done. So we're not breaching any contracts. We're simply canceling the contract and they had the right to rebid it. When we put it out, management has put in a great deal of time, along with Amber and Natalie, to put together real comprehensive RFP and we should go out with that RFP and see what happens see when it comes in with it.

And we should actually, like Ken said, we should consider maybe doing it in house. I, I would have said I would have agreed with him 100% if it wasn't for the problems we have right now, I'm concerned with, um, you know how tough this budgets going to be that we may need a little more expertise at this point. I mean, otherwise, I would feel if this thing happened, I was going to suggest that the idea that we did it in house, I was going to go along with some other people that had been talking about not everybody, a lot of people feel that No, they don't know we still need the full-time analysis coming in. And I'm leaning towards more during the full-time analysis in with with an RFP because just because of how difficult this budgets really going to be.

**Legislator Ronk:** And thanks. To that point. You into, I think a point that Legislator Walter made. I don't know what we can afford until we go out to RFP. That's why I support going to RFP with the understanding that we don't have to hire somebody is, perhaps we're going to get a really good deal right now. Um, you know, perhaps somebody's going to come in with an offer we can't refuse. And to Dave's point about the three-year contract, I think that one thing that made a lot of folks comfortable when we passed the three year contract was the fact that all the county contracts have the escape clause. So we're able to have that termination clause. If we decide that we no longer want the service. We can give them the you know, the security of a multiyear contract, but the security for ourselves and the taxpayers that we have the opportunity to terminate said contract.

So um, I mean to me it's it's a lot of reasons I, I was you know, and again, you know, coming from a student of Dr. Benjamin. You know, I respect his experience in local government. I have his book Regionalism and Realism upstairs, in my house. I took his local government two years before I ran for the legislature.

But, um, you know, this is a dollars and cents contract. It's not a policy necessarily. It's not necessarily a policy contract. I've always believed that we should be engaging an accounting firm

if we're going to do this. I thought that back then I made that known back then. I've supported, you know, engaging the Benjamin center and Dr. Benjamin and other in other, you know, capacities several times to do policy work for the County.

I think the Benjamin isn't a great job. But I was always in favor of an accounting firm doing The budget analysis because it's more dollars and cents and I think that that is what we're going to need moving forward if we hire a firm and if we don't we've got a very very very capable CPA and fiscal analyst here on this call right now, we're ignoring me because they don't like praise but you know, that can do that for us.

I just think that you know, there's a lot of reasons why terminating the contract now makes sense with with the possibility as Dave said that they you know, if we rebid the contract and Benjamin Center could have could be awarded it again. But this is the time when we would need to do this in order in order to meet our deadlines.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, um, the resolution. All in favor,

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed? So just Eve is opposing.

Next Resolution 156, authorizing the Chair of the Legislature to execute an amendment to the contract with the New York Department of Environmental Protection. This authorizes the chair any future amendments to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. It's in the amount of \$150,000 for watershed regulations

**Legislator Ronk:** Ken moves it.

**Legislator Bartels:** Tracey seconds it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracy seconds. All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

**Chairwoman Archer:** No opposed.

Resolution 157, amending the 2020 Ulster County to budget the Department of Social Services. This is for payment of 2019-2020 contractual obligation for state federal and other grants in the amount of \$196,796. All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Legislator Bartels:** Tracey moves it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed? Oh sorry.

**Legislator Walter:** Eve will move it.

**Legislator Bartels:** Then I'll second it, Tracey.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed? So moved.

Resolution 158, amending the 2020 budget to accept an allocation of child abuse or neglect prevention and treatment (CAPTA) in the amount of \$70,000. Move?

**Legislator Ronk:** Moved by Ken.

**Legislator Bartels:** Seconded by Tracey.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 159 authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute inter municipal agreements with the town of Saugerties, the Village of Ellenville to provide services of domestic violence investigations to the Ulster County Family and Child Advocacy Center.

**Legislator Ronk:** Moved by Ken

**Legislator Walter:** Eve will move

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second by Eve. All in favor?

**Group:** Aye

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 160, amending the 2020 Ulster County budget to accept an allocation of funds from the National Center on child abuse and neglect to enhance the family assessment Response Program. Move?

**Legislator Bartels:** Tracy.

**Legislator Ronk:** Ken

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second, Ken. All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 161, amending the 2020 Ulster County budget to accept an additional allocation of funds for the New York State Office of Child Children and Family Services to continue Safe Harboring program. Move?

**Legislator Bartels:** Move by Tracey.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracey.

**Legislator Ronk:** Second by Ken.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second. All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

And Resolution 172, implementing a voluntary separation program for eligible Ulster County employees.

**Legislator Bartels:** Did we just skip a whole bunch?

**Legislator Ronk:** We just skipped several of them.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Oh did we?

**Legislator Bartels:** Yeah 162

**Chairwoman Archer:** Oh, sorry, I didn't turn the page. Thank you.

Resolution 162 authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an agreement with New York State Department of Transportation to accept New York state funds for Ulster and Dutchess County public transportation link.

**Legislator Bartels:** Moved by Tracy.

**Legislator Ronk:** Second by Ken.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed.

Resolution 163, authorizing Chair of the Legislature to execute a grant application with the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance grant for the comprehensive opioid stimulant and substance abuse psych based program.

**Legislator Bartels:** Moved by Tracy.

**Legislator Ronk:** Second by Ken.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 164, authorizing the chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute a lease agreement with the town Wawarsing for a substation of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office.

**Legislator Walter:** I'll move it. Eve.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second?

**Legislator Ronk:** Second by Ken.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Any questions? Okay, all in favor?

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 165, authorizing the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to execute an inter municipal agreement for the sharing of information relating to short term rental properties. With the town of Marlborough.

**Legislator Walter:** Eve will move it.

**Legislator Ronk:** Ken will second it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 166, authorizing the conveyance of the County owned properties to the original owners. Department of Finance.

**Legislator Bartels:** Tracey will move it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracey. Second?

**Legislator Ronk:** Second by Ken.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor.

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed?

Resolution 167, authorizing the conveyance of County on property to the original owners  
Department of Finance.

**Legislator Bartels:** Move by Tracey.

**Legislator Ronk:** Second by Ken.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor?

Okay, now we're at 172. Implementing a voluntary separation program for eligible Ulster County employees.

**Legislator Ronk:** Move by Ken.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Second?

**Legislator Bartels:** Tracey.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, conversation. Yeah, Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** Thanks. Thanks, Lynn. Um, I definitely think this is a worthwhile endeavor. Um, you know, it's going to be important for us to try and save every dime. I do have a concern that this resolution gives rather sweeping authority to the Executive's Office and has very little oversight by the legislature. I'm not prepared with amendments tonight, but I am considering them in a conceptual basis. I would like this to be postponed until next week's meeting. I'm happy to have any discussion anyone wants to have tonight. But it just came to us very recently, and I haven't had the opportunity to wrap my head completely around where I'd like to see us go with it. You know, I keep thinking about everything in our budget by the three, you know, pandemic adjustment periods in the Governor's budget. I think that the County Executive's office needs flexibility to be able to roll with the punches when it comes to these three periods. But the first two in particular I think, are more important for them to have the maximum amount of flexibility. You know, without getting into specifics, because again, you know, I've I've been just kicking it around in my mind. You know, and I've had discussions with members of the Executive's Office, I almost feel like we should be giving the County Executive a higher level of flexibility in the first two pandemic adjustments than in the third one. And, you know, without even having to eke it all out in my own brain, I feel like we should allow him to offer it to anybody in the first two periods. So until the end of June, and then ask for some sort of a plan. Even if it's a framework, for the third one. Which would be you know, January, I'm sorry, July 1, until the end of the year. But again, this is not it's not even completely formed in my mind on what I'd like I just, I wanted to put it out there that I think that we should be looking for a little bit more oversight from the legislature on this.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Tracey.

**Legislator Bartels:** I'm definitely open to having that discussion. And certainly, I think the week is, is reasonable. But you know, I, are we going to get, Marc, is someone here to be able to discuss the financial impacts of what this would mean, if the maximum amount of people take it or if the, etc.

**Marc Rider:** Yeah, I mean words on the line, but I think it's, you know, the anticipation is that savings would be around \$5 million. Burt, if I'm speaking, you know, you'll correct me, but, uh, that it would be, you know, upwards of \$5 million. The majority of the cost savings on this plan are going to come from the vacancy savings. We don't anticipate filling any of these vacancies. So even if someone in a role that's essential takes this, you know incentive. We would we would fill it, if we had to fill it, internally, most likely.

**Legislator Bartels:** Can I ask what what's the age? The resolution doesn't say what the age cutoff is for eligibility.

**Legislator Ronk:** 55, I believe.

**Burt Gulnick:** Not necessarily.

**Marc Rider:** yes. So you have to it's 55 and above and beyond that early in it, you have to either have six years in, I think was CSEA, or 10 years in with many bargaining units.

**Legislator Bartels:** Burt just said not necessarily, Burt are you there still?

**Burt Gulnick:** In terms of age 55 that's for most employees, but with the Public Safety employees, they can retire earlier.

**Legislator Ronk:** Right

**Marc Rider:** PBA sorry.

**Burt Gulnick:** Yeah.

**Legislator Bartels:** So I mean, I'm interested in in the potential cost just so we have all the information of if someone does take that retirement earlier, yes, there's a savings in their vacancy, but we're also not providing the service that or we're fulfilling the job that that person was doing. And what's the additional cost over the course of the next 55 at seven years. But for someone who retires earlier, it could be I mean, what's the earliest in the Public Safety? Can they retire? At what?

**Burt Gulnick:** 50.

**Legislator Bartels:** 50 so 12 years of, you know, 25, an extra 25% of their health care, which could, which could have a long-term impact. Again, I just want I just want to understand the numbers. I agree with Ken. It's a good idea, and we have to do what we have to do. But I'd like to understand the numbers and I'm willing to have the conversations about oversight as well.

**Legislator Bartels:** Can Jay pop it up?

**Chairwoman Archer:** Pardon me?

**Legislator Bartels:** Can Jay pop it on the screen?

**Chairwoman Archer:** I don't know, can you Jay?

**Legislator Bartels:** She just gave a thumbs up.

**Legislator Ronk:** There we go, let's do it. Technology.

**Burt Gulnick:** The biggest, the biggest thing when it comes to estimating this. We really don't know, especially with these economic times what people's personal financial, you know, health is. We can only guesstimate as to who may leave. You know, and unfortunately, I don't have a crystal ball on any of this. It is, you know, as Marc said, our role is to, you know, hopefully not fill the positions. But I also think we need to move folks into departments, let's say people leave Social Services, we can move people within to, enhance our funding from other sources. So that's something keep in mind as well.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Well, and maybe you can walk us through, once Jay puts it up, I'll let you know, what what you put together. So we understand what we're looking at which are really estimated costs on what the actual County health insurance may be based on your current claim condition. Correct.

**Burt Gulnick:** That's, that's the biggest estimate because, as you all know, health insurance, we're self-insured. So the kind of estimate that I have for health insurance costs is based on on just that, an estimate of our our claims. Also, in terms of the estimate, the additional cost there on the retiree, that's what the incentive, kind of would pay for. Your biggest savings is not filling those positions.

**Chairwoman Archer:** And is this an additional cost of retirement incentive? Is that that's additional County costs every year that they're using?

**Burt Gulnick:** Correct?

**Chairwoman Archer:** Correct.

**Burt Gulnick:** Yeah. Yeah.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Can everyone see this?

**Burt Gulnick:** And I will say, you know, I use non-Medicare eligible because, you know, it gets complicated once they become Medicare eligible, because then we provide a supplemental insurance instead of the kind of full health insurance coverage we provide.



**Chairwoman Archer:** So are you saying that this retire, this retirement incentive would go away once they become Medicare eligible?

**Burt Gulnick:** Nah, it just a different insurance Lynn, that would be less costly to the County.

**Chairwoman Archer:** And we're paying it already?

**Legislator Ronk:** It's kind of a coinsurance, right?

**Burt Gulnick:** Yes. It's a supplemental insurance to Medicare.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Supplemental?

**Legislator Ronk:** Yeah.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Are we paying that currently?

**Burt Gulnick:** For anyone over 65 retired, correct.

**Legislator Ken Ronk:** But not for these employees. That's what he's saying.

**Chairwoman Archer:** When they become Medicare eligible, it would, they would be covered,

**Burt Gulnick:** Yes. Correct.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Yeah.

**Legislator Ronk:** Regardless of the incentive they would be, they would be covered.

**Burt Gulnick:** Correct. Yeah. And it wouldn't be a cheaper overall cost to the County. Once they become Medicare eligible. That goes for anybody.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Right, Yeah, that goes down significantly.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay I'm sorry I can't see. Eve, did you have your hand up?

**Legislator Walter:** I'm just curious. So for salary, are you picking? Is that an average of people within that age of that level, or

**Burt Gulnick:** No, I just picked that grade 13 civil service employee because that's kind of middle of the road grades within the civil service bargaining unit. And then I also picked a manager who is eligible to retire.

**Legislator Walter:** In my experience with these kinds of things, and I was involved in something like this for Albany, that, you know, usually those people who would retire are on the highest level of salary. So.

**Burt Gulnick:** And that's what they are. They're on the highest step range of that grade.

**Legislator Walter:** Right.

**Chairwoman Archer:** But are you saying that the bulk of the people fall into this grade level that would be eligible?

**Burt Gulnick:** just a matter of I just picked a grade 13, the middle of the the salary structure for CSEA. In terms of the eligibility, they're all over the grades of CSEA.

**Chairwoman Archer:** And what, how many people does this target?

**Burt Gulnick:** But in terms of a here's the the, we have over 300 employees who are age eligible, I hate to say that but that's what they are. The problem we have is, we don't know how many years of service they have with New York State. I know how many years they have with the County. We have roughly 180 of those who eligible to retire.

**Chairwoman Archer:** 180 of the 300, but it could be more once you add State credit.

**Burt Gulnick:** There could be folks that need, you know, a few years of service, they may have had it somewhere else. I am not. I wouldn't know.

**Marc Rider:** Can I just add one thing Lynn?

**Chairwoman Archer:** Yes.

**Marc Rider:** So, I mean, basically, if this resolution were approved, we would send out information to our department heads who would then kind of survey their employees, the eligible ones who would possibly retire on this, find out the interest. If they then were interested. They come back and we would make a final determination and then if we agreed we would send out the confirmation letter, if somebody was in a position where they were going to, you know, is going to be very much upside down, because they were 55. And on that \$11,000 a year. You know, I think it would be unlikely that we would move forward with that, that incentive, but I just, we have the ability to say yes or no throughout this process.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Ken.

**Legislator Ronk:** Thanks. Marc, You wouldn't be sending them all out at once, though, right. I mean, this resolution gives the Executive's Office the ability to send them out on a rolling basis at any point during the calendar year.

**Marc Rider:** Correct, And we would probably go, you know, with the highest incentive, and we've talked about this, we would go with the highest incentive up front, because we're looking for cash in 2020.

**Legislator Ronk:** Obviously.

**Marc Rider:** We would want people to, you know, to confirm that they'd be willing to retire starting January 1. We if we had other people eligible that didn't meet that requirement, we would continue to offer it but it would be at a kind of a lower percentage, it wouldn't be at the 75% or the.

**Legislator Ronk:** Right. The maximum of 25% added or a maximum of 10% added.

**Marc Rider:** Right. Correct.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Any other questions?  
Ken, you have a postponement? Did you...

**Legislator Ronk:** I had a motion to postpone this until next week's meeting.

**Chairwoman Archer:** It gives everybody the time to digest look at these numbers, ask whatever questions. Do I have a second?

**Legislator Bartels:** I'll second that.

**Chairwoman Archer:** All in favor postpone until next week.

**Group:** Aye.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Opposed.

**Legislator Ronk:** Lynn, before we adjourn, because I know we're getting close. I just want to, you know, on behalf of my caucus, thank Burt, for all his hard work. He's probably got one of the top five worst jobs in the county right now with the budget gap that we have, and you know, I think he does a great job so I just, you know, while he's on the meeting here with us, um, you know, he's, he's up at the County, you know, every day and I just, you know, appreciate him and want to extend that.

**Burt Gulnick:** Thanks Ken. I will say I've been nicknamed doom and gloom now, so it's alright.

**Legislator Bartels:** Thank you Burt.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Someone needs to set the tone right, Burt?

**Burt Gulnick:** That's it.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Alright. Again, all of the, one of the things that I did want to bring up is in the OneDrive if you have not had a chance to look at. This is the first quarter that the finance, Our finance team has put out quarterly reports, kind of showing what the run rate has been for the various departments, I encourage you to take a look at it. They're available for all the departments and all the standing committees.

We've seen monthly in and out budget amendments. But take a look at this quarterly report. We'd like feedback if you find it valuable. I think particularly now the closer we stayed to the numbers, what's being expended, what's coming in, the the better off we will be.

And we're looking for, we met with Burt, Ken and I, and we're partnering with Burt just to ensure we're not lagging in our understanding what's happening in this very difficult time. So, I think it's going to require all of us to pay close attention and if anything comes up or if there's any feedback, it's much appreciated.

So I think, you know, working together it's going to be we're going to have a tough year. So I look forward to working with all of you.

**Legislator Ronk:** Same here.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Any other questions. Tracey, do you have something?

**Legislator Bartels:** No.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Okay, everyone. Thank you. I'll take a motion to adjourn.

**Legislative Chairman Donaldson:** Move it.

**Legislator Ronk:** Second.

**Chairwoman Archer:** Thank you, everyone.

**Legislator Bartels:** Thank you.

**Legislator Ronk:** Thank you.