

**Ways &
Means Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 12, 2020 – 5:00
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by dialing 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID 916 7155 5859
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 (arrived at 5:08)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Albert Bruno, Brian Cahill, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, Minority Counsel, Nicholas Pascale; Deputy County Executives, Marc Rider, John Milgrim, and Evelyn Wright; Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick; Comptroller, March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller, Christopher Quirk; Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella; Confidential Secretary to the Chair of the Legislature, Laurie Lichtenstein; Rick Remsnyder, Director of Tourism, Tom Kadgen, League of Women Voters; Adam Doan, Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District; Chris Silva, Bardavon/UPAC; Mid-Hudson News

- **Chairwoman Archer called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM**

Motion No. 1: To approve the March 11, 2020 Special Meeting, April 21, 2020 Regular Meeting and April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes and Transcripts

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walter
Discussion: None
Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 2: To Block Resolutions No. 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, and 143

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

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 3: To postpone the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 129—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Awareness, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation -Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Awareness for \$12,500.00 to provide peer-to-peer educational programs oriented toward youth offenders who receive substance abuse related sentences.

Resolution No. 130—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With The Walker Valley Chemical Engine No. 1 For The 2020 Appropriation – Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Walker Valley Chemical Engine No. 1 for \$10,000.00 to provide materials related to the upkeep and maintenance of the Walker Valley fire training facility.

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.

Resolution No. 132—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Resource Center For Accessible Living, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc (RCAL) for \$15,000.00 to provide prevocational services, behavior modification, social skills, special education, and online skills training for the disabled within Ulster County.

Resolution No. 133—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The D&H Canal Historical Society For The 2020 Appropriation -Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with D&H Canal Historical Society for \$10,000.00 to provide support for the creation of a Visitor Center at the DePuy Canal House.

Resolution No. 134—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With The Hudson River Maritime Museum For The 2020 Appropriation -Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Hudson River Maritime Museum for \$30,000.00 to provide assistance with upgrading the building and grounds associated with the Rondout Riverport Phase 2.

Resolution No. 135—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With People’s Place For The 2020 Appropriation -Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with People’s Place for \$10,000.00 to offset costs for programming to assist members of the community to obtain fresh, frozen, and packaged foods.

Resolution No. 136—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Ulster County Community Action Committee, Inc. for \$28,750.00 to provide services, including permanent and temporary housing, food assistance, and job training skills.

Resolution No. 137—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc. For The 2020 Appropriation –Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Arts Mid-Hudson, Inc for \$90,000.00 to provide funds to promote arts and other cultural activities.

Resolution No. 138—Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Cornell Cooperative Extension Association Of Ulster County For 2020 Appropriations-Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension Association of Ulster County for \$362,000.00 to provide support and maintenance in the fields of agriculture, community, and economic vitality, environment and energy, nutrition, healthy families and youth development.

Resolution No. 139–2020 Appropriation For The Ulster County Libraries Program

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with the Mid-Hudson Library System for \$84,500.00 to provide funds for various programs, initiatives, and content.

Resolution No. 140–Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Enter Into An Agreement With Imagine Better, Inc. D/B/A Don’t Be A Monster For The 2020 Appropriation - Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$5,000.00 towards costs associated with presenting an anti-bullying campaign in at least four Ulster County schools.

Resolution No. 141–Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Family Of Woodstock, Inc., For The Supervised Visitation Program For The 2020 Appropriation –Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature to enter into an agreement with the Family of Woodstock for \$30,000.00 to provide funding assistance for a supervised visitation program

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 the Ulster County Family Court.

Resolution No. 143 –Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute An Agreement With Ulster Performing Arts Center For The 2020 Appropriation –Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an agreement in the amount of \$24,750.00 with UPAC LLC for various operational expenses that allow Ulster Performing Arts Center to provide programming for Ulster County residents.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Bartels

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter

Voting Against: None

No. of Votes in Favor: 7

No. of Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Postponed

Motion No. 4: To approve Resolution No. 173 –Confirming Appointment Of Sajaa Ahmed As The Director Of The Department Of Transportation For The County Of Ulster

Resolution Summary: This Resolution confirms the appointment of Sajaa Ahmed to the position of Director of the Department of Public Transportation for the County of Ulster.

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

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Archer, Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, Maio, and Walter
Voting Against: None
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Disposition: Approved

Motion No. 5: To approve Resolution No. 174 –Approving The Execution Of A Contract In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County –The Offset House, Inc. D/B/A Catamount Color –Department Of Tourism

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract with The Offset House, Inc D/B/A Catamount Color from the period May 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for printing and distribution of the 2020/21 Ulster County Travel Guide in the amount of \$66,310.00.

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

Discussion: Legislator Ronk inquired of how the contract was fully executed without Legislative approval, stating that information was received earlier in the day showing that if the legislature does not approve the contract, the County is liable for nearly the entire contractual value, which is a violation of the Charter. Legislator Bartels agreed with this concern. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright said that this issue may be due to her inexperience. Director of Tourism, Rick Remsnyder explained that the travel guide’s contracts were historically consolidated but this year have been separated out into multiple contracts in an attempt to save money, explaining which Companies are performing which services. Further, Mr. Remsnyder said the contract under discussion was held up for three (3) months in contract management, and then was held up by the County Executive’s

office where it was required to have approval. Legislator Walter asked what efforts were gone through to reduce the value of the contract further to save money. Mr. Remsnyder answered that the quantity of travel guides to be produced and the local distribution was reduced, but these decisions were made in the prior year before the pandemic hit or was predictable. Legislator Walter specified that her question pertains to decisions made since March, asking if there have there been reductions in response to COVID-19. Mr. Remsnyder said the contract in discussion is the production cost and there is very little cost savings in lowering the quantity further, that the travel guide is the primary promotional tool for the County, and that there are revenues generated by the guide for advertising. Legislator Haynes asked for confirmation that the contract has gone out to print as printing is classified as nonessential. Mr. Remsnyder stated the pull-out map for the center of the guide is already printed and that all production work has been completed on this. Legislator Bartels emphasized concern over beginning a contract before it has been approved by the Legislature. Further, Legislator Bartels asked why paying for distribution is required if the guide is not printed. Mr. Remsnyder answered was that the distribution contracts have already been executed. Discussion pursued on the County's ability to terminate contracts, the distribution of revenues as they relate to ad sales, and the value of the Lumineer Creative contract. Chairman Donaldson asked for the exact cost or savings incurred by not printing the travel guide. Chairwoman Archer emphasized this question, asking if it is possible to push some of the ad agreements out to 2021 instead of returning the money. Mr. Remsnyder said the difference between printing and distributing 100,000 guides creates a savings of roughly \$12,000 to \$15,000. Discussion pursued on the impact on the Legislature's decision at this point in time. Legislator Ronk emphasized the issue that significant amounts of money were encumbered before the contract came before the Legislature for approval which is in violation of the Charter, and the Legislature's position to approve the contract or the County loses money. Deputy County Executive Evelyn Wright stated that this issue is due to her inexperience in the County's processes and that she was not aware of where they go after her approval. Legislator Maio stressed the need to save money, regardless of the value, arguing that people are not traveling right now and that the money can be better spent on something needed. Legislator Bartels noted the other monies may not be a total loss, agreeing with Legislator Maio that pushing guides out to encourage tourism is against the direction of the state. Legislator Walter stated support for the travel guide but asked about the feasibility of postponing this contract as printing services are currently on pause,

or re-bidding the services to reduce the cost as the time period changes so that a guide is potentially produced in the fall. Legislator Ronk countered the County should position itself to welcome visitors back in as tourism provides a lot of money to the area. Chairman Donaldson asked that the Tourism Department reconsider the distribution of guides to increase locally and decrease outside area, agreeing with Legislator Ronk that the guide is valuable beyond the cost savings. Discussion pursued on the possibility of a delayed printing schedule, the relevancy of information within the guide under current conditions, the anticipated changes to tourism in such conditions, and feedback from advertisers within the guide. Legislator Ronk asked that the County Executive's office review County policies and processes. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider said he will follow up with the purchasing department to ask why this contract was fully executed prior to legislative approval, noting that the process was in fact violated in this respect. Legislator Maio said she will vote to approve this contract but stressed that COVID has negatively impacted many people, emphasizing that saving \$12,000 is devastating to many and should not be discounted and that many more hard decisions are upcoming. Legislator Bartels noted that this is truly not a stand-alone contract if other money has to be refunded or paid out if it the contract is not executed and that this information should be disclosed in full to the Legislature. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider agreed to review the process and add this information in the future. Chairwoman Archer stressed the need for the Legislature to look at everything, nothing that these decisions set a tone in the community and amongst residents who have been highly impacted by COVID, asking that there be more discipline and less mixed messages. Legislator Walter clarified that she is not opposed to this contract but that she feels it could be done for less during this time. Legislator Archer agreed.

Voting In Favor:	Legislators Ronk, Bartels, Gavaris, Haynes, and Maio, and Legislative Chairman Donaldson
Voting Against:	Legislators Archer and Walter
No. of Votes in Favor:	6
No. of Votes Against:	2
Disposition:	Approved

Motion No. 6: To approve Resolution No. 175 –Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment In Excess Of \$50,000.00 Entered Into By The County –H&H Environmental Construction And Consulting –Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This Resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with H&H Environmental Construction and Consulting to increase the not-to-exceed sum for disinfectant and decontamination services at the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, Ulster County Golden Hill Office Building, and the COVID-19 Drive Through Testing Site an additional \$78,200.00, making the contract total \$177,200.00.

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Donaldson

Discussion: Chairwoman Archer confirmed what changes the Amendment is making. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider confirmed that the Amendment further specifies the terms and increases the not-to-exceed amount. Further, Mr. Rider stated that the mold inspection has not been completed at this juncture. Legislator Bartels inquired of the end date of the contract as it pertains to the rates of the contract, asking if another Amendment is anticipated. Mr. Rider answered that the bidding process may be completed so the Legislature can expect to see a separate contract or another amendment for these services. Legislator Bartels asked if there is the potential to split the contract to create a combination for interior and exterior services to create lower contractual costs for the total services. Mr. Rider affirmed this is possible but would have to be stated as a condition of the bid. Discussion pursued on the changes, values, and timeline of the original contract and subsequent amendments.

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

Motion No. 7: To approve Resolution No. 176 –Amending The 2020 Ulster County Budget To Accept Increased Funding From The New York State Office Of Addiction Services And Supports For Minimum Wage And Workforce Cost Of Living Adjustments –Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2020 Ulster County Budget upon the receipt of notification from the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) of increased funding for Minimum Wage and Workforce Cost of Living Adjustments in the amount of \$4,570.00.

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

Motion No. 8: To approve Resolution No. 181 –Authorizing Additional Funding For Capital Project No. 528 –Veteran’s Cemetery To Meet The Environmental And Permitting Requirements – Veteran Services Agency

Resolution Summary: This Resolution amends the 2020 Ulster County Capital Fund to increase the budget by \$18,400.00 to conduct additional archeological studies to comply SEQRA and for additional design costs needed to provide water supply for irrigation not included in the original project design scope.

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

Motion No. 9: To approve Resolution No. 184 –Requesting The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature Apply For A Department Of Homeland Security Grant For The Port Security Grant Program-FEMA –Sheriff’s Office

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an application for the Department of Homeland Security Grant Program – FEMA to purchase and install a new navigation system for the Sheriff’s Office for approximately \$25,000.00.

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

Motion No. 10: To approve Resolution No. 185 –Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Claim For Payment And Any Additional Documents Necessary To Secure Payment From New York State For The Appropriation Of County Property –New York State Acquisition Maps Nos. 37 And 38 –Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute, on behalf of the County of Ulster, any and all documents related to the appropriation of lands disclosed and necessary to secure payment of the claims as approved by the County Attorney.

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

Motion No. 11: To approve Resolution No. 186–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 as set forth with respect to the disclosed parcels, and authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to make, execute, and deliver to the owner making payment a quitclaim deed conveying the interest of the County in the parcel.

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

Motion No. 12: To block Resolutions No. 187, 188, 189, and 190

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

Motion No. 13: To approve the following Resolutions:

Resolution No. 187—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 Ulster –Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an intermunicipal agreement for the sharing of inventory information and any related amendments with the Town of Ulster.

Resolution No. 188—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 Kingston –Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an intermunicipal agreement for the sharing of inventory information and any related amendments with the Town of Kingston.

Resolution No. 189—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 Wawarsing –Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an intermunicipal agreement for the sharing of inventory information and any related amendments with the Town of Wawarsing.

Resolution No. 190—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 Plattekill –Department Of Finance

Resolution Summary: This Resolution authorizes the Chair of the Legislature to execute an intermunicipal agreement for the sharing of inventory information and any related amendments with the Town of Plattekill.

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

Motion No. 14: To discuss Resolution No. 191—Establishing A Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations –Ulster County Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution adopts a Policy for Appropriating Funding to Non-County Organizations, and resolves that any non-county organization with funding appropriated by the Ulster County Legislature shall adhere to accountability standards and procedures set by the Legislature and as required by law, including compliance with applicable financial, performance measurement, and any additional reporting requirements, deadlines, and deliverables stated in the County contract.

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

Discussion: Legislator Ronk was agreeable to postpone the Resolution for feedback to hear the Committee’s thoughts and concerns. Legislator Bartels asked that Legislator Ronk provide a background, noting that the title of the covered Organization’s is confusing, suggesting that the language be changed. Legislator Ronk was agreeable to such a change, answering that this Policy is intended to serve as a starting point to create a definitive reasoning and criteria behind which Organizations are brought forward to the Legislature for funding opportunities. Chairman Donaldson noted the Policy’s timing as it relates to the budget cycle, proposing the Committee take advantage of the time to thoroughly hone in the Policy, agreeing that it is important but the criteria contained must

be certain not to shut some organizations out and favor others. Legislator Haynes commended the sponsors for bringing the Policy forward, stating that she is in agreement with Chairman Donaldson, noting that checks and controls need to be put into place. Legislator Bartels affirmed desire in a Policy, agreeing that the Committee should be actively getting this into a format that they agree on. Further, Legislator Bartels noted that the quantity of programs being brought before the Legislature for consideration is overwhelming, and that the schedule should be considered to require submission well in advance so that requests can be put in with the County Executive at the creation of the budget. Legislator Petit clarified that the Policy is not intended to prohibit requests for funding, stating desire to standardize the process and the correlating reporting requirements. Discussion pursued on the timeline within the proposed policy and that is currently in place. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider asked that Legislative Legal counsel review the policy.

Motion No. 15: To postpone Resolution No. 191–Establishing A Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations –Ulster County Legislature

Resolution Summary: This Resolution adopts a Policy for Appropriating Funding to Non-County Organizations, and resolves that any non-county organization with funding appropriated by the Ulster County Legislature shall adhere to accountability standards and procedures set by the Legislature and as required by law, including compliance with applicable financial, performance measurement, and any additional reporting requirements, deadlines, and deliverables stated in the County contract.

Motion Made By: Legislator Ronk
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Walters

Discussion: Legislator Walter asked what the best means for comments to be submitted is. Legislator Ronk affirmed that his email is best.

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

New Business: None

Old Business: None

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

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Bartels

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Ronk

No. of Votes in Favor: 8

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 6:15 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster

Minutes Approved: June 9, 2020

**Ways &
Means Committee
Regular Meeting Transcript**

DATE & TIME: May 12, 2020 – 5:00
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by dialing 1-646-558-8656, Meeting ID 916 7155 5859
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 (arrived at 5:08)
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Albert Bruno, Brian Cahill, Manna Jo Greene, Jonathan Heppner, Minority Counsel, Nicholas Pascale; Deputy County Executives, Marc Rider, John Milgrim, and Evelyn Wright; Commissioner of Finance, Burt Gulnick; Comptroller, March Gallagher; Deputy Comptroller, Christopher Quirk; Clerk of the Legislature, Victoria Fabella; Confidential Secretary to the Chair of the Legislature, Laurie Lichtenstein; Rick Remsnyder, Director of Tourism, Tom Kadgen, League of Women Voters; Adam Doan, Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District; Chris Silva, Bardavon/UPAC; Mid-Hudson News

Chairwoman Archer: Calling the Ways and Means Committee Meeting to order, this May 12, 2020, at five o'clock. Can you take attendance please, Natalie?

Natalie Kelder: Archer.

Chairwoman Archer: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Ronk.

Ken Ronk: Present.

Natalie Kelder: Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Here.

Natalie Kelder: Gavaris

Legislator Gavaris: Present

Natalie Kelder: Haynes.

Legislator Haynes: Here.

Natalie Kelder : Maio.

She was here. She's sort of there.

And Walter.

Legislator Walter: Here.

Legislator Ken Ronk: Maio's windows there.

Chairwoman Archer: She is here. I thought I saw her earlier.

Legislator Ken Ronk: There's Maio.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh, there she is.

Okay. Welcome, everyone. We'll call the meeting to order, approve the minutes. I'll take a motion to approve the minutes of April 22.

Legislator Ronk: Ronk Moves it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Walter: Walter second.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Since we had the joint meeting yesterday, and we've got some follow-up. I'd like to take a motion to block resolution 129 to 143.

Legislator Ronk: So moved.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislator Bartels: Bartels.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, all in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator. Oh, you're just saying hi. Okay. So, we're... I'd now like to take a motion to postpone this.

Legislator Ronk: So moved. Ronk.

Legislator Bartels: Second. Bartels.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. So moved. All right.

On the postponement All in favor?

Group: Aye. Aye. Aye.

Legislator Archer: Opposed?

Legislator Ronk: [Inaudible].

Chairwoman Archer: I'm sorry? Oh.

Legislator Ronk: No, it's...

Chairwoman Archer: That's okay.

Legislator Ronk: The dog digging the couch.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, let's go to Resolution 173: Confirming the Appointment Of Sajaa Ahmed As The Director Of The Department Of Transportation For Ulster County.

Ronk: I'll move it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second.

Legislator Bartels: I'll Second, Bartels.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor?

Group: Aye. Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Okay, motion carries.

Resolution 174: Approving The Execution Of A Contract for The Offset House, doing business as Catamount Color for the period of May 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for printing and distribution of the 2020-2021 Ulster County Travel Guide.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it for discussion.

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it, Bartels.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thank you, Madam Chair. We've gotten information from Natalie earlier today, additional information that we'd asked for on this resolution at the chairs meeting. And I would just

like to have a discussion, I think Marc, you'll want to weigh in on this, as to how this got this far in the process before it came to us.

Now, I'm always a big supporter of the tourism guide. And I, you know, I would imagine I would support at this time, I just, I have concern that, you know, the information that we were provided pretty much says that if we don't approve this contract, we've already expended all but something around \$2,000 of the, or we're at least on the hook for all but \$2,000 of this contract. And I feel strongly as much as I support the tourism guide, that it almost seems like a violation of the charter that it's gotten this far in the process before it comes to us.

I don't know if anybody else has anything to say about that. Or if Marc, you want to jump in there, I don't know.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, before we do, Legislator Bartels, and then Walter.

Legislator Bartels: Well, I don't know if Marc wants to answer that, but I had that same concern. And then I have several others concerns and questions based on information that was provided. So, I don't know if Marc wants to answer that first, because that was on my list of questions. I was also concerned about that.

Deputy Executive Rider: We do have Deputy County Executive Wright on the line here, I see. And also...

Legislator Ronk: Oh, yes, I see.

Deputy Executive Rider: ...the Director of Tourism, Rick Remsnyder. I'm happy to defer to them with any questions.

Deputy County Executive Wright: Yeah, this is Evelyn. You know, this may be because I'm new to this process. And all of this. And this work has been going on during the months that I've been getting up to speed here. So, I'm going to have to ask Rick about how what was done this year, compares to how this process has worked in years past.

Richard Remsnyder: Yeah, I can answer that. First of all, for the time, in an effort to save Ulster County some money, we separated out the contracts for the Travel Guide. Normally, it's one Travel Guide is produced by one company, and it's printed by one company. And so everything comes in with one Resolution. What we did this year we broke it out.

The... We had the contract that dealt with the production of the Travel Guide, which we started back in December, which was less than \$50,000. We moved forward with that company after the contract was executed.

Chairwoman Archer: Excuse me, Rick.

Richard Remsnyder: Yep.

Chairwoman Archer: If you could, could you name the companies as you're going through this. Split it out. It would be helpful for us to know.

Richard Remsnyder: Sure. The company that did the design of the Travel Guide was Lure Creative. And the company that is doing the printing is Catamount Color. The reason that the resolution is coming to the legislature at this time was because was held up by about three months in contract management.

And I was told that it needed to get the approval of the County Executive's Office before we could move forward with it. So, that's where it sat for two to three months. Finally, the County Executive agreed, through Evelyn, that they wanted to move forward with the Travel Guide. And that's why the resolution and the contract is coming to the legislature at this time. Normally it would have already been through, you know, late last year, early this year.

Deputy Executive Wright: Well, and I think I would just add to that, that it was approved by our office in February, and then we were immediately in the COVID emergency. And then we took a second look at all the contracts that hadn't moved their way through the process. So, I think it got held up, and released, and then held up again, and then released again. So, I think that that was the reason for that delay.

Richard Remsnyder: That's correct.

Chairwoman Archer: Sorry, the second review was in March?

Deputy Executive Wright: I approved it in late February, and then, I think in March, it got caught up in the more general putting COVID-hold on all non-essential contracts. And then we just completed a round of review of, you know, across all departments, those contracts that we had been holding.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Walter.

Legislator Walter: Thank you. So, I was just curious, you know, especially since we are in the circumstance where we have to be trimming things as much as possible. What efforts did you go through to trim this amount? So, for example, I was thinking how we are losing at least, I don't know the percentage quarter or of our travel tourism time of the year, as you consider it instead of 100,000, making it 50,000? Instead of doing the inserts, maybe skipping the inserts. Like, have you put thought into ways to still go forward with this, but at a reduced cost?

Richard Remsnyder: Last year, we did reduce it by 20,000. In the past years, we've done the Travel Guide, which is going back about 12 years during my tenure, we've done as many as 120,000.

We did cut that to 100,000 this year. Keep in mind this decision was made when we went through the RFP process, way back in August, September of 2019. So, there was no reason to think that we wouldn't want to have a minimum of 100,000 because we've distributed this Travel Guide, not only through State Thruway stops, we also distribute it in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the New York City area. So, basically every year, and it's a 12-month Guide, running from normally Memorial Day to the following. You know, for one year, we've never have any Guides leftover. So, we decided to cut some of the local distribution this year. What I mean by local, I don't mean Ulster County, I mean some of the contiguous counties. But we did cut it 20,000 this year, long story short.

Legislator Walter: Let me clarify. My question is since the COVID pandemic in March, have you explored the concept of cutting down, recognizing that we've lost many months of tourism, and we

don't know when we'll be able to be back up at tourism. Have we explored since March, the concept of reducing the cost by reducing how many you made? And the quality, or inserts, or anything like that, in response to COVID?

Richard Remsnyder: To be honest with you, it's the production cost, and getting the Guide on the presses. There's not going to be that much of a difference between 100,000 and let's say 70,000, 50,000 that'd be some savings.

But I have to keep in mind that this is basically our main promotional tool this year, in addition to our website. Because, and I understand why it was done, 10 percent was cut out of, is going to be cut out of our budget, which is \$118,000 and, and the bulk of that is for advertising. So this is something that, you know, is needed out there.

So, that's why we decided to keep it at that level. And, as per the contract agreement with our properties, back when we started doing the ad sales in January, they were expecting, for what they're paying for, they were expecting the 100,000 Guides to be distributed. That's the money they were paying. That's why they signed up.

If we would have said we're only doing 40,000, 50,000, 60,000, I don't think we would have got the ad sales we got, which was over \$35,000.

Legislator Walter: Lynn you're muted, right?

Chairwoman Archer: Sorry, Legislator Haynes, Bartels, then Ronk.

Legislator Haynes: Yeah, I'd like to first start by saying I think it's always... you do a great job with the Guide. And it's a vital aspect to our tourism in our area. However, this Guide hasn't currently gone to print yet, correct? Because I do believe that printing is non-essential right now unless it supports essential businesses or essential services. So, technically, this actually hasn't gone to print yet. Is that correct? Is this just a quote?

Richard Remsnyder: No. To get the, when we move forward with our... had the agreement with our production company, one of the... one of, the only way that we can get the guide out on time is to get the map printed in advance. So, we've already had the map printed. Which is the pullout map in the middle of our Guide.

So we have done some we've done all the design and production work. The map has been printed. The only thing that hasn't been printed itself is the rest of the Guide.

We wouldn't have... and this is something, Heidi, we've done... we do it the same way every year. But we've done it this way for the past 12 years. And if we waited to do it all at once, it's like a three-month process. We wouldn't get the guide out.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Thank you. So, yeah. I mean that kind of goes back to the concern about going into production before you have an approved contract from the Legislature.

But I have a couple other questions about the comparison of the "if completed," and "if not completed."

First of all, you have on both of them, you have the CTM media distribution getaways, on display distribution, and Pennsylvania on display distribution.

Why? My first question is why would we still have to pay for distribution if we don't print the Guide?

Legislator Ronk: Sounds like a question for Evelyn.

Legislator Bartels: Well, this came from Rick, I mean this document.

Legislator Ronk: Oh, okay.

Legislator Bartels: The document that compares came from Rick, but anyone can answer. I just don't know why we would have to pay to distribute something that we didn't print. So, because it counts, as you have it listed, as requiring to pay if it's not completed.

Legislator Ronk: I'm going to I'm just going to venture a guess, since I don't hear anybody else talking, and say that that's because those contracts are under \$10,000 and have already been executed by the Executive's Office.

Legislator Bartels: That's the answer?

Deputy Executive Wright: Rick, are you still on the line?

Legislator Ronk: Yes.

Chairwoman Archer: I would prefer to hear it from the folks that are doing the work. Thanks.

Dr. Evelyn Wright: Rick, are you still on the line?

Richard Remsnyder: Yep, I'm here.

Deputy Executive Wright: That's correct. Right. That's my understanding. But some of those distribution contracts have already been executed.

Richard Remsnyder: Correct?

Legislator Bartels: Can I just confirm? To my knowledge, all of our contracts have outs. So, even if we've executed a contract, we could get up, terminate the contract and get the money back for lack of distribution if we don't print, correct?

Richard Remsnyder: I couldn't answer that question. It's a signed contract. I'd have to defer to the County Attorney's Office.

Chairwoman Archer: I thought in all of our contracts, we have a 30-day out?

Legislator Bartels: We have more than 30-day out.

Legislator Ronk: We have a 60-day out, I think.

Deputy Executive Rider: If it's on a typical template, the County template contract, it would have the out for convenience. Which is

Legislator Bartels: For convenience, exactly. So

Deputy Executive Rider: Yeah. 60 days.

Legislator Bartels: So, if that's the case, then... I mean, if they don't provide the service, and we terminate the contract, that those monies would be savings, those three distributions that have been executed in advance.

And then the other question, if I may, is, on the one place, you have advertising revenue returned to properties at \$26,250. And if completed, you have an ad revenue credit of \$8,750.

I just want to confirm my understanding that that \$26,250 is actually revenue that would be going to the printing company, not to us, because they get 75% of the ad revenue. Is that correct?

Richard Remsnyder: Not the printing company.

Legislator Bartels: The design company?

Richard Remsnyder: Lure Creative, who does the production of the Guide. Unlike in years past, and again, this was on a RFP bid process, that the only revenue they're getting, is 75 percent of ad sales. Which is a pretty good deal for the County, because that's certainly, as it turns out, the total there, \$26,000 and change. And the rest of that, advertised, 25% goes to the County.

Chairwoman Archer: So, the \$26,000 is basically the fee for the design, or did we pay on top of that?

Richard Remsnyder: No, that's for the design and the ad sales. Lure Creative, they did the design and the ad sales. If we didn't move forward with the Guide, they would get that money. And we would have to return the revenue, the ads on sales, from for the properties that invested in the Guide.

Legislator Bartels: So I'm sorry, but can I get clarification then? What was the value of the Lure Creative contract? I assume it's under \$50,000 since it didn't come to us, but what was the value of that without this ad revenue? What did the County pay Lure Creative?

Richard Remsnyder: Zero. The county is not paying Lure Creative anything. They are working strictly on commission, ad commission.

Legislator Bartels: Okay.

Deputy Executive Wright: However, if the Guide isn't produced, and the ads are not actually printed, then we have to reimburse the properties. Lure has already been paid.

Richard Remsnyder: Yeah, exactly.

Legislator Bartels: Okay. I do have another question. But if someone else wants to go first, you can come back to me. I don't want to take...

Chairwoman Archer: Did anyone else have any other questions?

Legislator Ronk: I mean, I did. But you know, I'm fine with Tracey continuing depending, on what Dave thinks.

Legislator Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'm just wondering, I'd like to know, right at this point, if we decide we're not going to print this Guide, what are we saving? And then, if we do print the Guide, what is it actually costing us? Or, in other words, I mean, it seems like we're all over the place on this one. I just need to know the numbers. What are the actual numbers? What does it cost if we don't print this Guide? What happens? What do we save? What do we lose?

Chairwoman Archer: Well, and if I may, I'd like to add one thing on to that. It's even pushing the Guide out. Where you don't have to return, potentially the ads, and that they become part of a book for 2021. Knowing that 2020, we are ready challenged, and we're not even sure what what's going to be open, what's not. So, if you take into account that if we push it out, instead of returning the money, is that even feasible?

Rick?

Richard Remsnyder: I'm not sure I understand the question. I got a couple different questions.

Let me try to answer Chairman Donaldson's question. Depending on the outcome of some of the distribution contracts that Tracy mentioned, CTM Media, and the two other smaller contracts. That that would be a savings, if we do those, of a little under \$15,000. Okay.

But, so, if you took those out, the difference between printing 100,000, and distributing 100,000 Guides, would be roughly a savings, if the County didn't do it, of \$10,000 to \$15,000.

The basic cost, when the Guide to be done, is \$66,000 for the printing of the Guide, and in the ballpark of \$15,000 in distributions. So, if you didn't do the Guide, which is 100,000 copies, which would be distributed all over to promote our properties, and you were able to get out of the distribution contracts, the county would be saving roughly \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: But then, what have you already spent, in other words, what is already been allocated in money, County money already?

Legislator Ronk: \$34,500.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: How much?

Legislator Ronk: According to the spreadsheet that Rick sent us, if we terminate the contract now, we would have to, we would still have to pay \$34,467 to Catamount Color for the printing they've already done.

Richard Remsnyder: Plus the reimburse the properties which is another \$26,000.

Legislator Ronk: Correct.

Richard Remsnyder: so it's over \$60,000.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: So basically, it will save \$12,000, and lose the other one and had no advertisement whatsoever.

Legislator Ronk: And have no Guide.

Richard Remsnyder: Correct.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Have no Guide, whatsoever. So I mean, I don't know, What do you want? Why do we keep on beating this to death?

Chairwoman Archer: Well, Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: If you want to let Legislator Ronk go first because he let me finish before.

Legislator Ronk: We're probably going to say the same thing. That's my, you know, that's my estimation. Or, you know, at least some point we would say the same thing. You know, I understand your point, Dave. And I don't I, I'm not here to say let's not print the Guide. I'm likely to vote in favor of this resolution.

But I have concerns about the County Executive's Office handling of this contract because it's obvious that significant amounts of money were encumbered under this contract before it came to us. Which is, I mean, in obvious violation of the Charter.

And I have concern, you know, in years past, this contract has come to us much earlier in the process. So, we're approving it before, we're already tied to \$34,000 worth of County spending. As well as, you know, money that we would have to reimburse these properties if we decided not to do it.

What has essentially been done to us, even if unintentionally, is we've been painted into a corner where now we have to vote for this otherwise, we're going to have to pay almost as much money, and have no Travel Guide.

That's the... My point is less about whether or not we should do the Travel Guide and more about the process that has led us to a point where our backs up against a wall, where we have to make a decision, whether we want to or not.

Deputy Executive Wright: Ken, let me speak to that, if you don't mind. I certainly understand your concerns and the frustration there. And I think a lot of that is probably on me, in terms of my inexperience of this process, and not knowing what I needed to stay on top of.

You know, when these contracts were flagged for me in February by the County Attorney's Office, Rick and I went through them, and I approved all of them. And I don't think I knew that a) they had been sitting there for a while, and that b) they didn't move once I did approve them.

And I also did not know, and this is this is on me, that Catamount was doing work on it already. So, I think between those things, it was a surprise to me when they came back again, on another spreadsheet, for our approval this month.

But I think it was never in our minds that there was going to be any rethinking of the plan to do the Guide. I mean, the Guide is part of what the tourism department does every year. It's in the budget. They're just going through their procedures the way they do. And I don't think any of us ever thought there's going to be a point where we're going to rethink all of this. So, I think that's probably why Rick continued with everything that he was doing. While, unbeknownst to me, the contracts were sitting held up someplace.

So, I want to address your concerns about cost cutting. Because we have instructed all the departments to find the places, in their budgets, to make those cuts. And Rick has identified them as being in the rest of his advertising budget.

And you know, I don't... I think we can achieve the objective of saving expenditures, through the process that we went through of prioritizing, with every department, where the best places to make cuts from their budgets were.

Legislator Ronk: Lynn, if I could just follow up on that before we move on.

Chairwoman Archer: I want to give Mary Beth, who has not had a chance to speak, an opportunity. And then... then Tracy, and you, Ken. Mary Beth.

Legislator Ronk: So noted, okay.

Legislator Maio: Does Ken wants to finish his thought? I'm okay with that.

Legislator Ronk: No, it's fine. Yeah, it's a follow up, but it's fine. You go ahead, Mary Beth.

Legislator Maio: I don't think anybody's trying to do anything right now. I just think we have something in front of us that if we can save money, I think we need to save money. I'm all about tourism. But who's looking at a Travel Guide? Who's traveling? It's a very sad state of affairs right now. And if \$12,000 can be saved, because we don't print a book that nobody may pick up this year. I'm okay with that. I don't love it. I don't like it. But it is the fact right now.

I mean, we're almost in June. I mean, tell me who's trapped? I'm the first one. I'm going to Florida as soon as I can. But then, there's you know, then you got to quarantine yourself. And this is going on, and on, month after month. So, by the time this is all settled in people's heads. We're going to be in December, it'll be Christmas time.

Nobody's going to look at the Guide. If we somehow can figure this out, more towards the end of the year, and put \$10,000, 12,000, \$5,000 somewhere else right now, where it's really needed, I think it's

just something we should just take a minute and do. I don't know what else to say except it is a fact right now that nobody's looking to travel.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Thank you. And I was going to speak to some of what Legislator Maio touched on, as well. I think that we really should be looking, not just to save the \$12,000 to \$15,000 now. But to push...The other monies won't be a total loss. They could possibly be pushed off to a printing for next year. We could negotiate. Yes, we might lose some advertisers, but it'll be a more relevant Guide.

I'm really also concerned, like Legislator Maio said, that the idea that we're going to be placing Travel Guides in Pennsylvania, and out of state, and encouraging tourism, when right now that's pretty much against the directive from the State.

You know, I don't know if everyone had a chance to look at the letter that we received a copy of from the wineries. I thought it was really interesting and inventive. The wineries talking about sort of reinventing themselves to be tourism for locals. And that's, I think a lot of our local businesses, and I've seen it in my own community.

There's this, almost a disconnect between wanting to start up again but also being worried about people coming in from the outside because we're still doing this physical distancing and that's going to extend, in some form, for at least a portion of the foreseeable future. And hopefully, there won't be a second significant wave. But it's something we have to be prepared for.

So, I think on the one hand, we're being a little tone deaf talking about a Tourism Guide as if everything's just going to go on as normal. And let's get it out in June. I would be much more comfortable negotiating with the printing company. If the map is already made, then put the maps in boxes. And if the papers already been ordered, we pay for the paper, we put the paper to the side. And we do the printing for the next calendar year, making whatever adjustments to the design that we have to. I think that's just much more prudent. So, I don't know if that's... I feel like I'm following on what Legislator Maio said. But I agree with the sentiment and the thought.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Walter, then Ronk.

Legislator Walter: So, my feeling is that, ultimately, I'm very supportive of this Guide, in general. Because I think for many of our businesses, this is an affordable way for them to promote themselves. And I do want this Guide to exist.

But think that the proposal of either delaying when this Guide happens, which is almost just logical, if we go back to what Legislator Haynes said. They probably can't start printing yet, because it's not allowed. So, I think that either, I would love to see the feasibility of postponing this a few months.

Or, go back to what I said, I don't actually accept carte blanche that if, since we will lose a number of months, that there would be a reduction. Because you'd have to, you'd be able to make less, so, you'd have less paper ordered. The distributors could be reduced. So, I do think that there is a feasible way to also reduce the cost of this.

And I would love to see more effort into how to reduce the cost of this. Recognizing that then it probably would not come out until something more like September, October.

So, I think those two models are... I would like to understand how feasible they would really be. And I don't know if you can answer it. I don't think he can answer it right now. But it's, you know, I think that those numbers should be tallied, and we'd need to know about that.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, Legislator Ronk, then Chairman Donaldson. Ken, you're on mute.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. I was looking at my other computer and not looking at this computer, which is a problem. Yeah, these Zoom meetings can be a little, you know, disorienting when you need, you know, the information on one screen and then video on the other.

I have serious concerns about how this happened. But I also think that we need to, you know, I also think that we need to move forward on this. You know, I think that fixing the process is important, which is why I brought up the issues that I brought up.

But I think that we want to be in a position. You know, tourism is our number one industry in Ulster County. And the idea that we would be unprepared for when it's time to start inviting guests back to Ulster County, I think is a poor, a poor way to go, personally. I think that we should move forward with this as is.

I don't agree that saving.... You know, I don't agree that saving \$12,000 and not having a Travel Guide is useful. I don't think... because this isn't just a 2020 Travel Guide. It goes into the winter of 2021 and we have a significant amount of winter tourism.

You know, I have a copy of the contract here that was executed by the Director of Purchasing on, you know... says May 5 of 2020. You know, we have Tourism and Catamount executing it, you know, in March. I think that we have... I think that we've identified an issue here.

But I don't think that postponing it, or, you know, going back and seeing if we can push it out. You know, there's certain things that are already... there are certain things that are already involved in the printing that have already been printed, that might not be good if we put it off until next year. And by next year, we'll need another Travel Guide anyway.

I just... Again, sometimes process matters more than the result. But here, I don't think that the result should be that we put ourselves in a position where we're not ready to invite guests back and show them around. With our what, half a half billion-dollar tourism economy. We've got businesses that are going to rely on this. We've got resorts, they're going to rely on this. And we've got, you know, our County revenues that are going to rely on this.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I agree with Ken a certain amount about that... I believe that we need to move forward with it. It's something that has to be done.

And I think, the only thing... my concern would be is that I really... What was said before, that we're not going to distribute as many locally as we normally do. And you're actually going out I think you may want to reconsider the local distribution.

Because I have a feeling, once things start to break. I think somebody, I think Tracey pointed out, that some of the people are looking at trying to attract local people coming in.

So, when they have, you know, the local people seeing a Guide, you know, many people will look at a Guide... and that's something that comes out... Yeah, I think I'll go to that winery, or something of that nature, once things start to break.

You know, I know people want to travel, and get away. But they, I think they may also decide, that you know, until they feel more comfortable, they may try to do more staycations type of stuff, and hang out a little more at home. So, we might want to consider that distribution.

But I think there are greater minds than mine could come up with that. Maybe somebody take a look at that. That maybe something. But I agree with Ken. It's something we save \$12,000, that's nice. But we just threw away maybe \$40,000 or \$50,000 on contracts already, and not having a Guide doesn't make a lot of sense to me. I think we need the Guide.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: It's a question for Rick. Did you explore with Catamount... I know that you said that you spoke with the heads of the Lodging Coalition, but did you explore with Catamount what a delay, a six months delay, or an alternative printing schedule, would mean? Would they be able to hold the paper, etc., that kind of issue?

Richard Remsnyder: I didn't talk to them about that, Tracey. I'm sure that if the alternative is killing the Guide, or delaying it, I think that would be a more palatable way to go. Like Legislator Walter saying about holding it possibly a couple months.

Let me just say one thing. In the last three weeks, we've got 50 Travel Guide requests, a week. People are starting, the pause is ending May 15. And believe it or not, people are starting to think about vacations now. And I don't think, in this time where the tourism and hospitality industry, and all of the people who are facing rough times, they've lost a lot of money. I don't think this is the time to pull the rug out from under them, and not support them.

Plus, we have, somebody like... and we did talk, I did talk to the Lodging Coalition, and the major players from Mohonk, the Emerson, Buttermilk, Pine Ridge, Rocking Horse. I asked them all if they would rather get their ad advertising revenue back, or go forward with the Guide. They all said they would rather have the Guide out.

But the people that really benefit this, we have nearly 900 listings in that Guide. Some of the places like the B&B's, and small, you know, antiques stores, and things of that nature. They don't have any money to advertise. They rely on the Guide, and if we didn't do the Guide, I can tell you that I did a survey through a statewide organization called [inaudible]. And right now, there's 55 counties, they got 36 counties, and 34 of them are continuing with a Travel Guide this year. So, that's almost 95%. If we didn't have a Guide on the stands, or on the Thruway and wherever we have it, we would certainly be at a competitive disadvantage.

Because I can tell you right now, Dutchess County, Orange, Sullivan, all the other counties in the Hudson Valley region, and the Catskills, they all have current Guides.

Ours basically has a shelf life of one year. So, June 1, the Guide that we that we have out now, would not be current with the information. And people are making decisions. Of course there are a lot of things that are not open right now. But this is a fast-moving industry. And I know some of our major resorts and hotels are thinking about, are hopeful that they'll be open July, August at the latest.

We already have fishing, golf courses, campgrounds, parks, all that... all those places are available for the public. And that's some of the information we have in the Guide. So, if it came down to delaying it a couple months, rather than not doing the Guide at all, I certainly would consider that. But no, I have not discussed that with the printer yet.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I'll just asked a follow-on. So, the other question is just how relevant the information in this current Guide is, in this COVID environment. Do you have festivals listed, et cetera. And have you talked to the design company about changing it to adjust for the current situation?

Richard Remsnyder: Yes, we have. I mean, just the other day, the Rosendale Street Festival announced they're not going to have it this year. So, we took that out of the Guide. The longer we wait, the less relevant the Guide would be. But yeah, we're keeping up to date on what events are being canceled. That's just a small part of our Guide, though. That's like four pages out of 66 pages. So, you know, before we go to print with it, we will certainly have the most current information in there.

Legislator Bartels: Are you going to address the COVID situation in it, or no?

Richard Remsnyder: Yes, we we've put that in there. That we have addressed the COVID situation. We've also put an advisory by the top events and the events that please check you know about possible cancellations on our website. Or on websites of the events. So, people get the latest information then, if something is postponed or cancelled.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, Legislator Walter, and then Ronk.

Legislator Walter: Yeah. So, I just thought of a question. So, I'll add that, but then I'll go to my original one. It's just, have you calculated, I mean, this there some revenue that has to be returned for either events that couldn't possibly happen or are going to be canceled?

And, you know, have I'm just curious to know if any of these people who have advertised have actually asked for changes or returns. And then, the other question was, and I don't know if, Marc you could possibly answer. But I'm just curious, Do we have any sense of what month we think tourism, conservatively, might actually be able to start happening in Ulster County?

Richard Remsnyder: I can answer the question about, we had one advertiser asked to pull out. Of course we told them they could. It was actually a very small ad. But most of the advertisers are

hanging with us because you know, a lot of them are the large, Stewart International Airport, you know, the larger hotels I mentioned and everything.

As far as when the tourism season is going to start. I'm on a conference call every week with the Hospitality and Tourism experts Ross Levi, who heads up I Love New York's promotional arm. As Governor Cuomo says, in every one of his daily press briefings, we don't know. Okay. I can't give you a set date. I'm hopeful that it will be. They're opening the phases in two-week increments. Right now, Ulster County, and Marc could probably talk about this better than I can.

Deputy Executive Rider: If you let me jump in here, Rick. So, we're not in the initial, we're not there yet everybody can see by the Governor's daily briefings that we meet five of the seven criteria. But we believe we're close. We got, you know, word today that it's gonna, it's not like if we miss this, the 15th, or whatever, it's not like we have to wait a full two-week period to open. It's not, you know through the, we don't have to wait a whole phase. Whenever we're ready, we're ready, as a region. And so, you know, it could be as early as six to eight weeks before hotels and accommodations. And then, phase four is when some of these places would be able to open their pools and other things. But, you know, mid-July, we can start to see.

For one thing, hotels and accommodations have always been essential to a certain extent. And so, they're open, many of them. Mohonk isn't. You know, Rocking Horse Ranch just recently reopened, I believe. What actually attracts a lot of people to those resorts, aren't able to be open. But the hotels and accommodations, many of the people who have advertised, have been open the whole time. The one thing I would say about delaying this until the 2021 season is, I do think that we would owe people their advertising back. Because they advertise for 2020 Travel Guide, not a 2021 Travel Guide. And so, I think it would be the right thing to give that revenue back if we were to delay it five, six months.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Yeah, I was just going to say that, you know, it's obvious that there have been some mistakes in the process here. But as Marc has said, and Rick has said, you know, I think that we should be getting ourselves prepared to, you know, reopen our economy here. And I think that this is one step. And I think that, you know, manufacturing is in phase one of reopening. So, you know, I think that we should move forward on this. And I think that the Executive's Office should, you know, take a look at the processes that got us to this point with this contract and work to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Deputy Executive Rider: Can I say something to that, Lynn, really quick?

Chairwoman Archer: Yeah.

Deputy Executive Rider: So, Ken did send me the copy that he was talking about that's executed. And I definitely am going to have some calls into the Purchasing Department to find out how that happened. Why this contract was executed prior to Legislative approval. That should not happen. So, that I will be happy to follow up with you all and give you an answer on. So, that part of the process was absolutely broken, and we'll be looking into it.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Maio.

Legislator Maio: Thank you. I want to say thank you to everybody for putting their input in. Rick, thank you for, you know, helping me along with the business part of it. I will vote yes on this.

But I also just want to make a point that I believe we're in the ninth week now. And this devastating to some people out there. And saying the \$12,000 is not a lot of money. It's going to be a million dollar-sounding number down the road. And there's going to be tough choices to make. And saving \$10,000 here and \$5,000 there is what we're going to have to do down the road, I just want to make that point clear. Thank you.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Thank you. And I wanted to ask Marc, when you're looking into the process issue, if I could flag another thing, the idea that a contract that's under \$50,000, though, specifically to design, Lure Creative contract, but is inextricably linked to another contract, is an issue.

I think, you know, it's truly not a standalone contract if we have to refund the money if another contract doesn't go through. And so, that's not something that we necessarily would know about on our end. But I think that also, in good faith, has to be included with something like the Catamount contract, or included as a collective over \$50,000 contract in the future.

Deputy Executive Rider: And I'll just say that, I think, Yeah, I agree with you, and I think this was an unintended consequence of, I think, Rick and I started this process back when I was the purchasing director, considering separating out these contracts because it is saving the County a considerable amount of money to have it done that way.

The problem is, if we execute the earlier contract, prior to this, I get what you're saying. Although we would always have to execute a design, for the most part, before publication. But we can look at it. And we can see that process and make sure that it's something that we bring to you. Or, at least that we wait on it. And just let you know that it's coming.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, anybody else have any other comments?

I guess one comment that I would have is that we really need to be looking at everything. And I know that that's happening on your side. Well, I would hope so.

But you know, these kinds of things, it does set a tone in the community. We are going to have people that are really impacted, with regard to the COVID. And our residents, et cetera. And at the end of the day, if we're going to be increasing taxes, et cetera, it's not going to be something everybody's going to feel comfortable about.

So, all I would ask is that if we're going to work together on this, we really need to have a discipline. And I've said this before, and I'm asking again, you guys went through 10 percent cut. We've asked to understand exactly what the 10 percent is. And you know, so we have a sense of where you're holding the line.

And Rick, you made a comment at the last meeting, that you're not doing the advertising now, but should things open up, you would redo it. Well, not if that 10 percent is your 10 percent. And you

said most of it is advertising. So, there is some mixed messages here. And I would hope that we get those messages aligned.

And if we are working together on this, to save every penny we can, we're going to have to be disciplined. Even about these contracts that don't seem like much. Because they do send a message to the greater public population of our County.

Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. I mean, just, you know, to almost as a counterpoint to what you just said. A lot of the tourism budget is, you know, is either, you know, grant funding or is tied to I Love New York funding, or matching funds. So, you know, I understand your point about, you know, we need to, we definitely need to understand. But I think that we also need to understand that we don't want him cutting funding that's going end up cutting, you know, funding that we get from New York State or others. You know, in furtherance of the tourism economy and Ulster County. So, I just I felt like that point need to be made.

Chairwoman Archer: And I'll just follow up with one more. And that is, the Governor said that he is going to be looking at very critical times throughout this year of where he's cutting. And while we may have had funding in the past, that doesn't mean we have funding in the future. And with that, I'll close.

All in favor of this resolution.

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed? So we have Archer, Gavaris, Walter opposed, is that correct?

Anyone else?

Legislator Gavaris: No, I'm in favor.

Legislator Ronk: Legislator Gavaris says he's not, not opposed.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh, I'm sorry.

Legislator Gavaris: I'm not opposed, I'm in favor.

Chairwoman Archer: You're in favor. So is it Walter and Archer opposed? Okay, thank you.

Legislator Walter: Just to clarify, I'm also, I'm not opposed of this. I would like this to happen. I just have, I do believe this company, in this time, would consider reducing the costs. And there are ways to cut the cost for it. I just want to make that clear. I want this to happen. I just think it could be less. Everybody's working together these days.

Chairwoman Archer: I agree. I mean, the tourism is a big part of our revenue here, but at this time.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I thought we voted on it, did we?

Legislator Ronk: Yeah, we did.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Oh.

Chairwoman Archer: Oh, okay. You two.

Resolution 175: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment entered into the County with H&H Construction And Consulting.

I'll take a motion to move it.

Legislator Bartels: I'll move it.

Legislator Ronk: Ronk moves it.

Chairwoman Archer: Second?

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: Any questions?

Chairwoman Archer: Marc, you and I had a conversation earlier with regards to the better understanding of the contract. When I look back, the only changes I see from Amendment one and two is just a reference to some procedures established by FEMA for cleaning, is that correct?

Deputy Executive Rider: I believe so. And I believe the cost increases but not to exceed amount. I don't have it in front of me, but I believe that that is part of it. You had asked the question earlier about the mold inspection. And it is an 'as needed.' We don't, we have not used that portion of the amendment or the contract yet. So we have not had them do a mold inspection.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: So yeah, it's an increase to the to the number. And this takes us to the May 30th. I'm assuming that we're going to, it's roughly, looks like \$78,000 a month, if it stays at this \$800 per day at the one site, and \$6,700 per week at the other site. So, are we to expect additional amendments next month?

Deputy Executive Rider: Potentially. I know, I'm talking to Public Works and Purchasing because we're, you know, trying to get FEMA reimbursement on this. They wanted to do more, you know, continued throughout the process, due diligence. So, I think they were going to go out to bid and get or get further quotes again. I think as we spoke, in maybe the Committee Chairs, or the last Public Works. I mean, we did get various quotes on this when this contract started. But I think that they're going to go back out and do a bidding process prior to this. So, you'll either see another amendment or a separate contract.

Richard Remsnyder: Lynn, I just want to say, if I could, I'm leaving the meeting. Thank you very much, we appreciate it.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you for coming, Rick. Appreciate it.

Richard Remsnyder: Nice talking with you all.

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you.

Richard Remsnyder: Good night.

Chairwoman Archer: Good night.

Legislator Bartels: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: I just wanted to... when they go back out to bid, would they consider, is there the potential to split the contract if you get numbers back, that are higher for the interior buildings, and lower for the exterior, or some combination thereof?

Deputy Executive Rider: Yeah, we could do that. We'd have to do that in the bid. But we have to state that we're going to separate it.

Legislator Bartels: Okay.

Chairwoman Archer: Well, we just for my edification, the original contract, which was done on March 25, a scheduled B, outlined the cost of all the services. So, what I'm a little confused about, if in fact, the date never really changed, because that was part of the original contract. The contract, and the way it's written originally, would have cost us \$150 and change. So I'm a little confused about why there was another amendment. Is it because at some point you thought you weren't going to use this? So you only

Deputy Executive Rider: Are you talking about the second and the third amendment? It's again, increasing the

Chairwoman Archer: First and the second.

Deputy Executive Rider: The first contract I think was established for \$40,000-something because we needed to get it up and going quickly.

Chairwoman Archer: Mm hmm.

Deputy Executive Rider: We then amended it to add another month, I think we added time and we increased the not to exceed amount. And now we've exceeded the portion that we can do that. Under the Executives Office, we need to bring it to you all for approval, which is why there's the additional amendment, and why it's here.

Chairwoman Archer: Yeah. Well, I guess my question, though, is that the only change in the first amendment was the FEMA requirements. The dates have been the same from the original contract. So has the numbers on Schedule B, the cost breakdown. So I'm just trying to understand, you know, the timing never changed. It was always from March 30 through May 30.

Deputy Executive Rider: But the not to exceed contract, the amount of the contract changed.

Chairwoman Archer: But if you, if you played it out, based on your outline in the scope and schedule A, you were going to pay this for that period of time, and that would have been \$152,000, rounding. So I just don't understand. I'm a little confused on the amendment-side, that that's all.

Deputy Executive Rider: I got ya, but we can't, we can't we have to stay within both the term and the not to exceed amount. So I get what you're saying. But if we, I think the reason that again, they added in the second. So, we had the contract for \$49,000. We can increase it by another \$40- whatever. And do that through the Executive's Office. We couldn't do more than that. And without bringing it here. Timing wise, we needed to continue the contract. So, now we're bringing it to you.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Any other questions?

On the resolution? All in favor?

Opposed?

So moved.

Okay. Sorry, I lost my place. Give me a second.

Okay. Resolution 176: Amending the 2020 Budget, This resolution upon the receipt of notification from the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Support is increasing funding for Minimum Wage and Workforce Cost of Living Adjustments.

Legislator Ronk: Moved by Ronk.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: So moved. Second.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Resolution 181: Authorizing Additional Funding For Capital Project No. 528 – Veteran's Cemetery To Meet The Environmental And Permitting Requirements

Legislator Ronk: Moved by Ronk.

Legislator Bartels: Second, Bartels.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Seconded.

Chairwoman Archer: Any questions?

All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Resolution 184: Requesting The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature Apply For A Department Of Homeland Security Grant For The Port Security Grant Program-FEMA – Sheriff’s Office

Legislator Ronk: Moved. Ronk.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Moved. So moved.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Resolution 185: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Claim For Payment And Any Additional Documents Necessary To Secure Payment From New York State.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: So moved.

Legislator Ronk: Moved by Ronk.

Chairwoman Archer: Second. All in favor?

Group: Aye.

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

186: The authorization, Authorizing The Conveyance Of County-Owned Properties To The Original Owners.

Legislator Ronk: Moved by Ronk.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: So Moved.

Chairwoman Archer: Seconded by Donaldson. All in favor?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

Legislator Ronk: Madam Chair, just I move we block 187 through 190. They're all short-term rental agreements.

Chairwoman Archer: On the block.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I'll second that.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor of the block?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor of the resolution?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you. Okay.

Resolution 191: Establishing A Policy For Funding Non-County Organizations.

Legislator Ronk: I'll move it for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, second.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: I've not read through it.

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it for discussion.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. I mean, if everyone wants to take the week to read through it and come up with, you know, thoughts or concerns, I'd be happy to postpone this until, you know, next week's Ways and Means Committee meeting if that's the will of the committee.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay. Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Well, can we can we first have a conversation about it? I think the postponement for the week would be good, but maybe if Legislator Ronk, if you could tell us a little bit about it.

And before you do, if I could just make one constructive criticism. I think the title calling them 'non-county organizations' is very confusing. For a while I thought it meant non-Ulster County organizations. I thought it was talking about any contract with an out-of-county, and then the resolves, So, I don't know, I don't know what language we want to change it to. But if you could talk a little bit about the

Legislator Ronk: Well, yeah. Tracey, if you've got a suggestion on language, I'm perfectly fine with that. You know, these organizations have been called everything from Legislative Programs to Contract Agencies. I mean, you know, there's a lot of vernacular that a lot of people use for them. So, if you'd like to, you know, choose one that you like, the best, you know, far be it for me.

What this comes from is, it's, you know, again, to me, this is a start. And if folks have, you know, constructive ideas on how they'd like it structured I'm, absolutely fine. I can't speak for Laura, you know, my co-sponsor on it.

But what this comes from is every year there seems to be no rhyme or reason, and we're dealing with it right now in Legislative Programs and Ways and Means, with the ones that we appropriated for last year.

There's no rhyme or reason to which organizations are brought forward except that some Legislators, you know, bring more organizations forward than others. You know, and from time to time, I've felt like maybe I'm a bad Legislator, because I'm not asking for money for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, which covers my town. Or for you know, any of the other deserving organizations that operate in the Hamlet of Wallkill, or in the Town of Shawangunk.

You know, but then you had Legislators, I'll give an example. You know, Legislator Carl Belfiglio, used to bring two or three of these a year. Including the last time he brought them, he actually brought one to buy Christmas presents for people.

You know, so, this, My goal here. And I think Laura's goal, without wanting to speak for her, is to provide an in-writing process on how we're going to fund these organizations. Including deadlines. Because usually these things come up at the very last minute, and then we're forced to decide, oh, well, this organization, the People's Place provides food for people, you know, so how can we vote against that? Or, you know, any of a host of other, you know, worthwhile organizations. So, you know, that's the, that's the reasoning behind putting it in. I think that this is a good time to have the conversation heading into the budget cycle. If you want to play with the date, if you want to play with the terms if you want to, you know, I'm perfectly fine with that.

Chairwoman Archer: Chairman Donaldson

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yeah, I'd like to read through it closely. I don't think there's really a hurry in getting this done at this point. Because the contract agencies, or whatever you want to refer to them, will not be putting in any request until quite some time from now. It's not done until September or whatever. So, I think we should try to really get this right rather than rushing it.

I mean, I understand where Legislator Ronk is coming from. On the other hand, a lot of these have been there for a long time. I mean, we know how we fund the arts and the libraries. We've worked, you know, basically, negotiations with them and come up with methods that, you know, benefited the most people and, you know, got the most bang for the buck. So, I mean, I don't want to see that being hurt in any way.

But I also think, I agree, there should be questions asked, and we need to really make sure that this is done in a way that, you know, doesn't shut certain ones out or give advantage to others. I think we need to consider each and every request.

Now, I know recently there's been more that have been thrown in. For the longest time it was essentially, basically, almost the same ones every year in one way or form. But recently we've thrown in Maritime Museum, the Canal, the, you know, things of that nature got throw it in. You know, just in the past year. So, I mean, I agree that we have to have something. But I really would like to take our time with this. We have time. And I don't think we need to rush it for this session.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Haynes.

Legislator Haynes: Yeah, I would just want to commend the sponsor for this. Having spent a couple of years on Legislative Programs, I've seen this kind of get a little bit out of control. But with everything that Dave, said I agree with also, there are certain programs that we've been funding, we need to continue to figure out a way to fund them. But moving forward, we need to put in a system of

checks and controls for some of these other people that have come forward for requests. So, I commend the sponsor for this, and I think it's something that's got to be worked on moving forward.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Bartels.

Legislator Bartels: Yeah, I too, am grateful that it's on the table, that we're talking about it. I think it might take more than a week. But I think we should be actively working on getting this into, into a format that we can agree upon.

Because for so long, we haven't really had an agreed upon format. And I mean, I agree with Ken, too. I've been in the Legislature a long time and I've never brought forward a program. But you know, it's sometimes it feels it feels a little overwhelming at the last minute to have all these different programs being thrown in the mix.

And one thought, that I just want to put out there, as we're thinking about it is, we might want to change our schedule for these. So, they come in much earlier. So they can be a part of the budget conversation with the Executive, once we're through analyzing them. You know, and when an Executive and Legislative branch are working well together, it would make sense that if we vetted some programs, and we believe they're important enough, they should be in the budget from the time we get the budget. So, that might be something we can talk about as well. In terms of the timeline of when this is coming in, versus at the 11th hour during the budget cycle itself.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Petit.

Legislator Petit: Hi, Thank you, Chairwoman. Yeah. And to what Legislator Bartels just mentioned. This is exactly one of the ways to make it much simpler. And so we have time for the planning. I think more than anything, and it's not to prohibit anybody from coming in and putting in a proposal or asking for funding.

I think, you know, initially it was a comment that Legislators had made last year during the budget process, that you know, well, gee. We have the same folks coming to us at the last minute asking for money. They haven't come to the committee over the last year. We haven't seen any reports.

And, and I'm feeling that this will standardize the reporting and the expectations. We've already, or through the financial analysis, we have a standardized form to submit an application for funding. But probably to have a budgetary and a work plan form just so they can summarize what they're doing. And keep reporting to us so we make sure we're getting the deliverables, is very important.

Chairwoman Archer: Legislator Ronk.

Legislator Ronk: Thanks. Just to Legislator Bartels point. I think more Legislator Petit just hit the nail on the head, you know, this would move the deadline for these applications up to July 15. So, it would significantly put it right dead center of the, you know, executives budget process, which was my goal here.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Can I ask the finance people what is the deadline is right now for those, when the contract agencies put them in?

Legislator Ronk: Whenever the committee wants.

Legislator Bartels: Sometimes on the day of the meeting.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Amber?

Amber Feaster: It typically doesn't happen until August or September, but we get a lot, I would set a deadline, and I would get a lot of late, late applicants.

Chairwoman Archer: Marc, you wanted to, Deputy Rider?

Deputy Executive Rider: Yeah, if I could just ask, and maybe you all could ask Legislative Counsel to take a look. And I've asked the County Attorney to just take a brief look.

I just have one concern and it can be easily solved. And that's just to clarify that we are talking about Legislative Programs. You all are the appropriating body. So, in the first resolve, where it says that any non-county organization performs services provided directly by the Ulster County Legislature, you are the appropriating body. So, you are providing funds for all contracts. I just wouldn't want to get, if we could just have a little bit of clarity added somewhere.

Legislator Ronk: I mean, just if can say one thing on that. I mean, you know, this was drafted by Minority Counsel. However, I would be happy to have him look back through that and work with Clint and Chris, on, you know, a best way to go there. But I would, at this time like to make a motion we postpone this until the next meeting, at least, because we have a public hearing to get to.

Legislator Bartels: I'll second it.

Legislator Walter: Legislator Ronk, can you just let us know the best way to get you our comments?

Legislator Ronk: My email addresses is kenronkjr@gmail.com.

Legislator Walter: Just a free for all? Send our suggestions and comments, and you'll pull it together?

Legislator Ronk: Unless you've got a better idea, I mean.

Chairwoman Archer: We'll make sure you get the appropriate email, Eve. All in favor of the postponement?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: Opposed?

So moved. Oh we are, what time is the public hearing?

Legislator Bartels: 6:10

Legislator Ronk: 10 minutes ago, or three minutes ago, I guess.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Three minutes ago? Yes.

Chairwoman Archer: Okay, so we've never really got to the discussion on 2020 budget. I apologize March. I asked you specifically to come for that and we're running out of time. I did ask

Legislator Bartels: Do you want to adjourn and come back? I mean, do you want to postpone the meeting, or hold the meeting and come back?

Chairwoman Archer: Yeah, it's only going to take us what five minutes for the public hearing? Do we know? Do we have to?

Legislator Ronk: That's presumptuous.

Chairwoman Archer: Excuse me?

Legislator Ronk: I said that's presumptuous. But yeah.

Chairwoman Archer: I was just going to ask if we know how many people signed up.

Legislator Ronk: Perhaps we should go. We should all get out of here and go into the Public Hearing.

Legislative Chairman Donaldson: Yep. I would suggest let's close out of this and go to the Public Hearing.

Legislator Bartels: But are we coming back to this is what we are trying to determine.

Chairwoman Archer: But are we coming back to this coming back to the conversation around the budget?

Comptroller Gallagher: Lynn, I will make myself available at any time that's useful for you guys. I have a 6:45 meeting. But if I need to move that I'll do my best to do so.

Legislator Ronk: We could always do this next week. We have Ways and Means starting at five o'clock next week anyway.

Legislator Heppner: Then just a reminder, we have caucus scheduled for 6:30.

Chairwoman Archer: All right, so for 6:30?

Legislator Heppner: Yes.

Chairwoman Archer: All right. So why don't we push this off. See what we due next week. I apologize March. We'll have hopefully more of a dialogue around this. And so, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Bartels: So moved.

Legislator Ronk: Second.

Chairwoman Archer: All in favor?

Group: Aye

Chairwoman Archer: Thank you.