

Ways & Means Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: November 26, 2018 – 1:00
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building,
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Richard Gerentine, Chairman
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Amber Feaster
PRESENT: Legislators Laura Petit, Lynn Archer, Tracey Bartels (arrived
at 3:44 PM), James F. Maloney, and Joseph Maloney
ABSENT: Legislator Craig V. Lopez, and Mary Beth Maio
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators David Donaldson, Manna Jo Greene, Kathy Nolan,
Hector Rodriguez, and Brian Woltman; Marc Rider, Deputy
County Executive; Ken Crannell, Deputy County Executive;
Burt Gulnick, Commissioner of Finance; Ken Juras, Deputy
Budget Director; Elliot Auerbach, Comptroller; Evan Gallo,
Deputy Comptroller; Christopher DeMeo, Director of Internal
Audit Control; Holley Carnright, District Attorney; Tom
Kadgen, League of Women Voters; Patricia Doxsey, Daily
Freeman; Dr. Gerald Benjamin and Joshua Simons, The
Benjamin Center; Marie Shultis and Pam Perkins, Awareness,
Inc.

- **Chairman Gerentine called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM**

Legislator Wawro spoke from 1:09 – 1:25 PM providing a presentation describing the programs offered by Awareness, Inc., requesting that the Legislature continue to contract with and fund the program in the amount of \$15,000.00 (a \$5,000.00 increase over the prior year). Marie Shultis and Pam Perkins of Awareness, Inc. were present to answer questions on the Organization and the programs they provide.

Legislator Wawro spoke from 1:25 – 1:29 PM spoke in support of the Hope Rocks Festival, providing a brief background of the Festival, requesting that the County provide support in the amount of \$1,500.00 to the Festival's cause. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell affirmed that the County currently does not fund the event, suggesting that the Department of Health/Mental Health sponsor the event as this Department provides ongoing support for the cause.

Dr. Gerald Benjamin spoke from 1:30 – 2:14 PM to provide an explanation of The Benjamin Center's Memorandum dated November 15, 2018 to Chairman Gerentine entitled "Proposed Line Item Changes; Ulster County 2019 Executive Budget. Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick provided feedback.

Legislator Nolan spoke from 2:15 – 2:16 PM requesting support for the Awareness program, or a similar peer-to-peer counseling program, in the amount of \$10,000.00 with the intent of obtaining greater control over what the program is doing with greater reporting requirements than exist currently.

Comptroller Auerbach spoke from 2:16 – 2:25 PM requested a Confidential Secretary position instead of the County Executive Recommended Administrative Assistance for an additional \$17,433.00 in salary and benefits, providing a reason for his request.

Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick spoke from 2:25 – 2:26 PM explaining that the Administrative Assistant under the Office of the Comptroller was funded incorrectly, proposing an amendment to correct the position to a grade 12.

Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick spoke from 2:26 – 2:27 PM requesting funding for a Senior Typist within the Office of the Aging, explaining that during the creation of the budget funding was not believed to be available for the position but that since that time they have been informed otherwise.

Commissioner of Finance Burt Gulnick spoke from 2:27 – 2:28 PM requested amendment to the 2019 County Executive Budget in response to the approval of Resolution No. 449 on November 20, 2018.

District Attorney Holley Carnright spoke from 2:28 – 2:49 PM requesting an increase in regular pay for two employees, providing a reason for each and answering any Committee questions.

District Attorney Holley Carnright spoke from 2:49 – 2:57 PM concerning the workload within the District Attorney's office and the hours worked by his personnel, requesting a new Paralegal position within the office, providing an explanation of how the workload would be redistributed with this additional assistance and why the additional help is necessary considering the new Raise the Age regulations.

Legislator Greene spoke from 2:57 – 3:09 PM explaining the growing needs of the Green Business Challenge and the need for additional staffing relating to this program, requesting funding for a professional contractor to help coordinate the many players active within the Green Business Challenge.

Chairman Gerentine stated that Amendments originally scheduled for presentation on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 will be presented during the meeting to the extent that time allows.

The Committee took a brief recess from 3:10 – 3:30 PM.

Legislator Donaldson spoke from 3:30 – 3:44 PM in favor of the Legislature maintaining its contractual relationship with Arts Mid-Hudson, proposing an amendment to reclassify funding

for the arts from the Planning Department to the Legislature's Other Performing Arts Department where it has historically been housed. Deputy County Executive Marc Rider provided a reason for the County Executive's recommended classification.

Legislator Donaldson spoke from 3:44 – 3:46 PM in favor of increasing funding for Arts Mid-Hudson in the amount of \$12,500.00, providing reasoning for this additional support.

Legislator Donaldson spoke from 3:46 – 4:10 PM in favor of the Legislature maintaining its contractual relationship with the Ulster County Performing Arts Center (UPAC), proposing an amendment to reclassify funding for the arts from the Planning Department to the Legislature's Other Performing Arts Department where it has historically been housed. Deputy County Executive Ken Crannell provided a reason for the County Executive's recommended classification.

Legislator Donaldson spoke from 4:10 – 4:26 PM in support of increasing funding for the Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County in the amount of \$33,000.00 to aid in the Organization's participation in The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program.

Legislator Archer spoke from 4:28 – 4:48 PM requesting two additional financial analyst positions within the Clerk of the Legislature, providing reasons for the additional support, examples of duties which would be performed, and answers to Committee questions.

Legislator Archer spoke from 4:48 – 4:50 PM requesting to reclassify the County Executive's proposed funding for the newly created Creative Economic Development Division into the Contingent Account until a plan for the funding is detailed and approved by the Legislative body.

Legislator Archer spoke from 4:50 – 4:52 PM requesting to reclassify the County Executive's proposed funding for "Town Economic Development Match" into the Contingent Account until a plan for the funding is detailed and approved by the Legislative body.

Legislator Woltman spoke from 4:52 – 5:03 PM proposing to reduce the revenue associated with a contract between Ulster County and the City of Kingston for emergency dispatch services and records of related communications by \$25,000.00, providing reasoning for this proposal.

Legislator Rodriguez spoke from 5:03 – 5:20 PM to recommend the removal of three vacant positions from the 2019 Budget, providing an explanation of the history of the amendment and answering Committee questions.

New Business:

Chairman Gerentine announced the next Budget Hearing will take place on Tuesday, November 27th at 2:00 PM, explaining that EinserAmper will be coming before the Committee at 3:00 PM to present their report of the IT Forensic Investigation.

Old Business: None

Chairman Gerentine asked if there was any other business or questions. There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made to adjourn.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Archer

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

No. of Votes in Favor: 6

No. of Votes Against: 0

Time: 5:21 PM

Respectfully submitted: Amber Feaster

Minutes Approved: December 11, 2018