Health, Human Services & Housing Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE & TIME: May 4, 2022 – 5:00 PM

LOCATION: Ellenville Regional Hospital, 10 Healthy Way, Ellenville

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Eve Walter

LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk

PRESENT: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit & Uchitelle

ABSENT: None QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Gavaris, Commissioner McDonald – UC Department of Mental Health, Director Cozzupoli – UC Veterans' Services Agency, Deputy County Executives Contreras & Rider – UC Executive's Office, President & CEO Kelley – Ellenville Regional Hospital

Chair Walter called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. She thanked Ellenville Regional Hospital President & CEO Steve Kelly for hosting the meeting and stated how nice it was to be meeting in person again.

Motion No. 1: Moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the March 30th Special and April 11th

Regular Meetings

Motion By: Legislator Erner
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Minutes APPROVED

Resolutions for the May 17, 2022 Session of the Legislature

Resolution No. 139: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 4 Of 2022, A Local Law Enacting A Drug Take Back Program in Ulster County, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 21, 2022 At 7:10 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2022 on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 At 7:10 PM

Motion No. 2: Moved Resolution No. 139 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion:

Legislation Sponsor Petit stated that co-sponsor Legislator Maloney could not attend the meeting, and asked if the Resolution could be postponed to the next month's meeting.

Chair Walter stated that the members should have received a copy of Legislative Counsel's opinion that the State Law does not allow for the county to enact legislation locally. She acknowledged that there was interest by the sponsors to send a letter to the state requesting action. Legislator Petit stated that she would have further conversations with counsel. Chair Walter added that State Senator Hinchey has introduced Legislation to expedite the implementation of the law. She also suggested looking into ARPA funding to purchase the drop boxes for the pharmacies. She added that Dedrick's Pharmacy utilizes drop boxes at both their Kingston and New Paltz locations and suggested they be contacted for more information on how they manage the prescription take back and disposal.

Disposition: No ACTION TAKEN

Resolution No. 167: Adopting A Negative Declaration For The Demolition Of The Former Ulster County Jail Located On Golden Hill, And Establishing And Funding Capital Project No. 630 - Demolition Of Jail Golden Hill- ARPA – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary: This resolution determines that the demolition of the former Jail located on Golden Hill is an Unlisted Action, that it can be considered separate and apart from the future actions, and that its approval will not have an adverse impact on the environment and adopts a negative declaration as provided in 6 NYCRR 617.7. The Resolution additionally creates Capital Project No. 630 and amends the 2022-2027 Capital Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,500,000 for construction.

Motion No. 3: Moved Resolution No. 167 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Uchitelle
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:

Legislator Erner stated that he has concerns about the project generally, including the taking of public property, using ARPA funding for the demolition, public outreach and community concerns. Chair Walter asked if Deputy Executive Rider had any response to Legislator Erner's concerns. He responded that he spoke to Legislator Erner at length about he project and advised the members that the project was more than a year into development and that there have been several public input meetings. He stated that the addition of a daycare center was a result of those public input sessions. He stated that the use of ARPA funding was being pursued because the county still owns the property and there were prior and ongoing conversations about pursuing funding to help with demolition.

Legislator Nolan expressed her support for moving forward with he project, adding that having the old jail remain in its deteriorating condition is a liability to the county. Legislator Uchitelle asked about sustaining the affordability of units at the project if the developers sold the project or switched out units. Deputy Executive Rider responded that there is a 30 – 40 year minimum requirement for the provision of affordable units because of the state funding they have applied for. Chair Walter asked if there was a county provision that could be added as well requiring affordable units in perpetuity. Legislator Uchitelle stated that he would like to see a permanent affordability requirement in any agreements with the developers.

Legislator Petit asked if the county could require a 1-99 year affordability requirement in any agreements for the project development and asked of the county could rescind the property transfer. Deputy Executive Rider responded that he did not believe there was a mechanism to rescind the property transfer. The members briefly discussed income thresholds to qualify for the affordable units and the timeline for the project. Legislator Erner questioned why the county was contracting with a developer and not building the housing itself. Deputy Executive Rider responded that the project cost will be upwards of \$80 million adding that the county can not apply for the same grants that a developer can.

Chair Walter asked if there were any other questions.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: Legislators Erner & Petit

Votes in Favor: 5 Votes Against: 2

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 200: Setting A Public Hearing On Proposed Local Law No. 7 Of 2022, A Local Law Amending The Code Of The County Of Ulster In Relation To Evictions, To Be Held On Tuesday, June 21, 2022 At 7:05 PM

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on Proposed Local Law No. 7 of 2022 on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 7:05 PM

Discussion:

Legislator Uchitelle briefly stated his frustration with the legislation being stalled and commented that the county's ethics law needs amending, including making the effective date as soon as practicable so the body can begin discussing Proposed Local Law No. 7.

Disposition: No ACTION TAKEN

Resolution No. 209: Setting A Public Hearing On The Sale And/Or Transfer Of Five Parcels Of Land Owned By Ulster County In The Towns Of Esopus, Kingston, Lloyd, Plattekill, And Ulster To A Local Development Corporation

Resolution Summary: This resolution sets a public hearing pursuant to Section 1411(d) of the Not-for-Profit Law of the State of New York to provide the public the opportunity to offer comments on the advisability of adoption of a resolution authorizing the sale and/or transfer of 5 properties owned by Ulster County to the Ulster County Housing Development Corporation

Motion No. 4: Moved Resolution No. 209 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Deputy County Executive Rider requested that the Resolution be postponed adding that there was work that needed to be done in the Housing Development Corporation. Chair Walter asked if he could update the members on the situation at another time, so they are fully aware before the next time they are asked to vote on the transfer. Chair Walter asked if there were any other questions.

Motion No. 5: MOTION TO POSTPONE Resolution No. 209

Motion By: Legislator Corcoran Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution POSTPONED

Legislator Petit stated that she was aware of an individual who put in a bid on one of the properties for, she believes, over the amount of taxes owed and questioned why the county was moving forward with a transfer if there were other offers on the table. Chair Walter stated that the Resolution was already voted on and suggested that she have a discussion with Deputy Executive Rider after the meeting.

Resolution No. 246: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Romero Duffy to the Community Services Board for a term to commence immediately and continue through December 31, 2025.

Motion No. 6: Moved Resolution No. 246 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Nolan Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 247: Confirming Appointment Of A Member To The Community Services Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Dan Ahouse to the Community Services Board for a term to commence immediately and continue through December 31, 2025.

Motion No. 7: Moved Resolution No. 247 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Nolan

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Legislator Petit questioned the qualifications of the candidate. Deputy County Executive Contreras responded that she was at the meeting where the candidate was recommended and stated that he shared some personal experiences which the members felt qualified him for the position. Chair Walter asked if there were any other questions.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 7 Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 248: Confirming Appointments Of Members To The Ulster County Youth Board

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Sugey Melenciano-Weed, Robin Hayes, Andrea Wilson, Dior Williams and Allen Nace to the Youth Board for terms to commence immediately and continue through December 31, 2025

Motion No. 8: Moved Resolution No. 248 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Nolan Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 249: Confirming Appointments Of Members To The Ulster County Board Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution confirms the appointment of Ashanda Myrna Saint Jean, M.D., F.A.C.O.G. and Marta Sanchez, M.D. to the Board of Health for terms to commence immediately and continue through December 31, 2027.

Motion No. 9: Moved Resolution No. 249 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Nolan Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion:

Legislator Erner stated that he would like to attend Board of Health and Community Services Board meetings, but they conflict with meeting times of some legislative meetings, including the Health, Human Services & Housing Committee. Chair Walter suggested Legislator Erner reach out to Commissioners McDonald and Smith regarding meeting of the Community Services Board and Board of Health respectively. Chair Walter asked if there were any other questions on the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 254: Authorizing The Chair Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute A Contract With The New York State Department Of Health To Participate In The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program – Department Of Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with NYS DoH to participate in the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program, for the period October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2026, in the amount of \$1,703,500.00.

Motion No. 10: Moved Resolution No. 254 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Chair Walter mentioned that Commissioner Smith had commented during a previous meeting that the county does not have funding for actual remediation or renovation, rather funding to train people on identification and abatement. Deputy County Executive Contreras confirmed that the funding is for prevention, for community training to recognize lead and to safely clean lead dots, etc. and was not for abatement services. Chair Walter encouraged the Executive's Office to look for funding to help individuals with abatement. She asked if there were any other questions on the Resolution.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 255: Amending The 2022 - 2027 Capital Improvement Program - Amending Capital Project No. 528 - Veteran's Cemetery - Amending The 2022 Capital Fund Budget - Department Of Public Works (Buildings And Grounds)

Resolution Summary: This resolution amends the 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Program for Capital Project No. 528 to increase the funding available for construction services for the County Veteran's Cemetery in the amount of \$2,659,105.00 for a total project cost of \$2,859,105.00.

Resolution No. 257: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For \$2,507,680.41 Entered Into By The County – OCS Industries, Inc. – Department Of Public Works

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with OCS Industries, Inc. for expansion and construction of the Ulster County Veteran's Cemetery in the amount of \$2,507,680.41 for May 25, 2022 – November 1, 2022.

Motion No. 11: Moved TO BLOCK Resolution Nos. 255 & 257

Motion By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolutions BLOCKED

Motion No. 12: Moved BLOCKED Resolutions FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Corcoran Motion Seconded By: Legislator Uchitelle

Discussion:

Legislator Petit asked if these Resolution represented the completion of the project because there was an anticipated ribbon cutting on Memorial Day. Deputy Executive Rider clarified that there was going to be a groundbreaking on Memorial Day, not a ribbon cutting. Chair Walter stated her support for the Veterans Memorial Cemetery but asked for clarification on the steep increase in total project cost since it was first introduced in 2018. She added that the project cost in 2018 was \$270,00 and has grown to \$2.7 million with little to no change in the project scope and description.

Deputy Executive Rider stated that in 2018-2019 projections for internment space needs in 2021-2022 indicated that the current cemetery footprint was insufficient. He added that the program adds 3,000 plots and a number of columbaria, buildings to house ashes. He stated that Planning Director Doyle was able to value engineer about \$300,000 in savings, reducing the project total to \$2.3 million. He added that construction costs have increased and there was only one bidder for the project. Veteran Services Director Cozzupoli stated that there was already an approved increase in the project to \$1.4 million in 2019 after a Veterans Cemetery Committee met and decided on the design and scope of the project and the expansion required to accommodate projected needs.

Director Cozzupoli gave the members some background on his 26 years of service in the Air Force and expressed his support for the project and the value it provides to the county's veterans and their families. The members discussed the current capacity of the cemetery and the space available without the improvements proposed in the program. Legislator Gavaris commented that construction materials and labor are at a premium at the moment and suggested putting off some aspects of the build-out until market rates level out.

Legislator Nolan recalled conversations in 2019 when the Legislature was asked to increase the project cost and scope because of the projected space needs and comments by the Veterans Cemetery Committee. Chair Walter stated that she had a list of the various elements and their estimated costs and suggested the county look at the individual items and consider putting off some purchases. Legislator Nolan stated that the costs of construction generally increase with time and postponing the work may not end up saving money in the end.

Legislator Lopez stated his support for the cemetery and for providing veterans with a final resting place commensurate with the sacrifice they made for the country. Legislator Erner asked if there would be any harm in postponing the Resolutions until some of the cost related questions could be answered. Chair Walter reiterated her support for veterans, adding that she would support without question a Resolution to spend \$2 million on healthcare or housing for veterans.

Motion No. 13: Moved TO POSTPONE BLOCKED Resolutions

Motion By: Legislator Erner

Motion Seconded By: None

Discussion:

Chair Walter asked if there was a second for the motion to postpone or any discussion on postponement. Hearing none the members continued discussing the Resolution. Director Cozzupoli stated that there were a number of archeological studies that had to be completed which delayed the project and contributed to some increase in cost. Deputy Executive Rider stated that the bulk of the project is outside construction work, with an estimated completion in November. Any delay could jeopardize completion before winter and restarting in the spring could add to project costs. The members discussed what, if any, items could possibly be put off and prices renegotiated.

Legislator Gavaris stated that he supported the project, adding that the current economic climate and volume of work available for construction trades has created inflated prices. He commented that he believes prices will come down in a year or two and questioned completing all of the desired work now when prices are at a premium. Legislator Uchitelle stated his support for the project adding that the scope of the work and the quality of the finished product is important to veterans and their families, and also serves as a testament to the value the county places on its servicemen and women.

Chair Walter asked if there was a second to the postponement and hearing none called the question on the blocked Resolutions.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit & Uchitelle

Voting Against: Legislator Walter

Votes in Favor: 6 Votes Against: 1

Disposition: Resolutions ADOPTED

Resolution No. 258: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$25,000.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be Equal To \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Jewish Family Services Of Ulster County Inc. – Office For The Aging

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Jewish Family Services Of Ulster County Inc. in the amount of \$25,000 to extend the term of agreement and increase funding for enhanced cases management services through June, 30, 2023.

Motion No. 14: Moved Resolution No. 258 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Nolan Motion Seconded By: Legislator Petit

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 259: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$76,000.00 Entered Into By The County – James McGuinness & Associates, Inc. – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with James McGuinness & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$76,000 to extend the term of agreement and increase funding for software support for the County's Preschool Special Education Services program, including processing of Medicaid claims through June 30, 2023.

Motion No. 15: Moved Resolution No. 259 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Corcoran

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 260: Approving The Execution Of A Contract For Rates Anticipated To Exceed \$50,000.00

Entered Into By The County – Orange County Transit, LLC – Department Of Social Services

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract with Orange County Transit, LLC at rates anticipated to exceed the \$50,000 contract amount threshold for transportation for certain preschool children with special needs and handicapping conditions through August 31, 2022.

Motion No. 16: Moved Resolution No. 260 FOR DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

Discussion:

Legislator Erner asked if the service was required all the time or occasionally. Deputy Executive Contreras stated that the county is obligated to provide transportation services for preschool children. Legislator Erner asked if it was possible for the county to provide the service in-house. Deputy Executive Rider responded that the students have specialized needs. Legislator Petit asked if there could be a cap placed on the contract. It was explained that the county is required to provide the service no matter the cost.

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Erner, Lopez, Nolan, Petit, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Resolution No. 261: Approving The Execution Of A Contract Amendment For \$500.00, Causing The Aggregate Contract Plus Amendment Amount To Be Equal To \$50,000.00, Entered Into By The County – Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. – Department Of Mental Health

Resolution Summary: This resolution approves the execution of a contract amendment with Rehabilitation Support Services, Inc. in the amount of \$500 to increase the state aid for (a) Community Residential Services, (b) Supported Housing Community Services, and (c) Non-Medicaid Care Coordination through December 31, 2022.

Motion No. 17: Moved Resolution No. 261 For DISCUSSION

Motion By: Legislator Nolan Motion Seconded By: Legislator Erner

Discussion: None

Voting In Favor: Legislators Corcoran, Lopez, Nolan, Uchitelle & Walter

Voting Against: Legislators Erner & Petit

Votes in Favor: 5 Votes Against: 2

Disposition: Resolution ADOPTED

Chair Walter moved on to Old Business on the Agenda. She stated that, in the interest of time, they would skip the continuation of the Heath Alliance contracts discussion.

She asked Deputy Clerk Mahler to give an update on the progress of organizing and scheduling the housing working group meetings. Deputy Clerk Mahler responded that the individuals who provided their email addresses at the March Special meeting were contacted and asked to indicate which of the three working groups they would like to participate in. She added that nearly all have responded and that she would work with Legislators Erner, Lopez, Nolan and Uchitelle to schedule the first meetings. Deputy Executive Rider asked to be included in working group notifications. The members briefly discussed the organization of the working groups, goals and timeline for any resulting resolutions and budget recommendations.

Chair Walter recognized Ellenville Regional Hospital President & CEO Steve Kelley. Mr. Kelley welcomed everyone to the hospital and invited them to stay after the meeting for a tour of the facility.

He advised the members that the hospital recently spoke at a convention in Atlanta with 3,000 attendees. He explained that they addressed a group of about 500 and spoke about their work around substance use, abuse and specifically opioid reduction. They discussed the number of patients that came to the hospital seeking opioids and their recognition of the fine line between treating pain and enabling addiction. As a result of that experience, ERH became the first hospital in the Hudson Valley to have all ER providers waivered to provide suboxone. He added that their community focused, collaborative approach was very well received by participants and that they were asked to speak again at next year's convention.

He advised the members that the hospital is considered a primary, critical care hospital, with a narrower scope of services than larger hospitals offer. He commented that, unlike most hospitals which are collapsing and narrowing, Ellenville Regional has expanded. Chair Walter asked Mr. Kelley to discuss the Senior housing projects that the hospital collaborated on. Mr. Kelley explained the hospital's recent history, including overcoming bankruptcy through partnering with a local developer to build Senior apartments adjacent to the hospital.

Chair Walter asked Mr. Kelley to speak about the farm to table initiative with the prison and the community. Mr. Kelly advised the members that he and Dr. Kalman of the Institute for Family Health had a discussion about

population health and ways to make the community healthier. He advised the members that one approach was to teach people to eat healthier. Toward that end, every other Thursday ERH provides bags of fresh fruits and vegetables grown at the nearby state prison farm to 100 families. Legislator Gavaris added that there are always more families in line than bags of food. Chair Walter stated that she would love to implement a farm to table model at the county jail. Mr. Kelley added that community partners have been integral to their successes including, the Institute for Family Health, Catholic Charities, Cornell Cooperative Extension, other area hospitals, the Ulster County Sheriff, etc. He also mentioned partnerships with the county through programs like the Ellenville Million.

Chair Walter thanked Mr. Kelley for hosting the committee and for taking the time to speak about all of their amazing successes and community work. She encouraged the members to stay after the meeting for a tour.

Chair Walter asked the members if there was any other business and hearing none;

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Lopez
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Nolan

No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:35 PM

Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler

Approved: June 8, 2022

SIGN IN SHEET

Health, Human Services & Housing Committee
Date: May 4, 2022 Meeting

Committee Members:	Other:
	☐ Tracey Bartels, Legislative Chair
☐ Craig Lopez, Deputy Chair	☐ Chris Ragucci, Legislative Counsel
☐ Thomas Corcoran	☐ David Gordon, Legislative Counsel
r Phil Erner	☐ Nicholas Pascale, Minority Counsel
th Kathy Nolan	✓ Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
☑ Laura Petit	
☑ Abe Uchitelle	

Guests:

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT OR ORGANIZATION
/ Mark Cozzupol:	UC Veterans
1 John Gavacis	Legislator ERH
1 Steve Kelley	EPH
/ Steve Kelley / Tara McDonald	UC Mental Health
/ Johanna Contreras	UC Expetall Offra
1 Marc Rider	UC Executive Office