

Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2007
Ulster County Transit Center

Committee Member Attendees: Committee Chair Hector Rodriguez, Legislator Joseph Roberti, Legislator Mary Sheeley, Legislator Donald Gregorius, Legislator Peter Loughran, Legislator Elizabeth Alfonso

Other Attendees: Cynthia Ruiz, Director of UCAT, Nancy Schaefer, Director of OET, Dennis Doyle, Director of UC Planning, Lance Matteson, UCDC

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rodriguez at 6:00 p.m.

Cynthia Ruiz introduced the new UCAT bus dispatcher, Andrea Chrisjohn.

Chairman Rodriguez asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the June 27, 2007 meeting. Motion was made by Legislator Berardi, seconded by Legislator Loughran, all in favor.

Chairman Rodriguez called on Dennis Doyle to report on UC Planning Department

Dennis did not have any action items for tonight's meeting.

Dennis handed out the draft 2008 budget. There is a decrease in the 2008 budget. The budget went from 1.8 million to \$775,000. There will be no new projects. UC Planning department will finish projects that have been started and already received funding. UC Planning Department will continue working on the comprehensive plan.

- Greenway assessment templates are complete, but have not been tested
- The budget reflects one position upgrade. Virginia Craft to Senior Planner
- Cost to the county is a decrease due to matching funds
- 56% of the total funds are non-county. The county will receive about \$430,000 in revenue with a cost to the county of \$300,000.
- The Transportation Council budget is decided in March (off county budget cycle)
- 95% Federal Dollars, 5% County Dollars
- The Planning Board's mission statement is on the cover letter for the 2008 budget
- \$190,000 is for transportation work
- \$35,000 is for legislative initiatives
- In 2009 the Long Range Transportation Plan will need to be updated
- FTA dollars are spent first, then planning dollars
- Support for the housing consortium is not included any Ulster County draft budget
- Continuing Care grant applications generate approximately \$600,000 a year to aid non-profits, supportive care, low income housing. Continuing Care program helps to prevent duplication of services. The program dollars come from HUD.

Legislator Loughran: Is this a successful program? How is the program documented?

Lance: If this program was not in place, it would cost the county more dollars. People would be put in hotels, etc.

Chairman Rodriguez: Have you (Dennis) spoken to the Administrator's office about this program and which budget it should be included? Please coordinate with the Administrator's office.

Legislator Berardi: I do not see any mention of Ulster Tomorrow?

Dennis: There is around \$25,000 to \$30,000 for support staff toward Ulster Tomorrow.

Dennis: There are two grants at \$60,000 each, one is the Mainstreet grant and the other is direct (Economic Development Strategy Grant)

Legislator Loughran: When do you think that you will have a report on how many people have benefited from the Mainstreet program? How many have joined the workforce?

Dennis: I don't think that a report of that nature is available at this time.

Chairman Rodriguez: Please work on collecting some data concerning this project?

Legislator Gregorius: Can you give us a break down on the contractual expenses and where does MS4 fit into the budget?

Dennis: Yes, I can give you the break down and MS4 is not part of this budget. MS4 is in the EMC budget in the amount of \$800,000 in 2007. MS4 funding is not paying staff expenses.

Chairman Rodriguez called on Lance Matteson to report on UCDC.

Woodland Pond resolution requests:

- Approving the issuance of the bonds
- Approving the terms of the deviations

There is \$125,000,000 in bonds. It will be a mix of affordable housing. 65% to 70% will be local people.

Legislator Loughran: Who is the developer?

Chairman Rodriguez: Kingston Hospital, Frank Mandi is the developer.

Lance: I will get information on the "who" and send it to Chairman Rodriguez.

Legislator Roberti: Is there information on the tax benefits that they will be receiving?

Legislator Gregorius: On page 2 the 2nd paragraph. Applicable elected representatives, etc. If this defaults, who suffers?

Legislator Loughran and Chairman Rodriguez: The bond holders.

Chairman Rodriguez: Provide the tax benefit information to me before August 9th.

Legislator Roberti: Can we also get a summary of the clawbacks and fees that are generated by the IDA.

Legislator Loughran: How many units are there?

Lance: There are 144 deposits at this time.

Lance: This will be a community facility project. It will provide at least 140 jobs.

Legislator Alfonso: There are 51 units in the senior development in Highland, with 284 applicants.

Legislator Loughran: I believe that people within the county should get first chance to live in these projects.

Chairman Rodriguez asked for a motion to accept the resolution approving issuances of the bonds. Motion was made by Legislator Berardi, seconded by Legislator Loughran, all in favor.

Chairman Rodriguez asked for a motion to accept the resolution approving the terms of the pilot deviations. Motion was made by Legislator Berardi, seconded by Legislator Gregorius, all in favor.

Chairman Rodriguez: On page 30 in the transcripts at least 75% live within 15 miles of the project.

Legislator Gregorius: What happens at the end of 20 years? Does it get assessed at the end of 20 years?

Lance: They have to maintain their non-profit status due to Federal regulations.

Lance: IDA will monitor the project.

Legislator Gregorius: Governor Spitzer has appointed Terry Sullivan as the representative for this area. She is willing to help Ulster County and be involved, support Tech City, etc.

Lance: The outline is in place on how UCDC should get paid. UCDC would get a base amount (overhead costs) \$200,000. A modest supplement is included in the budget for Ulster Tomorrow of \$40,000. UCDC is negotiating on getting paid on a performance basis.

Legislator Berardi: I do not support this matrix.

Legislator Gregorius: There should be a retention ratio so that they stay and grow.

Chairman Rodriguez: What is happening with Tech City?

Lance: Tech City:

- Some agreements have been made public through IDA of leasing building 25
- A solar consortium has been organizing and gathering partners leads to lease and sublease
- Discussion of various funding sources. Congressman Hinchey has \$1.5 million.

- Business leads, prospects, start-ups that we are close to closing with
- UCDC is offering affordable access to "green" market place

Legislator Roberti: I commend UCDC on their efforts.

Chairman Rodriguez called on Nancy Schaefer, Director OET

Nancy: We are working on a strategic plan to bring Work Force Development (WFD) and Economic Development (ED) together. Maggie Morris has offered to do a gap analysis in Ulster County. This survey will tell us:

- What the needs are
- What job skills are out there
- Evaluate the curriculum
- How to develop skill training for these gaps

The Legislative Chairman has asked for a meeting on this subject. The meeting will take place August 16th at BOCES in Port Ewen.

Nancy and Lance are having meetings on a regular basis to discuss WFD and ED.

Nancy passed out a report from a meeting with Orange County Employment and Training and DSS. A copy of the report was sent to Commissioner Rodriguez and County Administrator Michael Hein. Nancy stated that this is an effort that is happening statewide, bringing OET and DSS to work together. Nancy indicated that she would need a grant writer to assist in gaining funding for this project.

Chairman Rodriguez: You can contact Kathy Mihm about a grant writer.

Nancy: We have a new marketing plan which are implementing. Nancy passed around a copy of the new poster. OET had a 20% reduction in federal funding.

Chairman Rodriguez called on Cynthia Ruiz, Director UCAT

Cynthia: UCAT is implementing the marketing plan. Billboards will be done in four key places in the county. We will have a booth at the Ulster County Fair and will do a shuttle service in the parking lot for the fair. Ulster Rx has furnished UCAT with posters to be displayed in the buses.

We have received funding to purchase buses in the amount of \$560,000 Federal, \$70,000 state, and \$70,000 local match. We will receive \$1,000,000 SEMAC money to operate the new Metro North service to begin on October 1st. A sunset clause needs to be added to the resolution, if the money goes away, the service goes away.

Chairman Rodriguez asked for a motion to move. Motion to move as amended was made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Berardi, all in favor.

Legislator Berardi will meet with Dave Sheeley and Lynda Bertling to discuss the maintenance person for the Transit Center. Sue Ronga told Cynthia to add the maintenance person in UCAT's 2008

budget. Part of the maintenance person's job would be to clean the transit center, therefore not having to hire an outside contractor to clean.

Cynthia requested that Mary Howard's position be upgraded to Public Transit Planner. She is currently working out of title. She would be upgraded to a Grade 18 and the cost to the County would be \$1,467.00 per year.