

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, PLANNING & TRANSIT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 28, 2007  
MEETING HELD AT: UCAT – ONE DANNY CIRCLE**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Hector Rodriguez – Chair  
Elizabeth Alfonso  
Michael Berardi  
Peter M. Loughran  
Mary F. Sheeley  
Joseph P. Roberti, Jr. – Deputy Chair

**ABSENT:** Donald J. Gregorius

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** Michael Berg  
Dennis Doyle, Director, U.C. Planning  
Peter Liepmann, Legislator  
Lance Matteson, UCDC  
John Maylie  
Cynthia Ruiz, UCAT  
Nancy Schaefer

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**LANCE MATTESON - UCDC**

Mr. Matteson thanked the Committee for their support of the budget.

Informational items:

- Center for Innovation board voted to close its doors. Mr. Matteson stated there were a lot of object lessons including: there has to be a plausible path to sustainability, the county legislature needs to be in the picture early (to understand model), coordination between bodies needs to be laid out early and clearly. If regional then funding should be regional.

Legislator Rodriguez stated that the problem was identified 1.5 years ago but nothing has changed much, particularly buy-in from other counties. Mr. Matteson stated the incubation of tech startup remains an important focus area.

- Colony Liquor – Mr. Matteson stated that discussions continue. Legislator Liepmann asked what we are competing against. Mr. Matteson responded this is a dynamic situation and we are trying to extract from Colony their last best offer. He added that it is a buyers market, we need them, but Selkirk is deeply motivated. When asked if Colony backs out even with our best efforts, Mr. Matteson responded that we have claw-back provisions.
- Ellenville – Gillette Creamery is looking to expand. Mr. Matteson stated that meetings are starting and will bring efforts to bear. He added that there are 2 or 3 other expansion projects in Ellenville and a couple of prospects for new firms.

- Ulster Tomorrow – Mr. Matteson stated the roll out of deliverables will be January 15<sup>th</sup> at the Chamber of Commerce breakfast. There will be other forums as well. Was postponed from a November release in order to make deliverables more understandable to the general public. Legislator Rodriguez stated existing success will be highlighted as well.
- Mr. Matteson stated he appreciates the Committee acting on IDA appointments as he had to leave the meeting early.
- Mr. Matteson stated there was a technical fix needed on Hudson Valley FCU – IDA needs taxing authority resolutions – will take a bite out of existing revenue streams. Chairman Rodriguez stated we may need a county resolution to change PILOT.
- Solar Consortium - Legislator Rodriguez stated he received calls from Maurice Hinchey's office seeking support for the solar consortium for operating money. There is a possibility to add monies to UCDC as a mechanism to get monies to the consortium. Mr. Matteson stated the benefits go to companies not the owner of Tech City. Legislator Gregorius stated a justification is needed, a business plan is on-going but not solid. Mr. Matteson stated the difference between public sector business plans vs. private sector business plans. He added there will be a business plan and it should be available to Legislature. Legislator Gregorius stated we need a page on why Solar Consortium vs. the CFI. Mr. Matteson said the cost per job is significantly different. He added that the tenants are close to signing leases. Legislator Rodriguez stated he had the same concern, but added that he recognizes that although there are some parallels, there are also important differences. Legislator Gregorius stated that CFI presented at Ways & Means, but it was too late. Legislator Rodriguez stated the CFI began prior to Mr. Straub leaving. Their business plan was for \$5 million over 5 years of public sector financing for multiple industries. He noted that the Solar Consortium is single focus. Mr. Matteson made note that the 17 jobs that were talked about were not all in Ulster County. Legislator Berardi stated it was difficult to tell the difference between the Solar Consortium and CFI. He added that we should invest in physical things with residual value. Mr. Matteson agreed that it is a risk, but is a worthwhile risk. Legislator Loughran asked if private funding was raised for the Solar Consortium. Mr. Matteson answered there was approx \$50K in hand with \$500K moving toward the table. He added there is well into 7 figures in private capital investment facilitated by the tenants recruited into Tech City. Currently talking to German and other European companies as part of the consortium. Industry is just starting. Legislator Gregorius asked how the funding works with next year's budget. Legislator Rodriguez stated \$100,000 can be allocated into the UCDC budget for renewable programs. Mr. Matteson suggested a conditional approval on business plans by a certain date with an explanation of how it will be sustained. Mr. Doyle suggested having the money added to the budget and then to have Mr. Matteson present project ideas to the Legislature, which they will act upon.

**Chairman Rodriguez asked if the committee had an interest in pursuing a resolution to propose a budget amendment for an Individual Line Item in the Contract Management Line for UCDC's budget. Item terms by Legislature & Committee.**

**A Motion to approve was made by Legislator Berardi, seconded by entire Committee. None opposed.**

**MICHAEL BERG from FAMILY of WOODSTOCK**

**Housing Consortium** - Mr. Berg stated the need for administrative support and to process for the Continuum of Care. He asked if money available in budget to start left over from when Shingebiss was in service. Mr. Doyle stated that the money was transferred to the County Administrator's line item. Mr. Doyle stated that approximately \$17,500 is available in next year's budget to support the consortium on an hourly basis through RUPCO. Mr. Berg felt the work was falling behind without this person in place. Mr. Doyle stated he would need to find out if we could start now without a contract and back date the service. Legislator Rodriguez asked Mr. Berg to describe the Continuum of Care. Mr. Berg stated the process has not gone on in three or four months which includes process for the homeless. Legislator Liepmann asked who serves on Housing Consortium. Mr. Berg stated it includes 20 people including many county department heads, a town supervisor and other community leaders who are appointed by the Chairman.

**Legislator Gregorius moved to support, which was seconded by Legislator Sheeley. All were in favor.**

**School to Work** Mr. Berg stated there is a problem with young people leaving county in droves. He added that Ulster County has lost approximately 25% of its workforce (18 to 35 yr olds). Family is the vendor for the Youth Employment. School to Work is owned partly by BOCES and has access to "Kosser" monies. A program is necessary but has had problems. Family sponsors a program called Kingston Cares. Mr. Berg informed the committee that the thinking among young people is they can't find a career or a good wage in Ulster County. He would like to carry-on the program. The school districts contribute \$31,000 through BOCES. Legislator Gregorius stated school districts do not contribute much, which pushed the county to participate for all the funding. Mr. Berg stated schools do not have a priority for worker readiness and he added that schools will not fund any more. Mr. Berg stated one of the priorities of Ulster Tomorrow is to promote a workforce and he did not see that happening. The youth council is concerned and concentrated on this. Mr. Berg added that they just ran a cycle at the homeless shelter and will run another cycle with young people. Legislator Sheeley stated there was a funding issue, then we got paperwork, then nothing, now a plea and explanation. Legislator Berardi stated this is a real issue from committed people that needs funding but he felt that (Nancy) should have come with Mr. Berg and should be accountable for her failures, for example she said the program could be self-sustaining. Legislator Gregorius said he has the highest respect for Michael Berg. (Nancy) Lynch knew the question of money. Mr. Berg stated that Family needs county seed money to leverage additional funds. (Nancy) Lynch has good connections to schools. Legislator Rodriguez stated it seemed like the county was picking up a large share of the program. He asked if there were alternative ways to make the program work. Legislator Sheeley asked why not private sector funds? Mr. Berg answered there was no way for private sector to donate effectively. Legislator Sheeley stated we need outcomes and a timetable for \$50K. Legislator Rodriguez asked about the organization oversight. Mr. Berg suggested to consider putting it under Work Force Dev. Ms. Shaef stated the work force development act requires a youth council also under Ulster Tomorrow. Mr. Berg stated that 25 teachers go through the program and the entire 10<sup>th</sup> grade goes to a conference. Difficult to gauge outcomes but you can measure effectiveness in talking to the kids. Need to create a structure to measure an outcome.

**Legislator Roberti – IDA Appointments**

**Minority leader Mr. Jim Quigley, to replace Mr. Ford and Mr. Todd DiOrio to replace Mr. Mallet as a minority appointment.**

Legislator Berardi stated Brad Mallet is a good IDA member and a hard worker. He added that Mr. Mallet did not contact him. Legislator Rodriguez stated the terms ended October 2007 and they have been carried since then.

**Motion to approve minority appointments by Legislator Gregorius, Legislator Alfonso seconded. All were in favor. Legislator Berardi abstained.**

**NANCY SCHAEF – EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING**

Ms. Schaeff stated that Federal funding has been lowered to a point to be a threat to the program. The House vote will include a rescission of funding to take back what was not spent in 2005-06. She added that she wasn't quite sure how that works. Some funding will be cut since it is based on unemployment rates. She stated she has been working with other departments and agencies to help staff the One Stop program. Ms. Schaeff stated she feels Commissioner Rodriguez wants to keep training internal to Social Services. She added that we have been working with six other Workers Investment Boards (WIBs) and have gotten a \$500K grant to service 500 workers to deal with English as a second language. Out of the 18 participating employers, 8 are located in Ulster County. Ms. Schaeff stated she is also applying for a grant for a \$500K for a cluster based approach using green technology as a hook. She added that seven WIBS will again be involved. Grant would set up a green data center and green education program.

Hydro dislocated workers– Ms. Schaeff stated an application went out in May to the trade act to provide workers with more benefits was approved in mid-October. She added that there is a lot of paperwork involved and it is also a difficult population to work with. It was suggested that she look for space in the Trudy Resnick Farber building in Ellenville to do interviews.

Ulster Tomorrow Strategies – Ms. Schaeff state on of their deliverables is a survey of major businesses (50 or more employees) to find out skills gaps are between what they find in applicants and employees and what their needs are. Then we can look at training and where to put money. Also youth and work readiness is a very serious problem. Legislator Gregorius stated that training can be done in modules where people can learn in their own time.

**CYNTHIA RUIZ – UCAT**

Ms. Ruiz had a request for a New Paltz special service bus to Skate Time in Rochester for the youth program. She stated they can do it under the TIPS program so it would not be done under special events.

**Purchases**

1. Lockers needed \$6,500 - will not buy if needed for fuel.
2. Floor scrubber \$9,000
3. Restock Fuel Filters, Oil, etc \$3,500. (Legislator Berardi noted that propane is the forgotten fuel
4. Tire Changer \$7,500
5. Bike Racks
6. Hot Water Pressure Washer \$8,500
7. Scissor Lift \$15,000

8. Extend Billboards month \$3,400

#### Request to Fill Vacancy – Mechanic II

Ms. Ruiz received a request from Senior Whole Health (a not for profit) to advertise on buses. She added that since this was neither a County program or non-profit it is not permitted by policy.

Ms. Ruiz state the Tri-annual Review will be in June and they need to attend the training. The cost will be only hotel and travel expenses. (No fee for training)

Ms. Ruiz asked to speak about the holiday schedule for Ulster County as there are problems regarding Veterans Day and other days. She stated she will do an analysis regarding costs.

Veterans Issue – agency using supervisors to transport veterans

Consensus of committee all further use of UCAT vehicles will be at the conditions necessary for other UCAT drivers in accordance with Federal Guidelines.

Ms. Ruiz read a letter regarding Make a Difference Day from SUNY New Paltz thanking for bus service for the day.

#### **DENNIS DOYLE – PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

##### **Action Items**

- 1. Authorizing the Chairman of the Legislature to call public hearings to satisfy the public participation requirement for Ulster County's 2008 CDBG and as needed to seek comments on past CDBG program performance**

**Motion to approve by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Berardi.**

- 2. Adopting and issuing a negative declaration under 6NYCRR Part 617 (SEQRA) by the Ulster County Legislature for the inclusion of the Ulster County Open Space Plan as an element of Ulster County's Comprehensive Plan consistent with Article 12-b of the General Municipal Law.**

**Motion to approve by Legislator Gregorius, seconded by Legislator Sheeley.**

- 3. Adopting the Ulster County Open Space Plan as an element of Ulster County's Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Article 12-b of General municipal Law**

**Motion to approve by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.**

- 4. Reappointing County Planning Board Member and Alternate from the City of Kingston**

**Motion to approve by Legislator Berardi, seconded by Legislator Loughran.**

**5. Reappointing County Planning Board member and alternate from the town of Rosendale**

**Motion to approve by Legislator Alphonso, seconded by Legislator Gregorius.**

**Informational Items**

**1. Open Space Plan Response to Comments**