

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/
EDUCATION, TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF
THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD AT ULSTER COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2004.**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

FRANK FELICELLO, Deputy Chairman
JOSEPH ROBERTI
SUSAN CUMMINGS
SUSAN ZIMET
TRACEY BARTELS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

WAYNE HARRIS, Chairman
PETER LOUGHRAN

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GORDON H. HOWATT, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College;
LEE REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension; DENNIS DOYLE,
Director of Ulster County Planning;
CHESTER STRAUB, Executive Director of the Ulster County Development Corporation;
CYNTHIA RUIZ, Director, and JOHN AKUS, both of Ulster County Area Transit;
LEG. DAVID DONALDSON, LEG. PETER KRAFT, and JANET CRISPINO, Recorder.

A quorum being present, and Chairman Harris being excused, Deputy Chairman Felicello called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Deputy Chairman Felicello called for a moment of silence for Leg. Loughran's cousin who was recently killed in a car accident.

He then recognized Dennis Doyle, Director of Ulster County Planning, who presented a proposed resolution to re-appoint Robert Pritchard of Kingston, New York to the Ulster County Planning Board, and for the appointment of John J. Naccarato of Kingston, New York as Alternate to the Ulster County Planning Board, both to serve from January 2005 through December, 2008. A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Bartels and seconded by Leg. Zimet. There being no further discussion, Deputy Chairman Felicello called for a voice vote on the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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Speaking on the Persen House, Mr. Doyle said he had discussed this project with members of the Space Committee. He also has done some initial work with the information he has and has visited the house. Mr. Doyle promised this committee and the Space Committee a report by March, 2005.

On the Ulster County Transportation Council Long Range Plan that is presently being updated, Mr. Doyle said there would be a public information hearing on November 30th at 7:00 pm at BOCES in New Paltz. There is a press release out on that, and there will be information sent to the media and County officials. He also reminded the Committee that a Planning Seminar on storm water is being held on November 2nd at 7:00pm at the County Office Building.

Mr. Doyle reported on progress regarding the proposed County Visitor's Center and said that the NYS Dept. of Transportation has agreed to transfer land to the County. He said there will be a meeting on November 22nd with respect to the New York State Thruway Authority and expects there will be additional work by the NYS Thruway Authority by December 7th.

On Agricultural District #1, comprised of the Towns of Lloyd, Marlboro, Esopus, Plattekill and New Paltz, Mr. Doyle said the Planning Board Report is completed, but he is waiting for the Farmland Preservation Report and should have a Resolution to present for the December or January meeting. He said there are still time frames being worked on.

Leg. Zimet questioned Mr. Doyle about the Space Plan, and he said there was a meeting with about 25-30 people including counterparts from Orange County and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Doyle said Orange County is providing \$2 million annually on a \$20 million bond. He said the resources in Orange County are so good they don't bother going after grants under \$100,000.

The report of the Ulster County Planning Department being concluded, Deputy Chairman Felicello recognized Cynthia Ruiz, Director of Ulster County Area Transit who presented a proposed Resolution to amend Capital Project #248, the Ulster County Transit Facility to increase funding by the sum of \$157,895 for additional site preparation, off site construction for utilities and building construction. Ms. Ruiz said funding for this amount would be paid 80% (the sum of \$126,316) by federal funding, 10% (the sum of \$15,789.00) by State funding and the balance of 10% or \$15,790.00 would be County funding, which would come from the Contingency Account.

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In reply to a question from Leg. Zimet, Ms. Ruiz gave a more detailed explanation of the history of this project and the funding involved. She also advised that this additional funding has been approved by both the Highways and Bridges/Buildings and Grounds/Public Works Administration Committee and the Ways and Means Committee.

A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Cummings and seconded by Leg. Roberti. There being no further discussion, Deputy Chairman Felicello called for a voice vote, and the Resolution was unanimously approved.

Ms. Ruiz then introduced Mr. John Akus, a mechanic with Ulster County Area who advised the Committee that he was a 16-year County employee, having spent 12 years with the County Highway Department and 4 years with UCAT. He became certified in air conditioning, brakes, bus lifts and has been certified for welding. He told the committee that he and his co-workers were really grateful that they were finally getting a decent place to work.

The report of Ulster County Area Transit being concluded, Deputy Chairman Felicello recognized Chester Straub, Executive Director of Ulster County Development Corporation, who said he didn't have anything new to report.

In reply to a question from Leg. Cummings, Mr. Straub and the Committee discussed the IDA board appointment Resolution which had been referred back to Committee. Leg. Cummings asked if this Committee had to vote on it again. Deputy Chairman Felicello said he was not prepared to deal with this at this meeting since he had received no information from Chairman Harris, and this matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Leg. Roberti asked is there was any update on partnering with Dutchess County; Mr. Straub said they were currently working on it, and the principal effort included network opportunities for the individual businesses and the creation of a central capital network. They were looking to hold a one-day conference at the end of the first quarter of 2005. He also said his office was exploring a number of speaking events, including the Chief Information Officer of the Office of Homeland Security.

He is also looking to develop a set of marketing tools, and UCDC is looking to identify and attract technology-based businesses to the areas and identifying and marketing the existing facilities that can support that type of development. Mr. Straub said UCDC had a series of presentations (a two-day set of onsite visits focusing in on the semiconductor manufacturing business), but they have been postponed until the later part of January.

On the recent community forum, Mr. Straub said he should have a transcript and report which should be released the week after Thanksgiving. He said the transcript is voluminous and will be on the Web site. Reports would go to all Legislators.

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Returning to the IDA Board recommendations, Leg. Donaldson read a list of those approved by the Democrats. Deputy Chair Felicello again stated that this would be discussed until the next meeting.

The report of Ulster County Development Corporation being concluded, Deputy Chairman Felicello recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension who distributed the Annual Report for 2004.

She also distributed copies of the front page article of the *Kingston Daily Freeman* for November 17th about the 4-H drive begun by the Feathered Friends Poultry Club of Ulster County, to send sandals to the children of Iraq. She said this program which has also included CCE, Rosendale Hardware, the Burd Farm in Kerhonkson and Rosendale Elementary School, collected about 450 pairs of sandals and also raised the \$300 to ship them to Iraq. Ms. Reidy said all Ulster County 4-H groups do a large amount of community service.

Ms. Reidy said she would have a list of members of the Farmland Protection Board by the next meeting. He also advised that they will be starting work on Ag. District #2 shortly.

On Purchase of Development Rights, Ms. Reidy said Scenic Hudson and The Open Space Institute are interested in holding the development rights on the Davenport Farm, and we are all hoping to be able to close on that fairly soon.

The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Deputy Chairman Felicello recognized Gordon H. Howatt, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College who reported that the tennis courts are just about completed. He said the top coat would be done in the spring as soon as the weather breaks.

On the balance of Phase I, he said the architects and estimators are working on specifications. Dean Howatt said he expects to go out for bid in March.

Dean Howatt reported that enrollment was up but that New York State has reduced its support for credit free FTEs. He said the college usually gets funding for about fifty FTEs, but this year we would be lucky to get funding for six FTEs.

He also reported that the College made a backup offer on the 3.14 acres of vacant land which has been for sale next door to the College.

Deputy Chairman Felicello asked how the Highland venture was doing, and Dean Howatt said it was doing well and that he expected it to continue to do well as it serves as a viable alternative to people in the Southern area of the county.

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The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Deputy Chairman Felicello recognized Leg. Peter Kraft who presented the Committee with a proposed Resolution to support the "Ulster and Delaware Rail-With-Trail" Feasibility Study he and Peter Carafano, Director of Tourism, discussed at the previous meeting. Leg. Donaldson said the Railroad Board is in fully support of this study.

Leg. Kraft said the \$25,278 cost of the feasibility study would come out of contingency. Leg. Cummings asked about grant money availability, such as Greenway. Mr. Doyle said this would not be Greenway eligible but said the MPO can fund trail studies.

Leg. Kraft said he had investigated possible funding sources; however, everyone he has talked to wants the County to take the initiative before we could go back for additional money. Mr. Doyle said this feasibility study could also be funded through the Environmental Protection Fund but would have to wait until the next funding round. Leg. Cummings said Assemblyman Kevin Cahill also has member items left.

Mr. Doyle also advised that the County does not own the railroad. It is owned by the Industrial Development Agency. Leg. Bartels asked Leg. Kraft to get more information on possible funding. Deputy Chairman Felicello said that this matter was not on the Agenda and he did not have any knowledge that Leg. Kraft would be presenting it. He saved the proposed Resolution until the next meeting. He would like Chairman Harris to be apprised of it and would like to see what Mr. Doyle can do to help.

At this time Deputy Chair recognized Cynthia Ruiz who wished to add several things to the report of Ulster County Area Transit. She said UCAT has received another technology grant covering 100% of the cost of the new training room, including furniture and computers as well as paying for the trainers. She also advised that the Town of Rosendale was getting a new Park and Ride lot on Route 32 across from the Community Center. This will be used for car pooling and will have a shelter including bathrooms for a bus stop for all buses going through this area. She also advised that the State of New York is fully funding the entire project.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Zimet and seconded by Leg. Roberti and Deputy Chairman Felicello declared the meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Crispino, Recorder