

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON ARTS, EDUCATION,
TOURISM AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, HELD AT ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman (Excused)
WAYNE HARRIS, (Deputy Chairman)
FRANK FELICELLO
MARY SHEELEY
THOMAS "T.J." BRIGGS
CATHERINE TERRIZZI
DONALD J. GREGORIUS

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

DR. DONALD C. KATT, President, Ulster County Community College
CORNELIA DENVIR, Acting Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College
ANNE CARDINALE, Director, Ulster County Office for the Aging
DONNA LESLIE, Ulster County Office for the Aging
MARSHALL BECKMAN, Deputy Ulster County Executive
LYNNE RIDGEWAY, President, Ulster County Library Association
JAMES COSGROVE, Ulster County Library Association
MARGE MINARD, Ulster County Library Association
PAM STOCKBRIDGE, Ulster County Library Association
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder

Ulster County Community College:

A quorum being present, Chairman Harris called the meeting to order and recognized Dr. Donald C. Katt, President of Ulster County Community College, who discussed the history of the Nursing Lab renovation and the proposed Resolution to transfer funds within the said renovation and to amend the 2009 Capital Project Fund.

The President said that under Phase I of the Facilities Master Plan the work originally slated for the Senate Gym had been pulled from the project due to being cost prohibitive and that the monies allocated to the Gym project had been utilized under various resolutions for various upgraded systems related to student safety, the renovation of the Nursing Labs, and to make the water system project system shovel ready. He also advised that there is still \$400,000 in the Gym renovation project that has not been used and which the college will not be spending.

Dr. Katt said the request to approve the upgrade to the Nursing Labs was made last summer by the Board of Trustees, but for some reason action was never taken and it was not until March 11, 2009 that the Legislature approved the amendment of Capital Project #286 to include the upgrade of the Nursing

Lab for a total of \$425,000 to include construction, equipment and furnishings and architectural and engineering fees. As we budgeted, said Dr. Katt, we found that we did not have enough money to equip the labs after the construction costs were met. Fortunately, said the President, construction bids came in under and we have about \$120,000 in savings. The entire equipment totals \$90,000 and the benefit is that the State of New York pays 50%. We are proposing the resolution at this time so we can buy the entire list of equipment by transferring \$67,000 from the original construction line to the furniture and equipment line.

Leg. Harris asked if the original cost of renovation of the Nursing Lab of \$425,000 is still the bottom line and confirming that this resolution is just a transfer of funds within lines. Leg. Gregorio also wanted confirmation that the \$90,000, the full cost of the furnishings and equipment, would be shared one-half by the state and President Katt assured him that was correct.

At this time a motion was made by Leg. Briggs to approve the proposed Resolution of Ulster County Community College amending Capital Project No. 186 Nursing Lab Upgrade and Amending the 2009-2014 Capital Program and Amending the 2009 Capital Project Fund as follows:

“WHEREAS, on March 11, 2009 the Ulster County Legislature approved amending Capital Project No. 286 to include the upgrade of the Nursing Lab at Ulster County Community College for a total cost of \$425,000.00 and

WHEREAS, the Nursing Lab upgrade will include construction, equipment and furnishing and architectural and engineering fees, and

WHEREAS, the construction bids were lower than originally budgeted and there is need to move \$67,611.00 from construction to equipment and furnishings, and

WHEREAS, the Arts, Education, Tourism and Community Relations Committee has met and reviewed said request with a majority of the members voting approval, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2009 Ulster County Capital Project Fund Budget is hereby amended as follows:

TRANSFER \$67,611

<u>FROM:</u>		<u>WAS</u>	<u>AFTER TRANSFER</u>
H4-0286-2911	Construction	\$363,974.00	\$296,323.00

TO:

H4-028602972	Equipment & Furnishings	\$22,389.00	\$90,000.00
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and moves its adoption.”

The motion was seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and upon Chairman Harris calling for a voice vote the Resolution as presented was unanimously approved.

Cornelia Denvir, Acting Dean of Administration reported that it appears there will be a 4.9% reduction to us under the Governor’s Deficit Reduction Plan. She said we really don’t know yet what that means for the next year. The Plan still has to get Legislative approval. President Katt said he was at a President’s meeting several weeks ago and it appears that the Legislature may be reluctant to tackle the deficit, but the prediction is \$5 billion this year and next year we are looking at \$8 billion.

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President Katt said our enrollment is exceeding our projections, but if we get further state reductions we may have to go to layoffs.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Ann Cardinale, Executive Director of the Office for the Aging and Donna Leslie, also with Office for the Aging.

At this time Leg. Felicello arrived at the meeting, he reviewed the Resolution of the Ulster County Community College and signed the Resolution Request form approving same.

Ulster County Office for the Aging:

Prior to Ms. Cardinale reporting, Marshall Beckman, appearing for the Ulster County Executive said he didn't feel he needed to remind anyone how bad the financial situation is. He said the Office for the Aging is not the only budget that is feeling the cuts. The only substantial thing we have eliminated is one position in this Department.

Leg. Felicello said he was totally against any and all cuts of the little people. He said it is always the clerks' positions that get cut. Mr. Beckman said it had been determined at the beginning of the year that this position was going to be eliminated.

At this time Leg. Sheeley arrived at the meeting. She reviewed the Resolution of Ulster County Community College and signed the Resolution Request form approving same.

Returning to the subject of lay offs, Mr. Beckman said that the County tries to avoid lay-offs by moving people into other job openings within the county and within the same or similar titles. He said lay-offs cost money. Not only do you have to pay unemployment, but you also have to pay the buy outs for sick, personal and vacation time for each of the people laid off. There followed a general discussion of the positions proposed to be eliminated and/or moved around.

Returning to Office for the Aging, Leg. Gregorius wanted some information on the current status of the Meals on Wheels program and whether the procedure has changed. Ms. Cardinale said there have not been many significant changes but they are doing more on site based programs and there is a new one at the new senior center in New Paltz. Leg. Gregorius was interested in the home delivered meals program and Ms. Cardinale said home deliveries were up about 16% but did not have the exact figures with her.

When asked about the Care-A-Van, Ms. Cardinale said they were trying to reduce the number of times the van goes into some of the rural areas in an effort to reduce some of the costs. Marshall Beckman said the Care-A-Van's operating costs were quite high. They have a driver, the cost of fuel, etc., a nurse, and the program is overseen by Kingston Hospital. It cost about \$23,000 for six months this year. He said if it gets 4-5 hits per day for the few days a week, can we afford to have a van on the road, or should we be thinking about doing things differently.

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The report of Office for the Aging being completed, Chairman Harris recognized Terry Breitenstein, Director of Ulster County Veterans' Service Agency.

Ulster County Veterans' Service Agency:

Mr. Breitenstein reported that the Veteran's Counselor position in this office has not been cut and is still vacant. Mr. Beckman said this position has not been filled and they are waiting for the new computer system to be up and running at which time he is confident the position in question will be filled. He said a few lines in the budget have been consolidated, including the Castle Point transportation runs.

Mr. Breitenstein said the Secretary position went from a full time to part-time, non-benefitted. His full time secretary retired and came back to work on a part-time basis so it works for everyone. He also said the state had doubled their funding and that allocation goes directly to payroll.

Chairman Harris asked about the status of the Veteran's Cemetery located in the New Paltz Rural Cemetery. Mr. Breitenstein said total donations were \$9,900 to date and there are currently seventeen graves. There was a general discussion of Mr. Egan and his request for an increased county contribution.

The report of the Veteran's Service Agency being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized the delegation representing the Ulster County Library Association.

Ulster County Library Association:

The delegation consisted of Ms. Lynne Ridgeway, Mr. James Cosgrove, Ms. Pam Stockridge and Ms. Marge Minard. The President of the Association, Ms. Ridgeway, said they were very upset and worried about the proposed 25% across the board cuts proposed by the 2010 county budget. She discussed the benefits to the taxpayers of the public library systems, among them language learning, children's services, various tax services, local history and genealogy.

Leg. Terrizzi asked if the Association kept track of how many people used the Library Association and they did. Ms. Stockridge said for example that the Plattekill Library benefits greatly from the Library Association as Plattekill has a very small local library and often uses the Library Association resources.

Leg. Sheeley said she was very impressed when they had the last drastic cutback and how they handled that and believes that the 25% is too much of a cut. Leg. Briggs said the library is used by everyone, from children on up to our senior citizens and for the few dollars it costs, he also believes the 25% cut is too much. Leg. Terrizzi said she also believes they should keep the 25% in but thinks the Libraries should be thinking about what to do if they money just is not there.

The report of the Ulster County Library Association being concluded, Chairman Harris recognized Rick Remsnyder, Director of Ulster County Tourism

Ulster County Tourism:

Mr. Remsnyder reviewed the proposed budget for Tourism with the committee including the increased allocation for advertising. He also distributed packets which included press releases on the current advertising campaign "Ulster County Alive". Advertising is being done with billboard ads inside subway cars on the New York City subway system. He distributed the new Ulster County Travel Guide and discussed cooperative advertising such as the I Love New York venture. In reply to a question from Leg. Gregorius he said that Cecile Rothschild of Westchester County was in charge of the Travel Guide and Leg. Gregorius said he believed there should be more information in the Guide. A general discussion on advertising and tourism in the Hudson Valley was held.

Leg. Terrizzi asked what the \$200,000 budget increase was for. Mr. Remsnyder said what they are proposing to do is similar to what we are doing now, but expanding it to include not only New York City but also Brooklyn and Queens as well as utilizing the Long Island Railroad and Metro North.

Mr. Briggs asked if Mr. Remsnyder could appear before the Committee more often and the Chairman said it could be requested.

The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Briggs and seconded by Leg. Terrizzi and upon Chairman Harris asking for a voice vote the meeting was adjourned at 7:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Salanitri, Recorder