

**ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING, PLANNING & TRANSIT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2008
MEETING HELD AT: UCAT – ONE DANNY CIRCLE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Hector Rodriguez – Chair
Joseph P. Roberti, Jr. – Deputy Chair
Gary Bischoff
Peter M. Loughran
Mary F. Sheeley
Cathy Terrizzi

EXCUSED:

Wayne Harris

OTHERS ATTENDING:

Dennis Doyle, Director, U.C. Planning
Lance Matteson, UCDC
Cynthia Ruiz, UCAT
Nancy Schaefer, Dept of Employment
Vic Work

Chairman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

The previous meetings minutes were approved. Motion by Legislator Sheeley, seconded by Legislator Terrizzi.

LANCE MATTESON – UCDC

Shovel Ready Mr. Matteson stated that progress is being made on the sites. They have been working with HVEDC on prime sites. Winston Farm Site – currently collecting data on the site and learning what data is needed. We are getting emerging shovel ready analysis.

Legislator Rodriguez asked about the bond issue for this year on shovel ready and stated the City Industrial Park could shape up as a potential.

Projects & Prospects Mr. Matteson stated the Gillette Creamery is a continuing priority and there are 3 plausible sites in Ellenville. Legislator Sheeley stated that timetable issues are still a problem. Mr. Matteson stated he was not comfortable until they have a solution. Legislator Sheeley stated that property owners are also e-mailing her. Mr. Matteson said an RFP is out there and we need to identify a short list. The county is footing the bill on grant writing and he added the project is not drifting. Legislator Rodriguez requested updates be sent during the month to him and Legislator Sheeley.

Thin Films Mr. Matteson stated the project is going forward. The project has great potential – bond would go for equipment. Want to be in manufacturing in 12 months. Moving equipment from Europe and perhaps Research & Development.

Mr. Matteson stated they are also working other small to medium sized expansion. Also some downsizing and closing – Chelsea Modular is a good example.

Center for Innovation (CFI) Mr. Matteson stated money has been approved but CFI is still not giving all the information that is needed. Exchange of e-mails still ongoing. Need current financials, need jobs as a key metric. Sullivan Satellite extra has expenses vs. extra resources, finally. Legislator Rodriguez said to remember the committee voted not to fund the center but that was changed on the floor of the Legislature.

Mr. Work commented on the need for a “certain kind of education.” CFI could be commissioned to provide this education for high tech projects.

Ulster Tomorrow

Mr. Matteson stated that there have been three community meetings, which he added were well attended. There have also been other meetings around the county. Response has been mostly supportive. Mr. Matteson stated that some of the suggestions and ideas are being taken to TSEC to be looked into.

Mr. Matteson stated the IDA has done some work on evaluating projects from the past few years: applications, closed projects, overview data, etc. He added that they are required to report to the state controller every year. The job data goes back to 2006. Mr. Matteson stated he was not prepared to report on the data at this time. Legislator Loughran asked, in regard to the IDA, who is responsible to enforce job creation. Mr. Matteson stated his office gets numbers that they are required to report to the state annually. He added that they could check payroll records. Mr. Matteson stated in the last five years they could document that a lot of jobs were created. Mr. Matteson stated he would get the information and what was reported to the state for 2007 to go over with the committee.

NANCY SCHAEF – OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Informational

Ms. Schaeff stated there are two new appointments to the Workforce Development Board: Rick Lewandowski (Prism Solar) and Frank Falatyn (TSEC). She also stated that two major grants have been awarded from NYSERDA for green collar jobs to Ulster BOCES (as lead for BOCES) and SUNY Ulster (as lead for community colleges in the area).

Ms. Schaeff passed out a Summer Youth Employment Program summary and went through it. OET ran the program themselves this year instead of contracting it out to the YMCA. She shared a number of stories on the success of the program. Legislator Rodriguez asked, in terms of the overall budget, he knew that \$139,000-140,000 of the \$227,000 was spent on wages; was the rest recouped in project expenses and/or fees. Ms. Schaeff responded that OET has recouped more this year for staff wages than last year. Part of the expense is taxes and costs of writing the checks, for which United Way is contracted to do the payroll expenses. All youth are TANF eligible between the ages of 14-21.

CYNTHIA RUIZ – UCAT

Informational

Ms. Ruiz introduced Raymond Marrero a new bus driver training to be a dispatcher. Mr. Marrero stated he was a former Hydro worker and was happy to be working for Ulster County. Ms Ruiz added that there are a total of five former Hydro employees now with UCAT. Ms. Schaeff stated this is a good example of how county departments are working together.

Ms. Ruiz stated she is participating with Winter Watch Committee Thursday mornings at DSS. The committee is working to help with heating costs for this winter. The Committee will do a

presentation of the plan to the Legislature on September 3rd at the joint caucus. Ms. Ruiz will be presenting the transit piece.

Ms. Ruiz stated they are adjusting schedules to work on a commuter system for hourly intervals for various connections. Ms. Ruiz sent letters to town Supervisors asking for suggestions for locations for non-traditional park-n-rides. She added they are trying to look at transit more as a necessity. Ms. Ruiz stated that NYSDOT has agreed to furnish us with a brand new transit brochure similar to one produced for Orange County. She added that NYSDOT will also provide us with metropool services to match our advertising expenses.

Approvals

1. NY Public Transit Association Bus Roadeo – 2 people would like to attend – NYSDOT has approved everything is paid for.
2. NYS School Bus and Passenger Carrier Safety Conference in October put on by DOT for Al Stopy, Maintenance Coordinator (NYSDOT will pay 100%)
3. NTD (National Transit Database) Seminar - Tom Jackson does the NTD for UCAT – being reimbursed 100% by the State
4. NYS PublicTransit Assoc Board Meeting in Sept – DOT is paying

All of the above were approved – The approval forms were circulated for signatures.

Action Items

1. **Resolution** – Requesting Reappropriation of Funds from Unanticipated Job Access Reverse Commute Revenue to be Used for Local Match for Fuel Costs
Motion to approve made by Legislator Sheeley, seconded by Legislator Terrizzi.
2. **Resolution** - Amending The 2008– 2013 Capital Program And Establishing Capital Project No. 312 For Building Construction Upgrade and HVAC Controls for the UC Area Transit Facility
Motion to approve as amended to include SEQRA language provided by County Planning Director Dennis Doyle. Motion made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Sheeley.
3. **Resolution** - Amending The 2008 – 2013 Capital Program And Establishing Capital Project No. 313 For The Purpose Of Data Collection, Surveys, Engineering And Environmental Analysis for the Purchase And Installation Of A 25,000 Gallon Diesel Fuel Storage Facility for the Ulster County Area Transit Facility – Amending The 2008 Ulster County Budget
Motion to approve as amended regarding the phasing for design made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Sheeley.

Legislator Sheeley asked what type of time frame we are looking at regarding when the tank will be completed. Ms. Ruiz stated by the end of the year as long as paperwork and contracts go as they should. Legislator Loughran added this larger tank will save a lot of money plus transportation of fuel.

Ms. Ruiz mentioned the contract for the art project is done. The cabinet for the sculpture will be made by the county cabinet maker. There will also be paintings, photographs and an outdoor sign.

Legislator Loughran asked how we are doing with the transportation for DSS (Medicaid). Ms. Ruiz responded that she is having a meeting with DSS and the Dept of Health and they are recouping more money than expected. She offered to send a report.

DENNIS DOYLE – PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Action Items

1. **Resolution** – Authorizing The Chairman Of The Ulster County Legislature To Execute Contracts And Agreements With The NYS Office Of Community Renewal (OCR) And Sub-Recipients Of The Funding For A 2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

This will be the fourth homebuyer program for the county. Mr. Doyle explained that we oversee this program and RUPCO will be administrator of the grant.

Motion to approve made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Sheeley.

2. **Resolution** – AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS WITH THE NYS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO ALLOW THE UC PLANNING BOARD TO ACT AS CENSUS DESIGNATED AFFILIATE

Motion to approve made by Legislator Sheeley, seconded by Legislator Bischoff.

3. **Resolution** – APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE UC OPEN SPACE PARTNERSHIP
Mr. Doyle informed the committee that the Chairman has offered this resolution. Our committee authorized the chairman to appoint members who would then be confirmed by the Legislature. Mr. Doyle explained that the names offered were the result of the County Legislature Chairman's office sending out numerous letters to various agencies. The County Planning Department and County Department of Environment also reached out to municipalities, agencies, chambers of commerce and non-profits for suggestions of persons to serve on the partnership. The Chairman of the Legislature received responses and confirmed the interested parties and made recommendations. The Chairman added himself and the head of the Environmental Committee as Ex-Officio members of the partnership to give the Legislature representation. Legislator Rodriguez clarified for the record that the Chair of the Environmental Committee will be the Alternate Ex-Officio member of the Open Space Partnership. The Environmental Committee will offer the Resolution to the Legislature consistent with the original authorizing resolution #153 of May 2008.

Motion to approve made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Roberti.

4. **Resolution** – APPOINTMENT OF UCPB MEMBER – JOHN KOHNOR REPRESENTING TOWN OF KINGSTON

Motion to approve made by Legislator Bischoff, seconded by Legislator Loughran.

Approval

1. **Conference Request – Fall 2008 Affiliate Data Center Meeting November 5-7.**
Mr. Doyle explained that we receive the Census data prior to it being released to the public. The reason for the conference is to allow for discussion of 2010 Census amongst other topics.

The approval form was circulated for signatures. Chairman Rodriguez stated that all were in favor of the conference.

Informational:

- a. NYS Thruway Authority – Thruway Bridge over Abandoned Railroad at Milepost 72.77, Town of Lloyd – removal proposed as most viable and economical treatment

Mr. Doyle informed the committee that the County had previously sold this property back to the adjoining landowners for back taxes. There are now limited opportunities for rail trail access. The Thruway Authority has asked the County Planning Board for input as to whether the bridge should continue to be maintained. Mr. Doyle stated he would speak to the UC Planning Board at their meeting next week. Mr. Doyle explained that due to eminent domain the property could be taken or bought back from the land owners to achieve connections to the trail. He added that some of the property has become a road system for subdivision activity. Mr. Doyle concluded by stating that if anyone was interested the Thruway Authority is looking for input.

A discussion evolved regarding a letter to the editor in the Daily Freeman concerning selling off a portion of the Ulster & Delaware rail property. In that letter Legislators were encouraged to vote no to selling another piece of the property. Mr. Doyle stated that the county bought property from the main CSX line to the west. The county is precluded from selling it off unless it goes to a surplus and auction. The county has given easements to businesses to use the property for parking lot purposes and has retained the ability to run train operations across the property. The county has issued licenses or leases to businesses to encroach that are revocable. Kingston Associates has a building that may be encroaching on the property without the proper process, which may be the issue of the letter writer. The Railroad Advisory Committee is looking at this. With the topic of rail Mr. Doyle stated the current lease with Catskill Mountain Railroad has language that requires them to maintain the right of way and facilities associated with the railroad. Due to the wording of the lease FEMA will not reimburse repairs made for flood damage that occurs on a regular basis. Mr. Doyle has suggested reopening the lease to examine the wording. Legislator Rodriguez stated he would like to speak with Mike Berardi on the matter.

Legislator Bischoff asked Mr. Doyle if he was on the Trails Committee. Mr. Doyle answered that the Planning Department serves in an advisory capacity on the Committee.

- b. Population projections provided by Cornell University
Mr. Doyle handed out the projections. Cornell projects that we will actually lose some of the population from 2030 onward. He added these are revised from the projections we looked at two years ago. Mr. Doyle stated this reflects all age groups but particularly the 25-35 yr olds whose numbers continue to decrease. Mr. Doyle stated that we do not agree with the Cornell figures.

Mr. Doyle informed the committee that the Marlborough Transportation Study draft report has been received, Non-Motorized Transportation Plan study is waiting on community enhancement work to be done and we are also working with Winter Watch providing them with employment center data. Mr. Dole stated we have been asked by OSI to submit a PDR grant for the Osterhoudt farm in Marletown. Mr. Doyle has also been asked the Town of Rochester to be the project manager for the Domino Farm.

Legislator Sheeley stated for the record she feels very strongly that Tourism is economic development and belongs in the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Doyle stated that the Legislature is required under the requirements for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan to submit a Comprehensive Plan element to the County Planning Board for its recommendations. UCPB will take up recommendations with respect to Ulster Tomorrow for the Legislature's consideration at our meeting. Our Board will also ask for an amendment to the Plan on the role of education. Mr. Doyle stated we will also ask the Legislature for a specific charge to the county planning board to reach out to local communities to see how the local development review process could be streamlined.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m. Motion made by Legislator Loughran, seconded by Legislator Sheeley.