

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON ARTS, EDUCATION, TOURISM AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
HELD AT ULSTER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON  
OCTOBER 17, 2007**

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING:

*SUSAN ZIMET, Chairwoman  
WAYNE HARRIS, Deputy Chairman  
BRIAN CAHILL  
GARY BISCHOFF  
MARY SHEELEY  
FRANK FELICELLO  
ALAN LOMITA*

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

*CLAIRE BURLINGHAM, Dean of Administration, Ulster County Community College  
RICK REMSNYDER, Director, Ulster County Tourism  
LYDIA REIDY, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
JOYCE MINARD, New Paltz Chamber of Commerce for Ulster Tomorrow  
STAN ACKERMAN, Rocking Horse Ranch for Ulster Tomorrow  
PAUL RAKOV, Emerson Hotel, for Ulster Tomorrow  
JACKIE APPLIEDORN, Mohonk Mountain House for Ulster Tomorrow  
ANNE CARDINALE, Director, Ulster County Office for the Aging  
MARY JO DE FOREST, Ulster County Office for the Aging  
DONNA LESLIE, Ulster County Office for the Aging  
PAT KONOPKA, Ulster County Office for the Aging  
JENNIFER SCHWARTZ, Trustee, Ulster County Arts Council  
JANET SALANITRI, Recorder*

*A quorum being present, Chairwoman Zimet called the meeting to order at 5:20pm and recognized Anne Cardinale, Director of Ulster County Office for the Aging.*

Ulster County Office for the Aging:

*Ms. Cardinale opened her report by a request to transfer funds into her budget from the contingency fund for the nutrition program as there will be a shortage. She said their only alternative was to put seniors on a waiting list if the program is not further funded. Ms. Cardinale and her staff gave a detailed presentation with charts and graphs showing the number of meals delivered and the cost which is steadily rising.*

*The committee reviewed the "Meals on Wheels" program expenses under the SNAP budget and the III C-2 budget. It was explained that both budgeted programs should be read together and that SNAP was part of a state program and III C-2 was federal.*

*Minutes*

*October 17, 2007*

*Page 2*

*Leg. Lomita said that Office for the Aging had been doing the meals for some time and they have not been underfunded by the County until this year and he asked why that was. He also asked what the department was doing to try and keep this from happening again. Pat Konopka said the department is very carefully reviewing each new case and is going back over all open cases of which there are many, to make sure that the people involved are still eligible for this service. She said that sometimes people go on the program on a temporary basis and somehow never come off. They are diligently looking into these cases. In answer to the first part of Leg. Lomita's question, Donna Leslie said the per meal cost has gone up considerably and also, that the cost of delivery, especially in gasoline prices, has also gone up considerably. Ms. Cardinale told the committee that one of the reasons for the vehicle items in her budget was so that the department could transport these meals.*

*Leg. Felicello said most of the people who are senior citizens have lived here their entire life and have paid taxes. He said there should not be a waiting list and if people meet the criteria for this program then they should get its benefits. Chairwoman Zimet said several months ago this Committee had directed Office for the Aging to work something out so that there would not be a waiting list and they are saying that if they do not use contingency there will be a waiting list. She said this committee is also asking them to take great care and to make sure that only those people who meet the criteria should be served.*

*Mary Jo DeForest said that the county is growing, people are living longer and the Baby Boomers are getting into their sixties. She said they are seeing this increase in the older population in every aspect of Office for the Aging and that they trying to be efficient in all of their programs.*

*Leg. Cahill asked if the committee could expect to hear the same things either now or in the future on some of the other matters this office deals with. Ms. Cardinale said that within the next eight years, statistically the oldest percentage of the population, that is seniors over eighty-five years of age, will increase by 35%. Chairwoman Zimet said that if we do not start planning for the future now we are going to be playing catch up all the time.*

*Leg. Zimet said that initially this department had asked for \$82,000 and was directed to review all cases and see who should not be on. Ms. Cardinale said we have done that and removed a lot of people; however, we have been adding about one hundred meals per month which just about evens the numbers.*

*At this time a motion to approve the transfer of \$82,000 from contingency to the budget of the Ulster County Office for the Aging to fund its "Meals on Wheels" program until the end of the fiscal year was made by Leg. Felicello and seconded by Leg. Lomita. There being no further discussion and Chairwoman Zimet calling for a voice vote on the motion, the Resolution was unanimously approved.*

Minutes

October 17, 2007

Page 3

*Ms. Cardinale then advised the committee that the receptionist in their office had resigned and they needed to fill the position for the proper functioning of their office. She presented a request to fill the position of receptionist with typing and a motion was made for that purpose by Leg. Felicello and seconded by Leg. Cahill. There being no further discussion and Chairwoman Zimet calling for a voice vote, the request/resolution was unanimously approved.*

*The report of Ulster County Office for the Aging being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Jennifer Schwartz, appearing as a Trustee of the Ulster County Arts Council.*

*Ulster County Arts Council:*

*Ms. Schwartz distributed information on the UC Arts Council and also on the Dutchess County Arts Council and lists of monies distributed to arts organizations within Ulster. She advised that the purpose of the proposed arts fund was support for Ulster County arts organizations in leveraging the position of the arts so the fund could grow in future years through wider community, corporate and governmental support.*

*She explained how grants would be handled and made and said there would be strict criteria and judging by a panel representing major art categories to determine the best arts groups to be funded. She said one of the roles of the Ulster County Arts Council would be to develop a stronger partnership with Dutchess County Arts Council to identify and achieve strategic goals.*

*Ms. Schwartz reviewed that portion of her letter dealing with the management of the proposed fund. Her organization is recommending that the Dutchess County Arts Council manage the fund until such time as a panel can be set up in Ulster which would then administer the fund. She said her group has worked with Dutchess for several years, as Dutchess Arts Council administers the NYSCA "Decentralization Grants" to counties in the Mid-Hudson area.*

*She also discussed potential outside resources, and said she had discussed Ulster's future actions with the Dyson Foundation and perhaps we could get some financial assistance for the set-up of the panel and program. Several people asked about the proposed long-awaited merger between the Dyson Foundation and the Highland Cultural Center and Ms. Schwartz said that is not going to go through. She also said it was appropriate for the members of this committee to help select a panel.*

*Leg. Lomita asked about an administrative fee. Ms. Schwartz said that at this time Dutchess County Arts Council will administer for free. She said that is the point of the voluntary nature of the panel as at the present time there is not a big administrative budget.*

*Minutes*

*October 17, 2007*

*Page 4*

*Leg. Lomita also asked about the libraries and said he did not know about Dutchess County but that New York City does not fund their libraries through arts. A general discussion on this matter followed.*

*Leg. Cahill questioned a merger of various arts groups in the Mid-Hudson Valley. Ms. Schwartz said that regionalism is the way to go but you still need a local panel to oversee things. When Leg. Cahill asked if a merger with Dutchess County is imminent, Ms. Schwartz said it is not imminent but maybe within the next two-three years. She said we are seeing more sharing between the two counties, for example UPAC/Bardavon.*

*Leg. Cahill asked if Dutchess County Arts Council interacts with the various colleges in the area and Ms. Schwartz said that members of the various colleges sit on the boards of both Ulster and Dutchess Arts Councils. Leg. Cahill said he was very concerned by the administrative costs which had been previously proposed and if we do not have to do that at this time he feels much better about it. Chairwoman Zimet said she will come back next month with a proposal for the committee.*

*The report of Ulster County Arts Council being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Rick Remsnyder of Ulster County Tourism.*

*Ulster County Tourism:*

*Chairwoman Zimet said she was going to bring a resolution for the Tourism Advisory Board but will bring it next month. She said Ulster Tomorrow wants to work with the Tourism Advisory Board. Leg. Lomita said that November 14<sup>th</sup> is the Public Hearing on the budget and they must go to Ways & Means and felt it was premature and not our role. Chairwoman Zimet said we are not giving Tourism over to UCDC or the Chamber of Commerce. She said we are going to try and see how we can work together in cooperation to market Ulster County better.*

*Leg. Cahill asked who "we" was and she said it was she and UCDC and Ulster Tomorrow. The Chairwoman Zimet said they discussed this at the last meeting. Leg. Felicello said the Chair has the privilege of calling any meeting or meeting with anyone he or she wants and confirmed that the Chairwoman only wants to schedule an informational meeting... Chairwoman Zimet said the goal is to share information and maybe services and maybe support staff. The Chairwoman said there is no talk of a merger of anything.*

*With reference to Tourism's 2008 budget, Chairwoman Zimet said she discussed it with the Tourism Advisory Board and she advised them to bring back to this committee a concrete plan for discussion. That is why Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Rakov, Ms. Minard and Ms. Appledorn are here tonight.*

*Minutes*

*October 17, 2007*

*Page 5*

*She turned the discussion over to Paul Rakov who reviewed the proposal dated October 16<sup>th</sup> regarding a public relations professional, trade show participation and advertising and marketing materials. Leg. Lomita said he believes Rick Remsnyder is going a good job and wanted to know why we needed a public relations professional. Mr. Rakov said it was to hire a public relations company on a contract basis. Ms. Appledorn said it makes sense because public relations is basically free whereas advertising is very very expensive.*

*The feeling is that this is a very specialized field and to go for high end exposure you need someone who is fully experienced and who is well versed in the news leads and does it on a weekly basis.*

*Leg. Harris said it is important to note that these people who are on the Tourism Advisory Board have come up with some specific recommendations. They are not just saying give them more money. Leg. Lomita said he was not anti-tourism but all of the departments want more money. He said it was first time he had seen recommendations along with a willingness to help financially. Mr. Rakov said we are all doing our own public relations which also brings people into the county. Also, he said, when Tourism calls we are always ready to help and would all be willing to do our share when we go to tourism shows and individual business would be willing to share costs in some of the ventures, such as a banner on the website.*

*Leg. Felicello said he believes tourism is keeping a good part of this county alive. He said there are farmers in his district who are keeping their farms because of the tourist trade. He said this is a tourism county and by cutting back on the Tourism budget we made a mistake. Tourism is the department that brings money back into the county.*

*There followed a general discussion of tourism, its effects on the economy and the linking of the county web site to smaller establishments for availability purposes. Ms. Minard said it was all about the entire county and all of the small businesses these changes would help. She said as Advisory Board members we are all looking to help all of the business in county and not just our own.*

*Mr Remsnyder said the New York Times had a large article about the Woodstock Film Festival which is better than any advertising. Chairwoman Zimet said the thing was to see if we can get some changes without additional expenditures.*

*Reporting on the kiosks, Mr. Remsnyder said Buildings & Grounds is building them to be placed in some of the towns. Leg. Cahill asked about the kiosk by the Thruway exit. Mr. Remsnyder said that is owned by the City of Kingston and he has been talking to them about Tourism taking it over at a cost of about \$800 year which covers rent for the Thruway as well as electric and phone service. In reply to a question from Leg. Harris he said we planned on putting kiosks in Ellenville, Shandaken, Marlboro and Kingston. The Committee agreed that Mr. Remsnyder keep looking to acquiring the Thruway kiosk from the City of Kingston.*

*The report of Ulster County Tourism being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension.*

*Cornell Cooperative Extension:*

*Ms. Reidy reported that Ulster was recently awarded a \$600,000 grant to replace farm labor housing. She said they were going to rehab and/or replace trailers. There were also some farmers looking to tear down existing housing and replace with trailers. This is a 25/75% grant and the farmer has to agree to keep this as agricultural housing for the next five years.*

*There was also a \$35,000 grant received from the Office for Aging to provide education and information on long-term care. She said there is someone on staff who is really good at this and that they do not allow or promote any insurance carriers or companies.*

*Her office has also been working with NYC DEP on a different grant. The last grant was for the Esopus Creek Stream Management but that program is almost finished and has received great reviews and has been extended to March 2008. The new grant is for the next five-year phase and is \$1.5 million. Further information will be forthcoming.*

*Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension and Ulster County Farm Bureau will hold a joint Annual Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, November 3, 2007 at 6:30pm at Hillside Manor in Kingston. The Friends of Extension award will be honoring The Davenport Farm Families, Lori Rotolo of Ulster County Healthy Start, Betty Burgher, New Paltz Agway and the Ulster County Agricultural Society.*

*Ms. Reidy advised that there will be two experts from Cornell University here on November 29<sup>th</sup> at Central Hudson Gas & Electric meeting room at 7:00pm on how the climate changes will be affecting agriculture. Also on or about October 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a big public relations event celebrating that we have closed the Purchase of Development Rights with Davenport and Meisner. She advised the Open Space Institute will be holding the rights*

*The report of Cornell Cooperative Extension being concluded, Chairwoman Zimet recognized Claire Burlingham, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College.*

*Ulster County Community College:*

*On the Capital Program, Dean Burlingham said the contractor on the microcomputer labs was putting in footings and the project is underway. She also advised that the stage production of "Suessical the Musical" produced by Goldstone Productions was currently running in the Quimby Theatre and has already been well received.*

*Minutes*

*October 17, 2007*

*Page 7*

*Dean Burlingham discussed the various safety measures, for which a draft Resolution was being requested tonight, and the college's plans for implementation. She gave a brief recap of what was proposed as discussed in September's meeting. In response to a question from Leg. Cahill she said that the college's relationships with the Town of Marbletown Fire Department, the State Police and the Ulster County Sheriff's Office, as well as with the various ambulance groups, was very good. She said the Sheriff's patrol is now coming on campus when the campus is closed and making a loop around as part of its patrol.*

*In reply to a question from Lee Reidy of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dean Burlingham said she had been working with Cellular I to put an antenna (not a tower) on the Library roof. This antenna would have very low visibility; however, Dennis Doyle of Ulster County Planning said Cellular I would have to go through the permitting process with the Town of Marbletown and Cellular I did not want to expend the time or money on a very small project and they pulled out.*

*Dean Burlingham advised that as part of the college's Title III grant we would receive funding to implement an administrative web-based portal which would give every student at Ulster an e-mail address at which they could receive direct notification of any changes or emergencies.*

*Returning to the proposed draft Resolution, the Dean said that this was a draft resolution and not fully reviewed same and there might be some small changes but those would be made prior to the draft resolution going to the Ways & Means Committee. The resolution is as follows:*

*"WHEREAS, Resolution #79, dated March 8, 2006 establishing Project 286 was approved by the Ulster County Legislature, and*

*WHEREAS, Capital Project 286 included the construction of an addition to the Senate Gymnasium, and*

*WHEREAS, the construction of this addition to the Senate Gymnasium became cost prohibitive in this phase of the capital construction, and*

*WHEREAS, by not completing this component of Capital Project 286, \$1,500,617 will not be expended, and*

*WHEREAS, new items relating to safety and security have been identified by College officials, and*

*WHEREAS, these items included replacement of an old and inoperable elevator in Vanderlyn Hall, and a comprehensive Crisis Management Plan which includes a Shelter in Place Lockdown Solution, an Electronic Access Control System, a Life Safety Notification and Communications System, and Incident Management Database and Building Identification and Signage, and*

*WHEREAS, in order to complete these tasks \$490,000 needs to be reallocated to these new components, now, therefore, be it*

*RESOLVED, that the Arts, Education, Tourism and Community Relations Committee approve the reallocation of monies within Capital Project 286 as follows:*

Decrease Senate Gymnasium Addition <\$490,000>

*Increase*

<i>Replace Elevator in Vanderlyn Hall</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>
<i>Life Safety Notification &amp; Communications Sys.</i>	<i>\$110,000</i>
<i>Shelter in Place Lockdown Solution</i>	<i>\$ 19,000</i>
<i>Incident Management Database</i>	<i>\$ 30,000</i>
<i>Building Identification and Signage</i>	<i>\$ 10,100</i>
<i>Electronic Access Control System</i>	<i>\$120,900</i>

*and recommend this to the Capital Oversight Committee for their review.”*

*A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Sheeley and seconded by Leg. Cahill. Upon Chairwoman Zimet calling for a voice vote the Resolution was unanimously approved.*

*Dean Burlingham then presented a second draft resolution for consideration as follows:*

*“WHEREAS, Ulster County Community College’s administration has determined it necessary to replace computers for academic labs and faculty which were old and obsolete, and  
WHEREAS, in order to finance the purchase of such computers the College entered into a Capital Financing Lease for 48 months beginning in October 2007, and  
WHEREAS, the College collects Capital Chargeback Revenue from various counties throughout New York State for students who are out of county residents and provide a Certificate of Residency to the College, and  
WHEREAS, the Capital Chargeback Revenue which varies from year to year based on the number of out of county students but is approximately \$60,000 per year, and  
WHEREAS, these monies are remitted annually to Ulster County to defray costs associated with the College’s Capital Program, and  
WHEREAS, in order to help defray the monthly payments of the Capital Lease entered into to replace Technology at Ulster County Community College, now, therefore, be it*

*RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature allow the College to use the funds received from Capital Chargeback’s to finance the monthly payments of the Capital Lease for a 48 month period beginning in 2007 until 2011.*

*Financial Impact:   2007   \$63,000 Projected  
                          2008   \$63,000 Projected  
                          2009   \$63,000 Projected  
                          2010   \$63,000 Projected”*

*Minutes*

*October 17, 2007*

*Page 9*

*A motion to approve the proposed draft Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Harris and seconded by Leg. Lomita. Upon Chairwoman Zimet calling for a voice vote the resolution was unanimously approved.*

*Chairwoman Zimet said that Leg. Felicello, who had to leave, asked her to ask the College about several items which were responded to by Dean Burlingham.*

*First, Dean Burlingham said the college piggybacks on the County bid for gasoline and fuel oil and uses the County suppliers. Secondly the college does many of its routine vehicle maintenance in house but does use Elliott's Garage which is located across the street from the college for some repairs amounting to about \$1500 to \$2000 per year. The college vans are owned by the college Association and repairs are done wherever they want to go.*

*Third, said the Dean in reference to the question on construction oversight, we have hired with the Legislature's approval the firm of BBL as construction manager. The construction manager, contractors, myself and Mike Shore meet regularly to review construction. The Dean believes there is more than sufficient oversight.*

*On the maintenance position, she said that when Joe Budik passed away the position was filled by Mike Shore, the Assistant Director. Mike Shore's position was never filled and at the present time the college has no intention of filling it and it is not funded.*

*The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, and there being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Lomita and seconded by Leg. Bischoff and Chairwoman Zimet declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.*

*Respectfully submitted:*

*Janet Salanitri, Recorder*