

**Meeting Minutes – Ulster County Legislature  
Economic Development Committee  
February 21, 2001**

Attending: Susan Cummings, Chair  
Scott Moone  
Steve Klein  
Sam Magarelli  
Jeanette Provenzano

Excused: Richard Gerentine  
Joseph Roberti (available – attending conflicting meeting)

Guests: Herb Heckler, County Planner  
Cynthia Ruiz, Rural Transportation Administrator  
Lee Taylor, Director – Ulster County Information Services  
John Galanti – Hudson Valley DataNet  
Jim Muller – Hudson Valley DataNet  
Lorraine Salmon – UCDC  
Geddy Sveikauskas – UCDC (Telecommunications Co-Chair)

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 in the Legislative Library

**Rural Transportation: Herb Hekler and Cynthia Ruiz**

A focus has been placed on greater transportation services to job sites. Two (2) additional grants have been awarded:

- TANF – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Resolution for \$268,934.70  
Moved by Scott Moone; seconded by Steve Klein. All in favor.
- JARC - Job Access Reverse Commute Resolution for \$198,750.00  
Moved by Sam Magarelli; seconded by Scott Moone. All in favor.
- Recommendations for the Policy for Special Services was distributed to committee members for discussion next month.
- Request for UCRT bus for New Paltz Huguenot Day (August 11<sup>th</sup>) was presented and tabled until the March meeting.
- Special Service Request: Steve Klein, Chairman of the Space committee advised that a tour of Ulster County Buildings was scheduled with Harvey Sleight for March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Requested UCRT bus to transport those on the tour. Sam Magarelli moved and Steve Klein seconded the motion to approve. All in favor.

**Operations and Finance: Herb Hekler**

- Quarterly reports on operations and finance were submitted.
- Rural Transportation's annual report was submitted.
- Three (3) critical numbers to watch are:
  - Fare revenues (currently rising).
  - Number of passengers (reimbursement at \$.405/passenger-- \$.69/ revenue mile).
  - Total state operating assistance: \$319,000
  - Last year, slight decrease in passengers; this year, slight increase in January
    - Per Cynthia Ruiz, a possible help may have been an Informational meeting sponsored at the Hillside Manor for the business owners. Transportation information was circulated and an increase of more than 31% was realized in use in January.

**Public Transportation Cynthia Ruiz**

- Steady decrease in Public transportation in New Paltz. ---  
February 13<sup>th</sup>. Meeting was held with Debbie Kwiatowski, New Paltz Development Committee.
  - A five (5) student committee was formed to advertise to students.
  - 2500 copies of New Paltz schedule to be made available.
  - Service continues Kingston to New Paltz and around New Paltz (including college)
  - Currently no users at the college.
- Meeting scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup> with Mike Mills, Ellenville Village Manager.

**Garage Site on Golden Hill Herb Hekler**

- Environmental analysis due at end of month.
- Initial grant of \$500K may be increased to \$1M.  
Total construction cost approx. \$3M.
- 1.7 acres footprint
- As a courtesy to the City of Kingston Planning Department, a meeting to review status will be scheduled (Dennis Doyle appeared last evening at the Kingston Zoning Board meeting to review the jail project)

**Fiber Optic Broadband Installation Opportunities Herb Heckler**

- The need for Ulster County to initiate activity in the installation of broadband fiber optics is critical.
- This situation should be perceived as or more important than our water and sewer infrastructure

**Getty Sveikauskas, Co-Chair, UCDC Telecommunications Committee**

Encouraged any actions which lead to the prompt deployment of the fiber optic system (red and blue phases). He emphasized that other groups, including Verizon and Time Warner, while larger companies already serving the community, had no firm plans to better serve the Ulster County community, especially the remote locations namely Ellenville Woodstock, etc. Geddy encouraged that any immediate acceptance of DataNet competitive solicitations at this time would help to transform Ulster's economy.

**Hudson Valley DataNet Presentation John Galanti and Jim Muller**

- Finance by local individuals; for profit agency
- In receipt of awarded bids for Orange County government, Orange County hospital consortium, Dutchess County BOCES, and a four district regional office contract for four regional offices of BOCES in Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, and Sullivan Counties.
  - Ulster County has letter of intent executed as of today; work progress to complete all details (per Lee Taylor).
  - Kingston Hospital had a letter of intent. Tony Marmo and Bob Diamond working to meet needs of hospital and to award DataNet in timely manner to best affect the county.
  - Kingston School District (Phil Sinagra) working with DataNet toward hopeful contract completion.
  - Ulster County BOCES contracts not yet awarded (probably in Feb/March).
  - Coordination in community is essential.
  - Work is in progress in Orange (initial system complete and operating) and Dutchess Counties. Some lines are currently under construction in Ulster. Only sure installation at this time is through New Paltz and to Kingston (red line region). Phase II region (blue line; Ellenville, Phoenicia, Woodstock, Saugerties) is a contingent plan based on participation of all three sectors:
    - Government (completed by County decision today)
    - Hospitals (in progress – Kingston)
    - Education (BOCES and Kingston schools decision pending)

**Discussion:**

Committee discusses how we could assist with getting the word out regarding the County's decision and the potential for the other decision-makers to impact the benefits to the entire Ulster County community.

Sam Magarelli suggested that the committee support Lee Taylor's letter to DataNet of 2/21/01. This was moved by Scott Moone and seconded by Jeanette Provenzano. All in favor.

Sam Magarelli moved that a letter of support be issued to provide that other players in the community be advised that the County had made a decision (after much research and negotiation by Lee Taylor, Information Services Director) and that the Economic Development Committee encourage other decision making groups, especially those with competitive bids from DataNet, to make award expeditiously, and in the best interest of the business and taxpaying community as a whole, especially with regard to the ability to complete the critical mass of government, education, and hospitals needed to ensure the Phase II (blue-line) installations demonstrated to the Chamber of Commerce on 2/20/01 and including Saugerties, Phoenicia, Woodstock and Ellenville. Motion was seconded by Scott Moone. All in favor.

Sam Magarelli suggested a review of businesses investing \$1M in Ulster County. Lorraine Salmon offered to bring UCDC updated list of Ulster County businesses to next meeting with input from Peter Gallagher for investments in the County for 2000.

**Resolutions were submitted for:**

- \$2M investment in the Hudson River Institute should it be awarded to Ulster County.  
Moved by Jeanette Provenzano and seconded by Sam Magarelli. All in favor.
- Authorizing conveyance of property to the UCIDA for the Wonderly Project.  
Moved by Steve Klein and seconded by Scott Moone. All in favor.

**Distributions:**

1. DataNet Brochure
2. Lee Taylor's letter dated 2/21/01 to John Galanti
3. Meeting schedule for 2001
4. Special Services Policy recommendations from Herb Hekler and Cynthia Ruiz  
Dated 1/31/01

Motion to adjourn by Richard Gerentine; seconded by Jeanette Provenzano