

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EDUCATION, CULTURE
AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE ULSTER
COUNTY LEGISLATURE, HELD AT ULSTER CO. COMMUNITY
COLLEGE ON THE 25TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2000**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

VINCENT DUNN, Chairman
JOAN EVERY
DAVID DONALDSON
SAM MAGARELLI
EDWARD JENNINGS
WILLIAM BEESMER

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT OR EXCUSED:

NONE

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GORDON H. HOWATT, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College; PETER CARAFANO, Director of Ulster County Tourism; PATRICIA JACOBSEN, Group Tour Director of Ulster County Tourism; and JANET CRISPINO, Recorder.

A quorum being present, Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 5:20pm and advised the Committee that there would be no reports presented from either Lee Reidy, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension or Gerald Davidson, Executive Director of Ulster County Development Corporation, as both were presently attending seminars and were out of town.

Chairman Dunn recognized Leg. Magarelli who advised the Committee that the people who had appeared and made a presentation to the Committee on behalf of Woodstock Telecommunications were favorably impressed both with Mr. Davidson and with the response of this Committee.

At this time Chairman Dunn recognized Gordon H. Howatt, Dean of Administration of Ulster County Community College who presented a proposed Resolution to approve the Supplemental Financing Agreement between the County and the New York State Dormitory Authority providing for the second phase of financing of the Facilities Master Plan implementation for the sum of \$5 million.

Dean Howatt explained that this was the second Financing Agreement, the first one being for \$6 million; and that the final Agreement would be for the remainder or \$5 million, which final Agreement would come before this Committee as a proposed Resolution early in 2001.

A motion to approve the Resolution as presented was made by Leg. Felicello and seconded by Leg. Every. There was no further discussion and upon Chairman Dunn calling for a voice vote, the proposed Resolution was unanimously approved. A copy of the Resolution as presented is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Dean Howatt advised the Committee that Interim President Donald Katt, was unable to attend this meeting as he was attending a Patterns for Progress dinner in Newburgh. President Katt sent his regrets.

Discussing the newspaper article on the shortfall in enrollment, Dean Howatt said that was for the Fall term enrollments of thirty ftes which is only a small segment of the college's enrollment. The college still anticipates meeting enrollment projections and budget for the year.

Chairman Dunn explained that the College budget runs on a different fiscal year than the County budget, which sometimes can be problematic.

The report of Ulster County Community College being concluded, Chairman Dunn recognized Peter Carafano, Director of Ulster County Tourism.

Mr. Carafano requested the Committee to recommend a Pride of Ulster County Award be given to Mike and Nancy Jubie, owners of Headless Horseman Hayrides in Ulster Park at the November Legislature session. Their business was named the number one haunted hayride in America by American Airlines Magazine, and also was named number one Outdoor Haunt in America by Fright Times Magazine. There was no objection to this request from the Committee.

Pat Jacobsen of Ulster County Tourism reported on the recent Upstate Sales Bus Blitz, which was the final one of this tourist season. This tour focused on the Syracuse-Buffalo-Albany areas, and there will be more bus tours coming into the Hudson Valley. Ms. Jacobsen reported she has been going to group tour shows every month this year and described some of the events associated with these shows. She said it had been a very good year. Leg. Magarelli asked if she had any way of determining whether she was successful in these endeavors. Ms. Jacobsen said they usually ask for more information at the show; then there are more detailed negotiations; and finally when the tour comes to the area. That is the only way a success rate can be determined.

Mr. Carafano said he had attended some new shows presented by the National Travel Exchange, which are travel agent shows. He would like to explore this area further and do some shows in New York City, Hartford, Long Island and even Boston.

Mr. Carafano distributed a packet of information constituting a progress report of the advances made by Ulster County Tourism since 1997, as well as plans for expansion of services in the future. He said that Tourism's 2001 budget request will be increased, as in order to continue the current direction and to expand to the next level, his office will require additional tools.

Leg. Felicello said he feels Tourism is spread too thin, as it is also required to be the Office of Public Information. A general discussion of the obligations and duties of Tourism followed. Leg. Felicello asked if this Committee could send a letter to the Chairman recommending that the Legislature look into the matter. Leg. Felicello said the County is very fortunate to have the expertise and skills of the people at Tourism.

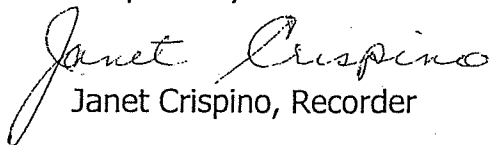
Leg. Every asked what the proposed budget increase request would be. Mr. Carafano said amount requested would be \$198,000 more than last year. This increase is due to attendance at additional shows, seminars and conferences, as well as \$60,000 for the Travel Guide. The cost of printing the Travel Guide this year was \$61,000. Chairman Dunn described the various duties and other positions held by Mr. Carafano as Tourism Director, including his duties for the Ulster County Legislature.

Mr. Carafano also reminded the Committee that much of the work and progress made by his office this year was due in part to several grants received through Senator Bonacic and others. He said he would not have these funds in the future.

After additional discussion, the general feeling of the Committee was to advise the Legislature that the Committee recommends a study be made as to the benefits of either creating another position within Tourism, or that the duties of the offices of Tourism and Public Relations be studied and clarified for allocation of duties. Chairman Dunn agreed to work on this at the request of the Committee.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Leg. Jennings and seconded by Leg. Donaldson, and Chairman Dunn declared the meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.

Respectfully submitted:


Janet Crispino, Recorder