

# Audit Committee

## Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE & TIME:** May 30, 2017 – 4:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** KL Binder Library, Sixth Floor, County Office Building  
**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr., Chairman  
**LEGISLATIVE STAFF:** Amber K. Feaster  
**PRESENT:** Legislators Richard Gerentine, Tracey Bartels, and Hector S. Rodriguez  
**ABSENT:** Legislator Mary Beth Maio  
**QUORUM PRESENT:** Yes  
**OTHER ATTENDEES:** Sheriff Paul Van Blarcum; Michael Berg, Family of Woodstock; Jamie Capuano, Deputy Budget Director; Tom Kadgen; Gary Pennock

- **Chairman Ronk called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM**
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**Motion No. 1:** To Approve the Minutes of May 9, 2017

**Motion Made By:** Legislator Gerentine

**Motion Seconded By:** Legislator Rodriguez

**Discussion:** None

**Voting In Favor:** Chairman Ronk, Legislators Gerentine, Bartels, and Rodriguez

**Voting Against:** None

**No. of Votes in Favor:** 4

**No. of Votes Against:** 0

**Disposition:** Approved

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The committee welcomed Sheriff Paul Van Blarcum. The Sheriff welcomed committee member questions.

Committee members discussed the possibility of an analysis of jail population trends as they relate to bail reform, which is acknowledged to be dependent on Judges. Chairman Ronk recalled an incidence where parole violators were noted to be spending more time in jail in Ulster County in comparison to Dutchess County, stating the reason for this was a City Court Judge who was setting low amounts of bail on the crime that caused the violation, whereas if the violators were released on their own recognizance, they would have been sent back to state prison thus lowering costs to the County. Chairman Ronk recalled that the Sheriff was kind enough to bail some of these individuals out.

Legislator Rodriguez assured the Sheriff that he will be in contact via email with questions.

The Sheriff provided a letter of recommendation for an audit of the Fiscal Office, which he believes will provide the best opportunity for a comprehensive review of how the office tracks expenditures and revenues and processes payments. The committee expressed concerns that a financial audit of the Sheriff's department may be a duplication of services with the annual financial audit of the County.

Legislator Bartels expressed interest in a program analysis, specifying interest in the jail population. The Sheriff requested everyone read through the Office of the Sheriff's Ulster County Annual Report 2016 as a starting point for information.

Committee members are to contact Sheriff Paul Van Blarcum with questions prior to the next Audit Committee meeting.

The committee welcomed Michael Berg, the Executive Director of Family of Woodstock.

The committee asked Mr. Berg if there are any areas which he feels should be looked at more so than others. Mr. Berg stated that they currently have 68 contracts with government agencies, not all with Ulster County, expressing that all contracts with the County are important and are all taken very seriously. He offered to send detail on each of the contracts and welcomed any questions that the committee members may have.

Mr. Berg requested payment on a monthly basis versus a quarterly basis for cash flow purposes.

Committee members discussed the Office of the Comptroller's intent to audit 5 specified contracts with Family of Woodstock.

Legislator Bartels expressed interest in researching program specific analyses, such as how an individual program is delivered against possibilities for the program in relation to the program's cost.

Mr. Berg explained that the Organization works by collecting money from multiple sources in order to create each of their programs and that the only program that is fully funded by the County is the One80 program. Mr. Berg stated that One80 is an extremely successful program, which now has a waiting list. Chairman Ronk asked if the reason for the waiting list is due to funding. Mr. Berg confirmed and explained that there are 3 staff and a tremendous number of referrals due to a lack of alternative programs for qualifying children. Mr. Berg emphasized the value of the program and the positive effects that the program has had on each child involved. The Organization is anticipating 75 participants in 2017 with schools beginning to use the program as a means to keep children in school and to put children back on the right track. The program is also to be used in the anti-cyber bullying whelm. Mr. Berg explained how the program works, what the time line is, and how children have responded to the program. He expressed pride in the One80 program and stated that whenever this program is discussed with others it always ends with "and our County felt it was important enough to pick it up", articulating gratitude for this value.

Mr. Berg welcomed committee questions and ideas on program performance.

Legislator Gerentine asked if Mr. Berg would like for us to take a look at anything specific within the County's contracts with Family of Woodstock. Mr. Berg requested time to consider this question so that he can take it into thorough consideration.

Committee members discussed the Ulster County Department of Mental Health. Legislator Rodriguez discussed concern over the privatization of mental health, specifying concerns over a change in the number of cases handled per councilor.

Discussion pursued on possible avenues for audits, investigations, or analyses and limitations thereof.

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### **New Business:**

Committee members discussed the Ulster County Agriculture Society and the lease between the Society and the County for Fair Grounds. Legislative Fiscal Analyst to be working with the Society to review financial records.

Chairman Ronk suggested a financial audit of the Family Court Capital Project. There was consensus among the Committee Members.

A financial audit of Ulster County Soil & Water was discussed. Legislator Bartels explained that the Board had originally planned to go out to bid for this audit but would be more comfortable if the County performed the bid and hiring function with Soil & Water then reimbursing the County for this expense. Committee members agreed that an external audit should be performed.

Guest Tom Kadgen suggested investigation of local drug treatment and drug prevention programs, providing reasons for this case.

**Old Business:** None

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There being no further business before the Committee, a motion was made by Legislator Bartels, seconded by Legislator Rodriguez and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 PM.

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**Dated the 31st Day of May, 2017**  
**Amber Feaster, Fiscal Analyst**  
**Minutes Approved On: June 12, 2017**