

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BUDGET, FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
OF THE
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Thursday, July 23, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

Committee Chair Lawler called the committee to order at 7:13 p.m.

PRESENT: 11 ATKINS, BRENDLI, CASWELL, DARROW, LAWLER, METZGER,
 MUNN, POLASEK, REDL, RHODES, VALDÉS SMITH

ABSENT: 1 JOHNSON

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT

Presentations and Reports

None

Privilege of the Floor with respect to printed agenda items

Hon. Daniel Atonna, City of Poughkeepsie Councilman, spoke about scatter-site shelters and the need for them in Dutchess County. He further spoke about his vote in the Poughkeepsie Common Council in favor of the agreement regarding 26 Oakley.

Resolution

2026122 Authorizing an agreement with the City of Poughkeepsie regarding homeless housing and authorizing actions necessary to implement the agreement: amending the 2026 adopted county budget and authorizing the use of restricted opioid settlement funds as it pertains to H0639 in order to develop a supportive housing center at 26 Oakley Street, City of Poughkeepsie, and authorizing the sale of 35 Montgomery Street, City of Poughkeepsie to the City of Poughkeepsie

Moved by Assistant Majority Leader Munn, seconded by Legislature Chair Valdés Smith.

Discussion:

Majority Leader Atkins moved to postpone the Resolution to the September committee meeting. Seconded by Assistant Majority Leader Munn.

Discussion: Majority Leader Atkins spoke about the need for further questions to be answered prior to moving on this Resolution.

Minority Leader Polasek asked for a 30-minute caucus, which was granted.

Committee Chair Lawler reconvened the Committee at 7:29p.m.

Minority Leader Polasek asked if the County Executive could answer some questions.

Majority Leader Atkins reiterated reasons for postponement.

County Executive Serino said she had understood postponing the vote would cost the County at least \$2 million in additional expenses, and further said it was important to more than 100 lives and referred to a conversation with Legislature Chair Valdés Smith.

Legislature Chair Valdés Smith called a point of order, noting that while she had agreed to place the Resolution on the agenda, she could not speak to how individual Legislators would vote.

County Executive Serino appealed to the Legislature to adopt the Resolution.

Legislator McHoul expressed deep dissatisfaction at the Motion to Postpone.

Legislator Caswell suggested that the Legislature utilize the presence of the full company of Executive staff to answer any unresolved questions.

Assistant Minority Leader Metzger asked why the Legislature is even meeting only to postpone the matter to a future meeting.

Leader Munn said that the meeting was called to give the Legislature the opportunity to move on the agreement. He noted that the agreement has been changed since the meeting was called and the Legislature will now postpone the matter.

Assistant Minority Leader Metzger said that the entire Legislature knew two days ago what the City of Poughkeepsie was going to do and that the agreement would be amended.

Legislator Caswell asked if the County Executive had anything further to share with the Legislature.

County Executive Serino spoke again in favor of the Resolution. She said the settlement agreement is not a perfect document but that no settlement is, and that the settlement in this case does not comprise everything the County wanted but is fair and reasonable.

On the Motion to Postpone, a roll-call vote was called:

AYES: 7 ATKINS, BRENDLI, LAWLER, MUNN, REDL, RHODES, VALDÉS SMITH

NAYS: 4 CASWELL, DARROW, METZGER, POLASEK

ABSENT: 1 JOHNSON

Other Business

Assistant Minority Leader Metzger asked if Acting Counsel Kelly could offer guidance on the procedure for the full Board Meeting.

Acting Counsel Kelly offered a legal opinion that it would be necessary to hold the meeting but that without any Resolution it would not be of long duration.

There being no further business, Committee Chair Lawler adjourned the Committee meeting at 7:46 p.m.