

Attendance Sheets

District	Last Name	Present	Absent	Present/Late
District 14 - Town of Wappinger	Amparo	✓		
District 13 - Towns of LaGrange, East Fishkill, and Wappinger	Bolner	✓		
District 3 - Town of LaGrange	Borchert	✓		
District 18 - City of Beacon and Town of Fishkill	Farley		✓	
District 6 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Flesland	✓		
District 21 - Town of East Fishkill	Horton	✓		
District 22 - Towns of Beekman and Union Vale	Hutchings		✓	
District 4 - Town of Hyde Park	Ignaffo	✓		
District 15 - Town of Wappinger	Incoronato	✓		
District 10 - City of Poughkeepsie	Jeter-Jackson	✓		
District 9 - City of Poughkeepsie	Johnson	✓		
District 25 - Towns of Amenia, Washington, Pleasant Valley	Kelsey	✓		
District 16 - Town of Fishkill and City of Beacon	MacAvery		✓	
District 17 - Town and Village of Fishkill	Miccio	✓		
District 1 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Nesbitt	✓		
District 7 - Towns of Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie	Perkins	✓		
District 19 - Towns of North East, Stanford, Pine Plains, Milan	Pulver	✓		
District 8 - City and Town of Poughkeepsie	Rolison	✓		
District 5 - Town of Poughkeepsie	Roman	✓		
District 2 - Towns of Pleasant Valley and Poughkeepsie	Sagliano	✓		
District 20 - Town of Red Hook	Strawinski	✓		
District 24 - Towns of Dover and Union Vale	Surman	✓		
District 23 - Towns of Pawling, Beekman and East Fishkill	Thomes	✓		
District 11 - Towns of Rhinebeck and Clinton	Tyner	✓		
District 12 - Town of East Fishkill	Weiss		✓	
Present:	<u>21</u>	Total:	<u>21</u>	
Absent:	<u>4</u>		<u>4</u>	
Vacant:	<u>0</u>			

Date: 12/1/15

Special Board Meeting
Dutchess County Legislature
Public Hearing
on the
Tentative 2015 Budget

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Chairman calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Clerk calls the roll:

PRESENT: 21 Amparo, Bolner, Borchert, Flesland, Horton,
 Ignaffo, Incoronato, Jeter-Jackson, Johnson,
 Kelsey, Miccio, Nesbitt, Perkins, Pulver,
 Rolison, Roman, Sagliano, Strawinski, Surman,
 Thomes, Tyner

ABSENT: 4 Farley, Hutchings, MacAvery, Weiss

PRESENT/LATE: 0

QUORUM PRESENT.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Clerk reads notice of public hearing.

The Chairman declared the public hearing open.

Marsha Slatkin, Rhinebeck, spoke regarding job creation, creating programs for youth, and solarizing county buildings, comments attached hereto.

Peter Van Schaick, Rhinebeck, spoke in opposition to the jail, comments attached hereto.

Valerie Carlisle, Pleasant Valley, spoke in opposition to building a new jail and having programs for non-violent offenders.

Constantine Kazolias, 47 Noxon Street, Poughkeepsie, spoke regarding consolidation of services. He also spoke in favor of neutering cats.

Kari Rieser, Legislator Elect, spoke in favor of using solar projects in the county. She also spoke in favor of restoring projects for the City of Poughkeepsie youth.

Valeria Legeay spoke in favor of youth programs, comments attached hereto.

Fred Bunnell, spoke in favor of reforming the criminal justice system and alternatives to incarceration and urged collaboration efforts regarding reentry programs at the jail.

Carol Madrid, 40 Manitou Avenue, Poughkeepsie, asked for consideration for the homeless population in Poughkeepsie.

Milo Tsukroff, Pleasant Valley, urged more signage for LOOP buses.

The Chairman declared the public hearing closed at 7:36 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SPEAKERS LIST

December 1, 2015

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL ADDRESS
Marcia Statkin	Box 484, 62 Chestnut Pluebeck mslatkin@juno.com
PETER VAN SOFFAICH	37 CHESTNUT ST APT A RHINEBECK
Valerie Carlisle	83 Mtn. Rd., Pleasant Valley, NY 12569
Constantine	DOUGLIGGE PLIES N.Y.
KASLIAS GOS	47 NOXON STREET
Kari Rieser	16 Adriaan Ave kari.ker77@gmail.com
Valerie Legeay	Po Box 37, STAATSBURG, NY 12580.

Dear Legislators,

This budget vote is an opportunity for change.

Many forms of violence threaten wholesome human life on earth.

The terrorism perpetrated by Isis attracts those without jobs, community, and hope. They offer a goal and a group to work within.

Let's bring this issue to the county level. We here might prevent drug abuse and crime, our brand of "terrorism," by providing context, purpose, and a sense of belonging. Job creation is not an optional frill, but is a security issue. Many municipalities are developing worker-owned cooperatives to make affordable housing conversions, and awarding city contracts to aid small businesses. I ask the county legislature to follow these examples.

No less important are groups like the Inner City Boy Scouts program, the "Youth Bureau Project Return," the Teen Parenting program, Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring as well as Green Teen Program for Poughkeepsie. Get young people involved in meaningful activity, and you prevent crime and drug abuse.

But Climate change is another form of deadly violence. Rising seas erase whole nations. Droughts kill. Storms like Katrina and Haiyan destroy lives/ homes all at once. Burning fossil fuel releases CO2. Now, when governments and corporations knowingly fail to prevent the resultant warming, that is also an act of violence. And when our county refuses to install solar panels on government buildings, which would save the county thousands of energy dollars while cutting our carbon imprint, that is wrong. I ask, then, that Dutchess follow the lead of many NY State municipalities that have solarized widely. Thank you.

Marcia Slatkin, POBox 484, NY 12572, mflatkin@juno.com, 12/01/15

To: Members of the Dutchess County Legislature, the Criminal Justice Council, and the Dutchess County Executive on Two Aspects of the 2016 Budget:

"Evidence-Based Decision-Making" About the Size of a New Jail Requires that the 2016 Budget Fund the Creation of the Comprehensive CJS Information System Needed BEFORE Decision-Making.

The Substantial Costs Avoided by a New Jail Should Be Reinvested in Neighborhoods Whose Residents Are At the Highest Risk of Incarceration. The 2016 Budget Should Fund A Study of The Effectiveness of Such Efforts, and If Effective Elsewhere, to Recommend Adaptations Suitable to Dutchess County.

Date: December 1, 2015

By: Peter van Schaick
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The Dutchess County criminal justice agencies face a great opportunity. The County operates a jail with current expenses of around \$96,500 per inmate. In contrast, the County operates a probation department with current expenses of \$4,500 per person under community supervision. As the County expands the numbers of people under community supervision, and reduces the size of its jail population, the community reaps not only substantial savings in taxes, but also a reduction in the harm to inmates, their families, and their communities, harm caused by excess incarceration.

The County Executive obviously sees this historical opportunity. At a public forum about the jail in September, he waxed eloquently about his commitment to engage "aggressively" in alternatives to incarceration. He spoke about his new mobile Crisis Intervention Team, which has been training first responders how to communicate effectively with people in crisis, with the goal of diverting them to alternatives, such as mental health and substance abuse programs. He also reported that the County is "moving aggressively" on plans to build a Crisis Intervention Center early next year. Once up and running, after temporary treatment, this new program will screen people to estimate how to best reduce the likelihood of "repeat" behavior—many rotate in and out of jail, which doesn't help them, doesn't really reduce the crime rate, and doesn't help their families. After temporary treatment and assessment, his new program will then divert these folks into community-based alternatives to jail. In short, he's moving hard to divert people from entering the criminal justice system. That's great news!

The County Executive also said the County had made enough advances that he could already prove to the NYS Commission on Corrections that the County is already reducing its inmate numbers. The County persuaded the CoC to allow it to use of temporary housing units, "PODs," to end "housing out" while we continue program changes to reduce the number of beds needed even more. I congratulate him on holding firm with the CoC to get the time needs to further develop the service programs that will help keep people out of jail.

The County Executive also said the County now needs to develop a final proposal for a new jail facility that's the right size, mentioning a focus on restorative justice. Jail size presents a host of questions: about the cost of the new facility, the cost to operate it, the savings from the excessive personnel costs at the old jail, as well as the long term savings by moving inmates to community supervision.

Using numbers from the 2012 CJC Needs Assessment, a jail to house 650 inmates would cost around \$201,825,000. Paying off the bonds would cost an average of roughly \$10,638,000 a year (much more in the early years; much less in the later years). If instead, we implement programs of community supervision, and decide to build a new jail to house 300, the cost could be \$93,150,000, with annual payments on the bonds of \$4,910,000. The annual principal and interest costs avoided *per capita*, is around \$16,400.

A new jail would sharply reduce personnel costs. The 2012 CJC Needs Assessment estimated that with 426 beds, and staff of 125 in a new facility, instead of the staff of 233 required by the inefficient architecture of the old jail, that the county would save \$11,050,000 in personnel costs, or \$25,900 savings *per capita*.

A 300 bed jail might be more or less than what we need to keep the crime rate low. Violent crime rates in Dutchess County are now low and have been low for 25 years. The Sheriff's Office has reported around 60 violent crimes a year since 1990. Yet during that same period, the number of inmates rose from 240 to its recent peak, and has fallen a bit to its present level, around 400. Our current inmate number is 67% more than it was 25 years ago. A 300 bed jail would be 25% more than the 240 inmates we had in 1990 with essentially the same violent crime rate as we have now. This merely suggest that there may or may not be room to reduce our inmate numbers even more. For an accurate estimate, we need better data about the current operation of the CJS and the needs of those caught in the system.

If we overestimate the number of beds we need, we may end up like Ulster County, which has a new jail with lots of empty beds. If we overbuild, the taxpayers will pay an unnecessary \$492,000 over 30 years, *per capita* or per bed. If we overbuild by 50 beds, the taxpayers will pay an unnecessary \$24,600,000. We need good numbers about our emerging community alternatives to build the right number of beds. Again, to make an "evidence-based" decision about the size

of the jail, we seem to need better data about the flows of people through the County's criminal justice system.

The 2012 CJC Needs Assessment did not include estimates for the costs of alternatives to the jail, ruling out another quick estimate. It suffices to say that another "evidence-based" projection might compare the savings from avoided personnel costs to the savings from new community alternatives using the new jail *per capita* costs as a benchmark.

The 2012 CJC Needs Assessment made two primary, intertwined recommendations to carry out the NIC recommendation that DC adopt what it called "Evidence-Based Decision Making:"

[W]e need to increase our ability to collect and analyze data as it relates to the risk levels of inmates and those in ATIs. . . . This is the first step in defining the specific actions that can

Help analyze the activity at various system decision points,

Identify specific actions for systemic improvements and [to]

[Help determine] how to address the needs of various populations within the criminal justice system.

This analysis will lead to a reduction in jail beds required and [will] also help to reduce recidivism.

[Executive Summary, page 5.]

Unfortunately, from my outsider's point of view, we don't have adequate numbers on the County CJS, the offenders who frequent it, or their needs. Arrest data is apparently kept in case tracking systems operated by each police department; whether any County case tracking system uses that information is not apparent in any report that's on line. Arraignment and sentencing data is kept by the court system, with perhaps an exception for low level offenses handled in municipal courts; again, whether any County case tracking system picks up that data is not apparent. The public defender's office likely has a case tracking system; its institutional connection to police and the courts may mean that the County should use its system as a key node, if that can be done without violating their duties to their clients. Probation has its own case management system, and perhaps a second one for youth under its supervision. The jail has its own case management system. Implementing a County wide criminal justice case tracking system is obviously not trivial.

A key question is whether such a system could provide jail planners with a better estimate of the jail size needed. Let me offer an example that's fresh in my mind. Recently, we leased 2 PODS to eliminate housing out and to provide an interim solution to the demands of the CoC for additional beds. Last month we

CLOSED half of one of these PODS - 50 beds are sitting there empty. Presumably, better CJS data would have predicted, and avoided, this result. To me, this is a symptom of our important challenge—to plan properly before we let the NYS CoC badger us into what seems to this outsider like even more wasteful spending.

The County Executive should make a major commitment to build the CJS information system that we need BEFORE finalizing plans for a new jail. Create the information system that can support the "Seven Best Practices for Evidence-Based Decision Making" that the CJC adopted in 2012. Without evidence, the CJS can never be an "evidence-based" system. Without evidence, the County seems doomed to willy-nilly spending. Such spending may lead to something financially worse than leasing a new, unused POD—building brand new, empty jail space. The budget should reflect this commitment by allocating the funds needed to build this comprehensive information system as soon as practicable.

The overall aim of the County CJS is to reduce crime. From my point of view, the County's savings from avoiding high jail costs would be well invested in those neighborhoods where potential inmates live. Perhaps 50% of costs avoided should be reinvested in those troubled communities; perhaps more. To do this, the County's leaders need to look beyond the jail, and look beyond alternatives to jail, and focus their attention on those neighborhoods most affected by the County CJS. Our leaders should be pay attention to what's needed to rebuild traditional norms and values within those communities, they should be targeting reinvestment funds to create better jobs, better schools and better housing for those neighbors of ours. Stable families and working communities are the best prevention; they make us all safer, less fearful, and happier.

Peter van Schaick has his masters masters degree from the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Albany and lives in Rhinebeck.

Good evening!

I come to you to share my observations about this year's budget proposal.

In case you wonder about my accent, I am a naturalized French Immigrant.

As we speak tonight, the Climate Change Summit is taking place in Paris. Leaders from around the world are discussing global climate change, pollution and green gas effects. It is of the utmost importance that we should seriously talk about these issues at a local level.

Investing judiciously in green energies will create livable wages for many people in our local community. It will allow Dutchess County to invest into its own green future.

I would like to know why green energies aren't more heavily implemented in Dutchess County Budget this year. Installing solar power would save in electrical cost locally and diminish our carbon footprint worldwide.

It would allow this money to be re-distributed to unfunded programs such as Grace Smith House, Farming for the City, Dutchess Outreach, Mill Street Loft, Big Brother, Boy Scouts of America, Teen Geeks and other great programs that are going without this year for lack of funding.

I truly believe that youth in our community deserves to have after school programs that will support their social, educational and economic future.

Furthermore, if the construction of a new jail is implemented, I would like to see included, parallel programs funding for heroin addicts such as the very successful one in Gloucester, Massachusetts or Drew house program in New York City for incarcerated women and children.

It would lower the cost of jail overtime and make tax dollars available for these much needed programs.

The Hudson valley has been deemed a flagship for the development of communities and business by Professor Rik Scarce of Skidmore College. Let us continue to lead the way in a progressive manner as to set a positive example for our great state of New York and our nation at large.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

VALERIE LEGEAY