

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
JOINT WITH THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND THE COMMITTEE ON GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL AND ETHNIC
DIVERSITY
MINUTES May 18, 2009**

MEMBERS B&A: Chair: Jose Alvarado; Legislators:
Abinanti, Burton, Harckham, Jenkins, Kaplowitz,
Rogowsky, Spreckman,
Oros, Myers

MEMBERS GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: Chair: Ken Jenkins,
Legislators: Bronz, Burton, Pinto,
Rogowsky, Spreckman, Harckham, Myers

MEMBERS OF GENERATIONAL, CULTURAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY:
Chair: Bernice Spreckman; Legislators:
Alvarado, Jenkins, Myers, Pinto, Bronz,
Burton

IN ATTENDANCE: **DPW:** Ralph Butler; **Budget:** John Delaney,
Arthur Vietro, Anne Reasoner; **Planning:**
Rob Doscher, Dave Kvinge; **Parks:** Robert
Reno, Lea Cullen, Dan McBride; **DEF:** Mike
Coley; **Youth Bureau:** Mary Kate Cabaleiro;
CEO: Andrew Neuman, Bill Randolph;
CBAC: Fran MacEachron; **CBAC, LWVW:**
Barbara Strauss; **Staff:** Diana Marszalek,
Sally Schecter

Chair Jose Alvarado of Budget and Appropriations called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

The Budget Committee presented the first quarter forecast of 2009. Budget Director Anne Reasoner said that for the first quarter of this year we have a fund balance of \$11.2 million whereas the first quarter of last year we were behind \$5.9 million. The concerns are the sales tax, mortgage tax, hotel tax, auto use tax and interest and investments. Positions are not being filled and the County is trying to hold the line on expenses. Not included in this report is the impact of the MTA Mobility tax, what the impact of the Bee-Line Bus Fare increase will be and how much money will we be receiving in stimulus money. Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) is included in the report. A request was made that the Board

receive a copy of the IGT transfers. There was discussion by Legislator Rogowsky on the sales tax receipts and by Legislator Kaplowitz on revenue in general and where would the County end up by year end. Legislator Pinto questioned the amount we give to the MTA for station maintenance and the amount of \$1.6 million that will be paid to the MTA for the mobility tax. Legislator Rogowsky would like a complete analysis of the state budget and how it relates to the money that the County has received from them. Legislator Kaplowitz wanted to know if revenue exceeds what had been forecast, what would be done with the money and the Director said it would be used to bring up the reserves. Legislator Kaplowitz wanted to be sure the Board is consulted on any policy with regards to the extra money. Legislator Rogowsky asked if Budget had an intro auditor and he was told no. On the motion of Legislator Kaplowitz, seconded by Legislator Jenkins, the first quarter forecast of 2009 was accepted.

A251. IMA City of New Rochelle and City of White Plains Invest in Kids Program: On the motion of Chair Spreckman for Generational Cultural and Ethnic Diversity, the committee was called to order at 10:54 a.m. Chair Spreckman and a representative of the police department as well as a representative from Social Services and the young people involved in the programs attended a meeting explaining about the programs. It was suggested that a presentation be made to the Municipal Officials Association so other municipalities are made aware of these programs. On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Spreckman for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Spreckman, Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Burton, Oros) and on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Bronz for Generational Cultural and Ethnic Diversity, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Spreckman, Jenkins, Myers, Pinto, Bronz, Burton).

On the motion of Legislator Bronz, seconded by Legislator Burton, the Committee on Generational Cultural and Ethnic Diversity was adjourned at 11 a.m.

On the motion of Chair Jenkins, the Committee on Government Operations was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

A261 Capital Project Amendment BPL21 Water Quality Improvement Projects (Carpenter's Pond) and A262 IMA Amendment with New Rochelle for Carpenter's Pond: The amendment was to increase the appropriations for the capital project and the IMA amendment was to accept \$100,000 from the City to replace a valve in Carpenter's Pond. These items are also in the Environment & Energy Committee. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Myers for Budget & Appropriations, the items were passed by a vote of 9-0

(Spreckman, Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Burton, Oros).

A263 Public Hearing Resolution SL102 Environmental Benefit Projects, A264 Capital Budget Amendment SL102 Environmental Benefits Projects and C146 Bond Act SL102 Environmental Benefit Projects: The two projects are related to the 2008 Consent Order. One is for \$300,000 to expand an existing tidal pond, tidal wetland and coastal buffer restoration and re-establishment project at Manursing Lake in the amount of \$300,000. The other project is a stream buffer restoration along the Mamaroneck River, removing the non-native vegetation and replacing it with native vegetation. Legislator Myers wanted to know what will this project do to the Mamaroneck River and where is the money coming from. The area is near Mamaroneck Avenue and the buffer will remove the pollutants before they get into the river. The Manursing Lake project will restore tidal wetlands as well as have a nutrient benefit. Legislator Oros wanted to know if this was being charged to the sewer districts – Blind Brook, Port Chester, Mamaroneck Valley and New Rochelle. The answer is that \$195,000 is being charged to the general fund and the balance to the sewer districts. There was discussion as to whether this should be charged to the sewer district or all the taxpayers. It will be discussed in the Environment and Energy Committee and Legislator Abinanti asked that the County Attorney as well as Mr. Coley, Mr. Butler, Mr. Doscher and Mr. Kvinge be present. A request was made for a breakdown of the money that has been allocated in SL012. On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 10-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Abinanti, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Oros (without prejudice)).

C131 Bond Act RP042 Playland Site Improvements: The Board has already approved \$600,000 for fencing at Playland and this is for \$1,950,000. The \$600,000 bonds were not sold so they are combining the 2 bonds for the total for \$1,950,000. The project will create 45 jobs. The fencing will be installed in the rear of the park and along the boardwalk. Because of the one price entrance fee now, there will be a need for crowd control. From Rye Town Park to the pier which is 2500 feet, a 4 foot fence will be installed for \$600,000 (this has been approved). The fence will replace the 4 foot chain link fence with a 6 foot wrought iron fence which will enable people to use the seaside walk year round. The \$600,000 that has already been approved will be added to the debt service but this new amount of \$1.35 will be added on to Playland's debt service. The Fiscal Impact statement has to be corrected. On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was passed by a vote of 7-3 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Burton, Kaplowitz (without prejudice), Myers, Harckham, Spreckman (without prejudice) Rogowsky (no), Abinanti (no), Oros (no)). On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Harckham

for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-1 (Jenkins, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz, Spreckman (without prejudice) Rogowsky (no)).

C130 Bond Act RGC20 Golf Course Infrastructure Rehabilitation: This is for the replacement of the sand traps at Mohansic Golf Course for a cost of \$500,000, for the rehabilitation of the third hole fairway at Sprain Lake Golf Course for a cost of \$250,000 and for the sand traps at Dunwoodie Golf Course for a cost of \$260,000 which will be paid for by FEMA because of the 2007 storms. The third hole at Sprain Lake Golf Course is a bottleneck. After taking the first shot, golfers cannot see the green and there is a steep hill that golfers have to be careful on the golf carts. The project would take down the hole and upgrade and rebuild the green. The cart path would also be relocated. Biggest complaints from golfers are the traps. There are 48 traps on every golf course and they need to be improved. The work would remove the sand, correct the drainage with a filter and put the sand back in as well as regrade part of the fairway. It would be done after the season. Legislators Kaplowitz and Pinto had many concerns – the third hole is not the only blind spot, why not have a mirror or a bell. It was suggested to do the traps but not the regrading and possibly next year raise the fee by \$1.

C137 Bond Act RGP08 General Infrastructure Vehicle Replacement: The bond act is for \$1,000,000 which would replace vehicles and equipment throughout the Parks system. Where possible they will be replaced with diesel vehicles that will meet the EPA Clean Air Emission Standards and also with electric vehicles to replace gas models. The old equipment is auctioned off. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Rogowsky for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Harckham, Abinanti, Spreckman, Kaplowitz, Myers) and on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Harckham for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz, Spreckman).

A249 Capital Budget Amendment RB01J Pleasantville Road over Pocantico River and C132 Bond Act Amendment RB01J Pleasantville Road: This project is being refinanced. Commissioner Butler said they were told that Federal and State aid was being moved to the year 2016 and beyond and many of the roads and bridges cannot wait until then because of public safety concerns so County money is being used. The Commissioner is working with the state to try and move up the date but in the meantime they have to move these projects. There might be other projects that will be coming before the Board and the cost of these projects will be approximately \$5 million to \$6 million. On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by

Legislator Kaplowitz for Budget & Appropriations the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Spreckman, Kaplowitz, Harckham, Abinanti, Myers) and on the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Myers for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz, Spreckman).

C133. Bond Act B015B Interior Infrastructure Repairs – White Plains Complex: This is for \$100,000 to fund the design and construction of a 6 inch valve which will include a Reduced Pressure Zone backflow preventer assembly and the replacement of the water meter for the MOB1. This is required by the Health Department codes. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Abinanti, Spreckman, Kaplowitz, Harckham, Myers) and on the motion of Legislator Bronz, seconded by Legislator Pinto for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Jenkins, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz, Spreckman, Rogowsky).

C134. Bond Act B035B Heavy Equipment Replacement: A 1995 Hi-Ranger is to be replaced by a hybrid Hi-Ranger & Chipper in the amount of \$350,000 for the road maintenance division. Legislator Harckham wanted to know if we purchase these items en-mass for bulk savings. Commissioner Butler explained that he puts the requisition thru the Bureau of Purchasing which in turn checks the State contract. The Commissioner usually purchases this independently as he is able to obtain a better price and better service. Legislator Rogowsky wanted to know how many roads do we still own. Originally we had 180 and we now have 156 but the maintenance division originally had 135 employees and it is now down to 40. On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Abinanti for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Abinanti) and on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Spreckman for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz, Spreckman).

C135 Bond Act B042A Roof Replacement Program: Legislator Abinanti asked that this be held until the Environment Committee is able to discuss all the replacement of roofs on buildings in the County and formulate a policy. Commissioner Butler said this building does have some minor leaks that are being repaired but he would like to design and replace this roof before the snow.

There were two items in Government Operations that needed to be sent to the County Executive – Item 314 Sewer District Modification – Mt. Pleasant – 3 Pleasant Manor Drive in Thornwood and 144 Tower Hill Road in Scarborough and Item 311 Sewer District Modification – 5 Sunset Lane, Harrison. On the

motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Burton, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz, Spreckman).

Legislator Rogowsky mentioned that he met with the Health Department concerning the ruling that a lot needs to be 40,000 square feet. They are checking into this as to the reasoning behind this.

On the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Burton, the Budget & Appropriations Committee was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

On the motion of Legislator Bronz, seconded by Legislator Pinto the Committee on Government Operations was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.