

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
JOINT WITH GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND
ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2009**

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

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

MEMBERS OF ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY:
Chair: Tom Abinanti, Legislators: Harckham,
Kaplowitz, Myers, Oros, Rogowsky

IN ATTENDANCE: **Journal News:** G.McKinstry; **Budget:** Pat Huggerly, Arthur Vietro, Anne Reasoner, Fran Piskorowski, **LWW:** Mary Beth Gose; **TVCC:** Jacqueline Irwin; **Planning:** Norma Drummond, Deborah DeLong, **Human Resources:** Ed Brancati, Paula Redd Zeman, **DEF:** Tom Lauro, Gina D'Agrosa; **County Attorney:** Karen Ramos, Lori Aleso, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, James Robertson, Charlene Indelicato, Anthony Arena, Charles Forzano; **CEO:** Andrew Neuman, Bill Randolph, Sue Gerry; **Developer:** J. Corson; **BH Power Strategies:** Sherrie Eskow, Bonnie Hagen; **CBAC:** Bill Kay; **Board of Elections:** Reginald LaFayette, Carolee Sunderland, Marie Fagan; **Office for Women:** Camille Murphy, Stephanie Dechiaro; **Youth Bureau:** Thomas Provappallil, Marlene Furtick; Mary Kate Cabaliero; **Children's Association:** Cora Greenberg, **Student Advocacy:** Karen Blumenthal; Hope Corbin; Donald Sandford; **BOL:** Betsy DeSoye, Sam Capasso, Alfreda

Williams, M. Amodio

Chair Alvarado called the Committee on Budget and Appropriations to order at 10:15 a.m. and Chair Ken Jenkins called the Committee on Government Operations to order at 10:15 a.m.

A220 Amending Act 220-2008 (330 Riverdale Avenue Affordable Housing Project) and A221 Amending Act 222: The acts have been amended so a tenant in place prior to year thirty can move to any unit. It was pointed out that the IMA needs to be amended. On the motion of Legislator Alvarado, seconded by Legislator Kaplowitz for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, Kaplowitz) and on the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Pinto for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, Pinto, Burton).

On the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Harckham, Government Operations was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton, Budget & Appropriations minutes of November 17 were approved.

Commissioner Zeman from Human Resources made her presentation. They are offering medical examinations including respiratory fit tests for Public Safety, Public Works and Environmental Facilities, lead testing for personnel at the firing range from Public Safety and Corrections, and random drug testing for police officers and ride operators as well as lifeguards. They also are complying with the Civil Service Law which requires holding examinations, establishing eligible lists and certifying the lists against the provisional appointments. They also administer the payroll certification audit process twice annually for all towns, villages, school districts, special districts, the cities of Rye and Peekskill and the Westchester Health Care Corporation. This is also true of Westchester Community College. There was discussion on the various lines in the Human Resources budget.

A355 Public Hearing Resolution Water District #3, WD302: Chair Abinanti called the Committee on Environment and Energy to order at

10:55 a.m. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Harckham, The Committee of Budget & Appropriations voted to hold a public hearing. The motion was passed by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, Kaplowitz, Burton). On the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Myers, the Committee on Environment & Energy approved the motion to hold a public hearing by a vote of 5-0 (Abinanti, Kaplowitz, Harckham, Myers, Rogowsky). Government Operations had previously signed this out on November 10 for "all purposes" on a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Pinto, Ryan, Harckham, Burton). Legislator Abinanti said he had 14 questions for the Commissioner which he would submit and he hoped to have his answers for the next Environment meeting.

On the motion of Legislator Kaplowitz, seconded by Legislator Harckham, the Environment Committee was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

The next presentation was the Board of Elections. The concerns are the warehouse and their working space. They have been notified by Yonkers that as of December 15 they will no longer house the voting machines. Presently they have been told that the warehouse will be ready in January 2010 but they have been given many dates and they do not know if this is factual. Their existing space is supposed to be renovated but nothing has been done there. The voting machines in the warehouse are supposed to be hermetically sealed and they are not. They have problems with paper curling and the ink clogging the machines. There were discussions on the various line items. The renovation of Grand Street has not been received by the Board. The plans are in the process of being drafted and Legislator Abinanti wanted to know if it could be expedited.

Office of Women was the next department on the agenda. The Director indicated that the budget represents a net decrease of \$218,225. The tax levy operating expenses is \$687,998, tax levy contractual services \$899,536, Interdepartmental revenue for staff \$470,880 and state revenue is \$37,155. The cost of programs is covered by private funding raised by the Director. There were questions about some of the line items. Grants are applied for by the Office of Women and received and some go directly to contract

agencies. It was suggested that somewhere in their budget a list should indicate who receives money and how much.

The Youth Bureau was next. The Director, Marlene Furtick, knows the importance of prevention. Children get into trouble between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Invest in Kids has 30 programs and has done an exceptional job. The proposed budget is \$106,463 less than the 2009 adopted budget. The tax levy is \$155,113 which is \$58,246 more than the 2009 budget due to a decrease in inter-departmental revenue and a decrease in state revenue. Ms. Furtick listed the program areas and services and went on to discuss the expenditures. There was discussion on the various line items.

The last department was Law. They are reducing one position. They also have limited the number of books they are purchasing and have converted the library to use for Family Court sessions with clients from D.S.S. They are a civil office. They will be taking on the forfeiture law which originally was to go into effect in 2011 but will now begin on December 15 2010. Three months are needed to implement the program and Law does not have the money for the program. The County Attorney expects to be able to find someone for three months part time. Legislator Abinanti wanted to know how much work does the law department do for the Board and what type of work. The County Attorney said it is not possible as she does not bill the Board. There was discussion on various line items. Legislator Oros wanted to know if we owe our attorneys any money on the discrimination lawsuit and if so where is it in the budget. It will be checked into. Epstein Becker is not working on the Implementation Plan. 6N will be reviewed when Budget comes in with the Actuary.

On the motion of Legislator Abinanti, seconded by Legislator Myers, the Budget & Appropriations Committee was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.