

Westchester County Board of Legislators  
ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE

FINAL

MINUTES:

**ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE on March 31, 2009**

**MEMBERS:** Chair: Tom Abinanti; Legislators: Peter Harckham, Ken Jenkins, and Jim Maisano; joined by Michael Kaplowitz and Vito Pinto

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **CE:** Andrew Neuman, Karen Pasquale **News 12:** John Goff, Christe Bakalor, TJN: G. McKinstry, **STAFF:** Louise T. Gantress, Chris Crane, Joanne Sold

Meeting called to order at 10:45 AM

**Item(s) Discussed**

Role of Task Force was defined as a joint effort with County Executive's office to assure Westchester County obtains "every penny" to which it is entitled under the ARRA stimulus legislation.

Collaboration of staff from County Executive and Board should mean that the County will not miss anything: grants, deadlines, etc. Karen Pasquale and Andrew Neuman explained the funding streams, distinguishing between those from the State and those from the Federal government. There are federal deadlines of 120 to 160 days to obligate funds for projects. The projects discussed were (1) transportation – approximately \$4.9 million under TIP and \$13.2 million over 2 years for transit (2) energy \$4.5 million (3) Workforce Investment at \$2.789 million for youth, adult and dislocated workers and (4) Medicaid under FMAP of \$61 million over 2 years.

Issues include (1) having "shovel ready" projects, and the Task Force was advised the County has submitted five under TIP and has others ready to go from the Capital Projects list (2) setting up a system to monitor as New York State is a "super audit state" and compliance with federal and state requirements may be costly (no additional money for administration) and time consuming and (3) policy decisions as to the use of funds, whether to accelerate projects from the capital budget and (4) how to prioritize.

It was decided to meet in approximately two weeks with a report by the County Executive's office on Medicaid, Energy, Workforce Investment and Transportation with the commissioners of those departments present.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM with intention to meet again within two weeks.