

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
JOINT WITH PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY
MINUTES APRIL 12, 2010**

MEMBERS B&A: **Chair:** Jose Alvarado, **Legislators:**
Abinanti, Burton, Harckham, Myers,
Rogowsky, Spreckman, Williams, Jenkins

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATORS: A. Williams

MEMBERS OF Public Safety & Security: Acting Chair: Judy
Myers, **Legislators:** Burton, Burrows,
Harckham, Nonna, Jenkins

IN ATTENDANCE: Budget: Arthur Vietro, Larry Soule; **Police:**
Martin McGlynn, Christopher Burkart; **CEO:**
Katy Delgado; **Emergency Services:** Tony
Sutton; **Finance:** Ann Marie Berg, Matthew
Carino, Michael Crotti; **CBAC, LWWV:**
Barbara Strauss; **Law:** Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz

Chair Alvarado called the Committee on Budget & Appropriations to order at 10:10 a.m. and Acting Chair Myers called the Committee on Public Safety & Security to order at 10:10 a.m.

Commissioner Sutton discussed A42. IMA DES Specialized Equipment, A43. IMA DES Specialized Trailers, A44. IMA DES Shelter Supplies, and A55. Act CUNY Emergency Shelter Training: These four items pertain to the County's emergency response efforts during a disaster. The trailers contain bedding and paperwork that are needed for an emergency shelter. Some of the municipalities prefer a storage container but DES prefers trailers as they are easier to transport. On A55 New York City entered into an agreement with CUNY for a curriculum on how to manage a shelter. The County then entered into an agreement with New York City for training in shelter management. This is all grant funded. Presently in various municipalities there are six trailers with equipment and there are four in the pipeline. DES's Special Operations Department periodically checks the equipment to be sure it is not obsolete and not in need of

repair. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Burton for all four items for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Myers, Rogowsky, Burton, Harckham, Jenkins, Spreckman, L. Williams) and on the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Burton for Public Safety & Security on three items, A42, A43 and A44, the motion was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Myers, Burton, Harckham, Nonna, Jenkins, Burrows). Item A55 was not in Public Safety. It was in Public Works.

A45. ACT IMA County's Firing Range: This legislation reduces the cost to the local municipalities and hopes to increase the usage and shared services. The cost was \$62 per officer, now it will be \$630 for an eight hour tour. The cost per officer will depend on how many officers the municipality brings. It could be as low as \$17 per officer. The County will supply a safety officer who will oversee the operations and the municipalities will supply a fire arms instructor. Presently the County has 3 IMA's with municipalities at the old rate but various municipalities use the range without an IMA. The County uses it for 900 correction officers, 225 probation officers, 270 County police and 40 emergency officers as well as auxiliary police. Legislator Rogowsky questioned the fee if the municipality did not have a fire arms instructor. There would be an additional charge. There was also discussion as to whether a municipality should have insurance and would they be stopped from entering the firing range if they did not have insurance. Blue Mountain has an outdoor range and Camp Smith has a range but it's availability is dependent on the military needs. On the motion of Legislator Spreckman, seconded by Legislator Rogowsky for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was passed by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Myers, Rogowsky, Harckham, Jenkins, Spreckman, L. Williams) and on the motion of Legislator Nonna, seconded by Legislator Jenkins for Public Safety and Security, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Myers, Harckham, Nonna, Jenkins, Burrows).

A46. Act IMA Peekskill Stop/DWI Patrol/Datamaster Project: Approximately four years ago the County entered into IMAs with various municipalities for this project. The funding came from the State which returned fines collected in Westchester. Peekskill missed the original deadline. This IMA will expire the end of this year along with the original IMA and it will have to be renewed starting in

2011. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Spreckman for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was passed by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Myers, Rogowsky, Harckham, Jenkins, Spreckman, L. Williams) and on the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Nonna for Public Safety, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Myers, Harckham, Nonna, Jenkins, Burrows).

A50. Act Military Leave Benefits: This is to provide salary and benefits for County employees who are members of the Ready Reserve and who are or may be ordered to active military duty. From April 2008 to March 2009, there were eight people impacted, from April 2009 to March 2010 there were six people impacted and from April 10 so far there are two. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator L. Williams for Budget & Appropriation, the motion was passed by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Myers, Rogowsky, Harckham, Jenkins, Spreckman, L. Williams) and on the motion of Legislator Nonna, seconded by Legislator Burrows for Public Safety, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Myers, Harckham, Nonna, Jenkins, Burrows).

On the motion of Legislator Nonna, seconded by Legislator Burrows, Public Safety & Security was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

B6. Health and Related Benefit Plans: This is an act that would authorize a retainer for a consultant to prepare an evaluation and make recommendations to reduce costs of health and related benefit plans. The Chair of the Board of Legislators appointed a special committee to evaluate the costs of health insurance. They looked at an interim plan and now they are looking at a comprehensive plan. POMCO is the third-party administrator that the County is presently using and the County's cost is approximately \$7000 for a single individual and approximately \$22,000 for families. There is a significant difference in what employees of other municipalities pay. In a survey done by the NCSL (National Council of State Legislators) in 2009, Westchester County costs were 50 percent higher and in a survey done by Kaiser Foundation, the County costs were 42 percent greater. The County uses POMCO that has fewer doctors and the County pays more because we pay out of network. All plans are significantly lower than POMCO and that is why the Board wants to hire a consultant to look at all the plans.

The consultant would be paid on a contingency basis – based on how much they would save the County.

It was asked if this could be done in house as there was concern as to how much the consultant would eventually receive.

The sub-committee would like this done jointly with the County Executive. The legislation was sent to the County Executive as well as to the legislators but the Committee has not received any comments. Twenty million dollars can be saved.

The Commissioner of Finance explained there is the traditional HMO that you cannot go out of network and there is our plan which is a combination of HMO and PPO where you can go out of network and the employee picks up a share of the cost. She said by going with NYSHIP we can save money – there would be a small amount of negotiation with CSEA and the Teamsters. Their contracts are conducive to change and the law department is looking into it. With that change and the Commissioner's analysis, the County will be saving over \$10 million. In hiring a consultant, there would not be any short term savings because of having to negotiate the union contracts.

The administration's plan would include CSEA active and retired employees, Teamsters active and retired employees, and the non-represented. Then you can talk to a consultant for alternative programs and the employees can decide what program they want to buy into and that would produce more savings. POMCO is not responsible for the cost going up, it is the service that we are providing. Unfortunately there are a lot of sick retirees.

NYSHIP costs do not go up as it is a state wide program and the state does not want their costs going up. NYSHIP has over one million subscribers. The retirees would be happy with NYSHIP as they have providers all over the country but POMCO does not. The County is looking at NYSHIP's traditional plan.

Legislator Rogowsky strongly urged the Committee if they have any questions about NYSHIP to ask them. Based on what he heard from the Commissioner on a short term basis there would be a \$10 million savings. He is suggesting that we sit down with the administration and work together because the administration must do the

negotiating with the unions. Legislator L. Williams suggested that the sub-committee meet with NYSHIP. The Commissioner said that NYSHIP requires a resolution from the Board.

Legislator Jenkins and Legislator Myers suggested that this legislation be moved out of committee.

Chair Alvarado asked if anyone wished to speak on the wording of the legislation. Legislation Rogowsky started with Section 1 – “Who shall conduct a comprehensive evaluation of and make recommendations for cost effective measures...” Section 2. “The evaluation shall include... (a) a cost-benefit analysis of an opt-out provision and employee contributions to the cost of the plan.” What does that mean? It was suggested that discussion and corrections be made at the next Budget meeting and that this item would be the first item on the agenda.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Myers, the minutes of April 5 were accepted with corrections.

On the motion of Legislator Abinanti, seconded by Legislator Spreckman, the Committee was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.