

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
MINUTES FEBRUARY 11, 2010**

MEMBERS B&A: Vice Chair: Martin Rogowsky, Legislators: Abinanti, Burton, Myers, Pinto, Ryan, Williams, Jenkins,

IN ATTENDANCE: **CBAC, LWVW:** Barbara Strauss; **Law:** James Robertson, Robert Meehan, Stacey Dolgin Kmetz; **Finance:** Ann Marie Berg, Sergio Sensi; **Budget:** Arthur Vietro, Larry Soule, John Delaney; **CE's Office:** Katy Delgado, George Oros; **Journal News:** G. McKistry; **LWVW:** Adelaide DiGiorgi

Vice Chair Rogowsky called the meeting to order at 10:17 a.m. Acting Commissioner John Hsu was asked to come in and discuss an item that is on A & C this morning. The item is for the installation of new insulated glass windows and doors, a Direct Digital Control HVAC system, energy saving light fixtures and motion sensors at 450 Saw Mill River Road. A chart was handed out that summarized the construction costs. The Board appropriated \$7 million. The first column indicates \$6.8 million has been allocated to date for projects and the second column, \$4,411,529, is the amount that has been spent leaving a balance of \$2,388,470. The roof deterioration added \$1 million to the project. The building was purchased in the winter of 2008 and NYPA was asked to use portable heaters in the building which they did. In addition to the \$7 million, there will be an additional cost with NYPA for \$3.6 million which will pay for the boilers, gutting the building and windows in the warehouse. We will pay NYPA through energy savings so it won't cost us anything. We have asked NYPA to give us a 10, 15 and 20 year pay out. There will be 22,000 square feet that originally was to accommodate Public Safety but the new administration is now determining whether or not that will happen. Legislator Rogowsky pointed out that the purchase of the building was based on Public Safety using part of the building. Legislator Rogowsky suggested that an in depth discussion should take place in the Public Works Committee. This A&C item is being re-bid because there was a dispute with the 2nd lowest bidder. Acting

Commissioner Hsu decided to re-bid it and remove the 22,000 square feet that was meant for Public Safety. He expects the re-bid to come in under \$1 million. Per Mr. Boland, this item will be held over in A&C.

A4. Bond Counsel Selection: The contract is for 6 months at \$400,000. An RFP was sent out and approximately 13 firms responded. Three firms were chosen – Hawkins, Delafield & Wood, Fulbright & Jaworski, and Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo. Last year Robinson & Cole and Hiscock & Barclay were used. The reputation of the Bond Counsel is important as it would affect the County's credit rating. Legislator Williams would like to see a list of the law firms that responded to the RFP. On the motion of Legislator Williams, seconded by Legislator Pinto the motion was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Abinanti, Pinto, Rogowsky, Williams, Burton, Ryan).

A8. Fixing Tax Distribution Tables (Tax Warrants): and A9. Fixing & Determining the Amount of County Taxes (Tax Warrants): On the motion of Legislator Williams, seconded by Legislator Pinto, the motion was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Pinto, Williams, Rogowsky, Burton, Ryan, Abinanti).

A10. Pay Plan Amendment – Director of Communications & Director of Economic Development: Two people have been hired. The salary previously was \$137,230 and now it will be \$155,000. Larry Gottlieb is the Director of Economic Development. The ninth floor is in the process of reorganizing and they are down eight positions since December, 2009. Some of that money is being used to pay the Communications and Economic Development Directors. Each one is taking on more responsibility. They will be hiring a Real Estate Director as it is required in the Charter. Legislator Ryan felt it was not necessary to have a separate Real Estate person –Economic Development and Real Estate could be one. Mr. Oros will send the committee an organizational chart indicating a head count (positions) and salaries from the prior administration and this administration and also the details of the I.D.A. budget. The pay plan was not acted upon.

On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Burton, the minutes of February 1, 2010 were accepted.

The Commissioners of the Budget Department and the Finance Department were introduced and a cash flow projection summary was distributed. Legislator Rogowsky questioned the “net other receipts/(Disb)” showing a negative balance whereas the receipts were listed as showing a positive balance. The “receipts” are major items and the “net other” are small items. If the general fund runs out of money, money is borrowed from the districts (sewer, water, refuse) and then returned to the districts. Bonding was moved from October to January. There was concern that the beginning balance in January was a negative \$14 million. Legislator Abinanti questioned if it was legal to borrow at the end of the year and going into the new year. Legislator Ryan pointed out if we had bonded all capital items instead of paying cash, we would have ended up with \$86 million to the positive rather than \$14 million to the negative. Showing \$43 million as a negative balance at the end of the year is not definitive. There will be cost savings and Finance updates these figures continuously. There were other questions concerning the summary. Legislator Abinanti asked for a sales tax comparison and also the amount of money that is in capital projects on loan – in advancement.

On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Ryan, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.