

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, EFFICIENCY & SAVINGS**

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 11:30 am**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**GOES Committee Members Present:** Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chair; Legislators Judy Myers, Bill Burton, Alfreda Williams.

**Other Legislators in Attendance:** Legislator Pete Harckham

**In Attendance:** BOL: T. Bernard, C. Giliberti, L. Goldstein; CEO: K. Delgado; OTHERS: B. Strauss (LWVW, CBAC), A. DiGiorgi (LWVW), K. Valenti (JN), D. Cecil, H. Ring (MTA), M. Mannix (MNR).

With a quorum present, the GOES Committee was called to order at 11:35 am.

**ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION:**

- **REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MTA AND METRO NORTH TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ON BUDGETARY ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

Chair Kaplowitz advised everyone that this meeting was being videotaped and would later be posted on the Board of Legislators' website in its entirety ([www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com)). Parts of the meeting will also likely be on YouTube.

Chair Kaplowitz noted that on March 1st, the Board of Legislators unanimously passed a Resolution, calling for an independent forensic audit of the MTA, as well as the immediate repeal of the MTA's controversial payroll tax.

Chair Kaplowitz introduced the representatives present; Hilary Ring, **MTA** Director of Government Affairs, Douglas Johnson, **MTA** Director of Budgets, Mark Mannix, **Metro-North** Senior Director of Corporate & Public Affairs, and Don Cecil, MTA Board Member.

Chair Kaplowitz thanked them for coming and asked them to please brief the Committee on their operational plans for FY2010-2011, highlighting the MTA's dismal state of fiscal affairs. Mr. Ring did most of the talking. He frequently referenced the "MTA 2010 Adopted Budget – February Financial Plan 2010 – 2013", which can be viewed in its entirety on their new website: <http://mta.info>.

Mr. Ring recapped some of the measures that were taken to cut expenses over the last year, such as furloughs, layoffs and delayed pension payments. He also noted that there would be a 7.5% increase in MTA consolidated farebox and toll revenue yields, beginning January 1, 2011, and then again (an additional 7.5% increase) on January 1, 2013.

Mr. Ring blamed much the MTA's financial trouble on both the State Legislature and the previous CEO for poor management. He noted that the new Chairman and CEO Jay Walder has already accomplished positive change, and that he has the utmost faith in Mr. Walder's ability and intent.

He referenced a report recently released by Mr. Walder called "Making Every Dollar Count," (also available on the MTA website) which is a report of his first 100 days on the job and includes an assessment of the MTA and plans for improvement.

Chair Kaplowitz inquired if there were any reserves, to which Mr. Ring replied, "no." Referring to the Board's March 1, 2010 Resolution, Mr. Ring stated that the MTA would welcome an audit and cooperate fully.

Chair Kaplowitz and the other Committee members thanked them for their time and information.

There was no further business before the Committee.

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Burton, the GOES Committee adjourned at 1:45 pm.