

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
MINUTES DECEMBER 2, 2009**

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

OTHER LEGISLATORS: Vito Pinto

IN ATTENDANCE: **Solid Waste:** Fred Fitzrandolph, Bruce Berger, Tricia O'Callaghan; **DEF:** Louis Vetrone, Tom Lauro, James Arnett; **Budget:** Lorraine Yazzetta, Lenne, John Delaney; **EZKR – NYSSCPA:** Heclha Obodi; **Water Agency:** Gina D'Agrosa; **CEO:** Bill Randolph; George Preston

Chair Alvarado called the Committee on Budget & Appropriations to order at 9:52 a.m.

The Solid Waste Commission began their presentation. The Commission issues licenses to the carters and transfer stations and incinerators and that income is used for the operation of the commission therefore there is no tax levy. They work with DEF on recycling initiatives, they do background checks on all applicants requesting a license or registration, they issue licenses, and ensure that only licensed carters haul solid waste and recyclables within Westchester County. Management of solid waste is the responsibility of D.E.F. The Commission's job is to be sure the law is complied with. Legislator Burton asked what is a Solid Waste Broker. He is hired by a customer to evaluate the customer's carting needs and helps the customer evaluate the proposal's that come in and then assists the customer to find a carter. The Brokers are licensed and background checks are done to be sure they are of good character. New York City also issues a license to the brokers. The Commissioner was asked if he has approached neighboring counties about using our services. He has approached Putnam twice. Rockland and Dutchess have their own licensing agency but Dutchess on occasion will consult with our Commission. The

Commissioner has to be careful with revenues as the statute requires no tax levy. Insofar as merging with another department, the statute would have to be amended and the department they would merge with would be the Department of Public Safety.

Department of Environmental Facilities was next. There were four items on the agenda that have not been addressed by the Sub-Committee on Capital Projects. They are: C169 Bond Act SPK12 Peekskill WWTP, C186 Bond Act SMO75 Pump Station Rehabilitation, C187 Bond Act SPK14 Peekskill WWTP, and C188 Bond Act Amendment SY020 Tarrytown Forcemain. Chair Alvarado removed them from the agenda.

A356 Water District #3 Environmental Resolution WD302, A357 IMA County Water District #3, Water Distribution Improvements and C199 Bond Act for Water District #3 in the amount of \$9,800,000. This was previously signed out by Budget & Appropriations for a public hearing only. Since then Government Operations and Environment and Energy have signed these items out for “all purposes”. It is before Budget to do the same. This is to upgrade the Gate of Heaven Pumping Station which supplies water to the Grasslands campus. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriation, the motion was passed by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, Oros, Jenkins). This was previously signed out of Government Operations on November 10 by a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Pinto, Ryan, Harckham, Burton) and Environment and Energy signed this out on November 23 by a vote of 7-0 (Harckham, Kaplowitz, Myers, Rogowsky, Oros, Maisano, Abinanti).

The Department consists of three divisions – sewer, refuse and water. There are 7 wastewater treatment plants, 42 pump stations, 13 sanitary sewer districts, 194 miles of trunk sewers and Force mains. No staffing increases but there are increases in benefits, pensions and union contracts. There was discussion of the use of the fund balance and on various line items. There was a question about vehicles being taken home. There are four vehicles and in the winter the sewer maintenance foreman is allowed a car to be sure the roads are cleared of snow.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Myers, the minutes of November 30 were accepted.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Harckham, the Committee was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.