

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
JOINT WITH THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY
MINUTES JULY 27, 2009**

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

MEMBERS PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY: Chair: Vito Pinto, Burrows, Harckham, Jenkins, Myers, Nonna, Oros, Burton

IN ATTENDANCE: **WCC:** Joe Hankin, Fred Boyer, Betsy Stern, Louis Torrieri; **WCCFT:** Anne D’Orazio; **WCCNYSAA:** Lloyd Tasch; **DES:** John Jackson, Jennifer Wacha; **Tourism:** Kim Sistore; **CBAC, LWVW:** Barbara Strauss; **Tax Commission:** David Jackson; **I.T.:** Marguerite Beirne, Kay Foster, Sam Wear; **Law:** Hillary Raimondi, Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; **CEO:** Bill Randolph, Andrew Neuman; **Budget:** Arthur Vietro; **Parks:** Peter Neglia, Joe Stout, Neil Squillante, Gary Metz, Rich Belizze, Tom Avezzano; **BOL:** Sally Swift, Louise Gantress, Alysia Mayra, Katie O’Connor, Katy Delgado, Nils Fakierstei, Sam Martin, Larry Goldstein, Bob Boland, Olivia Rhodes, Sally Schechter

Vice Chair Ken Jenkins called Budget & Appropriations to order at 10:12 a.m. and Chair Vito Pinto called Public Safety & Security to order at 10:12 a.m.

A246. Compromise of Claim (\$12,586.67): This is a personal injury in which a Department of Correction employee fell. The health care expenditures by the County resulted in a cost of \$18,880. The County agreed to accept \$12,586.67. On the motion of Legislator Williams, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Myers, Harckham, Williams, Oros).

A285. IMA Emergency Shelter Supplies – Department of Emergency Services: Deputy Commissioner Jackson explained that we have trailers for 120 people in which there are cots, blankets and supplies and we also have two more trailers for 230 people. The municipalities were concerned with the first draft of the IMA because the County would decide where the trailers would be located. The wording has been changed and the municipalities are happy with the IMA. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Oros for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Myers, Harckham, Williams, Oros) and on the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Nonna for Public Safety & Security, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Pinto, Jenkins, Myers, Harckham, Nonna, Burrows, Oros).

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Nonna, Public Safety & Security was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

A280. IMA Department of Emergency Services Foam Trailer to Suppress Fires: Legislator Williams asked if this was to be used in the normal course of fire fighting or was it only for special emergency type situations. Deputy Commissioner Jackson said it was for emergency situations. On the motion of Legislator Oros, seconded by Legislator Williams for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Myers, Harckham, Williams, Oros). This was signed out on July 21 by Government Operations by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Bronz, Rogowsky, Burton, Harckham).

A290. Tourist Promotion Agency: This is to designate the Office of Tourism as the County's official Tourist Promotion Agency for the period of April 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010. This will also allow the office to receive approximately \$75,000. Legislator Williams asked if this was a dollar to dollar match and it is. It is part of the I Love New York State Tourism Program. This year the office received \$60,000 but they spent from \$180,000 to \$200,000 in advertising. On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Oros for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Alvarado, Oros, Williams, Harckham, Myers, Burton).

A284. Capital Budget Amendment BIT25 – Oblique Imagery/Street Feature Capture and C155 Bond Act BIT25 Oblique Imagery/Street Feature Capture in the amount of \$725,000: This was in the capital

projects subcommittee and Legislator Williams explained that this captured the full scope of properties and could be used for assessments, planning and other governmental uses. The committee also wanted to be sure that this information would be available to the local assessors and they would be aware of it and how it would benefit the County from a tax perspective. This item deals with street level photography as the oblique was passed last year. This came about upon the recommendations of the Westchester County Collaborative Assessment Study. An RFP has been sent out and the information will be made available to the local assessors and Emergency Services, Public Safety, Planning and any other departments that would like the information. A van with four to six cameras mounted on the roof will drive down a street taking pictures with structural details and a 360 degree view. Legislator Williams pointed out that there had been reimbursement discussions prior to this item coming before the subcommittee that they were not privy to and as a result if the reimbursement discussion went further, he wanted it to come back to the subcommittee for further discussion. Legislator Oros wanted to know why this is a capital project. Andrew Neuman explained that the oblique photography was a capital project and this one is part of that project. He also explained the reimbursement. The County was planning on doing the street level photography when Yonkers and the Town of Rye informed the County that they had already started this process and asked if the County would reimburse them. They will give the County all the data and these two municipalities will not be photographed. Legislator Myers wanted to know where the data will reside. It will be at the County and in every assessor's office. Legislator Myers also wanted to be sure that the assessors are aware of this project and she was assured that all town's and cities and most of the villages are aware. She also questioned the privacy aspect of the photos. If people were in the photos could they be removed – did the vendor have the capabilities of doing so? Director Jackson said because of the concern of the Legislators, when the RFP's come back, they will address the issue of security and safety. Legislator Oros wanted to know why were we getting into the assessment business. We have assessors and that is their job. Legislator Jenkins explained that the Collaborative Assessment Study recommended this study and that the data would be helpful to the assessors. There are two computer systems used in the County and 23 of the 25 assessors use these

systems. Lewisboro and Peekskill have two other systems. Lewisboro is in the process of updating their system and should be able to accept the data and Director Jackson was not familiar with Peekskill's system but felt it could accommodate the data. Legislator Williams felt the RFP should not have gone out until it was discussed in Budget and Andrew Neuman explained there was a short window insofar as taking the pictures. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 6-1 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Burton, Myers (without prejudice), Harckham, Williams, Oros (no)) and on July 21 Government Operations signed out this legislation 5-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Harckham, Bronz).

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton, the minutes of July 13 were accepted.

C130 Bond Act RGC20 Golf Course Infrastructure Rehabilitation in the amount of \$1,010,000: Commissioner Stout pointed out the last time he appeared before the Budget Committee on this item, the issue was the third hole, not the traps at Sprain Lake. The bond is broken down to \$500,000 for the traps at Mohansic, \$260,000 for the traps at Dunwoodie and \$260,000 for the redesign of third hole at Sprain Lake. The problem is the topography for the carts and golfers. The cart path is in the line of fire of the 4th hole. The path would be moved from the west side to the east side. Legislator Burton's concern was the cost during these economic times. Commissioner Stout pointed out that the County subsidizes golf at less than \$1 a year per person. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Jenkins for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Burton (without prejudice), Myers, Harckham, Oros, Williams) and on July 21, Government Operations signed out this legislation by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Bronz, Rogowsky, Burton (without prejudice) Harckham).

There was a discussion of the Westchester Community College. President Hankin went over the budget: Net salaries up 3.93%; no new positions but the Gateway director will be added this year. The salary for the director this year has been donated. Part time adjunct faculty is increased by 10.24% because of increased enrollment; retirement system up 3.28%; POMCO increased by 8.53%; the equipment line has been frozen so no increase; utilities including the

new Gateway building has increased 1.35%; total other expenses caused by the Gateway building has increased by 3.80%; state aid has increased 6.14% because of the increase in full time students from 11,752 to 12,200; student tuition for credit classes has increased by 8.64% because of the increase in tuition by \$50, going from \$1775 to \$1825; charging other counties for students an increase of 4.46%; no change in the fund balance as it is not being used; an increase of 2.37% or \$575,400 which is the County's share; maintenance of effort has increased by .62%; and special programs, islands and satellites show a surplus of \$1,533,228. Legislator Oros wanted to know if we make money on the charge back. The formula is such that the college breaks even. He also wanted to know how many students from out of the County attend Peekskill. The number is 15%. Legislator Jenkins wanted to know what equipment are they doing without because of not increasing the line. They have about 2000 computers that are about 5 years old. There are also some vehicles that could be replaced. Legislator Williams questioned the debt service – some is the Gateway bonding and then he asked for a breakdown of the full time and part time students. The tuition has increased from \$1775 to \$1825 for full time students and from \$148 to \$153 per credit for part time students. What could be done to make the tuition increase go away. It is too late as they already have quite a few students registered for the fall semester at the new rate and it adds \$1 million to the budget. Anne D'Orazio then made a presentation asking for two full time faculty lines which would cost \$95,000. She also is asking for three new programs – Teaching Entrepreneurship is a real life training program for high school students for which they would receive college credit. The cost would be \$15,443. First Year Experience is designed to target students who are going to drop out of school by teaming them with mentors, counselors, faculty, tutors, etc. This is a pilot program. Staff is working on obtaining grant money but seed money for the fall of 2010 is needed. The cost would be \$39,200. The third program is Faculty Training and Development. It is aimed at full time and adjunct faculty for training, conferences, networking and this amount is \$75,000. Anne D'Orazio explained that these items are over and above the budget and these programs have received money from other sources. Legislator Burton said previously money for the two positions was found because there was a n increase in the number of

tuition paying students. He wanted to know if it could happen again this year. Dr. Hankin said he would look into it.

Chairman Alvarado acknowledged receipt of a Citizens Budget Advisory letter. He advised Barbara Strauss that the law department was drafting a response.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Harckham, Budget & Appropriations was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.