

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
JOINT WITH COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS
MINUTES: July 8, 2008**

MEMBERS GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS: Chair: Ken Jenkins;
Legislators: Bronz, Burrows, Burton, Pinto,
Harckham, Rogowsky, Myers, Spreckman

MEMBERS BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS: Chair: Jose
Alvarado, Legislators: Kaplowitz, Rogowsky,
Jenkins, Burton, Oros, Myers, Harckham,
Spreckman, Abinanti, Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: **Labs & Research:** Syed Abid, William
Fallon; **WRO:** Geoffrey Anderson, Veronica
Raphael, Velene Acqual; **Law:** Lori Alesio;
DPW: Ralph Butler; **Budget:** Arthur Vietro;
CE: Bill Randolph; **DEF:** Tom Lauro, Jim
Arnett; **Mental Health:** Robert Kopenhaver;
Planning: Norma Drummond, Susanne
Marino, Fran McLaughlin; **Staff:** Hope
Corbin, Tara Bernard, Sally Schecter

Chair Alvarado called the Budget & Appropriations Committee to order at 1:15 p.m. There were three added starters: A Resolution setting a public hearing for the Westchester Community College 2008-2009 budget, a resolution suspending BOL rules for the 2008-2009 budget hearing and a resolution setting the rules for the 2008-2009 budget hearing.

On the motion of Legislator Kaplowitz, seconded by Legislator Burton, this was passed for all purposes by a vote of 9 to 0. (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Kaplowitz, Abinanti)

(A107 B & A) The next item was an act authorizing the County to enter into

An inter-municipal agreement with the Town of North Salem to carry out the purposes set forth in Article 25 and Article 41 of the New York Mental Hygiene Law. This item had been signed out of the

Community Services Committee. Legislator Jenkins explained that this was an extension of an agreement already in place.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Abinanti, this was passed by a vote of 9 to 0. (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Kaplowitz, Abinanti)

(A113 B & A) An Act authorizing the County Attorney to compromise the County's right to be reimbursed for health care benefits expended on behalf of the listed insured's recovery from legal action or settlement. This item had been signed out of the Community Services Committee. Chair Alvarado explained that 2/3 of what we had spent would be reimbursed.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Myers, this was passed by a vote of 9 to 0. (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Kaplowitz, Abinanti)

On the motion of Chair Jenkins the Government Operations Committee was called to order at 1:20 p.m.

(30 G.O. C13 B&A) Bond Act – BOO71 Modifications to Building Management Systems: Proposed Act authorizing the issuance of up to \$1,100,000 in bonds to finance Capital Project B0071- Modifications to Building Management Systems.

Commissioner Butler was introduced. He explained the total project would cost \$7.4 million to install the computerized Building Management system in DPW Buildings. This bond act is only for design. He has discussed this with the Power Authority and they have said there would be a savings of 10 to 20%. His cost for natural gas and oil is \$6.4 million a year so using the average of 15%, it would mean a savings of \$900,000 a year. He doesn't know yet what his savings would be on electricity. Commissioner Butler will then discuss the buildings that Parks is in with Commissioner Stout and then with DOT. Legislator Kaplowitz and Legislator Rogowsky had several questions. What methodology did NYPA use to determine the savings. Are these just fancy timers.

Commissioner said no they will regulate the boilers, chillers, pumps, etc It was also requested to have the report that NYPA has submitted to DPW made available to the Government Operations Committee.

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Harckham for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Kaplowitz, Abinanti – Rogowsky and Oros signed “without prejudice”)

On the motion of Legislator Bronz, seconded by Legislator Pinto for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Jenkins, Pinto, Bronz, Burrows, Harckham, Myers, Spreckman, Burton, Rogowsky – Rogowsky and Burrows signed “without prejudice”)

(141 G.O, A102 B & A). Blind Brook Sewer District-SUNY Purchase: Act authorizing the County to enter into a three (3) year permit agreement with the State University of New York, acting through Purchase College pursuant to which the College shall be permitted to discharge sanitary wastewater into the Blind Brook Sanitary Sewer District System.

Commissioner Lauro was introduced. This agreement goes back to 1973 and the State Comptroller asked that this be redone with a term limit. This contract is for 3 years. Legislator Oros questioned why this was before the Committees and whereas a previous one in Cortlandt on Westbrook Drive was placed on A & C. The Commissioner did not know. Legislator Rogowsky was concerned as to the discharge from the College – was it clean?

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Rogowsky for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9 – 0 ((Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Kaplowitz, Abinanti). On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers for Government Operations the vote was carried by a vote of 9 – 0 (Jenkins, Pinto, Bronz, Burrows, Harckham, Myers, Spreckman, Burton, Rogowsky)

(142 G.O. C55 B & A) Bond Act-Sewer District Heavy Equipment Replacement (SW022): Act authorizing the County to issue up to \$1,000,000 in bonds to finance Capital Project SW022-Sewer District Heavy Equipment Replacement.

Commissioner Lauro said the equipment is a replacement for equipment that is used for outside maintenance. They are coming to the end of their capital project requests. 2005 they requested \$1,000,000 did not request anything in 2006 and for 2007 and 2008 combined they are requesting the \$1,000,000. The equipment consists of dump trucks, back hoes, tractor trailers, etc. Most of the vehicles are diesel fuel, some have been converted to vegetable oil. They also want one of the pickup trucks to have a mounted camera that will look at the sewers on a 10 year cycle. They presently farm this out to a contractor. Legislator Rogowsky questioned why this should not be charged to the sewer districts. Commissioner Mauro said because the equipment is not dedicated 100% to the districts.

On the motion of Legislator Oros, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8 – 0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Oros). On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Harckham for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9 – 0 (Jenkins, Pinto, Bronz, Burrows, Harckham, Myers, Spreckman, Burton, Rogowsky)

(A109 B&A) WCHCC Agreement – Correctional Facility: Act authorizing the county to enter an agreement with WCHCC whereby the County shall provide WCHCC with Microbiological Services for inmates of the County Correctional Facility being provided medical services pursuant to a separate agreement with WCHCC.

Chair Alvarado asked Mr. Abid and Mr. Fallon to introduce themselves. Mr. Burton asked if the rates the Medical Center charges covers the cost of service and they said yes. This item as well as the next item were also in the Public Safety and Security Committee and have been signed out by that Committee.

On the motion of Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Burton, the motion was carried by a vote of 8 – 0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Oros).

(A110 B & A) WCHCC Agreement – Microbiological Services: Act authorizing the County to enter into an agreement with WCHCC whereby the County will provide WCHCC with clinical analyses, toxicological, environmental, microbiological, forensic, and public lab services pursuant to a separate agreement with WCHCC.

On the motion of Mr. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Burton, the motion was carried by a vote of 8 – 0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Oros).

There were two added starters. The first was a review of a pending A&C resolution regarding the funding of the Drum Hill Affordable Housing Project in Peekskill. There have been changes in the funding which is why it has come back to Budget & Appropriations and Government Operations so the legislators can be made aware of the changes.

Norma Drummond explained that Peekskill worked into the legislation funding from the Peekskill IDA so as to protect their interest but the funding was not needed. The County Board approved the legislation and the developer went to the IDA to see if they were interested. After a public hearing, the IDA had a resolution which did not pass. Because Peekskill had tied the IDA into the resolution, the County law department felt the legislation would have to go back to the County Board to be amended and because there was not enough time, Planning went to Plan B. Because May 1 begins the new fiscal year with federal funds, Norma Drummond was able to replace the \$860,000 from New Homes Land using Federal Home Funds instead. She is going to A & C with the money from the Federal Home Funds. Because the original resolution was approved by the Board with the money coming from the New Homes Land Trust, the Chairs of Government Operations and Budget & Appropriations are asking for a resolution that would rescind the original bond act. Chair Alvarado also asked that any correspondence that involves the Budget & Appropriation Committee also be sent to Bob Boland and Olivia Rhodes.

The second added starter was a discussion on funding for Westchester Residential Opportunities. Geoffery Anderson and Veronica Raphael appeared and are requesting \$150,000 to help with mortgage foreclosures and other issues. Foreclosures are up from last year. WRO's budget is \$2,500,000. Previously they received funding from CDBG and this ended last year. The legislators had questions about WRO's budget – about staffing. Legislator Harckham said this is a national crises and WRO is trying to keep people in their homes. They need professional staff. Bedford had 8 foreclosures this year. It was requested that WRO submit their financial statement to the Board.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Myers, Budget & Appropriation was adjourned at 2:42 p.m. and on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Spreckman, Government Operations was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.