

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
JOINT WITH THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MINUTES May 11, 2009**

MEMBERS B&A: Chair: Jose Alvarado; Legislators:
Abinanti, Burton, Harckham, Jenkins, Kaplowitz,
Rogowsky, Spreckman,
Williams

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

IN ATTENDANCE: **Parks:** Robert Reno, Joe Stout, Peter Neglia;
C.E.O.: Andrew Neuman, Bill Randolph;
CBAC, LWVW: Barbara Strauss; **DPW:**
Ralph Butler, Phil Kruck; **NYPA:** Ken
Kristensen, Maribel Cruz Brown; **CBAC:**
Fran MacEachron; **Intern:** Hope Corbin;
Staff: Sally Schecter

Chair Jose Alvarado called the Committee on Budget & Appropriations to order at 10:16 a.m. and Chair Ken Jenkins called the Committee on Government Operations to order at 10:16 a.m.

C127 Bond Act – B0071 Modifications to Building Management Systems: Commissioner Butler introduced Ken Kristensen and Maribel Cruz Brown of the Power Authority and explained that about a year ago the Power Authority was hired to work on a number of projects and this is one of them to help reduce energy usage in the County as well as operating costs. They were asked to look at this project in three different stages – each one a little higher than the first and this report shows the capital costs, the energy savings, a reduction in our carbon footprint as well as the payback period. The discretionary program is above the \$7.4 million but with the bidding market today, the Power Authority feels there is a very good chance the bids will come in at \$7.4 million. This project will be submitted under the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program which is federally funded. Legislator Rogowsky was concerned that the administration did not look at this project carefully because of the wide disparity in the payback. Commissioner Butler said he did not want to do this project piecemeal. He explained that some of the buildings did not have the ports and connection points which is why the cost was higher. Maribel Cruz explained if this project is done in pieces, it will be more costly then doing the entire project at one time. Legislator Rogowsky questioned the payback period – it is listed at 16 years but that is the average. Looking at the breakdown, it goes from 30 to 50 to 100 years. He wanted to know what lasts that long. Commissioner Butler explained that the cost was high because of the installation of different mechanical systems, and control points at certain sites. Legislator Kaplowitz said we might have to go through this project piece by piece to determine which ones are viable. He wanted to know what the saving would be over the cost as the listed savings is estimated. He would like to see the real numbers. Commissioner Butler explained that the entire Public Works capital budget is based on estimates and the Board approves hundreds of bond acts each year based on estimates. Does the Board want to change this? Presently there are very few capital budget

amendments with the present system. Legislator Kaplowitz pointed out that this was the first time we had been given 3 options on a project. Commissioner Butler said this was not so as last year a number options were offered on the fire alarm system. In response to Legislator Kaplowitz's question as to whether there will be a reduction in staffing, Commissioner Butler said he might not need as many mechanics but might need someone with a computer background to operate the new system. He has not increased his staffing in maintenance but building square footage has increased. Legislator Jenkins wanted to know how much if any stimulus money would we be eligible for. Commissioner Butler said there are 3 programs under the stimulus funding – The first under EECBG is formula driver under which we would receive \$4.5 million. The second is competitive and the third is the state energy program. We would submit for funding under #1 and #3. Legislator Harckham commented that on this project, the bottom line looks good but individually it doesn't look good and this is the first project that we are doing with NYPA so the Legislators are concerned. He also questioned as to how they determined what was involved in the three stages. Legislator Jenkins asked the Commissioner to come back to Government Operations with several more columns added to the project – one what the interest would be, one column for the payback to be less than 20 years, one for 25 years and the third beyond the 25 years. After this information is presented to Government Operations, Budget and Appropriations will discuss this separately.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Jenkins, the Budget & Appropriations minutes of May 4, 2009 were approved by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Spreckman, Burton, Williams, Abinanti, Kaplowitz, Harckham). On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Pinto, the Government Operations minutes of April 21, 2009 and April 28, 2009 were approved by a vote of 6-0 (Jenkins, Spreckman, Burton, Bronz, Pinto, Harckham).

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, Item B58 (Boards First Quarter Expenditures) was received and filed.

C129 Bond Act RGIP5 – General Infrastructure – Roof Replacement and Repair: Legislator Abinanti is concerned about the roofing policy at the County. He said white roofs are better than black roofs but they are not green roofs. He would like to know why photovoltaic (P.V.) cells are not used. He suggested that we lease the roofs to private industry and they could receive tax credits. Commissioner Stout replied that he was only asked for a breakdown of the study that was done on the roofs and a breakdown of the costs of the roofs. He was also asked about packaging more roofs and it would take several months to redo the bonds and he would appreciate moving this item. Andrew Neuman addressed the issue of solar roofs and he said they are working with NYPA on three roofs – the low rise, DES and 375 Executive Boulevard. They have to take into consideration, the payback, the shade, etc. Legislator Abinanti would like NYPA to come to an Environmental & Energy meeting to discuss this. There was much discussion as to the subtotal of the project of \$662,000 and the total cost of \$960,000. Commissioner Butler explained that there is usually 30% added on for any project which includes the design cost, construction administrative fees, bond counsel Planning SEQR, legal fees, etc. On the motion of Legislator Kaplowitz, seconded by Legislator Abinanti for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0-(Alvarado, Jenkins, Spreckman, Burton, Williams, Abinanti, Kaplowitz, Harckham) and on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Harckham for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Jenkins, Spreckman, Burton, Bronz, Pinto, Harckham)

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. and on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Burton for Government Operations, the committee was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.