

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
MINUTES NOVEMBER 19, 2009**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: **Hastings Town Board:** William Crosby;
LWVW: Noreen Fisher; **Republic Transition:**
Edward Mahoney; **Public Works:** Ralph
Butler, Edward May, Leelamma Prakash,
Meredith Waltman, **Budget:** Arthur Vietro, L.
Yazzetta, Fran Piskorowski, William Olli, Joy
Mathai, **Consumer Protection:**
Gary Brown, John Gaccione , **CEO:** Bill
Randolph; **EZKR:** Eric Lenner, Steven
Kaplan, Christine Refino; **TVCC:** Jacqueline
Irwin, **CBAC:** Bill Kay; **Parks:** Chris
Matthews, Peter Neglia, Joe Stout, Peter
Tartaglia, Dan McBride, Kathy O'Connor,
Neil Sqilllante, **Arts:** Judy Matson/ Alfreda
Williams, George Preston, Donald Sandford

Chair Alvarado called the Budget and Appropriations Committee to order at 10:18 a.m.

Commissioner Butler began his presentation. Four staff members have been added to his department. They originally were in Planning and worked at Hilltop Hanover Farm and according to the charter, because this is general municipal land, Public Works is responsible for Hilltop Hanover. They will be working as a team with Planning. Public Works also received an award from NACo for their veggie oil program. The utility budget is down, contractual is down, there will be no new vehicles or equipment but their overtime has gone up because of Hilltop Hanover. Farmers do not work 9-5. The focus of Public Works will be on energy conservation and environmental issues. There are three lines that represent 77 percent of Public Works' budget – salaries, utilities and rentals and taxes. It was asked when would 450 Saw Mill be ready for the voting machines. The

storage area will be completed by the end of December when the machines are expected. The area for the staff will be ready by March of 2010. And then work will begin on the space for Public Safety. There was much discussion on various line items. There are 309 vehicles available – 50 percent are used by D.S.S., 25% by Health and 25 percent by the remaining departments. It was suggested that a cost benefit analysis be done on the car replacement. Replacement of the cars is in the operating budget not the capital budget and the last time cars were replaced was 2008. No savings on the Building Management Systems until the 2011 budget. There was discussion on the various line items.

C190 Bond Act Amendment RB2UU Fulton Avenue Bridge over Hutchinson River, Mt. Vernon and Pelham Manor: This has been discussed in Government Operations. It is a draw bridge that is heavily trafficked and it is important to make people aware of the project. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Rogowsky, Burton, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, Oros, Abinanti). This was signed out of Government Operations on November 10 by a vote of 6-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Pinto, Ryan, Myers).

C195 Bond Act Amendment P0018 Bronx River Parkway at Crane Road: This is an amendment for \$200,000 for the next design phase. It also is for right away acquisition from Scarsdale. On the motion of Legislator Ryan, seconded by Legislator Abinanti for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 10-0 (Jenkins, Alvarado, Rogowsky, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Oros, Ryan, Burton, Abinanti). Government Operations signed this out on November 10 by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Ryan, Pinto).

A348 Capital Budget Amendment B042A Roof Replacement Program: This needs to be signed out by Environment. Mr. Abinanti wanted to know why at this late date this item was being brought up. The Commissioner said Legislator Kaplowitz suggested bringing in 2010 and 2011 for a cost savings and there will be one of approximately \$400,000. On the motion of Legislator Kaplowitz, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the

motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Abinanti, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, Oros, Burton). Government Operations signed this out on November 10 by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Ryan, Pinto). It was now referred to the Environment Committee.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Abinanti, the minutes of November 18 were accepted.

Parks was the next department to appear before the Budget & Appropriation Committee. Seventy five percent of the residents use the park system and the recreational programs. The department's tax went down with spending less than 1 percent. There has been a three percent increase in revenues. There will be a reasonable fee increase. Maple Moor will be taken back from a contracting agency as it was determined the County could save money. Playland has a zero tax levy. Increases will be in golf, picnic shelters, the ice rink, camping and parking. The Playland budget is 35% down from what was budgeted. There is a \$4.3 million loss. There was discussion on the revenues and there still is five rides owned by concessionaires. There was more discussion on Playland and on the golf courses.

The last department is Consumer Protection. The Director commented that 77 percent of their expenses are personnel. The biggest cut to their budget was \$60,000 in contractual services. This was for a financial educational consultant initiative and only \$20,000 was spent so this year it was cut out and they are working with volunteers. They did have a financial help line for two days in July and two days in October. They have lowered their overtime. The tax levy is only \$121,000 for a 24 person department. They obtained restitution for consumers by enforcing home improvements with unlicensed contractors. They will be using "win wam" for field inspectors which is an automated hand held device. Two issues on the horizon are K-Mart and the \$1.5 million item pricing lawsuit which is now in the appellate division and the Board should revisit the item pricing law. The furlough is workable but they would have to check with Human Resources as their work is revenue generated. One of the trucks has 116,000 miles and they feel it needs to be replaced. On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Rogowsky, Budget & Appropriations was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.