

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 29, 2008**

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Legislators Kenneth Jenkins, Chair; Lois Bronz, William Burton, Peter Harckham, Vito Pinto, Bernice Spreckman; Committee Coordinator: Barbara Arrington Dodds

Others: Michael Wittenberg, CSEA: Jack McPhillips, Planning Department: Norma Drummond, Office of County Executive: Bill Randolph, Citizens Budget Advisory Committee: Al Turnquest, BOL: Neal Rentz, Rick Pezzullo.

Items for Discussion:

- **CSEA Contract Status**

Guests: Jack McPhillips, President, CSEA; Michael Wittenberg, administration consultant

- **Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

Guest: Norma Drummond, Deputy Commissioner, Planning

Items received and filed: #17 and #23 of the committee agenda.

CSEA Contact

With a quorum present, Legislator Jenkins opened the meeting and welcomed Mr. McPhillips representing the county civil service employees union (CSEA) and Mr. Wittenberg representing the administration. They reported the following:

The current contract has been in effect for over two years. Beginning on February 4, the negotiators will meet with a New York State Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) mediator, Tony Zimbalo, to try to diminish the substantial differences between the positions of the administration and the employee's union. If the parties are close to agreement after three meetings, a fourth meeting will be set by the PERB Director of Conciliation, Richard Guarreri.

If the parties are still not close to agreement, the Director will appoint a mutually agreed upon fact finder to hold hearings and render a written recommendation. If this finding is rejected, the issues go to the Board of Legislators for evaluation. The Board then imposes a one-year settlement that is equal to or better than the present salaries. Once imposition is exercised--the last time was in 1979—the next year's negotiation is usually smooth. The last three Westchester contracts have each taken over two years to negotiate, longer than other counties.

On comparability, the union looks at contracts for uniformed groups and other unions. The County looks at contracts of other government entities. Of the 4000 members on the \$215 million payroll, 80% get longevity pay and 70% who are not at the top of their grade have received no raise.

Federal Grant

Ms. Drummond requested an act authorizing a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) application for FY 2008 funding for approximately \$7,923,198 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, federal HOME Program and the Emergency Shelter Block Grant Program (ESG). The request also authorizes an amendment to the 2004-2008 Consolidated Plan

consisting of an Action Plan for 2008 and Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy for the Village of Port Chester. She also presented the administrative budgets for FY 2008, including \$5,908,521 for the CDBG grant, \$1,762,211 for the HOME and \$252,466 for ESG. She reviewed several changes in the 2008 CDBG projects schedule. An informational hearing on the CDBG projects and awards will be held in Greenburgh on Friday. Municipalities have to submit project proposals for next year to Planning by the beginning of June.

Leg. Pinto discussed concerns about the Tuckahoe Housing Authority projects. Ms. Drummond said that applications were not complete and not yet approved.

Approved: 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.