

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MINUTES: November 5, 2008

MEMBERS: Chair: Ken Jenkins; Legislators: Bronz, Burrows, Burton, Harckham, Myers, Pinto,

IN ATTENDANCE: **PRC:** Robert Reno, Dan McBride, Joe Stout, John Baker, Peter Neglia; **DPW:** Ralph Butler; **DOT:** Lawrence Salley; **DEF:** Marian Pompa, Robert Giglio, Tom Lauro; **DES:** Kathryn Napolitano, John Jackson, Nick Caputo, Tony Sutton; **LWW-CBAC:** Barbara Strauss; **CEO:** Bill Randolph, Andrew Neuman; **Journal News:** Elizabeth Ganga; **STAFF:** Susan Kirkpatrick, Sally Schecter, Rick Pezzullo

With a quorum present, Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

The first item was to receive and file several items: #55 a memo from Legislator Abinanti requesting a website for the Ashford Avenue Bridge project; #188 and 188a a memo from Legislator Abinanti and the Clerk to make Sprain Lake available for boating; #203a, b, c, and d, memos from Legislator Abinanti requesting height check bars for parkways; and #224 which was from Legislator Kaplowitz forwarding a NYSDOT report on the AmVet Bridge. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Burton, the above items were received and filed.

Chair Jenkins discussed the Plan B machines used at some of the polls and that there needs to be a follow up. The machines are not certified yet. Legislator Pinto suggested that the Commissioners come in to the Board to discuss any problems that resulted from the new machines and lack of education on the use of the machines. Chair Jenkins said he has heard that \$2,000,000 would be required for the education.

Commissioner Sutton was called on to discuss Bond Act BES09 which is a bond act for \$5,200,000 to upgrade the County Facility Fire Alarm System. There are 6 facilities that have fire systems but they are not operative and this is a violation. They are Muscoot, Lasdon, Lenoir Preserve, Tibbets Brook, Glen Island Bath House and Saxon Woods. Phase two would cover the rest of the sites, approximately 70 and it is a life safety issue. They also looked at the Medical Center and came up with some recommendations that the Medical

Center is now looking into. On the motion of Legislators Myers, seconded by Legislator Burton, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

It was 1:40 p.m. and Legislator Burton asked to be excused for a previous commitment. He also indicated that he wished to be counted in the affirmative on the balance of the items.

Commissioner Salley was introduced to discuss bond act T0038 for \$200,000 for a Diesel Retrofit Program. This is for 104 Bee Line buses. One hundred seventy-seven buses have already been done. Twenty vans are being replaced and they will arrive already retrofitted and 21 buses will be done after 2008. This is part of the five year capital plan. Commissioner Salley pointed out that this was the amendment to the Sanitary Code that the Board adopted mandating that the best technology be used for emissions control. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Harckham, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

The next item was a capital budget amendment to T001N to increase the appropriations for Transit Bus Replacements by \$9,002,000 and a bond act for \$9,875,000 to fund the capital project. The bonds would be used to replace 95 forty foot 12 – 15 year old buses. The FDA suggests that after 12 years, buses be replaced. The total cost of the project is approximately \$49 million and approximately \$40 million will be funded from the Federal Transit Administration and possibly half of the \$9 million will be reimbursed by New York State. If the County receives the money from the State, it will be used to pay off the Bond. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Bronz, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

Commissioner Butler discussed the fire alarm system upgrade for MOB1 – Bond Act B0075 in the amount of \$2,200,000. The system was installed in 1980, is a computer based system with a circuit board and has exceeded its useful life. It now is a liability and safety issue. If the Commissioner has to go on a fire watch, it would cost approximately \$700,000 in overtime. The debt service for the bond would be \$258,000. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

The next item was a bond act B0074 in the amount of \$1,750,000 to replace the roof on the low rise/parking structure. The roof is 43,000 square feet. It is single ply and has a 15 year life which it has exceeded. The Commissioner has been meeting with NYPA and the roof will be a cool roof, similar to a green roof with solar panels on the roof. The work is expected to start next spring. Legislator Harckham wanted to know if we could utilize net metering, selling back excess power to NYPA. The low rise would use all their power. On the motion of

Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

Commissioner Lauro was introduced as well as Marion Pompa. The item was modifying the Peekskill Sanitary Sewer District by the addition of one parcel located at 1374 White Hill Road in the Town of Yorktown. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Bronz, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

Bond Act SM003 is authorizing up to \$615,000 for the design and construction management of the roof tower and roofs at the Mamaroneck Waste Water Treatment Plant. Bricks are showing cracks and falling on the roof. The limestone fascia is also falling. The two levels of the roof have also developed leaks and are leaking on the electrical equipment. On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Pinto, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0.

Bond Act SYO14 Emergency Generator Replacement at Yonkers Joint Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$9,900,000 which is for the design, construction management and construction. The plant was upgraded in 1978 with a turbine generator. This no longer has the capacity should there be a power failure. The old generator would either be sold for scrap or if there is any money left after purchasing the new generator, it could be refurbished and used as a back-up. On the motion of Legislator Burrows, seconded by Legislator Pinto the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

Bond Act SKP12 in the amount of \$300,000 is for sludge handling upgrades at the Peekskill Waste Water Treatment Plant. This would be for design and construction management of skimmers for the primary and final settling tanks and for sludge pumping equipment. The equipment was put in in the early to mid-70's and it has ended its useful life. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Harckham, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

Legislator Pinto wanted it known that the expenses for the sewer districts are assessed to the sewer district.

Bond Act SPK09 boiler replacement and aeration system upgrades at the Peekskill Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$3,810,000. This is for replacing the blowers, valves, and replacing all the fuses in the aeration tanks. They are working with NYPA. It will save the County \$89,000 per year in expenses. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 -0.

Commissioner Stout introduced RGC19 for the design of a maintenance facility

at Saxon Woods in the amount of \$350,000. It would be a storage facility for items that are presently left outside all year long. It would be similar to a small garage and would be located at the northern end of the parking lot with construction to begin in 2010. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 - 0.

Bond Act RPO2A is for a bond up to \$300,000 for the design only of the studio rink. It is used for clinics, skate school and open skating and generates approximately \$200,000 per year. The floor is a sand floor and it leaks which is very noticeable in the rooms underneath – the cafeteria, the office, first aid and the skate rental. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was carried by a vote of 7 – 0.

Chair Jenkins then explained that The Miller House (Washington's Headquarters) is on the National Historic Register and is located in Legislator Nonna's district. Legislator Nonna has sent a letter to Government Operations and Budget and Appropriations asking that this be added to the 2009 Capital Budget. Commissioner Stout explained that a firm that specializes in preservation activities looked at the house and the environment that the house is in. The building, foundation, and roof is in good shape but the problem is the dust from the concrete plant and the volume of heavy truck traffic. It is hard to run any programs at the House because of the noise from outside. The Legislators questioned the feasibility of moving the house and Commissioner Stout said Legislator Nonna and North Castle have indicated that it is not feasible. The consulting firm suggested putting a 30 foot wall up across the street along the concrete plant but it would be expensive and unsightly. The consultants have suggested a price of \$700,000 but our DPW will advise us of their cost once they receive a reply to the bids. Chair Jenkins explained this was for background information only.

Dan McBride was then introduced to discuss the safety audit of Playland Park. The company doing the audit was the same company as last year as they were the only ones to answer the RFP. They arrived three times unannounced and they were very pleased with the improvements. One of their suggestions last year was to bring in industry experts to train the ride operators and classes were held over two weekends. This year they are concerned about the accessibility of rides for handicapped people in wheel chairs. Next season a document will be provided clearly indicating which rides are accessible. Legislator Harckham asked if every ride needs to be compliant with the Americans for Disability Act and the answer was not yet. Eventually even the miniature golf course will have to have 6 of the 18 holes accessible for wheel chairs. The other main suggestion was when there is an overlap in operators because of shift changes, there should be a safe zone for the operators and this will be done. The two studies have had

a positive impact on the Park. As part of the Economic Impact Study, a survey was done at the end of the season. Parks has not received it yet but when they do, it will be shared with the Government Operations Committee. The Park will have approximately a \$900,000 shortfall in revenue. But the entire park system will be in under the tax levy. There are five remaining rides still owned by concessionaires and their contracts expire at the end of 2010.

Commissioner Stout then spoke about a Citizen Survey that was done in 2007. Approximately every ten years a random survey is done from a recreation standpoint. The Parks Department received 823 responses. The survey was broken down into two categories – Parks and Recreation. Kensico Dam Plaza is the most visited park and Playland is the most visited recreation facility. Walking, hiking and biking trails are the most used facilities. It is important to preserve open space. More than 50 percent have visited Playland Park during the past two years and the majority are satisfied with the attractions or services except for the food concession. They are not happy with the service at the concession. There is an RFP out for the County Center and Playland concession. The respondents would like to see improvements to the pool and beach area and the roller coaster and major rides. And improvements to the parks, acquisition of open space and new trails and pathways are important. Seventy Three percent of households have visited a County park over the past year and 27 percent have not used any County park. Households with adults 45 and over have visited the parks the least and Playland is the facility visited the most. Commissioner Stout felt this was a well done survey compared to the last one done in 1988. In analyzing the results, he feels most people feel good about the park system.

On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers, the Government Operations Committee was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.