

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MINUTES: October 14, 2008

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

IN ATTENDANCE: **WCDEF:** Robert Giglio, Tom Lauro;
WCDPW: Ralph Butler; **CBAC/WLWV:** Barbara Strauss; **CEO:** Andrew Neuman, Bill Randolph; **BOL:** Katy Delgado, Chris Crane, Sally Schecter

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m. by Chair Jenkins with a quorum present. He explained that the items were separated from the Committee on Budget & Appropriations so that the Government Operations Committee could discuss any concerns that they might have other than financial.

The first item was Item #192, Bond Act BO35B for \$225,000 to finance heavy equipment replacement. This is an ongoing program that is broken down into five year blocks – 2006-2010. It would replace a mack truck with snow equipment - plows, sanders, etc. The equipment after fifteen years has severe rot and mechanical problems. It is not retrofitted but it is being replaced with an in –kind vehicle which after 2007 meets the requirements for air monitoring. Legislator Myers asked what is done with the old truck and Commissioner Butler said it is usually auctioned off on e-bay. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was passed by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Myers, Bronz, Pinto and Burrows).

Chair Jenkins mentioned that several Legislators had been receiving e-mails concerning the AmVet's bridge. The bridge is not the responsibility of Westchester County. It is in Westchester County but it belongs to New York State DOT. Chair Jenkins said it is currently being fixed and he asked Commissioner Butler to fill in the details. Two contractors have been hired – one to repaint the structure and to perform minor steel repairs for \$6,000,000 and the other to repair the bottom part of the bridge which has more structural damage. It is only the North bound bridge, the South bound bridge is a new bridge. This bridge has a little over a 40 rating. It is a safe bridge and does not warrant a replacement. Chair Jenkins thanked Commissioner Butler for following up with the NYSDOT.

Commissioner Salley then discussed Item #79, the IMA to transfer ownership of certain vehicles that have been retired from the Bee-Line Bus System to various municipalities. They are leased for \$1 and removes the responsibility from the County. Feedback has been positive. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Bronz, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Myers, Bronz, Pinto and Burrows). Chair Jenkins thanked Commissioner Salley and then introduced Commissioner Lauro.

Item #195, SY86A is an amendment to the capital budget for rehabilitation of Yonkers Joint Sanitary Sewer District. Commissioner Mauro explained that in 1998 there was a consent order which was the result of the sewer system evaluation study for excessive Inflow and

Infiltration in four plants – Yonkers, New Rochelle, Blind Brook and Mamaroneck. The County agreed to repair the sewers. Some municipalities had already begun repairing the sewers before the County began and the County agreed to reimburse the municipalities for the work. Yonkers and the County had been negotiating on the projects that needed to be done. Yonkers had three projects, one was relining the sewers which would prevent I/I along the Bronx River. The County estimated the cost to be \$2.2 million. Yonkers cost was actually \$2.8 million but we agreed on \$2.2 million. Because this was a previous agreement, we are asking for this amendment. On the motion of Legislator Burrows, seconded by Legislator Pinto, the motion was passed by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Myers, Bronz, Pinto and Burrows).

This vote also applies to Item #196, an IMA with Yonkers for Capital Project SY86A to reimburse the City up to \$2.2 million for the Yonkers Joint SSD rehabilitation. And to Item #197 a bond act for capital project SY86A.

Item #198, a bond act for \$9,635,000 to finance Capital Project SY009 for HVAC equipment replacement and odor control at the Yonkers Waste Water Treatment Plant. Commissioner Lauro explained this is the first of three phases. Several years ago the County did a study of the HVAC equipment and this act is to replace all the equipment in the screening grit building which is thirty years old. In 1992 an odor study was done and odor control was on the list. A new study has been done and odor control is at the top. It appears that the major odor is coming from this building. Odor control is an integral part of the HVAC equipment. On the motion of Legislator Harckham (who now joined the meeting), seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was passed by a vote of 6-0 (Jenkins, Harckham, Myers, Bronz, Pinto and Burrows).

Item #199 a bond Act SPS07 for repairs and upgrades to the Alexander Street Influent Structure and North Yonkers Pump Station Tower in the amount of \$1,050,000. There are bricks falling off the tower which is used for ventilation. Presently there is a net around the tower to prevent the falling bricks from hurting anyone. On Alexander Street, there are three conduits from the old Otis Property that run under the Metro tracks and come into the pump station that need repair and cleaning. There are brick deposits inside that restrict the flow and need to be removed and the influent gates date from the 1930's and need to be reconditioned. The outside channels are 8 feet wide and 3-1/2 feet high and the middle channel is 3-1/2 feet x 4 feet. There are leaks which need to be taken care of. On the motion of Legislator Bronz, seconded by Legislator Pinto, the motion was passed by a vote of 6-0 (Jenkins, Harckham, Myers, Bronz, Pinto and Burrows).

Item #200 – An act amending the County 2008 Capital Budget by increasing the appropriations for SY42B Yonkers Joint Treatment Plant odor control by \$3,200,000. Item #201 is the bond Act. This is for the rest of the odor study. The first part was for the screening grit building and this part is to make the existing odor control units automatic so that chemicals can properly match the odor. It also includes a carbon unit for the Ludlow Pumping Street Station which might be releasing odors. Chair Jenkins asked if this included the carbon inserts and he was told it does for the street and the digesters. He also asked about the foam encapsulation for the trucks. This is the area where the trucks back in to transport the sludge. The foam seals the top of the truck to prevent any odor from escaping and it dissolves in four to five hours. It does not harm the environment, there are no toxins. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Harckham, the motion was passed by a vote of 6-0 (Jenkins,

Harckham, Myers, Bronz, Pinto and Burrows).

Chris Crane submitted a memo to the Government Operations Committee alerting them to the fact that the NYSDEC has proposed regulations on the use of ultra low sulfur diesel concerning heavy duty vehicles. Chair Jenkins thanked Chris for his memo and said the Commissioner said all the new vehicles from 2007 meet the new criteria.

On the motion of Legislator Burrows, seconded by Legislator Pinto, the motion to accept the minutes of October 6 was approved (Jenkins, Harckham, Myers, Bronz, Pinto and Burrows).

There was a memo in the folders from Commissioner Lauro about flow monitoring at the Hawthorne Manhole. Legislator Harckham clarified that the committee was interested in the cost of installing this device so haulers would not have to be charged for a full load when a truck contained less than that. The Commissioner will be asked what the cost would be.

On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Burton, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.