

**COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION
MINUTES: JANUARY 25, 2008**

LEGISLATION

MEMBERS:

Chair: Bronz; Legislators: Rogowsky, Jenkins, Harckham, Nonna, Oros, Abinanti

IN ATTENDANCE:

CE: L. Schwartz, K. Pasquale, S. Gerry, B. Randolph; **CC:** T. Idoni; **DPS:** M. McGwynn, D. Long, **WCDP:** T. Corbitt; **Finance:** J. Waltman; **BOL:** S. Bass, N. Rentz, R. Pezzullo, K. Delgado, J. Kiernan, A. Goldstein, C. Crane **Press:** K. Valenti(J. News), A. Garcia(RNN)

With a quorum present, the Committee on Legislation was called to order at 1:15 p.m.

There was a lengthy discussion of the proposal by the County Executive's office of the Joint State Legislative Program. Larry Schwartz gave a detailed briefing of item one, to support legislation that would authorize the DEC to suspend its consent order relating to nitrogen reduction in Long Island Sound by waste water treatment plants operated by the County of Westchester. They believe the consent order should be suspended to protect the property taxpayers in the four Long Island Sound Sewer Districts from large tax increases while other, more cost-effective, solutions that will improve the health of the Long Island Sound are researched. They have met with the environmental advocates to discuss the problem.

Karen Pasquale discussed and answered questions from committee members about the remaining twelve items. Many of them have appeared in previous joint programs and were approved by the board.

The County Department of Public Safety spoke about the need for legislation to authorize collection of a surcharge on summonses for vehicle and traffic infractions. The surcharge would give the county the additional resources it needs to maintain and expand regular parkway patrols and other necessary programs.

County Clerk Tim Idoni advocated on behalf of the legislation which will allow the county to license electrical inspectors. After the state legislation is

passed the Board of Legislators will have to pass a local law implementing a licensing system for electrical inspectors within the County. The Clerk stated that such a law is necessary to ensure all electrical inspectors throughout Westchester County are qualified to perform his or her duties.

The Department of Finance requested that the board include item six which will authorize the county to conduct public electronic bond sales. They could have open or closed auctions conducted by nationally recognized electronic securities bidding services. This will lead to greater administrative efficiencies and provide savings to tax payers.

Ms. Pasquale continued to discuss the other issues which are proposed by the County Executive.

Mr. Oros asked for a breakdown of the costs to the county for emergency preparedness for Indian Point.

(Abinanti, Nonna) Move to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0.

Committee on Legislation adjourned at 3:13 P.M.