

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
MINUTES FEBRUARY 1, 2010**

MEMBERS B&A: Chair: Jose Alvarado, Legislators:
Burton, Maisano, Myers, Pinto,
Rogowsky, Ryan, Spreckman, Williams,
Jenkins, Abinanti

IN ATTENDANCE: **LWVW:** Adelaide DiGiorgi, Karen Schatzel;
LWVW, CBAC: Barbara Strauss; **CEO:**
Katy Delgado; **Law:** Linda Trentacoste,
Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; **Journal News:**
Gerald McKinstry; **Budget:** Arthur Vietro,
Larry Soule

Chair Alvarado called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

Added Starter: B1 Legislators Jenkins, L. Williams, Abinanti & Myers: Health Care Contributions: Chair Jenkins introduced the act explaining that this had been discussed in GOES and that this would allow the County Executive to discuss his proposal with the various organized labor groups. There was some confusion as to the origination of this act. A transmittal letter is needed. Legislator Pinto questioned as to whom was excluded in the County Executive's Act – 53 from the College, 125 from the District Attorney's office, three will be impacted from the Clerk's office and 63 from the Board of Legislators including seventeen legislators. The act would apply to elected officials and appointed officers for a fixed term for their next term of office – 2014 for the elected officials and 2012 for the Board of Legislators. The act, if implemented, would take effect on July 1. Legislator Pinto wanted to know if this would be retroactive to the beginning of the year. Legislator Rogowsky pointed out that the Fiscal Impact Statement indicates that the premium is annual. He also questioned Section 2 and the retirees. He feels that we would be locked in forever and that sentence is not needed. And a permissive referendum would be needed if the College, District Attorney's office, the County Clerk and the Board of Elections were to fall under the purview of the County Executive. It was pointed out that Government Operations, Legislator Kaplowitz, sent a memo to

the law department requesting information. He received a reply and it was handed out to the members of Budget & Appropriations. There was concern should the legislation be passed and county employees retire before the effective date and the legislation is amended, might they not be upset that they retired unnecessarily. Legislator Ryan wanted to know from the County Attorney about the phrase "under the jurisdiction." If they don't know what it means then maybe it should be changed to all county employees and then list the exclusions. It was also clarified that the Budget & Appropriations Committee was discussing Chair Jenkins' act for signing out and not the County Executive's. Legislator Pinto pointed out that the County Executive's legislation had an act, a law, a fiscal impact statement and a committee report and our legislation only has an act. Legislator Maisano wanted to know if we did not need an entire package, especially the committee report. Legislator Rogowsky wanted to know what the hurry was. Why couldn't the Committee receive corrected legislation taking out the District Attorney, the College and the County Clerk, include what the fiscal savings would be and a Committee Report. Chair Jenkins asked for a twenty minute recess to have the committee report prepared. At 11.32 a.m. Chair Alvarado recessed the Committee. The Committee was called back into session at 11:59 a.m. Legislator Williams pointed out that the legal opinion that was requested in the GOES committee as to the changes that the County Executive made to the District Attorney and the County Clerk's offices was never received. There was much discussion on Section 1 and Section 2 and whether or not it was redundant and no mention of spouses was mentioned. The retirees presently contribute 20 percent for their families but it now will be reduced to 15 percent. Legislator Ryan requested that in the transmittal letter on the second page, the second paragraph, the last sentence be changed from "...accepted practice in most business settings" to "...accepted practice in most government settings." The County is not a business. Legislator Abinanti feels this is a bad plan and has grave concerns as there is no opt out if employees want to go elsewhere. Legislator Maisano was pleased that this item was at the top of the agenda but he was unhappy that the Committee was not considering the County Executive's legislation. In New Rochelle, all the employees are contributing 18 percent and he does not know why the Clerk, District Attorney and the College were not part of this legislation. He will be signing this out "without prejudice" to move lit

along. On the motion of Legislator Ryan, seconded by Legislator Abinanti, the transmittal letter was changed from “business” to “government”. The motion was carried by a vote of 9-2 (Alvarado, Abinanti, Burton, Pinto, Rogowsky, Ryan, Spreckman, Williams, Jenkins) (no - Maisano, Myers). The Fiscal Impact Statement was handed out and it lists the current year revenue. Inasmuch as this legislation will not take effect until July it needs to be changed to reflect 6 months savings. The last sentence of section one “This fifteen per cent (15%) contribution shall not include the costs associated with current rates of co-payments and deductibles” was removed. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Williams, the legislation was passed as amended by a vote of 11-0 (Williams, Alvarado, Burton, Myers, Jenkins, signed “without prejudice” Rogowsky, Pinto, Maisano, Ryan, Spreckman, Abinanti).

The minutes of January 25 were approved on the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Myers as corrected.

Chair Alvarado has appointed Legislator Rogowsky as his Vice Chair.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Myers, the committee was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.