

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
JOINT WITH HOUSING & PLANNING
MINUTES MAY 24, 2010**

MEMBERS B&A: **Chair:** Jose Alvarado, **Legislators:**
Abinanti, Burton, Harckham, Myers,
Rogowsky, Ryan, Spreckman, L. Williams

MEMBERS HOUSING & PLANNING: **Chair:** William Burton,
Legislators: Harckham, Myers, Nonna,
Rogowsky, Spreckman, A. Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: **CBAC, LWVW:** Barbara Strauss; **Budget:**
Arthur Vietro; **Law:** Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz, Lori
Alesio; **LWVW:** Karen Schatzel; **CEO:** Katy
Delgado, Alexander Variano; **I.T.:** Michael
Odestick, Sam Wear; **Westchester County
Homeowners Coalition:** Derickson
Lawrence, Hugh Marriott

The two Chairs called their respective committees to order at 10:22 a.m.

A28. Compromise of Claim Medicaid Prescription Drugs: In 2003, the County Board authorized the County Attorney to institute legal proceedings against pharmaceutical companies, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailer and/or other responsible parties to recover overpayments incurred as a result of a scheme to artificially inflate the average wholesale price of Medicaid prescription drugs provided to Westchester residents. The law firm of Kirby McInerney was hired on a contingency basis and they would receive 25% of all monies recovered. As of the present time, they have settled with three pharmaceutical companies – Ethex, Amgen and Dey for a total amount of \$75,000. On the motion of Legislator L. Williams, seconded by Legislator Rogowsky, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Burton, Rogowsky, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, L. Williams, Spreckman).

B10. Compromise of Claims – J.C./M.B./C.C./B.S. It has been the practice of the County that when an individual is insured through the County Health Plan, the County pays for the immediate health care but if the insured recovers money in a settlement against a third party, the insured is required to reimburse the County. J.C. fell and tore his rotator cuff. The County is seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$5,914. M.B. fell, required shoulder replacement and the County is seeking reimbursement of \$29,812.26. D.C. was involved in an auto

accident. The County is seeking reimbursement of \$15,221.74. B.S. fell down a flight of stairs. The County is seeking reimbursement of \$9,501.08. The Sub-Committee has met and discussed these items and is in agreement with the Law Department. On the motion of Legislator L. Williams, seconded by Legislator Burton, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, L. Williams, Spreckman, Rogowsky).

B11. Compromise of Claims – M.P./M.S.: It has been the practice of the County that when an individual is insured through the County Health Plan, the County pays for the immediate health care but if the insured recovers money in a settlement against a third party, the insured is required to reimburse the County. M. P. tripped and fell on a wet floor. The County is seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$15,943.30. M.S. suffered respiratory distress from dust attributed to construction debris. The County is seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$6,509.96. The Sub-Committee has met and discussed these items and is in agreement with the Law Department. On the motion of Legislator L. Williams, seconded by Legislator Burton, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, L. Williams, Spreckman, Rogowsky).

A61. Act LGE Grant to Hire Consultant and A62. Resolution LGE Grant Hire Consultant: This would authorize the Department of Information Technology to apply for a grant through the Local Government Efficiency (LGE) Grant Program which would fund a consultant for an analysis and implementation plan with the City of Peekskill, Town of Eastchester, Villages of Buchanan and Mamaroneck and Briarcliff Manor School District. The study would analyze the County's role in providing local governments with basic Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services and programs. The grant is an amount not to exceed \$32,222 which consists of \$29,000 in grant funds and \$3,222 in County matching funds. The municipalities listed are a cross section of the municipalities in the County and all the municipalities in the County will benefit from this study. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Myers for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 ((Alvarado, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Ryan, L. Williams, Spreckman, Rogowsky). On the motion of Legislator Nonna, seconded by Legislator A. Williams for Housing and Planning, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Burton, Rogowsky, Myers, Harckham, A. Williams, Spreckman, Nonna).

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Rogowsky, the Housing & Planning minutes of February 23 were accepted with corrections.

On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Spreckman, Housing & Planning was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

On the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Myers, the Budget & Appropriations minutes of May 17 were approved.

Legislator L. Williams then introduced Derickson Lawrence and Hugh Marriott of the Westchester County Homeowners Coalition. This group has been doing analysis of school taxes in the County since we have been sited as the highest taxed county in the nation. Their study has resulted in a bill that has been introduced in the State Legislature, A10621. The bill would freeze labor costs in a district if a budget fails, require greater budgetary disclosure by school districts, promote consolidation of services and control how much higher a contingency budget can be over the previous year's budget. They proceeded with a power point presentation.

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Spreckman, Budget & Appropriations was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.