

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, EFFICIENCY & SAVINGS**

Monday, March 1, 2010, 9:30 am

MEETING MINUTES

GOES Committee Members Present: Hon. Michael B. Kaplowitz, Chair; Legislators Judy Myers, Bill Burton, Lyndon Williams.

In Attendance: BOL: T. Bernard, M. Montalto; CEO: G. Oros, K. Delgado; OTHERS: A. DiGiorgi (LWVW), K. Schatzel (LWVW), C. Cole (Pace Law), G. McKinstry (JN).

With a quorum present, the GOES Committee was called to order at 9:50 am.

ITEM(S) FOR DISCUSSION:

- **CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF 2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

The Committee members were presented with the final version of Package 'A'.

On the motion of Legislator L. Williams, seconded by Legislator Myers, Package 'A' was approved 4-0.

- **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REPEAL OF METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (MTA) PAYROLL TAX**

The Committee members were presented with the final version of the Resolution (attached) calling for the immediate REPEAL of the MTA Payroll Tax (enacted last year by the State Legislature) and for a forensic audit of the MTA.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Myers, the Resolution was approved 4-0.

There was no further business before the Committee.

On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator L. Williams, the GOES Committee adjourned at 10:10 am.

MTA RESOLUTION:

BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER,
STATE OF NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature last year authorized the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to implement a payroll tax of 34 cents for every \$100 earned, which applies to public, nonprofit and private employers in the MTA's 12 county jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, this legislation levies additional taxes on local municipalities, school districts, hospitals, nursing homes and businesses, further burdening our region's already financially stressed citizenry; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority payroll tax lessens New York's economic competitiveness and is hurting local businesses, including nonprofit organizations, that are already struggling financially and further, the payroll tax acts as a jobs deterrent as well as potentially leading to layoffs; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has not demonstrated the financial discipline to make the necessary cuts to their operating budget in order to forestall the need for this tax, and therefore has irresponsibly forced the burden of their fiscal mismanagement onto the taxpayers of New York State; and

WHEREAS, the Governor, in his Executive Budget, recommends a modification of the tax, but does not go as far as a full repeal of the tax; **now therefore be it**

RESOLVED, the Westchester County Board of Legislators urges the immediate REPEAL of this tax by the New York State Legislature; **and**

RESOLVED, the Westchester County Board of Legislators urges the New York State Legislature to immediately mandate a full independent forensic audit of the MTA, at their own expense, to highlight ways to cut expenses, introduce budgetary efficiencies and identify potential fraud and mismanagement; **and**

RESOLVED, that other more appropriate financial resources be considered by the MTA such as the use of Federal Stimulus dollars; **and be it further**

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be immediately forwarded to the Governor of the State of New York, the Speaker of the Assembly, the Majority Leader of the State Senate, as well as all members of Westchester County's State Delegation, so that the intent of this Honorable Board be widely known.

Dated: **March 1, 2010**
White Plains, New York