

County Legislator Ben Boykin

Discussion with WPCNA

Tuesday, January 10, 2017



Agenda

- Ben Boykin Committees & PSSS Committee Oversight
- Role of County Legislator
- 2017 Budgets and Operating Budget Issues
- Water District 1 Update
- Housing Settlement Update
- Minimum Wage Changes
- 2017 Items
- Ban on Gun Shows on County Owned Property
- Gun Show Bill Sponsored by Republicans
- Airport Privatization
- North 60 Lease
- Drone Legislation
- 2017 Legislative Package
- Q & A

Ben Boykin Committees

- Chairman, Public Safety & Social Services (PSSS)
- Co-chair, Minority Affairs Task Force
- Member :
 - Appointments, Vice Chairman
 - Budget & Appropriations, Vice Chairman
 - Environment & Health
 - Infrastructure
 - Legislation

PSSS Committee Oversight

- Oversight for 45% of County's Operating Budget
- Areas of Responsibility:
 - Public Safety Department
 - Corrections Department
 - Emergency Services Department
 - Probation Department
 - Social Services Department
 - Mental Health Department
 - Youth Bureau
 - Human Rights Commission

Role of County Legislator

- Legislative, policy-making branch of Westchester County
- Co-equal branch with County Executive
- Approve budgets and spending
 - 12 votes for issuance of bonds
 - 9 votes for other items
 - 12 votes to override County Executive veto
- Levy County taxes
- Approve appointments of County Executive
- Pass laws, acts and resolutions
- Serve constituents

2017 Budgets

- Operating, Capital and Special Districts Budgets
- Operating Budget, \$1.81 billion; approved by vote of 10 to 7
- Capital and Special Districts Budgets approved by same margin
- I voted against all the 2017 Budgets

Operating Budget Issues

- \$1.81 billion, a \$9 million increase from 2016
- No increase in County property tax levy of \$548.4 million
- No property tax increase in seven years
- 2017 Operating Budget is not balanced and is not sustainable
- No financial flexibility in budget

Operating Budget Issues – con't

- \$15 million included for airport privatization (more on this later)
- 3% growth in sales tax; surrounding counties using 1% to 2%
- \$2.9 million of revenue from State Aid for indigent defendants – vetoed by Governor Cuomo on Dec. 30, 2016
- \$8.5 million borrowings for tax certiorari
- \$4.2 million of borrowings for pension obligations through the NY State Pension Fund Stabilization Program
- No funds are included to cover union contracts, all of which have expired
- One shot revenues and borrowings

Operating Budget Issues – con't

- Most funding for non profits saved
- Public Safety Department at risk – staffing for three officers included, but Department is still at least ten officers short
- Unrestricted fund balance could be adversely affected by budget shortfall of \$18 million in 2016 and expected shortfall in 2017
- County's bond rating could be lowered leading to higher borrowings costs

Operating Budget Issues – con't

- Federal Aid - \$249.6 million
- State Aid - \$183.8 million
- Federal and State Aid used for:
 - Social Services - \$267.8
 - For Other Departments and Accounts - \$165.6

Operating Budget Issues – con't

- With Trump Administration, Federal Aid could be at risk
- Medicaid relief in the form of reduced “weekly shares” payments from changes to the Affordable Care Act could negatively affect the Operating Budget by up to \$13.47 million (based on calculations by O’Connor Davies)
- Changes to other federal programs could impact the Operating Budget

Operating Budget Issues – con't

- NY State Budget for FY 2017/2018 to be completed in March 2017
- Impact on County Budget by decisions to be made by State Legislative Body and Governor are not known at this time
- County Board of Legislators to provide Legislative Package to State Legislators in February 2017

Operating Budget Issues – con't

- 2017 Operating Budget a ticking time bomb
- The bomb is going to explode
- Taxpayers will face large property tax increases in future years

Water District 1 Update

- Consent decree signed in May 2015
- All benchmarks required by the consent decree are being achieved
- \$1.1 million of fines have been paid to EPA and Dept. of Justice as result of the consent decree
- Orchard Street pumping station ultraviolet treatment equipment to get into test in January 2017; full implementation scheduled for April 2017

Water District 1 Update (con't)

- Central Avenue pumping station ultraviolet treatment equipment expected to be completed in late 2017
- Water is tested weekly
- Municipalities required to provide letter to residents each quarter regarding water quality

Housing Settlement Update

- Required by year end 2016:

	<u>In Place</u>	
	<u>Financing</u>	<u>Building Permits</u>
Units Required	750	750
Completed	799	790
Needed	0*	0*

*Goal achieved

- Analysis of Impediments (AI) needs to be completed and accepted by Department of Housing

Minimum Wage Changes

- Effective December 31, 2016
 - New York City - \$11.00 per hour; \$10.90 per hour if less than 10 employees
 - Nassau, Westchester, Suffolk Counties - \$10.00 per hour
 - Other Counties - \$9.70 per hour

2017 Items

- Ban on gun shows on County owned property
- Airport Privatization (RFP and due diligence)
- North 60 Lease
- Drone Legislation (in PSSS and Legislation Committees)
- 2017 Legislative Package

Ban on Gun Shows on County Owned Property

- Discussed in PSSS, Legislation & LPPH Committees on Jan. 3
- Voted out of all three Committees and sent to full Board of Legislators for vote on Jan. 9
- Passed by full Board on Jan. 9
- Expect veto by County Executive Astorino
- Gun show scheduled for Jan. 21 and 22 at County Center

Gun Show Bill Sponsored By Republicans

- Would apply to all gun shows at all locations in Westchester County
- Requires that any gun show follow the recommendations of the NY State Attorney General's office from its "Model New York Gun Show Procedures"
- "Model New York Gun Show Procedures" entail nine areas that must be adhered to

Airport Privatization

- Board of Legislators rejected County Executive proposal done without a competitive bid process for 2017 Budget
- I serve on Board Committee to get Request for Proposal (RFP) in 2017
- No assurances that any transaction will be completed and approved by Board of Legislators
- Transaction must be in best interest for Westchester taxpayers
- Any transaction will also require approval by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Only two FAA Privatization Pilot Programs (which allow for airport funds to be used for Operating Budgets) have ever been approved and executed since this program was put in place in 1996

North 60 Lease

- \$1.2 billion biotech facility proposed adjacent to Westchester Medical Center
- Proposed by Fareri Associates of Greenwich
- 99 year lease of 60 acres of County owned property
- Will require amendment to County Charter
- Will also be built of 20 acres owned by Fareri next to North 60
- Will require approvals by Town of Mt. Pleasant
- Lease expected to be voted on in Feb/March 2017

Drone Legislation

- Prohibit drone use within 1,000 feet of the Westchester County Correctional Facility
- Can be used by law enforcement, fire or emergency service agencies
- Vote expected in first quarter 2017
- Penalty for violation
 - Civil penalty for first offense of \$1,000
 - Misdemeanor for each additional offense

2017 Legislative Package

- Currently in process
- Worked on jointly between County Executive and Board of Legislators
- Board of Legislators meet with NY Senate and NY Assembly representatives in February to advocate for County Legislative Package

Questions and Answers

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