

**BUDGET COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Budget Committee of Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, **on March 7, 2001.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Cameron Alden, Chairman  
Legislator David Bishop, Vice Chairman  
Legislator Michael Caracciolo, Member

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Sabatino, Counsel to the Legislature  
Todd Johnson, County Executive's Office  
Linda Burkhardt, Aide to Presiding Office  
Ken Weiss, County Executive's Budget Director  
Fred Pollert, Director of Budget Review Office  
Jim Spero, Budget Review Office  
Legislator Angie Carpenter  
Legislator Joseph Caracappa  
Legislator Ginny Fields  
Legislator Michael D'Andre  
Legislator Maxine Postal  
Doug Southerland, Aide to Legislator Carpenter

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Eileen Schmidt, Legislative Secretary

**(Budget Committee meeting commenced at 11:34 A.M.)**

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

We are going to convene the Budget Committee and I don't have any cards so we're going to go right to the agenda.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Chairman, I'd like to ask Counsel, in viewing the agenda are there any resolutions which do not involve adding to the county budget which are simply --

**MR. SABATINO:**

Lateral transfers like -- it looks to me that there's three from recollection. The three I would

put in that category would be 1115, 1191 and 1137 is kind of a hybrid, but 1115 and 1191 for sure and 1137 is something that's required by a previous law that we adopted. The others would be characterized otherwise as new programs or new additions would be a good word for it, yes.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

The Budget Committee is not adding to the budget at any point there, but the question is are we adding new programs through the budget and the answer was on three of them we're not.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Correct, on three of them for sure we're not.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

So we're going to table the rest until -- Legislator Fields are you here to speak on yours?

**LEGISLATOR FIELDS:**

Not Budget; at the next, Public Safety.

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

So we'll start with the introductory resolution **1114-01 Amending the Adopted 2001 Operating Budget and appropriating funds in connection with Suffolk County Planning Federation for Smart Growth Policy Plan Training. (Fields) Assigned to Budget and Environment, Land Acquisition & Planning.**

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Could I get an explanation?

**MR. SABATINO:**

This is a \$1,000 that would be transferred from an over budgeted Board of Election account to fund one of the smart growth initiatives that was recommended in the Smart

Growth Plan and the initiative is to provide training for town and village planning and commission boards.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

You mean a \$1,000?

**MR. SABATINO:**

It's a \$1,000, one thousand. It was a recommendation from the Smart Growth Fund.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Second by Legislator Caracciolo. Okay, all in favor? Opposed? 1114 is approved. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1115-01 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds for improvements to Indian Island Golf Course, Riverhead. (Caracciolo) Assigned to Budget and Parks, Sports and Cultural Affairs**

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Second.

**MR. SABATINO:**

1115 was the money that was in the omnibus; now it's just being released to implement the program.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion by Legislator Caracciolo second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? That's approved. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1125-01 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget and transferring funds for the removal of iron from drinking water (CP 8203.510). (Alden) Assigned to Budget and Environment, Land Acquisition & Planning**

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Explanation? To what extent in terms of funding is this program kick in?

**MR. SABATINO:**

This would take \$50,000 from the Legislature's 456 account and it would provide the money to the Suffolk County Water Authority to eliminate the dead end water mains, which apparently is what's causing the iron content to backup in certain areas. This was discussed last year at a different context. Legislator Levy had proposed \$50,000, but it was going to go to the Health Department instead. Members of the committee said --

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Why do we have to -- I mean, the goal I applaud, but why are we transferring money to the Water Authority?

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Suffolk County Water Authority has no plans at this point in time to eliminate these dead ends nor do they have any money in their budget to do that. So if we make a determination that it would eliminate a health hazard which in my estimation, I belong to a couple of breast cancer coalitions and there seems to be clusters of breast cancer at the dead end determination of these dead end type of situations. So it's a pilot type of program; they would use the money to eliminate a number of these across the county, so it's not just in one district. And I believe the health benefit to the county residents would be immense.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

But Legislator Alden you're I'm assuming that that you're correct that the dead ends lead to cancer clusters. I'm just going to assume that for the purpose of discussion. The Water Authority created the problem; the Water Authority should rectify it in that case.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

And they'll create the problem and what's going to happen basically is if we don't do something along this line, you know, it is a pretty much of a pilot program. If we don't do this it could take years and years and years for the Water Authority to either be forced through lawsuits or that type of action to go and institute this type of project because they've no plans right now at all to eliminate any of these dead ends.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Because they don't recognize that the problem exists.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Because they don't recognize, exactly.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

So perhaps the \$50,000 that you want to put towards this should be spent towards demonstrating the problem. I assume that it's more than a \$50,000 problem, right? I mean, -

-

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

The \$50,000 would go a long way to eliminating in Suffolk County --

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

All of them.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

All of the dead ends.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

All of the dead ends.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

It would go a long way towards that, yes.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

I'm going to make a motion to table and request that at the next committee meeting we have representatives of the Water Authority and the Health Department to discuss this issue.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

I'll table it for one meeting, but I -- if \$50,000 gets rid of the problem and you can show some evidence that the problem exist then I'll support it.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Okay. We have a motion to table by Legislator Caracciolo second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 3-0)**

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO**

Oh, part of that motion was to have representatives here so that we can get the information we need to make a decision.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

I'll make sure they get here.

**1128-01 Amending the Adopted 2001 Operating Budget and transferring funds for the contracted agency Pal-O-Mine Equestrian Inc. (Cooper) Assigned to Budget and Social Services**

**MR. SABATINO:**

1128, I stand corrected this is also a lateral transfer.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

On this resolution, just an explanation what this program is?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Well, what happened was \$5,000 was placed in the omnibus for the Huntington Meals on Wheels, but they've declined to provide the service so instead Pal-O-Mine, which provides services to handicapped individuals would pick up the \$5,000? So it's the same \$5,000, but a different organization will be providing it.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Have a motion to approve by this is 1128, right? Motion to approve Legislator Caracciolo second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? That's approved. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1132-01 Amending the Adopted 2001 Operating Budget and transferring funds in connection with lot clean-ups. (Postal) Assigned to Budget and Ways & Means** Paul could we have --

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

This is outside the --

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

A quick explanation.

**MR. SABATINO:**

This is a new program; this would take --

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Motion to table. Motion to table till next meeting.

**MR. SABATINO:**

It would take \$20,000.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion to table by Legislator Bishop second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1132 is tabled. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1133-01 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds for the American Center for Senior Citizens. (Caracappa) Assigned to Budget and Veterans & Seniors**  
A quick explanation, Paul?

**MR. SABATINO:**

This would be new money from the Legislature's 456 account for the Aging Office to have a meals for homebound seniors program.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Legislator Caracciolo:

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Do you have an explanation? It's my understanding that this program was previously funded in total and for whatever reason that funding did not carryover to this year?

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

I don't know we didn't ask for this resolution.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Budget Review did Counsel prepare the resolution?

**MR. SABATINO:**

I prepared the resolution; Legislator Caracappa told me the request, but I, you know, I had

the same question that I don't know where it's coming from. I don't know if there is a short fall I was just requested to provide \$25,000, but I don't know what what's happening out there. I had the same, you know, I had the same issue, but I was asked to file to beat the deadline.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Last year it was in the budget and according to information that I was given it was an oversight as far as including it in this budget.

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

I'm not aware of any oversight.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

And the amount of money we're discussing --

**LEGISLATOR CRECCA:**

25,000.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Well, I'm going to make a motion to approve because I think if it's an oversight and it's a valuable program meals for seniors the funding of \$25,000 should be continued.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Paul, where --

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Where are you getting the information from?

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Where did the \$25,000 come from?

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

You're extrapolating everything. Nobody here --

**MR. SABATINO:**

\$25,000 is coming from the Legislature's 456 account which is real money.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

I'll make a motion to table.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Is there a second?

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

No second to table.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Motion to approve. 456 account Jim, what's the fund balance?

**MR. SPERO:**

We budgeted 800 over 800,000 at this point in time the only funding I believe that's really committed is for the CAP Program.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Just 200,000 that's all we've actually passed so far. There's a lot of bills filed, but so far that's the only one I recall being adopted.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

It's my understanding that this is a program it's a valuable program; it's a program that's in the Centereach area of the Town of Brookhaven. I don't represent that area, but I know Legislator Caracappa does and I know that he has a very strong sense that this funding was just an oversight by not being carried over and therefore I believe it's prudent and good use of public funds for a public program.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Mr. Chairman I would feel more comfortable if Legislator Caracappa was here, the program was here, that's the first thing. The second thing is that we're in the first quarter of the fiscal year of the calendar year and it would seem to me strange that a program is requested for funding when we just came out of the budget process. Why wasn't this in the budget process and if it was an oversight this would be the second year in a row that this particular Legislator has an oversight that's come back that we funded, you know, so they're getting in essence a second bite at the apple.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Can you share any light on this?

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Not for this program, but we had the same thing last year.

**MR. SABATINO:**

The only thing I was asked to do --

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

There he is Joe.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Was to augment the program, but I really don't know what took place prior to that.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

The Meals on Wheels Program, Joe. Joe, I'm trying to get the bill approved; Legislator Bishop though raises some valid issues and concerns and I think maybe if you could address them we could move the resolution.

**LEGISLATOR CARACAPPA:**

Let me hear the concerns first.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

This is the Meals on Wheels Program in I believe it's Centereach.

**LEGISLATOR CARACAPPA:**

Good timing means everything I suppose in this business. Last year this was in the budget; it was in the omnibus and I intended to put it in the omnibus this year as well, unfortunately, the proposal didn't come to me from the American Centers as timely as I needed it and it was basically an oversight on a few peoples part and I take partial blame for that. This is a Meals on Wheels Program that delivered through central Brookhaven and other parts and it's vital as we all know Meals on Wheels Programs are within our own legislative districts. And having missed the opportunity in the omnibus I bring this resolution forward to this committee for its approval.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

The question is why the offset with on the 456 account which is something that --

**LEGISLATOR CARACAPPA:**

Good question. I'd looked at other offsets, but unfortunately there really weren't any when it comes to operating dollars at this point in time. I know the 456 account is a difficult offset, but I felt when it came to just \$25,000 for senior and nutrition program I thought it was warranted. And I do understand the hesitation possibly by some of the members of this committee in the Legislature to use the 456 account, but after discussing it with certain members of Budget Review, I believe that we felt that the dollar amount this dollar amount within a 456 would be -- would not be used by the end of the year and so --

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Is the program penniless right now or does it have -- is it short -- this \$25,000 represent 25% of its budget or how does it work do you know?

**LEGISLATOR CARACAPPA:**

I couldn't give you an exact dollar amount with the \$25,000 would represent within their own budget. I know it's a huge part of their budget and in fact this amount basically takes care of the areas that I've mentioned and a little bit more for the year for doing those meals to seniors who rely on them.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

The reason for my question is if it's something less than 50% of their overall then we can wait until the middle of the year and find an offset which would be more appropriate perhaps within the departments which have mission in this area rather than the Legislature.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Legislator Bishop it is my understanding that this program operator has continued the program through the first two months of this year and is now basically operating at a deficit unless this funding is restored the program would have to cease.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Is this person here? Are they here?

**LEGISLATOR CARACAPPA:**

Mr. Chairman, do to the change in the committee times this committee was supposed to be Monday I spoke with the operator just a few hours ago and they were going to make a desperate attempt to come from out east from where they operate out of and to be here and they just might by the end of the meeting.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion to approve second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Legislator Bishop this is approved. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1135-01 Amending the Adopted 2001 Operating Budget and appropriating funds to implement Osteoporosis Testing Program in Suffolk County. (Postal) Assigned to Budget and Health**

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion to table by Legislator Bishop second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Motion tabled. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1137-01 Transferring funds for Year 2001 pursuant to policy established for use of fees collected from Title Examiners utilizing County facilities. (Guldi) Assigned to Budget and Ways & Means**

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion by Legislator Bishop second by myself.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

On the motion exactly --

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Legislator Caracciolo.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

-- what does this do Counsel.

**MR. SABATINO:**

This is based on a 1997 law that was adopted which when the improvements were done for the Title Examiners in the Clerk's Office the deal was that the revenue increase would be funded the following year.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Okay, got it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

So motion to approve by Legislator Bishop second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approve. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1140-01 Amending the Adopted 2001 Operating Budget and appropriating funds for Family Service League. (Postal) Assigned to Budget and Social Services**

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion to table by Legislator Caracciolo.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Second by Legislator Bishop. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1191-01 Transferring Contingent Funding for various contract agencies (Phase 1). (Pres. Off.) Assigned to Budget**

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Caracciolo second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(Vote: 3-0)**

**1195-01 Amending the Adopted 2001 Operating Budget and appropriating funds in portable building at Tri-Community Health Center. (Postal) Assigned to Budget and Health**

**LEGISLATOR CARACCILO:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion to table by Legislator Caracciolo --

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Explanation on this one, Counsel 2001, I mean 1195 rather.

**MR. SABATINO:**

1195 would be \$87,000 to provide for affordable building at the Tri-Community Health Center, which is currently working at the Tri-Community Health Center. But they're going to be displaced because the county has to now use that space which was previously use by the Sunrise Psychiatric Clinic for county employees to process the WIC which is the women's infant program for the Suffolk County Health Plan. So because of that program displacing that group you need \$87,000 if you want to continue to have --

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Otherwise they're going to have to go into the market and rent space which ultimately will probably cost us more if we want to continue the service and I think most of us would want to continue the service when we think of the implications of not providing it; so this maybe a wise expenditure. Legislator Postal is here.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Legislator Caracciolo while Legislator Postal --

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Budget Review could you just comment as to this resolution and this particular agency and the relationship it has with the county? Is that a contract agency? How long have they been a contract agency?

**MR. SPERO:**

I can't say how many years they may have been --

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

What types of services do they provide?

**MR. SPERO:**

Mental health services, I believe.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

And where is the -- not where I know where it is, but what is the amount of the population it serves?

**MR. SPERO:**

I don't know.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Does the County Executive support this resolution?

**MR. WEISS:**

No. Basically, we have a concern that if we start providing free facilities for every contract agency that, you know, especially at this time when we're going to have to be cutting the budget. So we're opposed to it.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Is this the only contract agency, which receives space from the county?

**MR. WEISS:**

No, but every time we add another one we have the same concerns.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

But we're not adding we're just --

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Substituting.

**MR. WEISS:**

It's one thing if they're in a space, but now we're going to spend \$87,000 to build a temporary facility for a contact agency. I mean, that'll be a new, that'll be a first.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Well, then I think the question is, is there a more cost effective way to provide them with the temporary space that they need?

**MR. WEISS:**

Most contract agencies provide their own space.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

How long, how much notice do they have to find space?

**MR. WEISS:**

I don't know.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

I don't think they had a great deal.

**MR. WEISS:**

I was hoping we had somebody here from the Health Department because of the -- we didn't know about this meeting.

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Mr. Chairman, in the interest of time and --

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Discharge without recommendation?

**LEGISLATOR CARACCIOLO:**

Well, I would make a motion to table and wait two weeks to get some more answers.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Legislator Postal.

**LEGISLATOR POSTAL:**

Yes, the only thing I would ask is because there is a problem that they are building another facility and they've had some delays. They were asked to leave Tri-Community by the beginning of February; then the Health Department was kind enough to allow them to stay until the end of February. I would just ask that the chair of the committee communicate with the Department of Health Services to indicate that this is tabled and that they should be at least we should maintain the status quo until at least the next round of committee meetings.

**CHAIRMAN BISHOP:**

Do they have a destination?

**LEGISLATOR POSTAL:**

They do and they don't. They are building alternative space, however they would like to maintain a presence at Tri-Community for a large number of reasons. So, you know, even when their space is finished they would like to maintain a presence at Tri-Community, but right now they don't have any place else to go.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

So you believe that it would stave off any disaster if I communicate with them and let them come in at the next Budget meeting? That would be okay?

**LEGISLATOR POSTAL:**

That would be good.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Okay. So I have a motion to table by Legislator Caracciolo second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? It stands tabled. **(Vote: 3-0)** And I for the record I'll make the contact with the Department of Health.

**1200-01 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget transferring funds for additional contracted services. (Guldi) Assigned to Budget and Parks, Sports & Cultural Affairs and Human Resources** Explanation, Paul?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Okay, this is actually -- this is also a lateral transfer; I stand corrected. This is money that was previously appropriated in the omnibus. It's a total of \$10,000 out of 22 being re-divided amongst date care center and an historical society.

**LEGISLATOR BISHOP:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN ALDEN:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Bishop second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? This stands approved. **(Vote: 3-0)** Formally apologize to Legislator Carpenter and the members of the Public Safety Committee and this committee stands adjourned. Thank you.

**(Having no further business the Budget Committee was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.)**

**{ } denotes spelled phonetically.**