

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A special meeting of the Budget Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Legislative Auditorium of the Riverhead County Center, 300 Griffing Avenue, Riverhead, New York on Tuesday, **April 16, 2002.**

Members Present:

Legislator Michael Caracciolo - Chairman

Legislator David Bishop - Vice-Chairman

Legislator Andrew Crecca

Legislator Jon Cooper

Also In Attendance:

Paul Sabatino II - Counsel to the Legislature

Jim Spero - Deputy Director of Budget Review

Ken Knappe - County Exec's Budget Office

Bill Faulk - County Exec's Office

All other interested parties

Minutes Taken By:

Donna Barrett - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:35 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Just one resolution, 1192, it's been before the committee.

LEG. CRECCA:

I understand, but how can you only have one bill? Don't they all have to be there?

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Well, they're all there, but we're only going to consider this one.

The others have been tabled. All right. We'll convene the Budget Committee. All members are present. Legislator Cooper, Crecca and Bishop as well as the Chair. Thank you. Since we already had the Pledge of Allegiance, we will go right to today's agenda, which is one resolution that the sponsor Deputy Presiding Officer Maxine Postal had requested reconsideration given a Budget Review Office memorandum which clearly indicates that there is a budgetary savings associated with this program as a result of the New York State grant, federal and state aid, and the sponsor has also indicated that there may be a subsequent adjustment with respect to the offset of this resolution. We're ready.

LEG. BISHOP:

Mr. Chairman, are we tabling everything on the agenda except for one measure?

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

That is correct. Unless -- unless it's the pleasure of the committee to consider other resolutions, then --

LEG. CRECCA:

I just don't know how we can have -- and I'm not -- it's not directed at you Mike, but I don't know how we can have a Budget Committee Meeting and not consider -- have an agenda and not consider all the bills that are before us.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Well, if you stay put, we will get a full agenda, and we will go over every resolution. So just wait about five minutes, and we'll be happy to do that.

LEG. CRECCA:

I'm not trying to be -- I'm really am not trying to be difficult, but I can't -- can I also get a copy of the memo that was sent from Budget Review. I was the one that actually requested the memo, and I'm not blaming Budget Review, but I haven't seen it.

LEG. BISHOP:

While copies are being made, perhaps, Jim, you could provide a synopsis memorandum. Do you have that? The memorandum on the -- on Legislator Postal's bill for diabetes.

MR. SPERO:

Okay. Just a couple of bullet point we made in the memo. The 2000 number of hospitalizations decreased by 15.4% and emergency room

visits decreased 11.7% compared to 1999 for the Suffolk Health Plan patients diagnosed with diabetes. The Suffolk Health Plan saved

\$222,785 in hospitalization and emergency room payments in 2000.

LEG. BISHOP:

The BRO believes that it's directly attributable to the program. So that you can actually do a calculation that says that this program saves 220,000, costs -- what does this resolution ask for?

MR. SPERO:

Ninety-eight thousand, I believe.

LEG. BISHOP:

A hundred. Well, let's round it to a hundred. Therefore, we're actually saving taxpayers \$120,000; is that correct?

MR. SPERO:

The savings are not necessarily in the County Budget, they are other savings because of the emergency room visits, which --

LEG. CRECCA:

How much is directed to the County saving, if you know?

MR. SPERO:

The Suffolk Health Plan did save 222,785, so that is direct County savings.

LEG. CRECCA:

How much?

MR. SPERO:

222,785.

LEG. CRECCA:

That's direct County savings?

MR. SPERO:

In 2001, there was an increase in the number of patients served from 252 to 302 with 23% decrease in hospitalizations when compared to 1999. Okay. There will be additional savings in 2001, although they have not been quantified as yet. There's \$100,000 New York State grant that the Suffolk County Health Department qualifies for. And for the Diabetes Program the granted is giving the County, however, it's cost effective contract with Cornell to deliver these services. If the County were to imply full time staff to operate this program, the additional cost in salaries and benefits would exceed Cornell's costs by more than \$150,000. So it's cost effective for us to use the Cornell people to operate the program. There's state and federal aid reimbursement on the program of about 36% in addition to the other factors, as I mentioned.

LEG. BISHOP:

Mr. Chairman, I would make a motion to table 1190, 1191, 1195 through the end of the agenda, which is two -- 1241.

3

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.
TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-0)

That leaves us with 1192, which we heard the report from Budget Review Office on. Are there any questions?

MR. KNAPPE:

Speaking on resolution 1192, the Budget Office concurs in most part with Budget Review's memo. The savings that was mentioned for the Suffolk Health Plan, it should be known that that is not a General Fund savings. That is a separate fund in the budgets, I believe it's Fund 613. The only other thing that I'd like to state on the record is that the Health Department and Budget Review have been returning phone calls between each other to try to find a different offset that's more appropriate for the Cornell Diabetes Education Program within the Health Department itself, not from the Department of Public Works as County Road Fund. So on behalf of the Budget Director, I would like to recommend that as an alternative rather than the Public Works budget. I do believe that there is a budget meeting scheduled next Tuesday, when perhaps a corrected copy to this resolution could be filed and approved and voted on -- excuse me -- at the April 30th General Meeting.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

As I stated at the commencement of today's meeting, the sponsor had informed me not of the particulars, but of the fact that a more suitable offset was being discussed and she was considering. At this point, I am not aware that that is anything that we can entertain and take up the resolution in the context of this meeting for approval. So I will entertain a motion by the committee as to whether or not you want to move forward or wait until such time as there is a corrected copy.

LEG. CRECCA:

I was going to -- that was the motion I was going to make is a motion to table. I can tell you right now, I asked for this report from Budget Review, the numbers bear, what the alleged numbers would be. That meets my satisfaction. However, I think the County Executive's representative from budget -- from their Budget Office makes a very valid point that maybe there's a more appropriate place to take it out of. I'll say publically that I'm going to support a bill to pass the funding for this Juvenile Diabetes Program. It just makes sense if the County's going to save money. But I -- I do want to take it out

of the appropriate place, and I think that I'd make a motion to table 1192 for now.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Is there -- is there a second?

LEG. COOPER:

I'll second that vote.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Okay. There's a motion and a second. All in favor?

4

LEG. BISHOP:

What is -- I'm sorry. And when are we going to consider that?

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

It would not be until the next Budget Committee Meeting. A week from today.

LEG. BISHOP:

I'm going to oppose the --

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

And so am I. So we have a motion before us to table. All in favor? Two in favor. Two opposed. The motion is defeated. I'll make a to approve. Is there a second?

LEG. BISHOP:

I'll second the motion to approve, and I would note for the record that the if the Executive or the Chairman file another bill changing the offset subsequently, I'll support that. But at this point, there's no need to delay. And the sponsors point is that if we pass it today, at least the contract process can start. And from my personal experience, and I think it's shared by other Legislators, we want to gave the County Attorney's Office as much time as possible.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

Very good.

LEG. CRECCA:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:

On the motion, Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:

Yeah. I think that the contract process can start even if we don't pass this resolution today, number one. Number two, because the

County Attorney can start to draft the contracts. If there's a two week cycle, you know, it's not like we're going to be back -- literally here or Hauppauge, I should say, in two weeks. You know, if it was a long cycle, I'd say that you're right and we should move forward. But we had this discussion, I'm not going to go through it, it's on the record from last time about being such a short cycle, there's plenty of time to get this done in time for when this is supposed to start, which I think is June 1st, which gives it five or six weeks. And we all know too even if the contract is not finally signed, if they know the fundings been there and approved, it will move forward. Again, I'm not trying to bust chops on this. I'm not trying to, you know -- I think I've come out openly and said that I'm going to support this, but I'd rather see --

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Great quote for your Senate campaign.

LEG. CRECCA:
Yeah, right.

5

LEG. BISHOP:
My chops are not busted.

LEG. CRECCA:
Okay. So I'm not going to support this bill in it's form. I would rather see the other budget amendment.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
All right. Are there any other comments by the committee? Okay. We have a motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed? We know Legislator Crecca --

LEG. CRECCA:
I'm going to abstain.

CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:
Okay. One abstention. It's approved.
APPROVED (VOTE:3-0-1-0) (Abstention; Leg. Crecca)

That concludes the business of the committee. We stand adjourned.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 12:50 P.M.*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY

