

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

A meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on January 31, 2006.

Members Present:

Legislator Ricardo Montano • Chairman
Legislator Louis D'Amaro • Vice•Chair
Legislator Jon Cooper
Legislator Vioria•Fisher
Legislator Cameron Alden
Legislator Daniel Losquadro
Legislator Jay Schneiderman

Also In Attendance:

Presiding Officer William Lindsay • District # 8
George Nolan • Counsel to the Legislature
Ian Barry • Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Bob Martinez • Aide to Legislator Montano
Michael Cavanaugh • Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Linda Burkhardt • Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Michael Pitcher • Press Secretary to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Renee Ortiz • Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Robert Lipp • Principal Economist/Budget Review Office
Kevin Duffy • Senior Legislative Analyst/Budget Review Office
John Ortiz • Senior Legislative Analyst/Budget Review Office
Joe Muncy • Legislative Analyst/Budget Review Office
Paul Perillie • Aide to Majority Caucus
Linda Bay • Aide to Minority Caucus
Frank Tassone • Aide to Legislator Losquadro

Kevin Cepelak • Aide to Legislator Cooper
Carl Yellon • Aide to Legislator Kennedy
Ben Zwirn • Assistant County Executive
Allen Kovesdy • Deputy Director/County Executive's Budget Office
Susan Hodosky • County Executive's Budget Office
Tom Vaughn • County Executive Assistant
Brian Bielanski • County Executive Assistant
Gail Lollos • County Attorney's Office
Basia Braddish • County Attorney's Office
Jan Moore • Department of Health Services
Pete Quinn • Resident of West Islip
Michele Stark • Economic Development & Workforce Housing.
Steven Bate • Long Island Wine Council/Executive Director
Pat Synder • East End Arts Council/Executive Director
Liz Irwin • East End Arts Council/Program Coordinator
Kevin Rooney • Oil Heat Institute of Long Island
Sandy Sullivan • Legislative Liaison/AME
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney • Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 9:39 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I will start with a Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Cameron Alden.

Salutation

The second item on the agenda, correspondence; I don't believe we have any correspondence for this meeting. We move right into presentations. I think Allen from the County Exec's Office, you wanted to make a brief presentation on a bill that's actually not before this committee but is related to budget matters?

MR. KOVESDY:

Good morning. Resolution 1135 is a bill amending the Operating Budget to improve program accountability for the Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension, it will be in front of the Legislature next week. The Budget Office

came to you in December and asked you to transfer funds to help the Cooperative Extension pay for all their 477 funding and you graciously moved that money around. We in turn, with the help of Budget Review, promised to make the program a little more accountable by setting up a specific program for each one of their myriad of 477 programs and this resolution in front of you sets it up program by program with the specific amount of funding.

(* Legislator Schneiderman entered the meeting at 9:40 A.M. *)

So I just wanted to let you know that we did make that commitment and thanks to the help from Budget Review, this resolution will set it up. It's no additional money, it's the same exact money that's in the budget, it just breaks it out program by program by program. And we just wanted to let you know that we did what you had asked us to do when you had passed that resolution and moved the \$580,000 worth of funding last December. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Allen, if I may, there were •• I forget how many pseudo codes were in the original allocation, this has a lot more.

MR. KOVESDY:

Yes, it does.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. But this doesn't create a nightmare in terms of an accounting or trackability of the funds, does it?

MR. KOVESDY:

No, each voucher previously was by program, it just lays it out so that when they do the budget presentation it identifies each program and there will be narrative to back up each program.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Any questions?

P.O. LINDSAY:

If I might, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Excuse me? Yes, I'm going to defer to the Presiding Officer; go ahead, Bill.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Just really a comment. Unless I'm mistaken, and I think Cornell is our largest contract agency now; is that correct, Allen?

MR. KOVESDY:

It's the largest one that the Executive monitors. We call them authorized agencies, that's the largest authorized agency which the County monitors. There are a lot of contract agencies which are significantly more money like Catholic Charities and things like that throughout the County, but this is the largest one which comes through the County Exec's Office to pay the bills.

P.O. LINDSAY:

In terms of multiple programs, too, I mean.

MR. KOVESDY:

Yes, it is, the way it's broken out.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I really •• you know, just to comment to the committee. I really think that this is probably a good thing to do. I know one of the programs is we have hired Cornell to monitor our compliance with the storm water requirements.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Right.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And I know we're getting close to a milestone where we have to report back to the State. I would feel more comfortable if we kept a little bit closer eye on these multiple programs, I think it's good.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Viloría•Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Yes, hi. I have taken a close look at the resolution and I thank you for putting that together because it really does clarify where the monies are going, it gives us •• it's called an accountability bill, right?

MR. KOVESDY:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Something about greater accountability. And as the Presiding Officer just mentioned, one of the specific projects which we're funding is the storm water project; we look at what the sources are, the 477 accounts to other different funding sources in this resolution. So I thank you for it, it helps us get a much clearer picture of where the funding is coming from and where the funding is going to vis•a•vis Cornell and its many projects. So I thank you for that.

MR. KOVESDY:

Well, thank Joe, he did most of the hard work, so.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Well, thank you, Joe.

MR. KOVESDY:

Have a nice morning.

MR. MUNCY:

Thank you very much. You know, I also have to say that the Executive's Budget Office, without their help it couldn't have been done.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Alden, you had some comments?

LEG. ALDEN:

Actually, and I'll ask Joe then, when I first drafted the resolution that set up the 477 Account and things of that nature, there was a requirement in that piece of legislation that all those accounts have some type of tracking or separate accounts to be set up, especially for the 477 funds. But also there's money that goes into the budget, I think about 20 or \$30 million a year goes into the budget for tax stabilization type purposes, there's money that goes over to the sewer districts. Have all those accounts been set up so that we can track all that money one hundred percent?

MR. MUNCY:

Well, I believe what you're talking about is Fund 477?

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, the 477 was one component of •• there was like three components, some of them went to I believe even some preservation and purchase, but some goes into the sewer districts.

MR. LIPP:

There are several components to Fund 477. And actually, we have a meeting with the County Executive's Budget Office, Fred Pollert, on the 10th and one of the action items in that meeting is to talk about setting up the reserve accounts. So they haven't been done yet but that's something that apparently both sides are interested in finally getting to.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good, because the legislation actually called for all those accounts to be set up at that time and that's going back now four or five years, right?

MR. LIPP:

It's long overdue, yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay, good. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Any other questions, comments? Okay, we're going to move into the public

portion. I have three cards, the first one I have is Michele Isabelle Stark and she's representing Economic Development/WFA Cultural Affairs; what is WFH?

MS. STARK:

Workforce Housing.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. I don't have a timer in front of me, we generally allow three minutes, I'm going to ask you to time yourself on that.

MS. STARK:

Okay. Good morning, Chairman Montano and Legislators. I'm here to talk about Introductory Resolution 1136 which is appropriating excess revenues received from the 2004 Hotel/Motel Tax and fund recaptured via settlement with the Long Island Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Suffolk County's portion of that agreement for the recaptured •• the settlement is \$42,000, and in excess tax from 2004 we have \$77,000 and 21 •• 77,021.

One of the things we're trying to accomplish in our office, the Office of Cultural Affairs, is to work more with the tourism promotion agency, the Long Island Convention Visitor's Bureau, to develop cultural tourism programs. So all of the programs that we're trying to appropriate funding for are •• have to do with promoting cultural tourism in the County. And I'm here to answer any questions you may have about those programs.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Anyone have any questions with respect to the programs?
Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Are we going to go into the settlement and just whether it was •• a proposed settlement by our County Attorney's Office and whether they're satisfied that it meets all ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Well, I don't think that's what this bill addresses. It's not on the agenda, I

don't know that it's something that we're going to take up in this committee. This is as I understand a result of the money that was recaptured from the settlement, but I don't know that we need to go into the substance of the settlement; am I correct on that?

MS. STARK:

That's correct, this is the money from the settlement.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right. So we're just going to deal •• I think •• and I don't know if that was dealt with in executive session or at the Ways & Means Committee, but this bill only deals •• and this is a fait accompli in terms of the settlement, is it not? Is there someone from the County Exec's Office or County Attorney's Office?

MS. STARK:

Yeah, we have somebody from the County Attorney's office.

MS. LOLLO:

Good morning.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Without disclosing anything that we shouldn't hear in this session ••

MS. LOLLO:

No, this was all done, the Legislature approved the settlement, Legislator Caracciolo had put forth the resolution.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. And all we're going today is allocating the money that resulted from the money we recouped from the settlement.

MS. LOLLO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

While they're there?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Alden, go ahead.

LEG. ALDEN:

Then this is how much percent of the settlement; what percentage, do you know?

MS. STARK:

This is 42,000 out of 70,000, so.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Well, I don't know that she would know what the settlement was, she ••

MS. LOLLO:

Just to answer that. The settlement was for a total of 70,000, that was split between Nassau and Suffolk. Suffolk received 42,000, Nassau received 28,000 because we contribute more to LICVB, so proportionately we took more from the settlement.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay, maybe afterwards then I'll talk to you because there was hundreds of thousands of dollars that were initially identified as problems.

MS. LOLLO:

That was questionable, we went through all of that in the negotiations.

LEG. ALDEN:

Right. Okay.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Viloría•Fisher?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

I'm just going to take a moment of personal •• I guess personal privilege. Michele Stark happens to be my constituent and I would like to publicly congratulate her for having been chosen Woman of the Year in Cultural Arts by the Times Beacon Herald newspapers.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

In that light, we'd all like to congratulate you.

MS. STARK:

Thank you.

Applause

*(*Timer went off*)*

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Perfect timing.

LEG. ALDEN:

You said you didn't have it.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

No, they brought it to me but I don't know how it works.

Thank you very much. And again, good luck and congratulations on your award.

MS. STARK:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Patricia Snyder and she represents the East End Arts Council, she's also going to discuss Resolution 1136.

MS. SNYDER:

Good morning. I'm the Executive Director of the East End Arts Council and I'm speaking on behalf of Resolution 1136; two programs in particular, you're getting some literature on both of them.

The first one that I'd like to discuss is the Long Island Wine Country Winter Festival which kicks off tomorrow, February, for the month of February. It's a cultural tourism initiative and it is the 2006 project that came with funds from the Hotel/Motel Tax matched by the Arts and Business Council of New York. What you have in front of you is this is our marketing piece, the smaller one that has the •• that looks like that, and the passport itself is what people are purchasing for \$30 and they are •• and that's good for a couple and for the month. We have coordinated businesses across the east end of Long Island including vineyards, businesses, restaurants, hotels, B & B's and cultural arts. And so we're very excited about this project and what we've accomplished and we're encouraging you to support the continuation of the project next year, so that's the one part of that resolution.

The other piece is the Arts Wave Project which the Arts Council is thrilled to be a part of because it's focusing on the economic benefits of the arts in downtown areas. We're going to be holding our 10th Annual Street Painting Festival Memorial Day Weekend and we actually do paint on the streets and it brings in thousands of people. And this event will be part of the Arts Wave initiative by Suffolk County, so it will benefit the town obviously, it will certainly benefit Suffolk County and it will bring all the arts in to one area for one day and talk about the economics of it.

So if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Any questions from any members of the committee? Hearing none, I want to thank you.

MS. SNYDER:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

And the third card and last card I have is Steven Bate and he represents the Long Island Wine Council. Mr. Bate?

MR. BATE:

Thank you very much. I just wanted to follow up on what Pat was talking about in terms of the Long Island Wine Country Winter Festival and give you a little bit of background on how important it is to not only the wineries but to the business community out on the east end.

We started what we call the winter wine months last year and the idea was that we really needed to bring tourism out during the off season. In 2004 the wineries recorded some 943,000 visitors that came through their doors into the tasting rooms, but most of that traffic came between May and September, October; during the rest of the year it was quite difficult for them. So we launched this program in February basically to try and create more awareness at the east end and the wineries were open all year round. We had Fed Ex as a sponsor last year and it was a good start, but this year, you know, we've really taken it to another level.

I think there are basically •• there are three objectives that we're trying to do. One is, again, to bring people out during the off season and try to generate business throughout the east end. The other objective is just to create awareness that the east end is open all year round and through print publicity, through radio, through Internet, we've actually managed to do that quite a bit. You know, people are looking for things to do in the off season, if you go on the Internet you'll find •• you put in Long Island and winter, you'll find that this festival comes right up so that anybody who's looking for something other than skiing or something to do during the off season, you may find a lot of opportunities on the east end.

And the third thing we were trying to do is to create more cooperation among businesses across the east end. Last year we had a world renowned tourism expert come talk to us about the fact that there's a global competition for tourism and that those regions that are cooperating effectively are the ones that are winning and attracting the most tourists. So we started out last year with your support, last year we had some 50

businesses participating in our winter wine month and this year, working with Pat Schneider of the East End Arts Council and with your support, we've been able to grow that to over 200 businesses that are participating. So hopefully with this resolution, your continued support will allow us to keep the momentum going and really build this program into something special. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Thank you. Any questions? Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do you have any dialogue with the LICVB?

MR. BATE:

Oh yes, quite a bit.

LEG. ALDEN:

And are they participating in this program?

MR. BATE:

Oh, yes. Yeah, they're a partner in the program and they've been very helpful in kind of generating awareness through their channels. They've issued press releases, they've helped distribute posters and brochures and they're active partners.

(*Legislator Losquadro entered the meeting at 9:56 AM*)

LEG. ALDEN:

Good. How long have you been in your position?

MR. BATE:

About a year and a half.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, okay. And the last question I was going to ask you is how would you compare their performance in the past with what they're doing now, and that's a hard one for you to answer, so. Okay, thanks.

MR. BATE:

Well, anecdotally it sounds like it's a much, much different organization.

LEG. ALDEN:

Much better, right. Okay, thanks.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Is there anyone else that would like to address the committee? If not, we're going to move right into the resolutions.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Just one comment for the last speaker and the preceding speaker. I guess I have been somewhat critical of LICVB, but in terms of the way they've promoted themselves in their promotional materials, because it's often I see one particular hotel or establishment highlighted. I have to say that these are excellent materials and as I look at them, everybody is treated equally and it's the region and the idea that is being promoted. And I think this provides an excellent template or example for the type of things that I'd like to see in terms of promoting the east end or promoting Suffolk County as a whole, because it really •• it's promoting the idea, not the individual businesses in an unfair way. So I just want to thank you, I think a lot of thought went in to this and it's excellent material.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Thank you, Legislator Schneiderman.

All right, we're going to move right into the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

1049•06 • Repealing Home Heating Nuisance Tax on Suffolk County residents (Alden).

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to table.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Motion to table and second. All in favor? Opposed? Any abstentions?

Motion to table was carried (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

1052•06 • Establishing a program to reduce an unfair home heating fuel nuisance tax on Suffolk County residents (Alden).

LEG. ALDEN:

I'm going to make a motion •• based on the recommendation from Legislator Viloria•Fisher, I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Motion, second having been made. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carries, ***tabled (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).***

Introductory Resolutions

1079•06 • Amending resolution nobody 1263•2005 and Resolution 1264•2005 for the town portion of 2005•2006 Tax Levy for the Town of East Hampton (Presiding Officer Lindsay). Can we get an explanation on that?

MR. LIPP:

Yes. When we passed the tax warrant in December there were •• there were some technical corrections needed in the Town of East Hampton to their tax warrant where they actually raise for some special district. So this

reflects what their actual collections were. It's done occasionally to different towns, sort of pro forma.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. I will make a motion to ••

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I will entertain a motion by Legislator Schneiderman to approve.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries, **Approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

1080•06 • Authorizing amended Tax Warrant for the Town of East Hampton (Presiding Officer Lindsay). Again, explanation, quickly.

MR. LIPP:

This is the companion resolution to the one you just approved.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Same motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Same motion, same second. Approved. Any opposition? Abstention? Motion carries, **approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).**

1090•06 • To readjust, compromise and grant refunds and chargebacks on Correction of Errors/County Treasurer by County Legislature No. 229 (County Executive). Could you give a brief explanation on that?

MR. LIPP:

Sure. Yes, this is •• basically what happens is the towns take over the tax rolls each year in June, so they become our obligation. And occasionally when past •• back taxes are paid back, the County has to make good on them and readjust each year, so on next year's tax warrant you'll see a readjustment to compensate for that.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I will entertain a motion to approve and to place on the consent calendar.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries, ***approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0)***.

1092•06 • To readjust, compromise and grant ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

You mean 91?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I'm sorry. ***1091•06 • To readjust, compromise •• I'm glad you're listening •• and grant refunds and chargebacks on Correction of Errors/County Treasurer by County Legislature No. 230 (County Executive)***.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Same motion.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

And on the consent calendar.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Abstentions? And we'll place it on the consent calendar; that's your motion, right?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yep.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 7•0•0•0).

Now we get to 1092.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Excuse me, was that on 1080?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

1090 and 1091 are on the consent calendar.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

What about 79 and 80?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Not 79 and 80.

1092•06 • To readjust, compromise and grant refunds and chargebacks on Correction of Errors/County Treasurer by County Legislature No. 231 (County Executive).

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Same motion.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

That's to approve and place on the consent calendar; same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries, **approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 7•0•0•0)**.

1093•06 • Delegating authority to refund certain erroneous tax payments to the Suffolk County Treasurer (County Executive). Brief explanation?

MR. LIPP:

This is similar only that here it gives the Treasurer latitude to make the adjustments without going through Legislative resolutions for individual cases for small amounts that do not exceed twenty•five hundred I believe.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. I'll entertain a motion to approve?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

So moved, motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Hold on, we have a question from Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes, thank you. I just had a quick question. Why are we changing the procedure now as opposed •• why wasn't this happening in the past?

MR. LIPP:

Oh, this is done every year actually.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, it is; it's an annual resolution?

MR. LIPP:

Yes. So instead of having to do individual ones for every very small amount, we give the Treasurer latitude.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So it's not a change in policy, it's in keeping with policy.

MR. LIPP:

Exactly.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. And the amount under this resolution will not exceed 2,500, anything over that has to come to the Legislature; is that correct?

MR. LIPP:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Motion by Legislator Viloría•Fisher. Second?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Losquadro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
Motion carries, ***approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0)***.

1134•06 • Amending the Operating Budget total implement funding

more efficiently within the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

I'll ask for an explanation on that.

MR. ORTIZ:

This just allocates funds, it's basically a budget housecleaning resolution; I could give you a brief description line by line if you have any interest.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I do and let me get the resolution. Any questions?

LEG. ALDEN:

I have one question.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, I'm going to defer to Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi, John. Last year I put some money into the budget for testing of the water over in Lake Ronkonkoma to determine whether some of the pollutants were of human nature or whether they were of animal nature, and that money didn't get spent; is that something that's covered by this resolution then?

MR. ORTIZ:

It is not in this resolution.

LEG. ALDEN:

Would it just fall into the bottom line already?

MR. ORTIZ:

I'm not sure what the status of that is, you might want to ask the Health Department.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, I'm looking at the attachment •• are you done, Legislator Alden ••

LEG. ALDEN:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Looking at the attachment, just briefly explain to me what we're doing. Taking money from the adopted budget and we're reallocating these funds?

MR. ORTIZ:

In certain cases it was just errors, it had the wrong pseudo code.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay.

MR. ORTIZ:

In other cases the agencies that were funded are now defunct, so we're reallocating like ADG1 and GBE1, we're using that money to hire a consultant to place those rabies traps. The Islip Health Center previously, we gave the money indirectly to Southside Hospital and they paid the lease and the utility costs, now we're moving that into Public Works and we're paying it directly ourselves.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Just on the bottom here you have contracted services, we had zero adopted, \$296,411; what does that represent?

MR. ORTIZ:

That's a drug and alcohol abuse program and the State and the County are not happy with the services that are being provided.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Which program is that?

MR. ORTIZ:

It's called Concepts for Narcotic Prevention, we're having problems with them filing disclosure forms.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Do you know where they're located, what area?

MR. ORTIZ:

I'm not sure what the catchment area is, I actually have an inquiry about that.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

And the money is being taken from this program and placed where?

MR. ORTIZ:

We're putting it in generic contracted services account, so when we do find a new vendor it will be easier to transfer the money to them.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right, when you find a vendor, what's the process to allocate the money to the vendor?

MR. ORTIZ:

I believe we'll enter into a contract and we'll just start funding that vendor. What they didn't want to do is they didn't want to stop the services completely so they just transferred the money into a generic account.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

So when you find a vendor, does the contract come before the Legislature or is that done directly through the County Exec's Office?

MR. ORTIZ:

I believe it has to go through the County Attorney or the County Exec, I don't believe it has to come before the Legislature.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Any questions?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes, I have a question.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Viloría•Fisher?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

What kind of services were being provided by Concepts?

MR. ORTIZ:

It was an out•patient drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Okay, thank you. And the Tobacco Enforcement Grant, can you tell me why that's being eliminated?

MR. ORTIZ:

That appropriation, 4019, is now closed, all of the services are being provided under 4009; so it's just, again, just budget housecleaning.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Oh, I see. Okay, it was just moved over.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

John, I am curious about one thing.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

But •• I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Go ahead, Legislator Fisher, I'm sorry, I thought your were done.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

But I'm looking at a big difference in monies that •• so you're saying the Tobacco Enforcement Grant, I'm looking at the bottom part of the chart, it had been adopted at 3,000 and you added that 16 from the other program there so now it's a \$20,000 expenditure?

MR. ORTIZ:

That's correct, yes.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Are you done, Legislator Fisher?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes, thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yeah, I just have one question and that has to do with Concepts. I just would like to get an idea of where this catchment area is, where this program is located, what community it serves and what Legislative District is this program in, if you know?

MR. ORTIZ:

Like I said, I have an inquiry about that right now. Legislator Kennedy was also concerned about that, so I've contacted the organization, they were going to put something in writing for me; I'll forward it to you as soon as I get it.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Any questions? All right, I'm going to ask for a motion to •• I'll make a motion to approve, but I would like to get prior to Tuesday the information with respect to the Concepts Program and, you know, the background on that.

LEG. ALDEN:

Maybe we could have the Commissioner can come down.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I don't think that will be necessary; if we need the Commissioner we'll get him in. But just provide me, if you would, with the information on the Concepts Program. I'll make the motion to approve.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Vilorio•Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
Motion carries, ***approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0)***.

1136•06 ••

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Let me read the title, ***Accepting and appropriating excess revenues received from 2004 Hotel/Motel Tax and funds recaptured via settlement (County Executive)***. I'll entertain a motion.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Motion.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, motion to approve, seconded. Any discussion?

LEG. COOPER:

I had a question.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

I'm looking at the first RESOLVED clause and the third RESOLVED clause and I see the same pseudo code listed twice, two different amounts; could you just explain that? In one case there's a \$58,500 change and in the third RESOLVED there's a \$37,000 change for the same item.

MS. STARK:

It was split up to make it easier for you, or to make it clear where the money was actually going even though it's going to the same account.

LEG. COOPER:

Are we in agreement that it's not more clear?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yes, we are in agreement that it's not more clear;

MS. STARK:

It's not more clear?

LEG. COOPER:

You failed miserably. Could you ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Woefully inadequate.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Well, I wouldn't go that far, Jon.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Don't hold back, Jon.

LEG. COOPER:

No, we do love you. Could you take another run at explaining this, please?

MS. STARK:

Yeah. There's two funds, the Settlement Funds which were 42,000 and then the Hotel/Motel Funds which were \$77,021.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Hold on one second. I have here \$527,908 from the Hotel/Motel Tax; is that what we're talking about?

MS. STARK:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. STARK:

Oh, wait a second. Which one ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I'm talking about the hole.

MS. STARK:

The entire amount or the ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No, he's talking about that particular line.

LEG. COOPER:

Right.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That particular 6410/4560.

MS. STARK:

4560?

LEG. COOPER:

Right.

MS. STARK:

Right. It's advertising but •• that's our advertising fund, but we have •• part of it is coming from the Hotel/Motel Tax that we collected in 2004, that's the 58,500, and then we also have from the \$42,000 settlement 37,000.

LEG. COOPER:

I see, okay.

MS. STARK:

So I wanted •• we were trying to make it clear that they were coming •• one was from the 42,000 and is being used for the Film Commission activity and the other is the 77,000 used for cultural tourism.

LEG. COOPER:

Okay, now I got it. Thank you.

MS. STARK:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Any other questions? Just so I'm clear, the 527,908 is what we collected and the first RESOLVED clause •• and we're allocating that along the pseudo codes. Robert, you just want to give me a rundown on these pseudo codes up here, where we have the change, fifty•eight thousand eighteen, five twenty•one, two thousand •• two hundred and seventy•four thousand ninety?

MR. LIPP:

I don't have those ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Those add up to 527,908.

MR. LIPP:

Yes and then you add the other one and it comes to 564,980. I'll give you the pseudo codes in a minute as soon as I call them up.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Because in looking at the backup, I don't actually see the 527, maybe I don't have all the paperwork.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Mr. Chair, if I may?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yes, go ahead, Legislator Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

If you look at the third and fourth RESOLVED and add those two, the last columns of those two where it says change, those add up to the 42.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right, but I'm ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

So that takes care of the 42.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

The 42 I understand. I'm looking at the 527,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax which is included in the resolution, I'm just trying to get a handle on the changes of those pseudo codes, because it's not in my backup information.

MS. STARK:

Can I ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You want to explain that again?

MS. STARK:

The backup information, it just explains where the 42,000 and the 77,000 are going from the excess tax. The other amounts are going to the Parks Department and the LICVB, and that has to do with how the funds are distributed, that's in 327•14 of the Suffolk County Code.

I'm providing backup for how we are spending our money out of the Department of Economic Development, our allocation. The other funds are distributed to the Parks Department and the LICVB, of the 527,000 total.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. Did I misread this or was that not spelled out in the resolution?

MS. STARK:

It is spelled out in the resolution in the second WHEREAS.

LEG. ALDEN:

That's informational purposes, not a RESOLVED.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You want to tackle that, just so I know?

MR. LIPP:

Well, the Charter requires that two•thirds get distributed through tourism, Long Island Convention and Visitor's Bureau, and the remaining one•third gets split between Historic Services and Parks.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. All right, any other questions? I'm going to entertain a motion to approve?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

We have a motion.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It's already done, first and second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries **Approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0)**.

1148•06 • Amending the 2006 Operating Budget to strike \$103,053,848 in excess 2006 retirement appropriations (County Executive).

LEG. ALDEN:

Come on, there's a lot we can do with that.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

In excess 2006 retirement appropriations; brief explanation on that.

MR. LIPP:

I think Legislator Alden did a great job, but there is also an alternative explanation, too. We paid the retirement bill in December, it was budgeted to be paid this year in February. The State allows us to have a 90 day lag, so that's how we budgeted it. However, we were able to save a little over a million dollars by paying it in December. As such, since the budget was adopted with this over \$100 million amount it's in the budget now. So structurally, if we don't eliminate these appropriations, strike them, as Legislator Alden stated, we could potentially spend the money. And should the budget come in exactly as adopted, which will never be the case, but should that happen then we would have a structural imbalance of over \$100 million, so this prevents that from happening.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Thank you. I'm going to ask to be listed as a cosponsor. I'm also going to make a motion to approve. Do I hear a second?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I will second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Losquadro. Any comments? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries, ***approved (VOTE: 7•0•0•0)***.

We're at ***1150•06 • Amending the 2006 Operating Budget to fund the Department of Environment and Energy (County Executive)***.

Explanation?

I was going to ask Ben.

MR. LIPP:

Okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I don't think he heard you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Ben, do you want to come forward for an explanation or address the committee; or if you don't want to, that's fine.

MR. KOVESDY:

Good morning. Let me introduce Susan Hodosky; Susan Hodosky is our analyst who helped work on this.

This is basically what the County Exec had proposed in 2004 and then again in 2005, that he wanted a separate Department of Environment and Energy so that he could better control, organize and reap the efficiencies of all programs under one roof. This resolution structurally does that, it moves the people, it moves the money, it creates some savings in actual dollars being spent and gives the County a new department which would deal heads on with the problems that the County Executive has identified and the priority which he is placing on this. We can answer any specific questions as to the transfers. It saves approximately \$40,000 in actual money this year, it transfers positions between departments, it provides the actual funding needed for these positions. And it is my understanding that Mr. Deering of the County Exec's Office will move from his spot to be the new Commissioner.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Do we have any new positions created in this document, that is positions that don't exist in other departments at the moment?

MS. HODOSKY:

The resolution creates ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Use the microphone please.

MS. HODOSKY:

•• the Commissioner of Environment and Energy, the Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Energy, the Assistant to the Commissioner of Environment and Energy and an Energy Coordinator.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

And some of those people •• some of those positions will be transfers, is that correct?

MS. HODOSKY:

That is correct.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. How many of those?

MS. HODOSKY:

Three of the positions will be transfers, one is currently a position that would be vacant until a candidate is found.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. And you're saying that this resolution saves approximately \$40,000 from the existing structure.

MR. KOVESDY:

Yes, it does.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Are there any questions from any members of the committee?
Legislator Schneiderman.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I just want to make sure that those positions that are being transferred aren't by law mandated to be within the Health Department. There were some problems in an earlier version of this where some of the positions within the Office of Ecology had to be under the direction of a physician via under State law, I guess to be reimbursed for those positions by the State. So I just want to make sure that we're not taking positions out that we're going to lose State reimbursement.

MS. HODOSKY:

No, the positions that are being transferred from the Health Department ••

MS. MAHONEY:

Can you speak closer, please?

MS. HODOSKY:

•• are a small amount of the 477 positions, none of these positions are in that group and they were all taken out of the bill.

MR. KOVESDY:

In addition, any reimbursement that we would get under the Health Department we would still get here, we would just charge it back administratively.

LEG. COOPER:

Excuse me. What is the one position that is currently vacant? You said that three would be transfers, one would ••

MS. HODOSKY:

The Deputy position, Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Energy.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Please use the microphone.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Jon, hold on, we have a list. Go ahead, Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

No, that was it.

MS. HODOSKY:

The Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Energy is the position that was created in this bill which would be vacant.

LEG. COOPER:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Alden?

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you. The transfers, are those positions abolished after the people are transferred?

MS. HODOSKY:

They are transferred, they would be moot so they won't need to be •• there won't be a need to do an abolishment, you're taking the position from one place and bringing it over to the other, one department and bringing it over to the other.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, you're creating different positions that don't exist now, so.

MS. HODOSKY:

There are four positions that are being created and those are new.

LEG. ALDEN:

Right. Okay, so ••

MS. HODOSKY:

The positions that are being transferred ••

LEG. ALDEN:

•• are you abolishing the corresponding positions that are filled now and the one isn't filled, but ••

MS. HODOSKY:

Yes, there are •• there is an abolishment of position for a person who is going to be transferred from the Planning Department to the new department, she'll go into the new title, that old title would be abolished. That is within the resolution, that position is the Assistant to the Planning Director.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay, so that's the only that's being abolished, the other positions are going to still ••

MS. HODOSKY:

The other position is Assistant Director of Real Estate and it's our understanding that that position, that person is leaving County service.

LEG. ALDEN:

So there's only two positions that get abolished? I'm a little ••

MS. HODOSKY:

There's a third position that's being abolished, that's the Director of Environmental Affairs, that position was created when they created the Office of Environmental Affairs within the County Executive's Office. That title is not necessary to be used because we're creating the Commissioner of Environment and Energy.

LEG. ALDEN:

Now, are other people going to stay in Environmental Affairs in the Office of the Executive, or are they all ••

MS. HODOSKY:

No, they are being transferred.

LEG. ALDEN:

So that whole thing is going to be transferred into this. Now on the earliest version you had some stuff that you were doing out of the Health Department into this in concern with cancer and those types of positions; are they still in this version?

MS. HODOSKY:

There is one position from •• which was in the Health Department which was last year transferred to the new Office of Environmental Affairs, that's a Health Program Analyst III, that position is now being transferred to the new department.

LEG. ALDEN:

And just for the structure, I would kind of disagree and I did and that's one of the reasons why it didn't go anywhere the first time it was introduced two years ago because there wasn't any movement on that. And I can see an environmental link to cancer, but I'll use my own for instance. They don't know whether it was heredity or whether it was environment or whatever, I think that that •• you know, when you're looking at causes of cancer and trying to coordinate efforts to irradiate it, I think that the Health Department, because you do have a doctor that is the Commissioner of Health, I think that that's pretty much where it belongs. And if he wants to coordinate some scientists that are working on, you know, cause, effect and things like that, I think that it really does belong in the Health Department and that's where I took issue with the original proposals because of that. Because otherwise, this is form rather than substance. I think that, you know, if the County Executive wants to reorganize his side of the government, I really don't have a big problem with any of it, you know, if it's going to put a product out there that's going to benefit the people, and that remains to be seen.

You know, we'll look back at this and see how it affected anybody or whether it did make change. And you're saying that there's no cost, additional cost involved, so as far as I'm concerned it was form rather than substance. But that part of it, I felt it did have some substantive content and I'll just put it on the record now that I disagree wholeheartedly with taking something out of the Health Department and putting it in this because you're dealing with people that are •• maybe they're environmentalists, but they're not health •• they're not doctors and they really don't even have the ability to coordinate scientific study as a doctor would have. So somebody that would coordinate, though, between this department and the Health Department, so a lower level type of position, I can't see, you know, a problem with something like that. But as far as higher up and taking that out of the Health Department, I think that it's not a wise move. But having said that, thanks.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Legislator Losquadro is next.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. Well, just first and foremost, is this •• I hate to use the expression, but putting the cart before the horse? Isn't the creation of this department before the Ways & Means Committee on Thursday?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

MR. KOVESDY:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

So should the department be created before we fund it?

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, if I might answer. It's before the Ways & Means Committee and I assume that it will be tabled for a public hearing, so this could appear at the General Meeting on Tuesday along with the department and the Legislature could act right then and there. But it's not unusual for the budget to be in place before the department is created, we did that in the last budget; the department was created and the Legislature did not see fit to create the department. But that's how it's always done in the budgets, budgets usually come first.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

All right, that was my first question. The second was you said there were some cost savings associated with this, I thought I heard the figure \$40,000?

MR. KOVESDY:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Does that include the salary for the position that will be vacant upon the creation of the department? And after that position is filled, will that \$40,000 no longer be a savings?

MR. KOVESDY:

Forty thousand dollars will be a savings, a net savings to the County when everybody is moved and ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Including that position that will be vacant ••

MR. KOVESDY:

Yes, with \$40,000 savings ••

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

•• at the beginning of this.

MR. KOVESDY:

•• and all the other departments will live within their budget.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I, like Legislator Alden, would just like to reiterate the two points that were of concern to me last year. One was the coordination of efforts that I feel are still best served under the Health Department, under the coordination of medical professionals with the cancer research.

And the other, having worked very closely with the Department of Real Estate, I still firmly believe that the Department of Real Estate should be under the leadership of the Director of Planning. I believe that a planning professional, whether it be our current head of planning or another in the future, is the proper individual that Real Estate should report to and should not be under the auspices of a Department of Environment. I believe the two should stand independent and I think it better serves the public in terms of appearances that decisions are being made on best planning models and on best practices of a Real Estate Department, not on the wishes, however well intentioned they are, of members of the environmental community. I believe it gives us better standing, a better credibility with those who would want to do business with the County. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Vilorio•Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have to agree with much of what Legislator Alden said regarding the health professional; however, I suppose it's what prism you happen to be looking through. I believe that all of his arguments support having the health professional in this particular department because the Health Program Analyst, I believe, supports our assertions that there could be very important environmental links to serious health problems that we encounter here on Long Island. And that kind of policy statement in placing someone at this high level in a department to create a link between the environmental department and the health supports the premise that we're looking at environmental links. So we have the same, I think, passion for looking for those environmental links, but I suppose we're just looking at it through different prisms.

I think that this will work. I believe that we need a high level person to have that link between a Department of Environment and the Health Department. And it doesn't preclude also having people in the Health Department who are looking at it, we're not eliminating this very close study in the Health Department by having someone in the Department of Environment looking at this.

I also agree with a lot of what Legislator Losquadro said. Land management is a function of planning and planning is a function of land management, as is environmental, the environmental concerns of the County. And when the public looks at land acquisition, I believe that their look at acquisition is in terms of environmental issues, first and foremost. And we've been very, very successful in our Land Acquisition Program because the citizens of Suffolk County are so committed to environmental preservation. And so although the Commissioner of the new department, when it is formed, I believe will work very closely with Planning, the public perception is that it is a very important piece of our environmental health and so it's very appropriate to have it in this new department.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Schneiderman?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think that Danny really brought up •• I just had the same question that Legislator Losquadro had asked, I think it's been answered.

Basically I just wanted to make sure technically that if it took a while to create this Department of the Environment, and it may be because there are some, I think, fundamental questions of structure •• and, you know, I support the idea of the creation, I still have some questions •• I want to make sure it's the best functioning department it can be. If it takes a couple of months, are we going to end up in a situation where certain individuals can't get paid because it's out of the wrong budget account? So that's my only concern.

MR. KOVESDY:

No, the funding is within the budget, it's all within the General Fund. We do a housekeeping resolution in December where we move money from one department to another to cover any shortfalls. So if there were a shortfall fundamentally because someone was six months in one and six in another, we would just correct it in December in the housekeeping resolution.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Alden?

LEG. ALDEN:

And just to point out, this is a budget, you know, resolution, so that's why I didn't really go into a lot of technical details. But I would just suggest that we all should do a little soul searching, because if we're going to create this department, we're making a big statement to the public, you know, what's a huge emphasis and how we're going to protect their interest and what we're going to do going into the future.

Like I said before, I have a problem with what we're doing with the Health position and the cancer, but I also have some problems with •• as was

mentioned by Legislator Losquadro and when we get to that resolution we can dig into it a little bit deeper •• but we don't really want to send the message that, you know, the only reason why we buy land is for environmental purposes because a lot of people are worried about where people are going to live, so affordable housing purposes and there's a lot of other things that we should be looking at. And also, you know, what is our intent as far as the County policy? Because that's what we make, we make County policy, so we've got to be a lot clearer on what the policy is going to be going forward and why we're making these changes and how they're going to benefit rather than hurt, but that would be more appropriate to the other resolution that's in Ways & Means.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Thank you. Legislator D'Amaro?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, just to go on the record on this budget resolution, I think the department •• I think the theory here behind this department is to get all the environmentalists working together and talking to each other. I don't think it actually, by creating the department and having these various functions going to these departments, would preclude say the Health Department from doing their job or Real Estate doing their job that doesn't involve environmental preservation. So I don't see how creating the department and all the good that can come from consolidation and having the environmentalists actually all working together and it's not going to effect the day•to•day operations of Real Estate, I don't see the disadvantage to that.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. I, too, would like to see the department moved. This is the budget aspect to the department, we haven't dealt with the substantive creation of the department, I believe we'll deal with that on Tuesday and it might be eligible for a vote at next Tuesday's meeting. So I would make a motion to ••

LEG. ALDEN:

(Inaudible).

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Go ahead. Before I make the motion, legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

But Ben stated that it's on a public hearing at the next General Session, so it won't be eligible for a vote because ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I said it could be eligible for a vote, there is a procedure for that, we'll deal with that on Tuesday. At this point, I'm going to make a motion to approve, ask for a second and then we'll entertain your comment.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, Legislator D'Amaro seconds. On the motion, Robert, would you like to say something on that?

MR. LIPP:

Yes, just some points of information. First of all, as Ben had mentioned, there was a case where the budget resolution effective •• or the budget preceded the Charter law; case in point, the department was enacted in the 2005 Budget, the Charter Law never actually passed and there was a lot of budgetary confusion during the year. It's not a preferred method, we at Budget Review do not think that's a good idea, number one.

Number two, the current form of the resolution from what's been stated here, as far as we understand, is not the corrected copy that we received late yesterday. So we're not •• we haven't had the chance even to look at that.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Hold on one second, Robert. Do we have the corrected •• you received an amended copy yesterday?

MR. LIPP:

Correct, at a quarter to five.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Do we have a copy of that before the committee, Bob?

MR. LIPP:

It should be pointed out, though, that in both the original and the corrected copy, the way it is shown ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I have it here.

MR. LIPP:

The way it is shown is that there are some certain amounts going from adopted to modified. Since the Charter Law was not adopted yet and signed by the State, it's unclear exactly when the department will start. As a result, it's just the modified amount represents an estimate and there are problems with that. Among other things, you could transfer over what you think are the remaining dollars and not have sufficient dollars in the old existing department to pay salaries or other expenses that may incur, number one.

Number two, that could be rectified if instead of doing some certain amounts they would have a RESOLVED clause that says the entire appropriation is transferred subject to any incurred expenses or incumbrances. So you wouldn't show an exact dollar savings, you would only know that at the end of the day.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Robert, let me ask you this.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I think this is as clear as mud.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yeah, that's why I'm asking to stop. Let me ask you this, because it's my error, I actually had the amended copy in front of me but I didn't put it in the book. Does everybody have the amended copy?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

No.

MR. PERILLIE:

I'm going to make copies right now, Legislator.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right, we're going to make copies, but in the interim. Can you briefly, briefly discuss the changes that are made in the amended copy versus the original copy that we had yesterday morning?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

And if I may?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You may.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, I'll let him address that first.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right, just address generally the amendments that were made. And this came in at five o'clock or before five o'clock yesterday?

MR. DUFFY:

It's logged in at a quarter to five yesterday.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay.

MR. DUFFY:

One of the things that we're a little confused about is that in the original resolution, as was discussed, four positions are created, three are abolished; the amended copy that we've received does not create any positions or abolish any positions.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Let me ask from the County Exec's Office; do you concur or disagree with that statement?

MR. PERILLIE:

Here's your copy.

MR. KOVESDY:

The ••

MS. HODOSKY:

You're missing page two.

MR. KOVESDY:

The dollars •• again, any resolution which has dollars in it that doesn't happen on the exact day, we worked with and we changed the housekeeping where we move money around. So not having an exact dollar amount doesn't impede this resolution going forward at all, it happens all the time, we move somebody, there may be more money here or less money there, that isn't a concern whatsoever as far as the exact lines funded. We're doing this at a point of time, hopefully the resolution will pass on a certain date and the dollars that go with it will be correct.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Well, are we going to need to amend this resolution before we pass it or are we going to pass it as is and then amend it later; is that what you're saying?

MR. KOVESDY:

If there is a problem with the dollars and cents, we will straighten that out.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

When?

MR. KOVESDY:

In November when we •• and with the budget. We don't know, somebody could leave during the year and there will be savings there and we won't have to amend it. Right now this is the best we can do with the information at hand.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, I'm going to recognize the Presiding Officer.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't think he answered the question. Is the resolution that came over, the modified resolution last night, does it add and deduct the positions that the original resolution did? That was the question.

MS. HODOSKY:

It does add and deduct. I think what the problem here is that you are missing page two of the resolution, I don't know if you're all missing page two, but BRO is missing page two.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Mr. Chairman, I couldn't hear that answer, I would like to hear that answer.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Hold on, let's •• there are a couple of things going on. Would you just repeat the answer and then we'll move from there.

MS. HODOSKY:

BRO is missing page two of the resolution.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

That's what I said before.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

BRO is missing page two of the amended resolution?

MS. HODOSKY:

Which has the abolished and created positions and that whole piece of the resolution is on page two, it seems that BRO was missing page two.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Could you give them a copy?

MS. HODOSKY:

Absolutely.

MS. BURKHARDT:

I have a copy right here.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Wait, I'm going to entertain some comments from members of the Legislature, we're going to start a new list. First let's make sure that BRO has page two.

MR. DUFFY:

Now we do.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

There we go.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Take a second and read it. All right, we're going to start a list, I believe Legislator Losquadro is on the head of the list.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I would just ask Budget Review very simply, based on the comments that

you made and now having the chance to review the complete document, could you comment on my earlier question which was is this •• do you feel that it is proper for us to do this budget resolution prior to creation of this department? Would you feel it would be more sound to wait until this department is created so we have firm numbers to work with?

MR. LIPP:

As I stated earlier, we feel that it would be more sound to do the budget amending resolution after the Charter Law is adopted and filed. It's cleaner, that's the usual course of action. We don't see •• assuming that everybody wants to go forward with this, you know •• and that remains to be seen but we're not speaking anything about that •• assuming we go forward with this, we see that that's the accepted way of doing things. This department can be put together in its proper course in that way.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Just let me •• are you done, Legislator Losquadro?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

(Inaudible).

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Just let me say this. By letting this bill out of committee we haven't passed it. What we are going to do, if it comes out of committee, is that it will be eligible for a vote at the Legislative meeting as possibly the substantive resolution creating the department. So we can deal with that issue as it comes up, right now the motion is to approve to let it out of committee.

My concerns, however, go to the resolution itself, in particular there's been a change or an amendment to the resolution, which I apologize for not having been aware of earlier. Legislator D'Amaro would like to make some comments or ask some questions?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes, thank you. I want to direct this to the Budget Review Office. I'd like to know why, first of all, you're referring to passing this resolution when all we would be doing was bring it to the floor of the Legislature, number one.

MR. LIPP:

Poor choice of words, perhaps.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Well, you know, it's really important that you properly choose your words here, I'd appreciate that.

MR. LIPP:

You're right, I apologize.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah, okay. The other ••

LEG. ALDEN:

Point of order, though?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right, I'll entertain a comment from Legislator Alden, as long as it's truly a point of order.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, it is. When we pass this we can discharge it without recommendation, we could table it or we can approve it. Actually what you're doing is you're making a statement to fellow Legislators that you've got the bill in committee, you're happy with everything and you recommend them passing it because you have approved it in the committee.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

We haven't passed it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

No, we haven't passed it.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

We haven't passed it yet.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

We've approved it, it's a different word.

LEG. ALDEN:

Right. So we're saying, you know, that we're approving of •• you know, after much deliberation, that's one of the motions that can be made.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Uh•huh.

LEG. ALDEN:

So the connotation to a Legislator, if they're not on this committee, would be that, you know, you approve passage of this by sending it out to the Legislature with that statement.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, it would be perhaps viewed as a recommendation but certainly not •• cannot be.

LEG. ALDEN:

It's not law.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It cannot be approval. And I would think that all the Legislators at the regular session would exercise their own independent judgment on that.

Why not pass this bill on Tuesday if the substantive bill is not passed? What's going to change if the substantive bill •• I'm just talking in theory here •• were passed a week or two later; what kind of problem or situation does that create for you that's so difficult to deal with?

MR. LIPP:

Well, when you have a public hearing for the Charter Law, you may hear things from the public that you feel should be addressed in terms of altering the Charter Law and, therefore, altering this budget Introductory Resolution, number one. Number two, since ••

LEG. D'AMARO:

Are those really •• again, the choice of words •• problems or are they just we would have to go back and make adjustments to the budget bill? I mean, why are they deemed problems? You know, in my mind I think it's a problem to pass the substantive bill first, because if we don't pass the budget bill we don't have the money anyway and why waste all the time and effort? So again, I have to take issue with you calling them problems as opposed to perhaps adjustments.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. If I may, I'm going to take a prerogative of the chair, I don't want to get into a debate on what I consider policy issues. If there are any questions from the Legislators with respect to the bill ••

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

•• let's keep it there, if there are any responses from the County Executive. But I think we're getting into a policy issue which really is the prerogative of the committee and the Legislature. Legislator D'Amaro, you want to finish or are you done?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'm done.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Viloría•Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Okay. I would like to County Executive's Office to help me with this and go through the amended copy as well as the original copy and point out what the differences are between the two iterations of this. Because I'm seeing yet another •• something that was just given to me which had a great deal of narrative changes that are underlined defining •• but I think this is •• I think this is the Charter Law, this is not the budget, what was just handed to

me, so I take back what I just said. Please just go through them step by step and tell us where the differences are.

MS. HODOSKY:

Okay. One of the changes in the amended resolution is to add a RESOLVED clause that ••

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

What page are you on, please?

MS. HODOSKY:

Page two, that the Suffolk County Classification & Salary Plan be amended and that was to add the position of Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Energy.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's not what we just got.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Yes, I got it, page two.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Hold on, just so we •• I want us all to be on the same page. I have a memorandum, it was clocked in at 4:44, it's from Timothy to •• no, from Ben to Timothy, it's amended copies, IR 1150•2006; does everybody on the committee have a copy of this resolution?

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'm waiting.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You're waiting for yours, Bill? We're not moving until the Presiding Officer gets a copy.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Mr. Chairman, if I may, in the interim?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Dan, that was the Ways & Means one that you just •• yeah, that was a different one.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Unless, if it's not, I'd rather wait until everybody has a copy and we will pick this up.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

It's sort of a point of order.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Go ahead, Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Through the Chair, I would just like to mention perhaps to new members of this body to please remember that Budget Review works very hard on our behalf and that they truly serve in an advisory capacity to us. Whereas we as elected members of this body and serving on a committee, certainly serve in more than an advisory capacity to the rest of the Legislature. And when they address concerns that they see budgetarily, that is their primary focus, that is what they do for us. So I would just say please heed the advice of Budget Review that they are here to serve all of us and possibly not chide them on semantics.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Can I comment to that?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Mr. Chair, this was my time and we were going through specific ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Hold on one second, Legislator Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, I didn't cede the floor and I had been recognized. The County Executive's Office was going through a step•by•step ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right, but I would like to wait until all the members have a copy of the resolution and the Presiding Officer does not have his copy yet.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I got it.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

He just got it. Now you may proceed, Legislator Viloría•Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Thank you.

LEG. ALDEN:

Which one did he get, though?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Which one did you get, Presiding Officer Lindsay; is it the one that has received time stamp 4:44?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

1150.

P.O. LINDSAY:

No, 3:06.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

No?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Paul gave us the wrong one.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Hold on, that's the problem. I want to make sure •• let me ask this directly. From the County Exec's Office, is this the most recent, the one I'm holding in my hand that is clocked 4:44, a quarter to five; is that the copy

that we're dealing with?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, does everybody have a copy of that? It may be the same memo, but I want to make sure. Bill, do you have a copy?

P.O. LINDSAY:

No.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

No, we're not moving until we have a copy.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, Paul Perillie was giving out the wrong resolution, that was the problem.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Could I just comment while we're waiting for the bill?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Vivian, I'm going to defer to the Presiding Officer.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Go ahead.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Just that I agree with the Chair, that we should have the proper bill in front of us before we start debating it.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Absolutely.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I disagree with Legislator Losquadro. You know, Budget Review, there's no doubt about it, they do a good job and we should listen to their analysis, but when their analysis is based on a missing page. I mean, come on, guys.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's not what I was speaking to, was the missing page.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Let me say this, Legislator Losquadro.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah, but the initial analysis was being given to us without the benefit of page two of the bill.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I must say this. You know, my Dad always told me, he said •• and we respect the advice of BRO as well as the advice of County Exec's Office. And I don't mean disrespectfully but my Dad always told me, "Advice is to be given, not necessarily taken." We do appreciate the advice, but we'll entertain the issues as we see fit as Legislators and we'll make the decision from there. We rely on your advice immensely and it is appreciated and sometimes amongst Legislators we will have disagreement with respect to that advice, and I think that's all we're seeing here.

Now, Legislator Fisher, we still don't have •• so I'm just going to take a two minute break.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Why don't you skip over it?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. Well, there's nothing to skip over, this is the last thing.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

This is it.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

So we will just relax for two minutes. There is •• Christine from Civil Service, would you like to come forward and say a couple of words? The last name I'm going to ••

MS. CHAYES:

Chayes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Chayes, okay, from Civil Service. Go to the podium and please address your comments, I know you've been asking to speak.

MS. CHAYES:

Okay, some of the amendments were concerning Civil Service in that the Classification & Salary Plan had to be amended to add that Deputy title. As far as Civil Service is concerned, all the changes we needed were made so the amended copy is ready to go.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

And by amended copy, you mean the 4:44 amended copy.

MS. CHAYES:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Thank you.

MS. CHAYES:

That's we're fine with it from our end.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You're fine with it from Civil Service. Legislator Lindsay, do you have it?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Got it.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Legislator Viloría•Fisher, you may proceed.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Actually, Paul borrowed my copy so I'm waiting for it back. Okay, I'll use Cameron's so we can start.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

No, no, no, no, it doesn't work that way, wait for your copy.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

We're fine, okay.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Are we all on the same page? My apologies. Legislator Viloría•Fisher, go ahead.

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Page two.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Page two.

MS. HODOSKY:

Okay. So on page two, one of the amendments that was added to this resolution was the addition to the Classification & Salary Plan of the Deputy Commissioner of Environment and Energy, as well as a modification ••

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Excuse me, wait a minute, while we're on that page. As I'm comparing it to page two of the original version, in the original version the Deputy Commissioner is a grade 33 and in your amendment the Deputy Commissioner is a grade 31.

MR. KOVESDY:

Correct.

MS. HODOSKY:

Correct.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

So that's one of the substantive changes.

MR. KOVESDY:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Please proceed.

MS. HODOSKY:

Yes, as well as in modification to the Classification & Salary Plan which would change the grade of the Assistant to Commissioner of Environment and Energy from a grade 31 to a grade 29.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay.

MS. HODOSKY:

Of the four positions created in the bill, the fourth position in the original bill was an Energy Specialist, grade 31, that has been amended to an Energy Coordinator, grade 20.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

And in the original the Energy Coordinator was what grade?

MS. HODOSKY:

In the original bill it was the title of Energy Specialist ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Oh, okay, that's why I couldn't find it.

MS. HODOSKY:

•• and it would have been a grade 31.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

That's quite a difference. Is the function substantially different then? That's an eleven grade difference.

MS. HODOSKY:

It's •• because of the way I believe that we have created the administrative portion of the department, I think it was no longer an issue that they have such a high grade.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Vivian, are you done?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, she's going through the differences.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay.

MS. HODOSKY:

There was another change which was a mathematical error that the County Executive's Office had made that we corrected, and I would love to find that right now so I could tell you what line that is. It was in the permanent salaries of the new department of EVE, 8715 permanent salaries, it's on page six; the modified, 2006 modified budget amount would be \$1,883,657, and I believe that was a change from the original bill.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Page six? I'm not seeing that.

LEG. ALDEN:

It's listed right across the top of the page.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Oh, the permanent salary line toward the top of the page.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

It looks the same to me.

MR. KOVESDY:

About ten down.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

And in the original what page was that on?

MS. HODOSKY:

It was on page five on the original bill.

LEG. ALDEN:

How much was included?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

One million seven hundred seventy•seven thousand?

MS. HODOSKY:

Correct, is on the original bill.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Page five toward the bottom.

MS. HODOSKY:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

So it's about a hundred thousand dollar difference?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right, but that's a math issue.

MS. HODOSKY:

It's a math error.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right. Okay, we understand that.

MR. LIPP:

A scrivener's error.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

And the other differences?

MS. HODOSKY:

We also have another error in the bill that we took out, on the original bill there was at the bottom of page six.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Of the original?

MS. HODOSKY:

Of the original bill, we've taken this line out of the amended bill. It is Fund 01, Planning 8030. It was an original conception that we were going to make this move and then decided not to do that, so there's a line here, permanent salaries was to be modified from 160,316 down to 30,830 because positions were to be transferred, that was not done. This line has been taken out of the amended version, so it is essentially another math error.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Let me •• Vivian, are you done?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

If she's done with all the differences.

MS. HODOSKY:

I believe those conclude the changes to the amended bill.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, so that was permanent salaries, that was 8030, eleven hundred which was ••

MS. HODOSKY:

That line is out.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

That line that had 160,000 then modified by 30,000?

MS. HODOSKY:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

That line, and that doesn't exist in the amended version.

MS. HODOSKY:

Correct.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, can you explain again why? I'm sorry.

MS. HODOSKY:

I think as the department was being created there were many ideas of how to put this together and at one point, at one version, this is something that was thought to be done and then decided not to be done. So it's •• you know, it changed many times and it was mistakenly left in.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, so that's not in the new version. Thank you. Those are all the differences?

MS. HODOSKY:

I believe so, yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Vivian?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I have a question. The changes that were made, if I understood this correctly, some of the changes lowered the grade of the position that was being transferred; is that correct?

MS. HODOSKY:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Those positions have incumbents in them? There are people that were in other departments that are now being put in to the Department of Energy or Energy & Environment, which one; is that correct? In other words they're transfers.

MS. HODOSKY:

They are transfers. The two positions where the grades changed were transferred, would be transfers, that's the Assistant to Commissioner of Environment & Energy, that will be a transfer and that grade was lowered.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Now, was it lowered •• I know it was lowered from the original bill, but is it lowered from what the person is receiving in the other position?

MS. HODOSKY:

No, it is not.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

So it is now a lateral transfer as opposed to an upgrade.

MS. HODOSKY:

My understanding at this point is it would still be a promotion for that candidate.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Still be a promotion but not as big a promotion.

MS. HODOSKY:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Are there any other questions from any members of the committee?

LEG. ALDEN:

Let me just ask a quick question?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

And it's a quick question but it's an observation. Ben, do you plan on at the next meeting passing the resolution that would create this department at the General Session?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Well, he wouldn't, we would.

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, they would be pushing for •• it's their resolution.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

But he doesn't get a vote.

LEG. ALDEN:

I know. That's true, very good.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

So ask us.

MR. ZWIRN:

The answer is yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You want to explain how you're going to do that, Ben?

MR. ZWIRN:

We can take it to the ranch.

P.O. LINDSAY:

At the last meeting I called him a Legislator, maybe that's why.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

The Presiding Officer ••

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

That came in at the last minute, too.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Then just through the Chair?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

I think we have to leave a little extra time at the General Session, because I for one would want an explanation on the philosophical reasons for creating certain areas in this department, because I'm not on Ways & Means so I'm not going to hear that argument on the resolution. I'll hear something that comes from the public if we're going to have the public hearing, but I'm not going to see the full debate on that bill.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes, you will.

LEG. ALDEN:

And if the plan of the County Executive is to try to, you know, like close the public hearing and then have us pass it, I think that, through the Chair, maybe we should ask for a full explanation of why all the pieces are put there and how they are put together.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Well, we're going to have the public hearing on Tuesday and if the public hearing is closed then •• and if we decide to move the resolution we'll do it at that time. But we are going to have an extensive debate substantively on the Department of Environment & Energy. This would •• this is simply the budgetary component of that bill.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, and I realize that.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

So we will have a full debate, but we'll take that up on Tuesday.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, okay. And Bill, I'll talk to you.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Are there any further comments before I move the question? All right, there's been a motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposition?

LEG. ALDEN:

Abstain.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

One abstention.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Abstain.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Two abstentions, Legislator Losquadro, Legislator Alden. The bill is out of committee, eligible for vote on Tuesday. **Approved (VOTE: 5•0•2•0 Abstentions: Legislators Losquadro & Alden).**

I believe we have no further business. There are no Tabled Memorializing Resolutions, no Memorializing Resolutions. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So moved.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

We are adjourned. Thank you very much.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.*)

**Legislator Ricardo Montano, Chairman
Budget & Finance Committee**

_ _ • **Denotes Spelled Phonetically**