

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

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 Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

Members Present:

Legislator Ricardo Montano - Chairman
Legislator Kate Browning - Vice-Chair
Legislator Thomas Barraga
Legislator Edward Romaine
Legislator John Kennedy
Legislator Brian Beedenbender
Legislator Lou D'Amaro

Also In Attendance:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Gail Vizzini - Director/Budget Review Office
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Caucus
Ben Zwirn - Deputy County Executive
Allen Kovesdy - Deputy Director/County Executive's Budget Office
Debra Alloncius - AME
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:07 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Good morning. We're going to start the meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Browning.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Do we have anyone from --

MR. MARTINEZ:

No cards.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

We have no cards. Do we have anyone from BRO here today? Is anyone coming? Do we need anyone? I don't have any correspondence. We don't have a presentation. Hi, Gail, how are you? We didn't know if we needed you here today. I think we always need you actually. As I said, we have no correspondence for this meeting, we have no presentations, no cards signed, so we can get right into the Tabled Resolutions.

I'll start with **IR 1363-2008. Authorizing a competitive long-term business plan to stabilize County finances and prevent disruption of essential County services and programs (ROMAINE).**

I'm going to ask for an explanation from Counsel.

MR. NOLAN:

This is the -- something of a competing resolution with another resolution that was passed earlier that was sponsored by the Presiding Officer at the request of the County Executive. But basically, it authorizes RFP for tax liens for tobacco securitization. But in terms of the details, it's different from the earlier resolution that was passed. It kind of covered the same topic or topics.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Isn't Legislator Romaine a member of the committee? Is he expected?

LEG. KENNEDY:

I have not heard, Mr. Chair. But I am a cosponsor on this resolution with Legislator Romaine, and I'll make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

OKAY. I'll second that. Any further discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine).**

Moving on to the Introductory Resolutions.

1441-2008. Amending the 2008 Operating Budget and transferring funds for the Selden/Centereach Little League (BEEDENBENDER).

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Do we have a second?

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Motion and a second. On the motion, Gail, is this transferring money within the Omnibus?

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes. These are Omnibus monies for the district. As we discussed in the past, when the outgoing Legislator left, there was some monies left that were put in the DPW rent line. This is -- this is from that.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

This is the rent line account, this is not moving money from other programs that were appropriated?

MS. VIZZINI:

No, it is not. This was the portion of monies set aside for this particular district.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. I think you know my position on that. Anyone else have any comments on that? All right. All in favor, raise your hands. We have one, two, three, four, five. I'm opposed. Motion carries.

APPROVED (VOTE: 5-1-0-1 - Opposed - Legis. Romaine; Not Present - Legis. Romaine).

1442-2008. Amending the 2008 Operating Budget to promote the Rocky Point Downtown Revitalization and Beautification Committee's family summer concert series (LOSQUADRO).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Motion to approve by Legislator Browning. Do we have a second? By Legislator Kennedy. Can you just give me a brief explanation, Gail? Same situation or is this just moving it?

MS. VIZZINI:

This is Omnibus money. It is a change from the Friends of North Shore Public Library. The \$15,000 is designated to the Rocky Point Downtown Revitalization and Beautification Committee.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries unanimously. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine).**

1447-2008. To readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control # 789-2008) (COUNTY EXEC).

I'm going to make a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar. Do I have a second? Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED** and placed on the **Consent Calendar (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine).**

1448-2008. To readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control # 790-2008) (COUNTY EXEC).

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **Consent Calendar (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine)**.

1453-2008. To readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 298 (COUNTY EXEC).

I'll ask for the same motion, same second, same vote. These are to be placed on the Consent Calendar. **APPROVED** and placed on the **Consent Calendar (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine)**

1454-2008. Amending the 2008 Operating Budget and transferring funds for the contracted agency SOAR Foundation, Inc. (STERN).

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I'll make a motion to approve. I need a second. Gail, this is Omnibus money?

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries unanimously. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine)**.

1455-2008. Amending the 2008 Operating Budget and transferring funds to North Amityville Community Economic Council (NACEC) (PRESIDING OFFICER).

I need a motion on that.

LEG. BEEDENBENDER:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Motion by legislator Beedenbender, seconded by?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Kennedy. Quick question. Just a brief explanation on this amendment.

MS. VIZZINI:

We're on 1455?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yes, we are.

MS. VIZZINI:

Okay. This is Omnibus money. It changes the agency from Economic Development to Youth.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. All in favor -- I'll call for a vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries unanimously. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine)**.

1456-2008. Amending the 2008 Operating Budget To fund Lake Grove Beautification and Historical Society (KENNEDY).

Mr. Kennedy?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second. And this is -- this is Operating Budget.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes. It's just reprogramming from Lake Grove Chamber, which is essentially nonexistent, to Lake Grove Beautification.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Call for a vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine).**

1458-2008. Amending the 2008 Operating Budget and transferring funds to the Huntington Youth Bureau Youth Development Research Institute, Inc. (COOPER).

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Need a second.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Seconded by Legislator Browning. It looks like Ben Zwirn would like to say something. Before we get to that, Gail, would you just give us a brief explanation. Is this new money?

MS. VIZZINI:

Well, it's not Omnibus money.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

It's not Omnibus.

MS. VIZZINI:

This is taken from -- the offset is Economic Development. The Omnibus Resolution increased this particular line in anticipation of the need to do more in the economic development area or in the event that we had unanticipated concerns we needed to deal with in the Operating Budget.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, I'm going to make a motion to table on this.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I'm going to second that.

MR. ZWIRN:

That's all.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

What was that, Ben?

MR. ZWIRN:

We were going to ask you to table it one cycle so we could find another offset.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

We get it covered. We have a motion to table that precedes the motion to approve unless the motion to approve is withdrawn.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Excuse me, just on the motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Sure. Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

To BRO or to Mr. Zwirn, you're looking for another offset. Where did this offset come from, is this something that anyone here had a hand in coming up with?

MS. VIZZINI:

Budget Review provided the offset.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Budget Review provided the offset. Is there -- Gail, can you just give me that explanation you gave at the outset? This is not the sponsor's Omnibus money. This is 10,000 in funding by way of offset. But you had mentioned something about something in the Operating Budget that was anticipated.

MS. VIZZINI:

When we did the Omnibus, we knew that we had not hit all the needs that we needed to address in the time frame.

(*Legislator Romaine entered the room*)

So in Economic Development, the County Executive had a line, I think it was maybe \$20,000. We added to that line in the event we needed to identify an offset as our priorities changed during the year.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So we funded a line knowing that there were some needs coming down the line during the year. So is that the offset that you gave here?

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. So then, Mr. Zwirn, why are we looking for a different one? I'm just curious.

MR. ZWIRN:

Because we tried to keep this in the Economic Development field. We'd just like to -- I've had a chance to talk to Legislator Cooper, and we said we would work together to try to find something that would be a better appropriate --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, so you want the offset to come from the Economic Development area?

MR. ZWIRN:

No. Not from the Economic Development, from another area.

LEG. D'AMARO:

From another area.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. And you're working with the sponsor on that?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes. We had a chance to talk to Legislator Cooper, and we'll work on something. We'll get it done.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. I appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

On the motion, but I have some questions also.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Gail, can I go back to the statement that you made, in the Omnibus, we knew that we didn't fund all the groups that needed to be funded. Is this -- I know nothing about this Huntington group. Is this a group that provide services County-wide? Does anybody know?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Well, it's Huntington.

MS. VIZZINI:

It's Huntington Youth. The offsets were not set aside for particular -- they were set aside for generic reasons. You know, in light of the changes in the economy, which started on or about the time we were adopting the Operating Budget, concerns about sales tax and a lot of other things, we did put aside some money in Economic Development.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You know, I'll pick the dialog up again, but I would be curious to find out about this particular organization. I mean, if it provides -- youth groups are good no matter where they are. But I know in my district, Nesconset Athletic Association got whacked \$5500 in this -- this latest cycle. So I'm wondering if this is something where we're talking about supporting a County-wide initiative, or is this something that's a more regional-type of application?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

If I may? Gail, isn't this more in the line of a member item? I mean, the reality is that we all -- we all participated --

MS. VIZZINI:

That would be an option for funding. I don't know if the sponsor would want to exercise that option.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right. But the member items -- well, you know what? The sponsor is not here. If we table it, we'll take it up at the next meeting. But, you know, my position on these are very clear. These are a member items that should have been dealt with in the Operating Budget at the time that we all participated in shaping the budget.

And to come in at this point in time with our economic situation and to say, "I need an extra \$10,000 for something in my community," I need an extra \$50,000 for something in my community, but I don't have a resolution before the Legislature, because we already participated in a system

that provided that each Legislator would get an equal amount of discretionary funds so that they can take care of particular needs of the community. Every community was cut back, I understand; am I correct on that, Gail?

MS. VIZZINI:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Again, on the motion, Mr. Chairman. A few questions.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yes. Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Gail, the Huntington Youth Bureau Youth Development Research Institute, has that been funded previously in the County Operating Budget, or is this a new group or organization?

MS. VIZZINI:

It's not familiar to me. We gave money to Huntington Youth Bureau, but this is a slightly different name.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

This looks like a corporation that would be a different entity, because it says Huntington Youth Bureau Youth Development Research Institute, Inc. This has to be a separate not-for-profit corporation. I don't read this -- I'll ask Counsel, but I don't read this as being part of the Huntington Youth Bureau the way -- the way the title is put forward. I maybe incorrect, but if you look at the title, it clearly indicates that this must be a non-for-profit unless there's --

LEG. D'AMARO:

I appreciate that, but my question is whether or not this particular not-for-profit has been previously funded.

MS. VIZZINI:

Not to my recollection, but I'll check that for you.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So it's possible that it's a new -- it's a corporation coming in for funding for the first time through the County budget; is that right?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

That's what it looks like.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. And my other question, Gail, just very quickly was is the Huntington Youth Bureau Youth Development Research, Inc. the type of organization that we usually include when we do the Omnibus Budget?

MS. VIZZINI:

I don't know a whole lot about the objective here or the agency, but we certainly -- inc. would indicate it's -- if it's a 501(C)3 then it would -- then it would typically be something that we might consider.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right. During the Omnibus process. In any event, we have a motion to table that precedes the motion to approve. I'm going to ask for a vote on the motion to table. All in favor, raise your hand. Okay. All opposed? Motion carries unanimously. **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Romaine).**

And with that, I believe that we have nothing left on the agenda. I'm going to adjourn the meeting. I'm going to thank you all. I'll see you next time.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:22 A.M.*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY