

**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, September 9, 2008.

**Members Present:**

Legislator DuWayne Gregory - Chairman  
Legislator Lou D'Amaro - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Thomas Barraga  
Legislator Edward Romaine  
Legislator John Kennedy  
Legislator Brian Beedenbender  
Legislator Kate Browning (not present)

**Also In Attendance:**

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Maxvel Rose - Aide to Legislator Gregory  
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Gail Vizzini - Director/Budget Review Office  
Robert Lipp - Budget Review Office  
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Caucus  
Ben Zwirn - Deputy County Executive  
Allen Kovesdy - Deputy Director/County Executive's Budget Office  
Paul Perille - Aide to Majority Leader  
Debra Alloncius - AME  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

**Minutes Transcribed By:**

Denise Weaver - Legislative Aide

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:02 A.M.\*)

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Good morning everyone. We're starting the Budget and Finance Committee. We'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator D'Amaro.

**SALUTATION**

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Okay. Thank you for coming this morning. We have a short agenda. We have no cards. So we will go straight to the tabled resolutions. Is there anyone here that would like to address the committee that hasn't submitted a card? No? Okay. Looking at you Ann. Okay. All right.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

We have **IR 1363, Authorizing a competitive long term business plan to stabilize County finances and prevent disruption of essential County services and programs. (Romaine)**  
Do I have a motion?

**LEG. BEEDENBENDER:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Motion to table by Legislator Beedenbender, seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor?  
Opposed? Abstain? **Tabled. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present Leg. Browning)**

**IR 1603, Repealing home energy nuisance taxes on Suffolk County residents. (Alden)** Do I have a motion?

**LEG. BEEDENBENDER:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Motion to table by Legislator Beedenbender. Do I have a second? Second by myself.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'll -- also on the motion.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

On the motion.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah, I just had a question. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a question of BRO. Ms. Vizzini, good morning. And I took a look at the fiscal impact statement that was issued for this particular bill. Is this an updated statement? Has it been recently updated?

**MR. LIPP:**

It was last updated July 24th.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

It was last updated July 24th.

**MR. LIPP:**

Yes.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Okay. And what it shows then in year one in 2009, I mean, it calls for the implementation in December of this year. But looking through the first full year it would show loss of sales tax revenue of over \$58 million, which you then go on to point out would be -- if not offset by revenues and/or expenditure cuts the results would be an increase in the General Fund property tax. Because there's no other way to really makeup that revenue. Is that correct?

**MR. LIPP:**

Correct.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

All right. I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

We have a first, we have a second. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

I have one -- opposed? Abstentions? Okay. **Tabled. (VOTE: 5-1-0-1 Opposed Leg. Romaine - Not Present Leg. Browning)**

**IR 1604, Establishing a program to reduce unfair home energy nuisance taxes on Suffolk County residents. (Alden)**

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. BEEDENBENDER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Motion by Lou D'Amaro, second by Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Abstentions? **Tabled. (VOTE: 5-1-0-1 Opposed Leg. Romaine - Not Present Leg. Browning)**

**IR 1656, Adopting Local Law No. -2008, A Charter Law to improve the capital budget process. (Lindsay)** Motion to approve by myself.

**LEG. BEEDENBENDER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Second by Legislator Beedenbender. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved. (VOTE:**

**6-0-0-1 Not Present Leg. Browning)**

## **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

We have **IR 1749, Adopting Local Law No. -2008, A Charter Law to cap County fee increases. (Schneiderman)** I'll make a motion to table for a public hearing.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

We have a second by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions. **Tabled for public hearing. (VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present Leg. Browning)**

**IR 1767, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 302. (Co. Exec. Levy)** I have a motion to approve.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

I'll second and also ask for a brief explanation.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Why is this in this committee and not Ways and Means?

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

It's a good question.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Dr. Lipp, I guess, this is correcting a -- an error. I mean, this is pretty much pro forma kind of stuff. Right?

**MR. LIPP:**

Exactly. It's pro forma.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Yeah.

**MR. LIPP:**

And where it's assigned is up to the P.O.'s Office.

**LEG. BEEDENBENDER:**

Was that motion to place among the Consent Calendar?

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Right.

**LEG. BEEDENBENDER:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Are we doing 1761 now?

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Correct. 1767.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

What happened to 1761?

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

There is no 1761.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Withdrawn?

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

It was withdrawn, to my recollection.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Oh, okay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

County owned Real Estate, it's withdrawn and not on agenda.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

The agenda that I have here shows --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

1761.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Right. There was a change.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

That was put to Ways and Means.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Okay. Maybe that's what -- I knew it was withdrawn from the agenda.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

That was -- I thought we were on that and that's why I said it should be in Ways and Means.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Okay. Gotcha.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

All right. I have no problem with this.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Okay. So we have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved** and placed on the **Consent Calendar**. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present Leg. Browning)**

**IR 1768, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction or errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 303. (Co. Exec. Levy)** I'll make a motion to -- same motion, same second, same vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved** and placed on the **Consent Calendar**. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-1 Not Present Leg. Browning)**  
Okay. Motion to adjourn.

**LEG. D'AMARO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN GREGORY:**

Second. All right. Let's go.

**(\*THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:09 A.M.\*)**

**{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY**