

**BUDGET & FINANCE**  
**COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Transcript**

A meeting of the Budget and 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, March 20, 2012.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Lou D'Amaro - Chairman  
Legislator Jay Schneiderman - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Tom Muratore  
Legislator Sarah Anker  
Legislator Wayne Horsley

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Gail Vizzini - Director Budget Review Office  
Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office  
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro  
Paul Perillie - Aide to Legislator Gregory  
William Shilling - Aide to Legislator Anker  
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Kevin LaValle - Aide to Legislator Muratore  
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office  
All Other Interested Parties

**TAKEN BY:**

Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer

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

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to the Budget and Finance Committee. Please rise and join the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Legislator Muratore.

**(\*Salutation\*)**

Any cards?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

No cards.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

No cards. Okay. Note for the record that we've received no cards for the public portion this morning.

Is there anyone present who would like to address the committee this morning? For the record, there's no response.

There are no presentations this morning, so we'll move right to tabled resolutions.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

The first is ***1014 of 2012 - Adopting a Charter Law to ensure accountability and honesty in the budget adoption process (Cilmi)***.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Motion.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. ANKER:**

I'll second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to table by Legislator Schneiderman, second by Legislator Anker.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Muratore.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

I'm sorry.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

I made a motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Muratore, which hasn't received a second. Okay. So we'll vote on

the motion to table. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. MURATORE:**

No to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

One in opposition. Abstentions? Motion carries. (*Vote: Tabled 3-1-0-1 Not Present: Leg. Horsley*).

Next is *1020 of 2012 - Adopting A Charter Law to require timely filing of budget amendments to increase public awareness (Cilmi)*.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Muratore. Are we missing somebody here?

**MR. PERILLIE:**

Wayne.

**MR. LITTELL:**

Wayne Horsley is not here.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Can I get an explanation on the bill?

**MR. NOLAN:**

This law would change the process by which the County Legislature adopts an Operating Budget each year. First, it would require that budget amendment resolutions be distributed five days before they are to be voted on. Right now, the requirement is two days. It also eliminates the provision in the Charter now that the Presiding Officer can waive the two-day notice period at the request of the Budget Review Office. Under this law, it could be waived, the five-day period, but it would be by a written petition signed by two-thirds of the Legislature. Again that would come at the request of the Budget Review Office.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. There's a motion to table by Legislator Anker.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'll second the tabling motion.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. So the motion to table would come first.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Gail, would this -- I'm sorry. Would this complicate your efforts in BRO in terms of the timelines? Obviously, last year was a difficult budget and I know you guys were working day and night on it, and I appreciate the great work that you did. I'm expecting an even more difficult budget next year because of the County's deficit problems. Do you see this as something that would further

complicate your efforts?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

In the sense that there's no waiver for completing the amendments, note I think it complicates the process in the sense that the Legislature or working group, or whatever entity we constitute, has to make the decisions earlier so Budget Review can finish earlier to provide the five-day period. You know, as is often pointed out, last year, the only reason the amendments came at the final hour was because they weren't finished, and had directly to do with the arduous decisions that had to be made.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We, as Legislators, you know, can't do amendments without your help in BRO to put it together, so -- and if you're, you know, busy doing the omnibus and doing the budget analysis, it seems like it would be very difficult to add on an additional time requirement, at least at this point. I'm not saying it's not a good idea, but this may not be the year for it.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Can I?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Please, go ahead, Legislator Anker.

**LEG. ANKER:**

You know, again, we need to be careful about when we create legislation, that we can actually be able to fulfill those requirements for that legislation. There was an article in Newsday this morning about the DSS situation and how we're supposed to meet a deadline, because we created legislation so we could meet the deadline, but we can't do it. So, again, I think we really need to be aware of what we can actually fulfill, you know, within the committed legislation. So, you know, I feel until we have a more positive response from BRO, we need to, you know, consider everything involved in budgeting, including making legislation. And again, I agree, we need to facilitate, we need to make sure it's practical and responsible, but it seems like this may not fulfill that requirement.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

If I may, you know, Legislator Cilmi has put in a bunch of bills that deal with this, with open government and the budget, and, you know, maybe to put together a bipartisan committee to really analyze the budget process and see if there are some improvements we can make to make it more transparent. I'm all in favor of that. To do it piecemeal like this, though, I am concerned in terms of how it will impact us, particularly in a year like this. I'm not prepared yet, so I'm to going -- to support this. I'll support a tabling motion

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. There's a motion to table pending. Legislator Muratore, you had made a motion to approve, correct?

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

I'll second that motion. The tabling motion goes first. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Two opposed. Any abstentions? Motion carries. The resolution is tabled. **(Vote: Tabled 3-2-0-0 Opposed: Chairman D'Amaro and Leg. Muratore)**

***1023-2012 - Adopting a Charter Law to improve the process for adopting the County's***

***Operating Budget (Romaine).***

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Muratore. I'll offer a motion to table.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Second on the table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion to table carries.

***(Vote: Tabled 5-0-0-0)***

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

***1073 of 2012 - Amending the 2012 Operating Budget to transfer funds from the Assessment Stabilization Reserve Fund, which is Fund 404, and amending the 2012 Capital Budget and appropriating funds for the Village of Northport for Wastewater Treatment Collection System Improvements (CP 8193) (Spencer).***

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Second.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. There is a motion to table by Legislator Schneiderman, second by Legislator or Deputy Presiding Officer Horsley. Any discussion on this bill? Legislator Horsley, they were waiting for the committee to report back; is that correct?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yes. What the -- the whole concept of assisting the Northport sewer issues is it's going before the Sewer Stabilization Fund where there are monies set aside for new sewer work. So they -- at this time, we are in the process of finalizing the application process in which at that point, once that is concluded, the Village of Northport and others will be applying for the -- through the application process, and with possibilities that they'd received funding at that point. So we're -- we're on the way. It's -- I expect this will be -- will be completed within the next month or so.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Very good. So we're proceeding in a -- in a --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Orderly fashion.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Orderly fashion. Thank you. Yes, very good. And this proposed use will also be in that mix as well?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Very good. All right. I'll call the vote on the motion to table. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions?

**LEG. MURATORE:**

No to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

No to table. Motion carries. *(Vote: Tabled 4-1-0-0 Opposed: Leg. Muratore)*

1096 of 2012 --

**MR. NOLAN:**

1074.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Oh, I'm sorry. **1074 of 2012** -- thank you -- **A Charter Law to ensure funding for sewer infrastructure improvements (Horsley).**

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yes. Yeah, why don't I -- I'll make a motion to withdraw this I.R.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. So, to the Clerk, please note that the sponsor would like to withdraw the resolution and that will remove it from our agenda.

Now, **1096 of 2012 - Amending the 2012 Operating Budget and transferring funds within the Department of Health Services to fund the Eastern Suffolk and Western Suffolk Patient Navigator Programs (Horsley).**

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I'll make a motion to withdraw this as well.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. To the Clerk, again, please note the sponsor's withdrawal of the resolution that removes it from our agenda. Thank you, Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

You're welcome.

**1121 of 2012 - Amending the 2012 Operating Budget to provide funding for the Medford Chamber of Commerce (Calarco).** I'll offer a motion to table at the request of the sponsor, I believe.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. *(Vote: Tabled 5-0-0-0)*

## **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

***1214 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 880-2012) (Co. Exec.).***

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

By Legislator Schneiderman, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.  
**(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1215 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 881-2012) (Co. Exec.).***

Same motion, same second, and with no objections, same vote. **(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1217 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 883-2012) (Co. Exec.).***

Once again, same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1219 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 884-2012) (Co. Exec.).***

Same motion, same second and same vote. **(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1224 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction of errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 365. (Co. Exec.).*** Same motion,

same second, same vote. **(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1238 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature, Control No. 885 of 2012. (Co. Exec.).*** Same motion, same second and same vote.

**(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1247 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature, Control No. 886 of 2012. (Co. Exec.).*** Same motion, same second, same vote.

**(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1255 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction of errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 367-2012 (Co. Exec.).*** Same motion, same second and same vote.

**(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1256 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction of errors/County Treasurer by: County Legislature No. 366-2012 (Co. Exec.).*** Same motion, same second, same vote.

**(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)**

***1264 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real***

***property correction of errors by: County Legislature, Control No. 887 of 2012 (Co. Exec.).***  
Same motion, same second, same vote. ***(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)***

***1265 of 2012 - To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature, Control No. 888 of 2012) (Co. Exec.).***  
Same motion, same second, same vote. ***(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)***

And now we have ***1306 of 2012 - Amend Resolution No. 9-2012, designating depositories pursuant to Section 212 of the County Law (Pres. Off.).*** I'll offer a motion to approve.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. ***(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)***

***1308 of 2012 - Authorizing the County Treasurer to execute an amendment to the Cooperative Liquid Asset Securities System Municipal Cooperation Agreement (Pres. Off.).***  
I'll offer a motion to approve.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second by Legislator Anker. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. ***(Vote: Approved 5-0-0-0)***

That concludes the agenda, and no further business before the committee. We are adjourned.  
Thank you.

***(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:15 A.M. \*)***