

**Joint  
Ways & Means  
Budget & Finance  
Education & Information Technology  
Committees  
of the Suffolk County Legislature  
Capital Budget Meeting  
Minutes**

A special joint meeting of the Ways & Means and Budget & Finance and Education & Information Technology Committees 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 Wednesday, May 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., to discuss the matter of the Capital Budget.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Ricardo Montano - Chairman of Ways and Means  
Legislator Louis D'Amaro - Chairman of Budget and Finance  
Legislator Steve Stern - Ways and Means Committee  
Legislator Tom Muratore - Budget and Finance Committee  
Legislator Sarah Anker - Budget and Finance Committee  
Legislator Robert Calarco - Ways and Means Committee  
Legislator John Kennedy - Ways and Means Committee  
Legislator Tom Cilmi - Education and Information Technology  
Legislator Wayne Horsley - Education and Information Technology

**Also in Attendance:**

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Gail Vizzini - Director, Budget Review Office  
Barbara LoMoriello - Deputy Clerk, Legislature  
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office  
Robert Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano  
Rosalind Gazes - Budget Review Office  
Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office  
Dr. Shawn McKay - President of Suffolk County Community College  
George Gatta - Executive Vice-President - SC Community College  
Penny LaValle - Director - SC Real Property Tax Service Agency  
Jon DeMaio - Suffolk County Community College

**Minutes Taken By:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:33 A.M.\*)

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

All right. We're going to -- we are having a joint meeting of the Ways and Means Committee, Budget and Finance, Education and Information Technology. We will start with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Calarco.

**SALUTATION**

Okay. Thank you. I guess by default, I'll start the meeting. Are there any cards?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

No, nothing.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

There are no cards. Is there anybody here other than the four of you? Yes, George, you have a question. You want to make some comments, George?

**MR. GATTA:**

We do expect President McKay to be joining us. I believe he is en route. If you would like, if you have no other discussion or business, we'd be glad to comment on the BRO report and to --

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Well, we were going to ask that question. I spoke with President McKay yesterday as a matter of fact. What time do you expect him?

**MR. GATTA:**

Let me run outside and check for one minute. I'll be right back.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

We don't need to check. He'll get here when he gets here. I had some questions with respect to the capital projects that were not included in the County Exec's budget. Gail, I believe I called your office yesterday and spoke to Robert on those projects. Can you give us a rundown of -- would you like to or would you like to wait for the President to give us a rundown on capital projects that were in last year's budget and that were not included in this year's Capital Budget? I'll leave it up to you, George. We are not in a hurry. I think he is here now. Okay. All right. So we'll wait for the formal presentation. Is there anyone else on any other matter that would like to address the committees?

**CO-CHAIR ANKER:**

As co-chair of this committee, I would like to comment how important it is that -- what we do, whatever department or whatever entity that is related to Suffolk County's budget, we need to look for revenue-generating sources. And I know the Community College is very much aware of this. And I'm very pleased to hear some of the innovative ideas the college is putting forth and looking forward to what Dr. Shawn McKay will be speaking about.

In addition to the budget, we are also going to be addressing Information Technology. And I'm very happy to see that efforts of our Commissioner is being focused on facilitating and collaborating with the departments on a more efficient way of how we use our computers and the websites and the software and hardware. So, again, I'm very happy to see that there are measures and steps being taken to help with our budget, because we are in a very distressed fiscal situation. Again, I think we have the President of the College on his way. He will be here shortly.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

I have some questions in the interim. Are you done, Legislator Anker?

**CO-CHAIR ANKER:**

Yes.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Gail, if I may, since we're waiting for Dean McKay and I have these questions. There are three capital projects I'd like you to address. One is 5097, that's the reconstruction of County Road 17/Carleton Avenue, Town of Islip. It looks like it was discontinued here. Can you explain -- what is your position on that? Can you talk to me about that? I'll leave the question open-ended. It's on Page 195. Good morning, Dr. McKay, how are you? I just have a couple of questions for Gail, and then we'll ask you to come up and make your presentation.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Thank you.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

This particular project was one of a larger magnitude in earlier Capital Programs, but it became what Public Works refers to as an early implementation project where they addressed some of the more critical areas that did not involve taking of land or of particular road widenings.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

That was as a result of stimulus money that came in; is that correct?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Well, there was -- Phase II was Federally assisted rehabilitation of the pavement and the drainage from CR 100, Suffolk Avenue to Brentwood Road, the sidewalks, curbs. That has all been completed with the assistance of the stimulus money. Phase III is the reconstruction of intersection. That was terminated. Public Works did not request additional funding, and the Budget Review Office agreed with the funding presentation.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Okay. I'd like you to put in a resolution to restore that one, if you would. We can talk about that later. The other one is Capital Project 5172. I think that one is okay. That's okay. And the third one is Capital Project 5532. Again, it looks like that's not included. The Intersection of CR 13 and CR 100, Brentwood. I know that work had been done there. What's the status? And your recommendation is the Budget Review supports the intention of the study to -- that I'll let you go from there. That's page number 240.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

This is a study. We recommend that the money be included, but in 2014, for them to actually do the study of CR 100/Suffolk Avenue.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

All right. And this was not included, but you're recommending that it be included.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

That's correct.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

All right. Could you prepare a resolution to that effect also? Is there anyone else that would like to discuss any particular capital projects? Legislator D'Amaro.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Good morning. Gail, I had already asked you to put a stand-alone in on Project 5510, which is recommended by the Executive -- recommended by the Budget Review Office to move 12 million into, I think, this year. It's on Page 233.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

In 2013, the funding in 2013.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

In 2013, correct.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

We have that.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

And if you can just explain the basis of the recommendation. I believe it's 80% funded Federally. This says design is already underway, completed by 2013 and construction is to be completed in 2014, yet it doesn't seem like the proposed Capital Budget comports with that.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

There was \$13.5 million in 2012, but a portion of that money was used as an offset for other projects.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Right. I think we just did that at our last meeting. I think it was to buy Public Safety vehicles.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Correct. So Budget Review's recommendation is more consistent with the department's request that at least 12 million of the requested 13.5 be restored to 2013. The Capital Program has 22.3 million in 2014 already.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Does the proposed budget have anything for 2013?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Regrettably no.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

So how would that project continue if we adopted the proposed budget?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

It would be delayed unless -- there's still money in '12, right?

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Right, because my understanding was that the project is already underway.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

The federal money is remained in '12, but it's 80/20, so we would need additional -- you would need yet another project to be the County match if you were going to appropriate the monies in '12. You can amend '12 if you would prefer to do that. We would have to find an offset. But the department has requested thirteen-five in '13, and we are good with the 12 million.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

So in this year, the funding that's available has been depleted; is that accurate?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

The County portion.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

The County portion has been depleted, but there's still Federal funds available for this year?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

They're scheduled.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Scheduled, okay. Which means -- does the project continue if there's no County portion and the Federal funding is just scheduled?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

No. We'd have to do our share.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Right. Okay. And our share -- there is nothing there for us in 2012. The offset that we took recently came out of 2012, I believe.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Correct.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Okay. So that depleted the funding for this project, which is ongoing and has Federal funds available if we do our share. So we depleted that funding last week. And then the Executive recommended zero funding for 2013, which would delay the project which has already been started for another year. So as I mentioned earlier -- and I know you are drafting an amendment for me to put the 12 million back; is that correct?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

That's correct.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Gail, on those other projects that I mentioned, there was Federal money there also; am I correct with that? I just want to put that on the record. Do you need the pages again?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

We'll have to confer with Public Works on the --

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

But the stand-alones, they're due when, on Friday?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Correct.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Okay. All right. So we can discuss that later. We have Dean -- President McKay with us. President McKay, would you like to step forward and talk about the capital projects? I think what we'll do is you will do your presentation, and then if we have any questions, we'll take it from there.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Good morning. I want to thank you for having us here this morning. I know that it's the time when we have commencement this weekend, and we are celebrating a lot of events back and forth with the students. We have the largest graduating class this year. What's important, we have the most students who are graduating attending our commencement ever on Sunday. So it's a wonderful time for the college in regards to us getting our residents and your constituents through the system.

On the Capital Program side, you know, my colleagues and I are going to be here to answer any questions you have. You've seen these proposals. We've submitted them several times. But I think what's important in discussing -- you know, we were talking about this with my colleagues and I with regards to what this means for your constituents and for Long Island.

As you know, in the construction industry, we have highest unemployment rate right now on Long Island in that industry. What's significant for us is that, especially the Ammerman Campus, we have a Science and Technology Building, the first in 52 years on that campus. We have acquired that property, and we have buildings on that campus that require significant deferred maintenance. As we grow and as our programs change and as we meet the economic and workforce development needs of the County, certainly we have to adjust how we function as a system, as a college, to meet the needs of the County.

I celebrated recently with the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math students, which nationally we were recognized, and they had three print versions that had to be replicated, because nationally, they selected Suffolk as the college nationally that they featured. They also selected our Principal Investigator Candice Foley to go to Washington to be one of 15 individuals nationally selected to be on that panel. And certainly, they've asked her again to do a (inaudible) closing this fall. So there is a lot of positive things happening at the college.

On the other side is that we have met the academic needs of the institution. And certainly, when you look at our Capital Program, our Capital Program, I believe, meets a number of needs. One is that we are being responsive in regards to the economic requirements of the County. When you look at, for example, on the East End, we have a Health and Wellness Center. We have the ad techs, we have the wineries we have -- when we hold a meeting of the folks on the East End in regards to the wineries at the campus, they are in the corridors of the Eastern Campus. We don't have a facility on the Eastern Campus that can then at least hold a conference or a center.

I have a list here of over maybe 75 different events that we host at the Health and Wellness Center at Grant. On the East End, we have hotels that -- we've just done Riverhead, as you know. We are trying to at least have some activity downtown. We have the Culinary Arts Center. And we said this before, the first year of that program, we anticipated 100 students. We got 400 students. In fact, we got more students than we could hold in the classrooms at the time downtown.

We put a PN program out East. That program has taken off in the first year. Hotel/motel management has taken off, and that's moving pretty well. What we are seeing out East is activity, economic development activity out East. What we have to do is to support that economic development activity. What we don't have out East, for example, is on the academic side, which is a requirement for our academic programming, is physical education courses that is a requirement for degree and graduation requirement. We have no facility for those programs. So when there's

inclement weather, they either cancel classes or, you know, substitute and do different things. You know, or, we send them to Y or send them to different places, and we pay for that. We pay for the students to go and take those things off campus versus having it done on campus.

So our goal here with the Health and Wellness Center, for example, what we're going to be doing out East is to do a couple of things. Our high schools, for example, we hold track meets. I have a list. I don't want to read a whole list, I can send it to you independently later, but we have track meets, swim meets, we have our senior folks at the Grant Campus that are coming in to the facilities, we have -- for example, the West Islip Swim Club, the Long Island Premiere Swim Club, Long Island Senior Games, Metro JCC Swim Team, Special Olympics of Long Island, Just for Girls Lacrosse. There's a whole list, and I don't want to read the list. But that's economic development.

That building at the Grant Campus will bring in close to seven or \$800,000 per year. We are hoping that on the East end that this East End building will do the same. And that's economic development to offset what we're going to put in. We're not asking for an operational support for that building. We will self-sustain that operation on the East End.

Our library, the Learning Resource Center at the Grant Campus, as you know, the Grant Campus never had a free-standing library. When we put in that Health and Wellness Building at the Grant Campus in 2000, our enrollment was around four, 5000 students. Now we are above 9500 students at that campus. And what we have at that campus is -- as we've heard before, the room that the library is now, you have sewer lines and water lines above the library. What we had recently was one of those lines ruptured, and, of course, you know, we had to repair that. That's about 60 or \$70,000. And those lines above that location, it's not a location that we should have a library and our students sitting in right now.

But certainly, it's the first free-standing learning resource center on that campus. And it is going to be a ergonomically sound, it is going to be a green building. And certainly what we have, we have two group rooms on that campus for 9500 students on that campus. So if we have four groups that want to get into that room at 10:00 in the morning, you can only let two in. If we have ten groups, you can still only let two in. So what we have is we're not providing the level of service we need for that campus based on the level of the students we have enrolled at the campus right now.

Safety and security, on the Ammerman Campus, we have a traffic safety issue. What we have is our safety security officers are now responding to accidents on the campus, not on Nicolls Road, but on the campus, because you have a blind spot. And what you have is students trying to get out between 10:00 and 3:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon, and you have a lot of accidents right there on that spot. And what we're asking for is to have -- and we had a committee that worked on that, we had an independent study that was done to look at that. And certainly what we have now is a safety and security issue for us in that one proposal.

The other side is we look at the Grant Campus, for example. We have a buildings for the facilities crew on the Grant Campus that was a building that we inherited when we took over that property. The building has ADA and a couple of other issues on that building. For example, we had recently, someone who was ill, we had to get the EMT and the EMS folks up into that location, which is very difficult, by the way, because you're coming down a very narrow staircase. We were told that the building needs to be in compliance right now. We just recently got a citation on that building as well which we are working on trying to remediate right now.

On the Eastern Campus, there is no storage facility at all, none. Every equipment we have is outdoors. The inclement weather will hit it outdoors. There's no storage facility on the Eastern Campus. It's in the Pine Barrens, and, you know, of course, we have to go through discussion on any construction on the Eastern Campus. So those are the projects that are there.

What's important for us is this: BRO has recommended putting back some of these projects into subsequent years or into 2014. We agree with BRO here, because some of the projects would require us to have -- for example, the Learning Resource Center, that has to be constructed first before we can do the Sagtikos repairs. The Sagtikos repairs are significant, because on the Grant Campus, you have 9500 students, what you have is a sort of a corridor-approach to students lining up out the door outside in inclement weather when they need service on registration, change of classes, seeing a cashier or registrar or whatever it is. It is not suited for students to have a one-stop approach on the campus.

The Sagtikos Building, once we do the repairs, will enable that to occur. What we have done is to really meet the needs of our student body. I believe at the end of it, we talked about students going out-of-County and to other institutions. We have to enhance our facilities to meet the needs of our students, otherwise what we're going to have is students saying, "You know, I'm leaving the line, I'm going to go somewhere else." And that's not what we want to have. I can go on, but I'll stop for a minute. If my colleagues want to make a statement and then answer any questions you may have.

**MR. GATTA:**

Good morning. George Gatta, Executive Vice-President, Suffolk Community College. Just to fill in a few areas the President has touched on, most of the projects included in the Capital Program or some of them that were requested and several had been either deleted or delayed by the County Executive in his proposal. We thank the BRO for their very thorough review. Our staff has worked closely with them to provide information so they have up-to-date facts on where our projects are.

In terms of the Kreiling Hall renovation, Kreiling Hall, as you may know, is one of the oldest structures on Ammerman Campus built in 1934, part of the former tuberculosis sanitorium. It's in significant need of renovation. But we do agree that delaying those funds, the construction funds, until 2014 is certainly reasonable given the timeframe for the new Science Building. As you know, the labs and the science instructional component of the curriculum that's run there will move into the new Science Building when that's done.

That building won't be complete until, at this point, about 2014. It should be bid within the next several weeks, construction will take a year and a half or thereabouts. So we agree with BRO in terms of moving that construction funding to 2014. As you know, the \$300,000 for planning for that building has already been appropriated.

In terms of the Sagtikos renovation that the President has talked about, again, we need wait for the new Learning Resource Center to be constructed on the Grant Campus so that we can move out of Sagtikos, that area of Sagtikos. Again, that will take time. And we also agree that moving that construction to 2014 is -- excuse me, planning for 2014, construction to 2015 would be okay. In terms of the Health and Wellness --

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

George, on that particular project. The proposed budget also made the same recommendation, correct?

**MR. GATTA:**

Yes, that's correct.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

George, if I may. Why don't you finish, because what I was going to ask, we all know what you're talking about, but for the record, I would like some specificity with respect to the capital project and

exactly what you are asking for so we get it on the record.

**MR. GATTA:**

In terms of the -- so going back to Kreiling just so we're clear, 2014 for construction is certainly reasonable and not something that is -- will certainly work for us.

In terms of Sagtikos, design in '14 and construction in '15 is something that we can certainly live with. Going back to Health and Wellness, as you know, the design funding, \$1 million has already been appropriated for that. And a delay in construction to 2014 is certainly reasonable and we can live with that as well.

In terms of the traffic circle at Ammerman that the President has spoke about, we agree with BRO's recommendation for design in '13 and construction in '14. The Plant Operations Building at the Grant Campus, BRO has recommended design in '14 and construction in '15. We understand that the County has significant challenges at this point, and we can work with that recommendation.

And lastly, the warehouse building out East, just to expand on the President's comments a bit, some equipment during very inclement weather we have been forced to shelter in structures like out salt storage, which again, is not something that's acceptable. We've been cited by the Fire Marshall that it's not allowed. And so we really need that facility. We agree also with BRO's recommendation; planning in '13 and construction in '14 for that building.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Just for the record, you have listed one, two, three, four, five, six capital projects; am I correct?

**MR. GATTA:**

Yes.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

All right. Could you just give me the project numbers for the record, if you have them?

**MR. GATTA:**

Kreiling Hall is Capital Project Number 2114, Sagtikos renovation is Capital Project Number 2118, the Health and Wellness facility out East is Capital Project 2110, the traffic circle at the Ammerman Campus is Capital Project 2143, the plant operations request is SCC-02, and the warehouse building at the Eastern Campus is SCC-03.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Gail, have -- maybe this is not addressed to you, but have these recommendations been incorporated into any resolutions by the committee as far as you know, the Capital Budget Committee?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

We haven't gotten that far.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

All right. I think I've asked that we put some -- we restore the three I mentioned, but I wanted that on hold. I would prefer that that go through the committee.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Absolutely.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Okay. Is there anyone that has a question to any of the panel members? Legislator Kennedy, go ahead.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you and good morning. Thank you for being here and for the good work that you do with the college. I'm glad to here that you concur with BRO's recommendations. As always I like to try to keep in general perspective. The projects that you bring to us from the Community College are projects that are equally supported by us here locally as well as by the State Education Department. Tell me the process -- two things. One, we are in a five-year capital plan through State Education that runs through 2014, yes?

**MR. GATTA:**

2013-2014, yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So as we take the recommendations that you're giving us about design and construction specifically when you're talking about '14 and '15, that's predicated on your sense that these projects are going to be resupported by State Ed.

**MR. DEMAIO:**

That's correct, yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And you have gotten indications from State Ed to that effect. I assume that you are starting to do whatever local work you do right now with State Ed for the next five-year plan.

**MR. DEMAIO:**

That's an important point. State Ed and State University Construction fund in moving forward with future capital projects are going project by project rather than adopting a five-year look-ahead. So any projects that we're adding, we identify in the September/October call letter to SUNY project by project. And actually that new process started this past year. And the projects that were schedules in 2013 at the college like -- actually 2012, like year-two infrastructure, the construction of the LRC at Grant, we not only got approval for those projects through SUNY, but actually got financial approval. So we can start paying bills on that money now.

And I think that it's important to note that the college, because of its local sponsor, has that reputation with State Ed. We put money forward, they know we have the support. They have a host of projects up there from other institutions that have sat for quite a while, and they're reluctant to advance future funding, because there's no proof locally. So the project-by-project approach has worked well for us, because we get the support locally, we don't forward it until we have it, they know we're going to come up with that support, and every project that we have an appropriating resolution for has a 50% share and has it financially, because it can be included in bonding at the State.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Let's stay on that point for one second, Jon. So then based on that working relationship, the two, I'm going to call them new requests if you will, for the plant operations building and the Grant Campus, my recollection is that this is a former cow barn from the old State Hospital, from Pilgrim State Hospital, and it doesn't surprise me that it's not ADA compliant. The design that you're putting forward then, you have a strong reason to believe that that's going to be embraced by State Ed. That's not been accepted by them yet, has it?

**MR. DEMAIO:**

No. You're correct. As a new project -- and there are three actually; one that was included by the Executive, and then two that were not. So you have Project 2143 is the traffic circle at Ammerman, then you have, as you mentioned, the new facilities building at the Grant Campus, and the third is the East Campus warehouse. Those three projects individually would be submitted to the State in September for consideration.

What I can comment on insofar as our belief that they will be moved forward, the last two years on this project-by-project approach, we have never been denied support. That includes year one and year two of the infrastructure project, which totals 20.6 million. These projects by comparison, and there are no guarantees, are quite a bit smaller; \$500,000 for the traffic circle; I believe the warehouse is around 680,000; and then slightly more for the facilities buildings at around 3.65 million. So we don't have any shot without local support certainly, but we have done very well the last few years in difficult times.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Just one other point. President McKay, I'll be happy to hear it from your comments, I'd like to stay with -- well, actually, it's pertinent for all three of you. I consistently hear about parking issues and parking problems, particularly at Ammerman. Grant, I guess, is situated a little bit better as far as accommodating students coming in, especially that August/September time where you have that first influx of new students. I heard it again this past fall about Ammerman. So the traffic circle may help flow, but what are we doing to accommodate the actual volume of students?

**MR. DEMAIO:**

There is another capital project, which is in the program supported by the Executive and, again, confirmed by BRO for parking expansion at Ammerman. There's design for that in '13, construction in '14. That's Capital Project 2152.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Is that reconfiguration of just the existing footprint, or are you going to go into new area, new territory?

**MR. DEMAIO:**

It's primarily a reconfiguration, because when we looked at it independently, the existing lots are really inefficient, they dead-end, there are areas where islands are much too large, there are drainage issues that prevent you from parking in certain areas. Just from a reconfiguration, you can gain so much that it seemed wise to do that first given the resources of say expanding and adding a whole 'nother lot.

Some of the lots that are very close together, it's kind of a combination of reconfiguring and expanding. There might be, as a result of two lots that are very close together, paving across them eliminating some islands and gaining some spots that way as well, and that's why we have design funding first to study that to make sure we're spending the money as efficiently as possible.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. Thank you. Just one further point of personal privilege, I shared this yesterday, my daughter, a Suffolk grad, is graduating tomorrow from Stony Brook in the RN to BSN Program, and she has been accepted into the Nurse Practitioner Program. So Suffolk works. Thank you. I'll yield.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Congratulations, John. Quick question. I'm going to digress for a second, President McKay. Since you're here now, can you just tell me where we are at with the issue of the solar panels? Has that

issue been resolved, or is that still up in the air? Or do you choose not to answer? I like that look on the face.

**DR. MCKAY:**

I tell stories by the look on my face.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

You don't have to answer. I won't put you on the spot.

**DR. MCKAY:**

No, no. When you are in discussions on solar panel -- this is an issue that the college has gotten a request from the County. The Board of Trustees, as you know, has given us a resolution for me to negotiate and to report back to the Board of Trustees. We have been holding several meetings, we have been dealing with the County Executive's Office, we've been talking to enXco, which is the vendor. We had a meeting yesterday with our faculty at the campus, because all the constituent groups must be consulted. As you know, in education, you know, we have to consult with all the various constituent groups before we make a decision on what's best in regards to a recommendation forward.

We are not there yet. We are still discussing all the details. We just had a meeting yesterday with the faculty and the governing groups of the campus. We have not made a recommendation back to the Board of Trustees at this point. I think certainly what we will do -- and we've been working with DPW, we've worked with Lisa Broughton, we have been working with several different agencies. We've worked with the County Attorney. Our attorney is working with the County Attorney on lease language and details. So it's premature. We're not there yet in regards to making a statement.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

That's all I need to know. You're not there yet, there's been no resolution to this situation, and there won't be until the Board of Trustees makes a decision; am I correct in that?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Well, it's until I make a recommendation to the board. And I'm collecting information now, that's why all these meetings have to happen. And a point of record too, the college has just been informed of us being in consideration maybe two or so weeks out. This has been something dealt with by the County and others for more than two years. So, you know, for us, you know, we have to work our way through, you know, all these discussions meeting with the various groups, meeting with enXco, talking to the attorneys. Those things require time, because again, you have to remember, there is a lease that was in place that did not factor in the college. And we're a higher education institution, so you have to look at time, you have to look at the cost benefit analysis, you have to look at all of those things. You have to look at parking, the impact of the flow in regards to that, the student traffic. So the mitigation issues that we have to look at, those things can't be rushed right into. We have to have folks that are experts at this to come and tell us, "Here's what we have seen, here are the considerations, and here's what we recommend." We are going to be judicious in doing that, and that's what the board asked us to do. So, yes, you know, we're working on all of that.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

So just so I'm clear, when you say once you complete all of these reviews, you will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, but that's simply a recommendation, and then the Board of Trustees makes the final decision or the ultimate decision with respect to whether or not that's going to go through; am I correct on that?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Yes, absolutely.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

And, of course, that has nothing to do with the Capital Budget. I just brought that up to get the status on that. I appreciate that. Legislator D'Amaro has some questions.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Yeah, I wanted to go back to the capital projects, but before I do, just to follow up on Legislator Montano's question there, I understand you're gathering information, that's what you need to be doing; you need to make an informed decision and an informed recommendation, but it's also a factor that it would have to be -- the construction would have to be done before you went back into the fall semester. I'm sure you're aware of that. So that's something that I assume you're trying to fast track as best you can. Okay.

Going back to the capital projects, you have -- we've been talking here this morning about six capital projects; two at the Ammerman, two at Grant and two at the Eastern Campus. Four of those projects have been defunded by the recommended budget, the proposed budget by the County Executive, one of them has moved the funding into subsequent years. I believe that's the traffic circle. And then the Sagtikos -- the proposed budget is in agreement with the Budget Review Office and with your recommendation as well.

By the Budget Review Office recommendations, which you agree with, we're adding over \$24 million to the Capital Budget, which in these times, maybe problematic as the working group takes a look at all of these projects. So I want to give you an opportunity today to list or maybe rank these six projects in order of priority, which would be helpful to us as we put the budget together. I know it's difficult, I know you need them all. I understand and I've listened to your testimony, but if you had to rank them, how would you do so?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Safety and security is almost of paramount importance for us, but I think -- you know, before I speak on a ranking priority, I mentioned earlier in my testimony that we have a construction industry that has unemployment between 25 and 30% on Long Island. When you think of the compounding impact of that in regards to having folks employed and you look at sales tax and revenue that will come back into the County, that's a direct flow of cash back to the County in regards to addressing the mitigation factors that you're dealing with currently in the economy. I think that is the compounding factor that we have to look at first and foremost. The second part of it is --

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

We do look at that. And the entire Capital Budget basically you can make the same argument, and we do. I often say that I support many of the projects in the budget because it creates jobs, it's good for our local economy. So I agree with you. But it still doesn't mean that we're going to put every project back into the Capital Budget.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Right. And that's important, because again, I always speak about education being transformative; and one is empowerment, which is really getting more folks back into the economy, more folks back into jobs, and that's what we do. What we have is a higher education institution that really when you look at what we have done -- we have the largest nursing program. What have we done? We went to Sayville. We went to Riverhead with the PN Program, because we've got more folks living longer, so we have to move folks into that area.

The projects we have here are projects that are needed, are projects that are required. And it's difficult for us to pit one project against the other. Certainly all these products are needed. And I'll say this: Do we have other projects that we have could have advanced? Absolutely. But we consider the fact that these are germane to where we are right now and where we need to go moving. And I think certainly they respond to the needs of the campus right now. And we've said before, we don't turn any students away. We have not turned students away that are qualified to be with us.

Let me say for example, think of the Grant Campus. We have a plant facilities location that has been around for decades. And what we have done is retrofit that thing to try to meet the needs of the campus. The campus has grown since we've moved to that location, but we have not done anything with that building since. We have been cited for that building not being up to code. And we've tried to do what we can to meet the needs of that location. Think of traffic circle. We have accidents there, I mean, literally and continuously have accidents at that location. But we have tried to mitigate that by putting an officer there and a car and everything else. But you have drivers there that wouldn't even see around the curve, and then you have accidents there.

Think of the Health and Wellness Facility out east. There is no building out east that has that footprint that can bring economic development out east as we do at Grant. And I have a whole list here of what we've done at that location. The high schools, so you know, hold track meets at the Grant Campus. And you know this, the thing is here, it's difficult for us at the college to pit one project against the other. And I know it's difficult for --

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Right. And I appreciate that you are struggling with that, because as an advocate for the college, obviously you would say they're all important. But this is the world that we live in now where we are looking at mitigation measures, let's say, for example, in our operating Budget. There are no good choices. No one really wants to rank what we're talking about, because they're all worthy. You can make a case and you can make an argument for all these projects.

What we face though is that there's a bottom line. There's a bottom line that we're facing, whether it's our Operating Budget and our Capital budget. And all I'm trying to do -- and if you don't want to put a ranking on these six projects, I can accept that. But I think it would make my task a little bit easier knowing that none of these projects should not go forward, none of these projects deserve to be ranked lower than the other, but yet, that's where we're at simply.

We just simply -- we don't have the luxury anymore of saying, "They're all good, put them all in so I don't have to rank them." We're doing this with every single program, every single contract agency, every aspect; Health Department, Department of Social Services, everyone is now starting to say, you know, we're eliminating things that are important. I understand that. I understand that. But yet, that's where we're at. We are making these tough choices here and now.

So I'm just -- I wanted to give you the opportunity to say to me, "Here are six projects -- I understand the importance of all of them, and I appreciate and I don't dispute what the college brings to Suffolk County, and I never would, because I agree with everything that you said. But yet, here I am having to make a choice and perhaps not fully fund all of those projects. So I just want to give you that opportunity.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Thank you, Legislator D'Amaro. And I must say, you know, I listened, you know, over time in regards to these projects and what we need the advance here. I think there are three projects in here that already got a 50% match from the State. And I think when you look at the funding, position of the County now versus then when we had the funding in place and we've gotten these

projects voted on 18-0 by this body to advance them, I think those first three projects that are fully funded might be the ones that we want to advance as the first three priorities. The other side of it is this --

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Just so I here you right, the projects that are fully funded, did you say?

**MR. DEMAIO:**

So Project 2114 Kreiling Hall has State aid, so to restore the funding and equipment portion to that project would be a high priority. We already have the design. The same can be said for the Health, Sports and Wellness Center out east. We already have the design, a million dollars worth. We're close to completing our evaluation and getting that design moving. So restoring the construction and equipment to that project would also be critical. We would basically forego our 50% State share that we have already obtained if those projects were not restored.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

Right, which is very questionable. The County Executive has defunded both of those project, and yet, we have already expended substantial sums in moving them forward. And again, I'm not being critical of the County Executive. These are the very difficult choices that he's making that we have to make, and that's why I want to give you that opportunity as well. Okay. So that would be two projects where we have expended funds, there's State or Federal assistance -- State assistance already there in place. Okay. Anything else, President McKay, that you would like to add to that?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Yeah. I would just like to add to the record that, you know, I sit through the President's Meeting across the state all through the campuses. And I must say that we have been very judicious in regards to submitting our requirement on capital to the State in a very early approach, where there are counties in the State that do not receive support for the capital programs right now. They don't, for one reason or the other.

The other side of it is there are counties competing with us for the 50% match Statewide. And because of our record, we have been judicious, we have been bringing our projects in on time, on budget and everything else, and the State has recognized that. That's a good thing for Suffolk County. And we're getting programs at half the cost that it would have normally have cost the County if you would have gone out on your own with supporters for any of these projects. So that's something we have to note.

Currently, there are discussions now that we are having as presidents. And when they ask us, you know, "Well, how are you doing it at Suffolk County?" And I say, "Well, we have a local sponsor that works with us, and we understand the programs. We advance our requests forward, and we have a record that tracks history, and the State has recognized that, and that works very well for us." The unfortunate thing for us is this, that we have grown so fast over the years and our students have graduated -- last year, we had 3256 graduates, 3256 graduates from our credit programs. That doesn't speak to our non-credit and our workforce development programs, which we have, again, another ten to 15,000 students that come through that pipeline as well.

Again, we go into business and industry in the County and train folks onsite. We take them to different shop floors and do work in that location as well. So apart from us asking for support on the capital programs, we are utilizing current business and industry facilities that are in place right on the corporate and workforce training development side to move our training and faculty there. On the high school side, we have two programs in the high school; the Excelsior and the Early College Program, where, one, we bring in Early College to the campus; two, we do Excelsior in the high schools.

So we are trying to mitigate the traffic and the footprint to the campuses and the facilities by utilizing resources that are already in the County as well. And we thank you for your support. I think that Suffolk county Community College is the best institution of higher education as a community college in the State of New York. When I was asked to appear with Carl McCall, the Chairman of SUNY and the Chancellor, to speak on behalf of all 30, that's a recommendation of what we do here in Suffolk County. And I think certainly I thank you for your continued support of this institution. We've been around 52 years, and we have been around because of the support of this horseshoe and this Legislature. So I thank all of you.

**CO-CHAIR D'AMARO:**

And if I could just briefly follow up to your comments, President McKay, I wholeheartedly agree with you, and I'm sure everyone at this horseshoe does, as well that the college is doing such a great service to residents in Suffolk County, and that's to your credit, the board's credit and certainly your whole administration. And my questioning is only because we're facing a real stark reality these days, and we are all living within that. Sometimes I just try to keep it real. I appreciate the fact that you come in and ask for every project and can justify every project, but it may or may not come to making choices, and I just wanted to give you that opportunity, so thank you again.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

There's no one from the County Executive's Office here, is there, in the building? No. Okay. Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Good morning. Let me just first comment, I'm looking forward to the graduation on Sunday. What does our numbers look like for this year? It says we have 3500 and something?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Well, I think in attendance on that date, we are about 11 to 1200, which is the most. When statutes graduate, it's like the prom; you hope they all come and attend. But certainly, on that date, we have confirmed attendance of 1200.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

How many are going to graduate? I guess that's -- okay. I was just curious. I was listening to and I was ticking them off in the my mind, the different projects and the like. It sounds to me, and I just wanted to make sure it was on the record as such, is that there is no disagreement between you and BRO at this point in time. Everything that they have recommended, you have agreed that that's where you could go; is that correct?

**DR. MCKAY:**

Yes, we concur. Again, some of the timelines -- and BRO has justly made the correct recommendation. When you look at the construction timeline and renovation timeline, what they have recommended, we have agreed upon, is correct in regards to projections forward, because, for example, the Learning Resource Center, you have to get construction completed before you get into renovation of the location. So, yeah, we concur.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Because we initially, when Ms. Vizzini mentioned this and she brought it to us at the Capital Working Group, it didn't agree with what we heard initially. So this is good news that at least we have two of the legs of the three-legged stool agreeing that this is the right way to handle this year's numbers. So if the Wellness Center goes ahead in Riverhead, do we get to retire the guinea hens? Is that part of the plan?

**DR. MCKAY:**

I believe the County has a policy on us using pesticides out on that side of town, so I believe that any natural measures we have to mitigate that, we have to keep it in place.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

And the last issue I just wanted to quickly mention, the solar issues, the panels and the like, this Legislature extends its ability to in any way help you in finalizing the negotiations. We recognize that this is a lot on your plate in a very short time. And I'm sympathetic to what you're saying as far as this has been thrown to you late in the game. Just recognize that the Ronkonkoma hub issue is -- as is the college transformational, the Ronkonkoma hub, many of us believe, is also. So if we can mitigate it and if we can work together, our doors are open here to help in any way possible to make this thing work to everyone's satisfaction. Thank you.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Thank you. We will certainly take the message back to our Board of Trustees and let them -- you know, again, we have all acted, I believe, in good faith between the County and between, you know, everyone involved. And I think certainly --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

No doubt.

**DR. MCKAY:**

There's no question there at all. It's just that the process in working through all of this, you know, is very rapid. And we have prepared to advance something to the board imminently in regards to our position.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I got it. It seems like, you know -- again, we are here if you need us. And we would be glad to assist in any way possible. Thanks.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

And the timing works both ways in the discussions with BRO and taking a look at some of these large scale very important projects making sure that they coordinate with some of the other things that are already in the works and making sure that timing lines up would be important. I just wanted to confirm that that's the case, not just for the projects that we might be looking at for 2014, but also the traffic circle, which you are looking to move up rather than have it delayed, which was the recommendation.

And I assume the reasoning why you are making that request and BRO is recommending that that's what we do is because it's to coordinate with another ongoing project. So in terms of efficiency, I think it's important that, sure, we don't look at each of these projects in isolation, but in context with what's going on. I assume you're looking to do that so that you don't have to rip up parts of your parking lot and your infrastructure twice. You could do it once and do it in a coordinated way. That's the case here?

**MR. DEMAIO:**

Yes, that's correct.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

That's it? All right. Is there anyone that -- oh, John, go ahead. Legislator Kennedy.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I just wanted to come back to one point with the East End Health and Wellness Center and ask you to speak a little bit more about, I guess, the role that the facility plays not only for the student body, but for the broader community. I will give you an example. Right here in the Grant Campus, we have the athletic facility and the swimming pool. The college has been very gracious in accommodating a group of my constituents that are seniors that live right here in Windwatch. They are folks that go up to 75 years of age that utilize the pool for general calisthenics, swimming and recreational classes.

So it clearly goes beyond what we view as the traditional Phys Ed requirement for a student, but nevertheless, provides a critical resource for County residents here in the community. Is there anything that you vision with the East End facility towards community-kinds of uses such as that?

**DR. MCKAY:**

George and I, you know, we've talked about the significance of this and the economic development impact of this on the East End. I think certainly when you look at the East End, there is no such facility that exists. When we look at working with the school systems, you look at the East End in regards to the residents, where would they go for a facility like we have on the Grant Campus? There is no place to go.

Look at the hotels that we are building out east; the Hilton, the Holiday Inn. Look at what they've built. They don't have a facility -- if they want to hold a conference or if we have -- let's say, for example, the wineries. They want to hold a major conference on the East End. Let's say, for example, the high schools, that they've outgrown their current facility and they want to hold an event somewhere. There's no place to hold that.

The economic development impact of that facility on the East End would mirror what we do at the Grant Campus. Like I said, again, I had a list of almost 100 different ventures that occur at the Grant Campus now. What we have at the Grant Campus in regards to that facility are residents who would pay a reduced fee, but at least have spinning, swimming, health and wellness and all of that. We promote health and wellness at the college as a major piece of teaching and learning in regards to our County residents having a facility where they can come and have our faculty working in that room to help them in regards to healthy lifestyles and everything else. And that's a key part of what we do. And it's not the academic curriculum, but that's the health and wellness side of our community.

The other side of it is, again, what are we doing for the East End in regards to economic development. We talked about sales tax. Well, that's where folks travel to from the City in regards to going to a place that they want to go. Now, they have the hotel. Let's say we have that facility. We can entertain hosting major events in that facility for that same constituent group.

So what we see going forward is certainly, one, economic development; two, an academic opportunity in regards to us meeting a requirement that is basically needed for commencement and graduation. The other part of it too is an opportunity for the residents to then come on campus, get to see what we do on campus, be on campus, be a part of enjoying the facility, and then also helping us in regards to future development in regards to programming.

On the East End right now, what we don't have is a facility to bring residents in that would keep them on campus and to help them -- except for the Learning Resource Center, except for that. If they order the course, they'll come on campus, but other than that, there's no attraction.

The high schools, if you're going to bring the high school students on campus, where's the attraction

in regards to just the basic academic buildings? Because at the high schools, the high schools have facilities that we don't have out east. And if you're going to attract those students on campus and we're going to keep them here on Long Island, we have to have a campus that mirrors not only what they are used to, but what an academic institution should look like. And that's a huge piece for us to get those residents out east on campus.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. You mentioned the other point, I know next week the HIA, you're hosting the trade show there. Some hundred plus events, roughly maybe \$800,000 worth of user fees and income associated with our Grant Center. You envision something in a similar fashion for the East End?

**DR. MCKAY:**

That's the goal. So you know, we have a College-wide Director, we did not higher anyone new, but this is someone at the college who has worked with Stony Brook and also with New York Knicks and others who we currently have on staff who is very good at these major planning events. And his role will be to attract those major vendors to the East End once that facility is established. So, yes, that's part of a long-term approach. But short term, we're already working on that. We've got, as we've said, design funds appropriated, and we have that individual on staff currently and working already to try to move some traffic to that location.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Okay. Are there any other questions? Go ahead.

**CO-CHAIR ANKER:**

I don't know if you heard. I made comments before you were in the room. I just want to thank you again for all the work that your college has done for Suffolk County. It is absolutely one of highest priority and assets that our County has. I was on the Vanderbilt Museum Board, and they were struggling when I was on the board. And they're almost there. They got a new projector, they're going to start turning over and seeing revenues come in. Same with Suffolk County Community College. You have the potential of giving the County a source of revenue. And, yes, there will be investment, and we're seeing in our Capital Budget. But it is absolutely important that we continue to provide those funds to see the fruition of the revenue that I'm sure the County will produce.

I attended one of your fundraisers, and you had wonderful supporters, private support. And you're a wonderful example of a public/private partnership, and that's what we're working with the Vanderbilt Museum; seeing how we can use private funding to help government institutions. So again, I just want to give you as much as support as we can. I'm sure you're seeing that throughout the Legislature. So again, congratulations on all the successes that you have and that you will obtain I'm sure in the future.

**DR. MCKAY:**

Thank you, Legislator Anker. I just say want to again -- just one point of public/private partnerships so we can share with you. We are working with LIU currently. And LIU is on the Eastern Campus. You know, the lease arrangements we have with them, certainly we are thinking of expanding the footprint of having that campus, LIU, to have a location at the Grant Campus. It would not cost the County any funding at all. Certainly we are going to lease a facility that would then be placed on the campus to have our students stay right here on Long Island, not go anywhere else to get a higher education four year degree or Masters, not costing the college anything at all. And we will be able to use that facility during the day up to 4:00 p.m. to have all classes hosted in

that building. So it's a win-win for us. So we're looking at more public/private partnerships. That's what we're doing right now to keep our students right here, and we will continue to work on that. So I thank you for the comment. Thank you.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Thank you. Thank you, President McKay and your staff and all of you. We really appreciate it. We're done with the college now, right? Thank you very much. I just have to ask, Penny, did you want to address the committee?

**MS. LAVALLE:**

I would love to.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

You would love to, okay. As soon as the college steps aside, you can come up. By the way, is there anyone other than Penny that would like to address the committee? All right, Penny, it's your floor.

**MS. LAVALLE:**

Penny Wells-LaValle, Director of Suffolk County Real Property Tax Service Agency. Thank you for the opportunity today. And I wanted to thank you all and all of Budget Review for the time that you spent to understand my capital project. Even now in lieu of losing a number of staff members who actually are involved in one of the processes that this capital project is addressing, it will be helpful for you to understand why -- or to continue to understand why Budget Review and I also concur to put back for 2013 and 2014 the original adopted funding.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Penny, can you just identify the capital project for the record?

**MS. LAVALLE:**

Capital Project 1758, it's called the Real Property Integrated Land Information System. We work in conjunction with many other agencies, in particular the Treasurer and the Clerk's Office in Riverhead. We provide tax map base and tax map information to multiple agencies. As a matter of fact, this year, we've engaged in approximately 80 additional licenses, sharing our information with fire districts. So we're on the edge of public safety as well.

In the status report, I identified three phases to add information to our system. I'm just going to reverse the numbers and make the number of three, which is explore online verification with the County Clerk and software applications. I think in lieu of losing four individuals in my verification area that this will be a prime item to not only explore, but to implement. And our concept that is that off campus or in an attorney's office, in a title company's office, we will create a system by providing them with forms and documents to fill out so that we can theoretically and hopefully make it come to pass, have them verify our documents online.

This will mean -- currently we have a process where we verify by file map number as well as -- and John knows this very well -- metes and bounds description. We have over or approximately 400,000 parcels that are identified as file maps. The original concept was to verify all the documents, every document that has a file map, all the deeds, every deed that has a file map number and a metes and bounds description. That's intense. I think that we will be able to truncate the whole technologically intense process by verifying by file map initially, so that I can come back and show you and say, "You know, this really works now. Let's engage in the geographic area." Is that clear, John?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Mr. Chair, if I can. But, Penny, as we know, a tax map description and a file map description are not always identical. So verification, particularly when we're talking about a conveyance, I mean, if we're talking about, you know, an assignment or something that's on a debt instrument, there's a degree of reliance that we can kind of rest upon that goes back to the ultimate transfer. But the transfer instrument itself, any time we're conveying a component of dirt here in the County of Suffolk, that verification piece is critical, and as you know, harkens back to some of the nightmares we had in this County back in the '20s and '30s when we had duplicate triplicate conveyances of similar pieces of dirt. So how is this going to allow us -- in essence, we are talking about land processes and real property attorneys self-verifying, they're self-representing?

**MS. LAVALLE:**

No. Let me just take a step back. Years ago, you helped cull up many of those duplicates under your tutelage in the Clerk's Office. We then got an opinion from County Attorney's Office that what would take precedent, because we're showing file map number and we're also showing a metes and bounds description. And the file map number takes the precedent in terms of a description of property. We were amazed, but that was a legal opinion. So that's why moving forward I'm pushing for this. If there is any discrepancy or if there is any question, we will provide them with a file map number and they will put that in the deed. We will have the tax map number in the system or the address -- put in the address or put in the tax map number, and they will reach in and pull up our file map number. The other information in regards to the ownership will be there. If the ownership is different, there's a cloud in the title or if there's a break in the chain of title, then it won't verify. I mean, we'll do all the --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I mean, conceptually, we have talked a lot about this. And ultimately, I think it's a good place for us to get. And there are software developers out there. Look, we know it works. The City of New York did it with ACRIS. They front-loaded with a surcharge as a matter of fact that allowed for it to go in ironically. Here, we're looking at making a commitment for a County expenditure. In the City of New York, it was the system users who paid that surcharge, which then allowed for the build, allowed for the build and for the use of the new system.

Let me ask you one other question. Even under the best of circumstances, we're talking about 24 to 36 months away before this will go into affect. What's going to happen in 30 days from now when we lose your four recorders?

**MS. LAVALLE:**

I'll be asking for more staff to chip in, existing staff.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

How much money per day, Penny?

**MS LAVALLE:**

How much what?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

How much money per day are you going to forego?

**MS LAVALLE:**

Well, right now, today, we're looking at approximately 2700 documents behind at 60 bucks a clip.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

And now you're full staffed with 2700 in the hole.

**MS LAVALLE:**

Yeah.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. That's all.

**MS. LAVALLE:**

Just a comment about the capital project. I'm looking at a convenience charge for anyone, an attorney's office or a title company, the convenience to file this document online. That will pay for the debt service. Just a little bit of a head's up. I'm always looking for money.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Which I appreciate. As a matter of fact, that's the kind of out-of-the-box thinking we're going to need, because this is a project that's worked elsewhere and has merit. But I think we would want to make the case that it's something that you're going to have to ask the industry to come to and support.

**MS. LAVALLE:**

Right. And I will come back to you with a resolution for the convenience fee.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Thank you. Penny, very quickly, two things; one is this convenience fee that you're talking about. You say it's going to be paid by lawyers and title companies. But that cost in reality is going to be passed on to the customer. Who is paying the cost; is it the buyer, the seller? Who ultimately -- you may charge the attorney or the title company, but who is paying it?

**MS. LAVALLE:**

It will be the buyer I assume, whoever is recording the document.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

So it's going to be another fee passed on to the buyer to raise the cost of buying property. Just to summarize, your -- the Capital Budget was decreased by 125,085 for planning, 15 for equipment in 2013 and 25 for planning in 2014, and that's what you are asking to be restored?

**MS. LAVALLE:**

Yes.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

And BRO has concurred in their recommendation?

**MS. LAVALLE:**

Yes, they have.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Okay. Gail, do you know if a resolution has been put forward to restore that yet by the committee?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Not as yet.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

All right. Do me a favor, the same thing, prepare one in the event that the committee doesn't come forward with that, and then we can deal with it at the appropriate time.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Surely.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

All right. And with that, I guess you are done, Penny?

**MS LAVALLE:**

Thank you.

**CO-CHAIR MONTANO:**

Thank you very much for coming. With that, I don't think there's any further business of the committee, so we're hereby adjourned. Have a good day. Gail, good job, thanks a lot.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Thank you, Legislator Montano.

(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:52 A.M.\*)