

**BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

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 May 27, 2014.

**Members Present:**

Legislator D'Amaro - Chairman  
Legislator Kennedy  
Legislator Martinez  
Legislator Stern  
Legislator Trotta

**Also In Attendance:**

DuWayne Gregory - Presiding Officer  
Lora Gellerstein - Chief Deputy Clerk  
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson – Assistant Counsel to the Legislature  
Michael Pitcher – Aide to Presiding Officer Gregory  
Justin Littell – Aide to Legislator D'Amaro  
Greg Moran – Aide to Legislator Trotta  
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern  
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Lynne Bizzarro – Chief Deputy County Attorney  
Tom Vaughn - County Executive's Office  
Robert Lipp - Director, Budget Review Office  
Rick Brand - Newsday  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken and Transcribed By:**

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

*(\*The meeting was called to order at 12:39 p.m. \*)*

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature. Please rise and join the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance led by our presiding officer, DuWayne Gregory.

**(\*Salutation\*)**

Turning to the agenda, the committee has not received any correspondence to be filed this morning. We'll turn next to public comments -- and also please note for the record that Legislator Anker has an excused absence from attendance at the committee today. With respect to public comments, we don't have any cards, to the clerk, I believe.

**MS. GELLERSTEIN:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

No. Okay. And is there anyone present who would like to address the committee this morning? Okay. For the record, there's no response. No presentations today, so we'll go to right section five of the agenda, ***Tabled Resolutions***, and I'll call the first.

**1052 of 2014**, Amending the 2014 Operating Budget to restore Vocational Education and Extension Board (VEEB) funding to continue current operations and staffing at the Suffolk County Fire Academy for a full twelve months in 2014 (Kennedy), has been **withdrawn**.

**Resolution 1146 of 2014, Amending The 2014 Operating Budget to provide additional funding for the Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts (Schneiderman).**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Motion table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker)**

**Resolution 1248 of 2014, Removing HSBC as a bank doing business with the County of Suffolk and amending Resolution No. 7-2014 (Kennedy).** Legislator Kennedy?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to table. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

**Resolution 1252 of 2014, Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Charter Law to update, clarify and improve process for Budget Deficit Mitigation (D'Amaro).** I need to still revise this. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

**Resolution 1431 of 2014, Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Charter Law to authorize Reserve Fund transfers (P.O. Gregory).** Requires a public hearing. Motion to table. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled/Public Hearing (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

**Resolution 1432 of 2014, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Guild Hall of East Hampton) (Schneiderman)**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to table by Legislator Kennedy. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

**Resolution 1433 of 2014, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Shinnecock Nation Cultural Center and Museum) (Schneiderman).**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to table by Legislator Kennedy. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

**Resolution 1434 of 2014, Approving County funding for a contract agency (South Fork Natural History Museum (Schneiderman).**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I will make a motion to table on this as well, Mr. Chair; and, actually, I'm going to offer a motion to table on all of these resolutions. Many of us have worked with our contract agencies to get below the 20 percent admin piece, and, quite frankly, I do not recall any of these entities coming before us to make the case why we had to fund them beyond a 20 percent admin component.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. I believe some of them have, and we've had extensive discussions with some of them about meeting with the Comptroller's Office and working with the IRS form to try to get it within or at least close to the 20 percent threshold. I'm assuming that what their absence indicates today is that they're still just going through that process.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

There's a motion pending.

**MS. GELLERSTEIN:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Does it have a second?

**MS. GELLERSTEIN:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Legislator Martinez offers a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

**Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

**Resolution 1435 of 2014, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Bridgehampton Historical Society) (Schneiderman).** Motion to table by Legislator Kennedy. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

Again, that was another agency that had an 84 percent administrative cost over total budget but had been here last time and agreed to meet with the Comptroller's Office to discuss those numbers.

**1436 of 2014, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Bridgehampton Child Care & Recreation Center) (Schneiderman).**

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Motion to table on this one too, Mr. Chair. I do recall that this director did come to present before us. My recollection is that she had only heard from Legislator Schneiderman a couple days before and some of this money is probably passed due money. I don't think we're funding this 100 percent, but nevertheless, we were trying to work out what was characterized by administration and what was direct services.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

That's exactly right. That's my recollection as well, and they are working with the Comptroller's Office as well. So there is a motion with a second, no? Legislator Kennedy was --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I made the motion to table.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second by Legislator Stern. Legislator Trotta, did you have some comment?

**LEG. TROTTA:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

**Resolution 1437 of 2014, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Three Village Community Services)(Hahn).** This agency was at 36 percent, and they had not spoken to the Comptroller's Office yet, but we tabled to give them a chance to do as well, so I'll offer a motion to table.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

And the last tabled resolution is **1438 of 2014, Approving County funding for a certain contract agency (Theater Three)(Hahn)**. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? That motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

Item six on the agenda, *Introductory Resolutions*.

The first is **1480 of 2014, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 962-2014)(County Executive)**. I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved/Consent Calendar (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Anker).**

**Resolution 1499 of 2014, Amending the 2014 Adopted Operating Budget to transfer funding to the Health Department for a tick awareness video, the Youth Bureau for Long Island Latino Teachers Association (LILTA), and the Department of Social Services for Touro Law School – Family Law Clinic and Hope House Ministries (County Executive)**. I'll offer a motion to approve.

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second by Legislator Stern.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

I'll offer a motion to table.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Motion to table by Legislator Kennedy. Second by Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

On the motion, Mr. Chair. This being -- I don't want to call it an "omnibus" but a multipurpose resolution, a prior conversation indicated that the administration has, I guess, identified some funding that was committed previously, but nevertheless is available to fund these items. In most cases, I have a pretty good firsthand knowledge of the work that is done, although I am not sure how a tick education video or tick awareness video would be utilized. Do we have anybody here to speak on this, through the chair?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. I guess this is the executive's bill, so, Mr. Vaughn, would you like to step up and see if you can help us with the questions. Legislator, go ahead.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Good afternoon, Mr. Vaughn. How are you?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I'm doing fantastic. How are you, sir?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Not bad after a three-day weekend, nice weather, a lot of parades.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Absolutely. Phenomenal.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

What can you tell us about a tick awareness video?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

I'm contemplating my thoughts.

(LAUGHTER)

I can tell you that it is very specific -- very important to Legislator Schneiderman who has a very geographically large area as part of his district, and the problems with ticks and the diseases that these insects can carry is --

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So let me ask, then, okay -- we have ticks all over, as a matter of fact. Legislator Schneiderman may with the proponent of this, but actually every one of us can talk about constituents, family members, and other who've had tick bites and, in some cases, Lyme's Disease.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So there's no question that ticks are a disease carrier and that the effects of Lyme's Disease are longstanding and in many cases can be devastating.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Hundred percent.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

So if I'm reading this resolution properly, it looks there's 5,000 that's been identified to prepare this video.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes, sir.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. Who's going to do that, Tom?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

That part, I don't know, sir.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

It says the money is going to our health department, so I would assume that it is our health department. I do not know that specifically. I would add, though, that it is my understanding that Legislator Schneiderman wants the video as part of, I believe, a teaching tool to perhaps speak to high school and perhaps younger students regarding the dangers of ticks, like a classroom-presentation-type situation.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Let me shift gears for a second. Ministry for Hope.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Hope House?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Is that Hope House over in Port Jeff?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Father Frank?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Okay. I am three for four on this resolution, but I am not in favor or support of five grand for a video, so I'm going to reaffirm my motion to table.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

If I may, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Yes, Mr. Presiding Officer, go ahead, please.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

The video -- I have spoken to Legislator Schneiderman, and I don't recall all the specifics in this for the tick awareness video. Obviously, Lyme's Disease is a big concern, specifically out on the east end. This is something that Legislator Schneiderman has worked diligently to address. I think it's supplements a poster program that former legislator Romaine had fought to fund. This video is a public awareness video. I believe the video has been produced or in production already. It was with a private vendor who sought to work with the county. I forgot the gentleman's name. I'm trying to recall all of my conversation with Legislator Schneiderman, but obviously it's an important public health issue particularly for the east end, and issue that's particularly important to Legislator Schneiderman. It's \$5,000 for a video. It can be helpful to address. As you may be aware, the east end suffers from a large tick population. A lot of it, the ticks being carried by deer. I think so because of that, there is much more of a health concern and potentially or possibly for other areas throughout the county, so I think it's very much needed.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Mr. Presiding Officer, thank you for that explanation. I appreciate it. But on any given evening, I'll invite you to walk with me over here to Blydenburgh and see probably a dozen deer. We have deer all over Suffolk County; as a matter of fact, they're overrunning many different areas.

Again, with the backdrop of a budget that continuously remains overly constrained, as far as the other items in this resolution, I know firsthand what Touro Law does, Mr. Silverman, he's been a great partner, and I have no reluctance, even with a difficult budget, to go ahead and help augment him. He delivers good service. I don't have to say anything about Hope House at all, but for him, but for Father Frank, we would have more people in the street.

And a teachers' association, certainly I want to promote improving standards and collaboration amongst teachers at any level, but I am opposed to money for a video, and I'm even more concerned if production started already because that definitely would be putting the cart before the horse.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Mr. Vaughn, did you say that this video would be used as a teaching tool by the Health Department? Is that the objective?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Yes, sir; that is my understanding.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Well, I'm going to support it because I think it is budget-friendly. In other words, rather than using personnel, it might be easier to produce one video and make that available countywide, even in Legislator Kennedy's district where all the deer are. I think it would be very effective, and I don't think it's a budget buster. I think, in fact, it's probably more efficient than trying to get the word out in many other ways, and it goes back to the old adage that a picture is worth a thousand words, especially when it comes to teaching junior high school or high school kids, pictures are very effective. So I can see the advantage of this, and I don't think it's an overwhelming cost to produce as well.

Yes, Legislator, please. Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

While you were talking, I just Googled "tick videos," and there seems to be a few of them that go over the dangers of ticks and benefits, and I'm watching one right now that runs 15 minutes long, and it looks like something that's already been made. So why would we spend \$5,000 when we have a video or multiple videos here?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

I don't have the answer to that, but who holds the copyright on that?

**LEG. TROTТА:**

It's on YouTube.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Oh, it's on YouTube; really? Is it posted properly, or is it in violation or any kind of law?

**LEG. TROTТА:**

It says "tackling ticks, tickbite prevention week, 2013."

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. Well, that's a good suggestion, I would think, but not knowing who posted it or why or whether they have the rights to it would be something we should look at. It probably costs about 10,000 in personnel time to do that.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Or if it's scientifically viable.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Is it accurate?

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Correct. That would be a concern that we have as well.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

You know, you actually -- people say with Wikipedia, you should be very carefully using it because it's user-posted and you don't know what's right and what's wrong.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I think Dr. James Logan talks about the awareness of disease transmission and how to protect yourself and pets against bites. For more information, go to [tickpreventionweek.org](http://tickpreventionweek.org), and I won't charge you \$10,000 for investigating it.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Go ahead, call the vote.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. Well, we have a motion pending. It's received a second. The motion to table takes priority. So I'll call the motion to table. All in favor? All opposed?

(Raises hand)

**P.O. GREGORY:**

(Raises hand)

**LEG. STERN:**

(Raises hand)

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Any Abstentions? That motion fails. I'll call the motion to approve. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

(Raises hand)

**LEG. TROTTA:**

(Raises hand)

Abstentions? Two in opposition. Abstentions? That motion carries. That resolution is **approved**.  
**(VOTE: 4-2-0-1, Opposed: Trotta, Kennedy, Not Present: Anker)**

There is no further business before the committee. Thank you, everyone. We are adjourned.

**(\*The committee was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.\*)**