

**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 February 23, 2016.

Members Present:

Legislator Lou D'Amaro - Chairman
Legislator Monica Martinez - Vice-Chair
Legislator Steven Stern
Legislator Kate Browning
Legislator Leslie Kennedy

Excused:

Legislator Tom Barraga

Also In Attendance:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern
Katie Horst - County Executive's Office
Robert Lipp - Director, Budget Review Office
Laura Halloran - 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 10:42 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Good morning, and welcome to the Budget and Finance committee of the county legislature. Please rise and join the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Kennedy.

(Salutation)

Thank you. Please note for the record that Legislator Barraga has an excused absence from attending the committee today. Moving to the public comments section of our agenda, we have two cards this morning. When I call your name, please come on up to the podium and just state your name for the record, and you'll have three minutes to address the Budget and Finance Committee this morning. The first individual is Steve Couzzo. Good morning and welcome.

MR. COUZZO:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen of our great Suffolk County legislature and Attendees. My name is Steven Couzzo, and I'm a cofounder of an advocacy group for the disabled called "ADAM," American with Disabilities Awareness Movement, and I've spoken before you before. Today I'd like to speak to you about the upcoming budget and the cuts that were proposed or in the budget for transportation with cutting the transportation budget a considerable of over \$10 million, which would, as far as I could see, and I live in the system, would devastate the system. And digging a hole to that magnitude, how do you fix that? And even if you try to plug it, it's still there, it just doesn't go back. I believe that our county needs to maintain its financial responsibility to the aging. I have spoken with the Department of the Aging, Department of the Veterans Association Affairs, Suffolk County Department of People with Disabilities, and other interested groups, AFLCIO of Suffolk County, TWU, Local 252, the driver's union for the bus company, the bus company Suffolk Independent Living Organization, Helen Keller Services for the Blind, ADAM and its affiliates, and, you know, it's a joint thing. We need to provide basic services for low income, the aging, the disabled in our community. Taking that away is just not something I think we want to do in the conscious.

I do have a meeting coming up Monday with Senator Flanagan and Senator Marcellino and Senator Robach and Senator Martins to discuss the state's involvement whether to, and we need to all work together, but to start off with a situation of a deficit like that in a budget that's pretty shaky as it is for the transportation, I don't think we can come back from that. And last year we were able to do great things in transportation for budget and provide different services for the disabled, and that was a great thing, and again this year we will rely on your conscious and you as our leaders to make sure that this isn't happening. They just need to find it somewhere else. Taking it away from such a fragile system for the disabled and the aging and the veterans and fixed routes and paratransit, I don't think is the answer. We have to find another way, but we all have to work together. I come from the Town of Huntington where they have HART. The towns can get involved. The county needs to do what they need to do and continue to do it. The state, more is needed to be done. They'll hear from us too as a constituency, but our job is to make awareness of what's needed in our community. As a user of SCAT, it's an extremely important thing. We wouldn't be here today without it. And thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you. Next speaker is Linda Jones. Ms. Jones, good morning and welcome.

MS. JONES:

Good morning, Legislator and Attendees. My name is a Linda Jones and I'm here representing ADAM, Americans with Disability Awareness Movement, and I just thought that recently you had

given us the three-fourths of a mile and so that we could go to work on Sunday or go to church on Sunday and you abolished it last year, but there hasn't been -- we've been trying to get the word out, but they haven't put anything on the recording when you call there. It's still the same recording when they changed it to \$4 from \$3, and if people don't know they can use it, they're not going to because they didn't tell anybody. They didn't put any notice out or anything.

I also wanted to talk to you about the budget for -- senior moment. Okay. Here we go. Too early. It's just that Bellone wants to cut the budget for the transportation, and we really rely on this. I mean, we rely on this to get everywhere, go everywhere to try to be like other people, independent, self-esteem. It's just I really, really hope that you will listen to us and not cut any of the budgets for the transportation department because that will really cripple us, and I also know that once they take something away, we will never get it back. So, please, if you could do anything to stop him from taking a cut in the budget for the transportation, I'd be forever indebted to you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you. Okay. That's all the cards I have. Is there anyone else present who would like to address the budget committee this morning. For the record, there's no response. There are no tabled resolutions or presentations today, so we'll go right to *introductory resolutions*.

The first is **1052 of 2016, Amending the 2016 Operating Budget to provide funding for L.I. Against Domestic Violence, Inc (Hahn)**. Motion to table at the sponsor's request. Is there a second? Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga)**

1054 of 2016, Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to re-allocate 100% State Aid from the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services to Hands Across Long Island for the purpose of developing a Peer Operated Wellness and Recovery Center (County Exec). This is reallocating \$664,021. It's 100 percent state-aided. The original recipient of this funding in our budget is ceasing operations. I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved/Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga)**

Resolution 1057 of 2016, Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to transfer funding to contract agencies for the purpose of providing Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Services to Suffolk County Residents (County Exec). This would transfer \$53,866 to 20 different contract agencies, budget lines, that provide this service and the reason for the transfer is to prevent the loss of any state aid. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga)**.

Resolution 1061 of 2016, Amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to reallocate 100% State Aid from the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services to Hands Across Long Island, Federation of Organizations and Pederson Krag Center, Inc. For Crisis Intervention Programs (County Exec). This involves reallocating \$107,940, 100 percent state aid, and, once again, this recipient ceased operations. I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved/Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga)**.

Resolution 1065 of 2016, Authorizing a technical correction to the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget for The Reboli Center for Art and History (Hahn). This is a technical correction that changes the name of the contract agency, nothing else. I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved/Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1074 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction or errors/County Comptroller by: County Legislature (Control No. 443) (County Exec). Same motion, same second, and, without objection, same vote. **Approved/Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1076 of 2016, Amending the 2016 Operating Budget to provide funding for Babylon Youth Institute, Inc (D'Amaro). This is transferring \$6,480 to the Babylon Youth Institute for after school programs, homework help, tutoring, et cetera, that type of activity. The original recipient of the funding something is no longer eligible. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

1095 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Local Law to waive contract agency requirement in 2016 (Gregory). Requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1098 of 2016, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Bellport Brookhaven Historical Society) (Browning). This approved \$10,000 in funding for this organization. There had been a deadline that had been missed, but after checking with the comptroller's office, this organization's now in compliance. Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:
Motion to approve by Legislator Browning. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1099 of 2016, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Babylon Town Historical Society) (McCaffrey). This involves \$5,000 in funding for this particular group. Once again, had missed the deadline but the comptroller's office has notified my office that they are now in compliance. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1100 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law requiring joint certification of County Operating Budget (Gregory). Requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1113 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors/by: County Legislature (Control No. 1018-2016) (County Executive). I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved/Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1115 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors/by: County Legislature (Control No. 1019-2016) (County Executive). Same motion, same second, same vote. **Approved/Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1150 of 2016 , Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law to set a date for online publication of the adopted certified expense (operating budget) (County Exec), has been withdrawn.

Resolution 1154 of 2016, Revenue Anticipation Note Resolution No. -2016, Resolution delegating to the County Comptroller the power to authorize the issuance of not to exceed \$55,000,000 Revenue Anticipation Notes of the County of Suffolk, New York, in anticipation of the receipt of certain revenues for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2016, to prescribe the terms, form and contents of such notes, and to provide for the sale and credit enhancement thereof (County Exec.). I'll note for the record that this is a typical resolution that we pass on an annual basis, and the revenue anticipation notes must be repaid within one year. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

Resolution 1159 of 2016, Amending the 2016 Operating Budget to provide funding for Parents For Megan's Law (Calarco). This bill is transferring \$20,000 from one of Megan's Law's budget lines to another. It also transfers an additional \$33,435 from the police department's gasoline and motor oil line to Parents for Megan's Law. The funding became available due to the lower costs of fuel and gasoline costs in that particular police budget line. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Excused: Barraga).**

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

(The committee meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.)