

BF 5/24/16

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 24, 2016.

Members Present:

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

Also In Attendance:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Amy Ellis - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern
Tom Ronayne - Director of Veterans' Services
Katie Horst - 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 10:47 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Welcome to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature. Please rise and join the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance led this morning by Legislator Kennedy.

(Salutation)

For the record, the committee has not received any correspondence today. We'll go to the public comments section of the agenda. To the clerk, do we have any cards this morning?

MS. ELLIS:

No, we do not.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you. Is there anyone present who would like to be heard this morning? For the record, there is no response. No presentations. We'll go right to tabled resolutions. I'll call the first.

1367 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law to implement one-year rolling debt policy under 5-25-5 Law to mitigate budgetary shortfall (County Executive). This would suspend the 5-25-5 Law for this year. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Martinez. Anyone on the motion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

One in opposition. Motion carries. Resolution passes. **Approved (VOTE: 5-1-0-0, Opposed: Kennedy)**

Introductory Resolutions.

The first is **1410 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 1024-2016) (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 (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Resolution **1413 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 1025-2016) (County Executive).** I'll offer the same motion, same second, and, without objection, same vote. **Approved/Consent (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Resolution **1416 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction or errors/County Comptroller By: County Legislature (Control No. 446-2016) (County Executive).** This is control number 446 of 2016. I'll offer same motion, same second, and same vote. **Approved/Consent (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

Resolution **1419 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 1026-2016) (County Executive).** Same motion, same second, same vote. **Approved/Consent (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

Resolution **1440 of 2016, Amending the 2016 Operating Budget and appropriating funds in connection with bonding for a settlement for a liability case against the County (County Executive)**. This bill appropriates 1,055,000 for settlement of a negligence action against the county. This settlement was previously approved by the Ways and Means Committee in executive session. I will offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Stern. On the motion, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Do I have to make a motion to go into executive session so we can find out --

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. Let's first ask -- Ms. Bizzarro is with us this morning from the county attorney's office. If you could come up, Legislator Kennedy did have some questions. If you feel it's appropriate to go into executive session, just make the recommendation and we'll be happy to do so.

MS. BIZZARRO:

Thank you. I appreciate it. Good morning.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good morning. I don't think -- can you tell us what this is about? What did we settle on, what type of case was it, anything?

MS. BIZZARRO:

It's a malicious prosecution case, First Amendment case, and we actually had a trial on this in December, and there was a verdict but ultimately a settlement, and we went before Ways and Means in April, and Ways and Means approved it. That's having to do with the police department.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So there was no opportunity to appeal? The settlement was, you felt, a better choice?

MS. BIZZARRO:

There is still an opportunity, yes, there's an opportunity, but we opted to settle.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Do you want executive session?

MS. BIZZARRO:

Yeah. If you want more details, it might be a good idea --

LEG. KENNEDY:

I need a little bit more. It's over a million dollars. I would like --

MS. BIZZARRO:

I understand that, yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. Legislator Kennedy has offered a motion to go into executive session. I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions -- for the purposes of discussing the bill pending before us, to bond, the settlement. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. We're

in executive session. We're going to adjourn into the back room. We'll be right back on the record.

(The committee met in executive session from 10:52 a.m. until 11:08 a.m.)

Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, back on the record. I want to thank Lynne Bizzarro from the county attorney's office for participating in our executive session. To the clerk, is there a motion pending on this bill?

MS. ELLIS:

Yes, there is.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

And it's received a second?

MS. ELLIS:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Any further discussion? I'll call the vote. The motion was to approve, correct?

MS. ELLIS:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

1468 of 2016, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Deepwells Farm Historical Society) (Trotta). It approves \$5,000 in funding for this organization, which had originally failed to submit their paperwork before the September 15 deadline, but they have since done so and are now in compliance as per comptroller's office. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Browning -- Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Resolution 1469 of 2016, Approving County funding for a contract agency (St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Church Parish Outreach) (D'Amaro). It's approving 4500 for this organization for the same reasons as I just stated for the prior bill. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Resolution 1470 of 2016, Approving County funding for a contract agency (South Fork Natural History Museum) (Fleming). This bill approves 5,000 for this organization, and, again, there was a late filing, but per the comptroller's office they are now in compliance. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

No further business before the committee. We are adjourned. Thank you.

(The committee meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.)