

**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 Tuesday, July 19, 2016.

Members Present:

Legislator Lou D'Amaro - Chairman
Legislator Monica Martinez - Vice-Chair
Legislator Thomas F. Barraga
Legislator Kate M. Browning
Legislator Leslie Kennedy
Legislator Steve Stern

Also In Attendance:

Amy Ellis - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Trotta
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern
Katie Horst - County Executive's Office
Michael Crowell - Director, Budget Review Office
Sharen Wagner - 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 10:49 a.m.)

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to the Budget and Finance committee. Please rise and join the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Kennedy this morning.

(Salutation)

Once again, welcome, and, for the record, looking at our agenda, we have not received any correspondence for the committee's consideration this morning, so we'll go to public comments. I have some cards. You'll each be invited up to our podium. State your name for the record, and you'll be given three minutes to address the committee this morning.

First speaker is Robert Anrig. Sir, you're representing the Suffolk County Historical Society.

MR. ANRIG:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Good morning and welcome.

MR. ANRIG:

I am the treasurer of the Suffolk County Historical Society, and the Suffolk County Historical Society is a 130-year-old 501(c)(3) educational corporation without shareholders or owners, and it's regulated primarily by the New York State Board of Regents. We've had our annual financial statements prepared on an audited basis by the firm of Owen Peterson for many years and file our annual tax returns on form 990 and each year's file with the New York State Attorneys General's Office. We're not your typical contract agency. We've only one full-time employee, the executive director. Our staff is comprised of 13 part-time employees and about a dozen regular volunteers. We offer no employee benefits, no car, no health benefits, no cell phones, no expense accounts. Our board of trustees consists of unpaid volunteers, none of which has any financial interests in the operations of the society. All of our board meetings are held in-house, and there are no other board perks. We like to think "austerity" should be a part of our name.

In checking our records, Suffolk County has been a major contributor towards our budget since at least 1934, which is the approximate time of the construction of our new facility on West Main Street. That year, the county allocated \$1,200 towards our \$1,800 operating budget. In January of this year, we were notified by the Suffolk County Comptroller's department that our allocated funding for 2016 was not approved because of problems with the review of our 2014 audit, specifically that our administrative expenses exceeded a 20 percent threshold in violation of a Suffolk County policy, Local Law 13-2007. We were not aware of this policy, and we asked to be provided with copies for us all and copies to our accountants. Several discussions followed and for a long and rather trying period of four or five months, we did not come to any agreements with the comptroller's office. They had asked us to redo our books and records for the annual year of 2014. Our accountants were unwilling to do that as they had filed reports with the state, with the IRS, and the attorney general's office. The problem was really in the method of the preparation of the financial statements not being key to meet this test of the specific test of the Suffolk County requirement. Thereafter, we did our own compilation for both our 2014 expenses and as well as our 2015 projected expenses and found that we couldn't meet that test. That was not accepted by the comptroller's office.

We are in truly desperate need for the county funding to continue. Since the beginning of this year, we have been operating without county funding. We have been depleting our reserves over the past seven months and have some projects and some good things that we would like to do. We are willing to do whatever the county comptroller's office requires in the preparation of the 2015 audit to comply with any regulation that may be out there that we are aware of at this time. We need to reestablish our funding and receive the 2016 funding as soon as possible. I have copies of both that local law as well as the revised 2014 expenses and projected 2015 expenses that show that we would comply with the 20 percent cap if we were held to that standard.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you. What was your position with the society? I'm sorry, treasurer?

MR. ANRIG:

Excuse me?

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

What is your position?

MR. ANRIG:

I'm a trustee and treasurer.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you for your comments. We're going to call that bill up in a little while on our agenda, so I invite you of course to stay and if there are questions at that time, if you are available for question, we would appreciate that.

MR. ANRIG:

I'll be here.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you, sir.

Next speaker Victoria Berger, come on up, please. Good morning.

MS. BERGER:

Good morning, Chairman and Legislators. My name is Victoria Berger, Executive Director of the Suffolk County Historical Society, speaking on behalf of resolution 1599 presented before you today. Since 1886, we have served Suffolk County as an institution of historic resources and education, serving more than 10,000 constituents per year through our various resources and services. Our archival document library and research services are visited regularly by university professors, historians, authors, students, and members of the general public. We maintain all early deeds, birth and death records that pre-date the onset of 1881 civil recordkeeping methods. We are the repository for the documents of H. Lee Dennison for Suffolk County Executive as well as all county military records dating to the colonial era. Our outreach and programs includes historic lectures, genealogy workshops, and both inhouse and offsite rotating historic exhibits as well as our library services.

Our records reflect that Suffolk County has provided annual support funding dating as far back as 1934. Each year, our audit is presented in the same manner to the county without incident. In 2013, our voucher submission method was commended by the county budget review office and was

used as a model to other agencies. We are customarily classified as a schedule 1, 4770, miscellaneous non-contracted agency, as the Vanderbilt and Walt Whitman museums are.

This January, we received notification from Suffolk County Comptroller that 2016 funding was being withheld on the grounds that we are classified as a 4980 contract agency, subjecting us to county law 18941, that administrative expenses cannot exceed 20 percent of total programming. Our 2014 audit has been out of compliance with this law, which we have never before been subjected to. The county auditor has defined the law for us, and going forward, we are prepared to report our numbers accordingly if we are, in fact, subjected to this law. Our auditors will be informed of this protocol in preparation of our 2015 audit, and as we prepare our numbers through the eyes of this law, we are confident we will be within the 20 percent compliance for 2015.

We ask for your support in waiving the 20 percent restriction for the 2014 audit, allowing us the grace of one year to confirm our registration classification and restructure our recording schedule accordingly restoring our much-needed funding. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you. Next speaker is Bob Barauskas.

MR. BARAUSKAS:

Good morning.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Good morning.

MR. BARAUSKAS:

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm not here to speak about numbers. I'm here to talk about passion. I'm currently the president of the board of trustees. I have been for awhile. I have been on board since 2008, and the important thing is to realize who we are and what we do. In 2009, I was part of a first major black history recognition, and what we did, we honored Garfield Langhorne (ph), the Medal of Honor recipient, who resided right in the Town of Riverhead. We had the medal of honor guards and many politicians. Three years later, we honored Lee Hayes (ph), Tuskegee airman who lived in East Hampton, standing room only. Passionate about this. This past year, we had our present director and a young fellow curate an exhibit for the Gordon Heights Fire Department, the first black fire department in the State of New York. They were so impressed, they asked this young fellow to come to them next year to curate it for their community, so it's community and culture.

Some of the things we have done about Suffolk County and public space, the hunt clubs, Southaven Park, Meadows Edge, South Sayville Golf Course, Black Dog Lodge, Flanders Lodge, Suffolk Lodge, the Skully Estate, Currier and Ives, culture. We had an exhibit -- I believe it was the largest in the United States -- 275 prints in one location on display for almost a year.

Shipbuilding. Last year, we had an exhibit on shipbuilding that covered the north and south forks, and we partnered with the Suffolk County Maritime Museum. Environmental issues. We honored Dennis Palsen (ph), highlighting the Suffolk Legislature as the first national lawmakers to ban DDT. Shifting sands, both north and south forks. Currently we have on exhibit, made from glass negatives, over 76 Fullerton, Al Fullerton photographs of Suffolk County when when he worked for the Long Island Railroad promoting it, dating back from the 1800s to the early 1900s. Social issues. We've covered 9/11 and the county fire departments, racism, death traditions. The legislative-appointed county historian's office is now located and housed at the Suffolk County Historical Society. We're the official site for the Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies.

One other thing. I'm not sure how many people have had the opportunity to come and visit us. We recently, in 2013/2014 took a gallery that had been put in storage for 30 years and closed off to the public. We emptied the gallery. We refurbished it: climate controls, glass doors, and on the doors, we thank the Suffolk County legislators for their support. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you. That's all the cards that I have this morning. Is there anyone else present who would like to address the Budget and Finance committee this morning? For the record, there's no response.

We'll move now to our agenda to the resolutions, and what I would like to do with the committee's indulgence is take the Historical Society bill out of order to take 1599 of 2016 out of order. Is there a second? Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? That motion carries. The bill now is before the committee.

It's **1599-2016, (Approving 2016 Funding for a contract agency (Suffolk County Historical Society)(Krupski)**. It would approve 305,000 for this organization, and I believe that last count, the administrative expenses were deemed to be at 37 percent of the total budget. So at this point, the gentleman who was the treasurer, if you could come back up, because I had just a couple questions for you.

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll make the motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

There's a motion by Legislator Browning to approve. Second by Legislator Martinez. We have a motion pending.

Sir, thanks for coming back up. You had mentioned in your opening comments that there are no perks, no benefits, salaries, of any kind.

MR. ANRIG:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

So can you just give us a sense of how, then, you're winding up at this higher administrative figure than the threshold that's required of 20 percent?

MR. ANRIG:

What's not typical is with us is that we actually own the facility. I mean, we don't lease it from anybody. The bricks and mortar are on our balance sheet. We had a large depreciation expense, we have a large insurance expense, and then we had our auditor fees were lumped in that same column. Because the financial statements were not targeted to meet your test, the accountants over the years took anything that looked like it was a nonprogram expense, like depreciation for the entire building and would throw that under the general administration expenses. What we have done internally to try and meet that test, and we can meet that test in 2014, if we break those expenses down on a per-square-foot basis and allocate the insurance costs and the depreciation costs to the program areas, it then comes out of the general and administration expenses and it becomes program expenses, and then we can meet that test.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Did you have a that discussion with the comptroller's office?

MR. ANRIG:

Yes, we did.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Recategorizing a portion of, for example, depreciation over to program expenses and they agree that's something you could do?

MR. ANRIG:

Yes, and through some guidance that we got from Legislator Krupski's office as to how other contract agencies do their financial statements, by doing that we actually were able to get that ratio down to 19.9 percent for both 2014 and 2015.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Just to interrupt you for a moment, I was remiss in mentioning that we're joined by our deputy presiding officer, Legislator Calarco is here, and also Legislator Krupski has joined the committee this morning for the record.

I don't know that we have anyone from the comptroller's office here this morning to talk about that, so, of course, I'll take your word that had you been willing to reclassify your expenses in a manner that the comptroller's office would permit, you feel that you would have been at or slightly below the 20 percent threshold.

MR. ANRIG:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

And I think a representation had also been made earlier by another speaker that you expect in 2015 to meet the 20 percent threshold.

MR. ANRIG:

Yes, we do.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

And is that a threshold you intend to meet on an ongoing basis year after year going forward?

MR. ANRIG:

Now that we are aware of it, we certainly will make every effort to do that, yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

How many paid positions are at the Society?

MR. ANRIG:

We have one full time, and that's our executive director, and 13 part time.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

And they are all paid positions?

MR. ANRIG:

Yes, and then we have about a dozen volunteers on a regular basis.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Do you dispute the fact that this law actually applies to the Historical Society?

MR. ANRIG:

Well, it's been noted that that comptroller's office changed our classification some time in 2015 or 2016, and in the schedule that was prepared by the county for the different type of accounting tests to be met, which was produced by the county in 2015, which would apply to the 2014 audit, we were not on the schedule to meet the 20 percent test, and that's the county records that we're disputing right now. Prior to that, we were not on that schedule, so for our first 127 years or so, we weren't on the schedule. We had just recently been transferred onto this.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

I just need to follow what you're saying. What schedule are you speaking about?

MR. ANRIG:

I have the report.

MS. BERGER:

May I speak?

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Yeah, come on up. Thank you.

MS. BERGER:

According to the compilation analysis of contract agencies, there were three schedules for contracted agencies: Schedule 2 are contracted agencies that are out of compliance; schedule 3 are agencies that are in compliance. There's a schedule 1, and that's where we fall. Schedule 1 is classified as non-justified, non-contract agencies. We are on that schedule according to the 2015 compilation analysis.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

But all three of those schedules are in the context of this one law that we have on the books.

MS. BERGER:

No.

MR. ANRIG:

No.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

That's what I'm trying to find out.

MS. BERGER:

Schedule 2 and schedule 3 are subjected to the 20 percent administration cap.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Right.

MS. BERGER:

Schedule 1 is classified under a different set of instructions. If I may read, "The responsible county

departments related to the agencies identified on schedule 1 should complete a contract agency evaluation form and provide justification to the legislature prior to the contracts being approved for funding in the 2015 operating budget."

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

What department or agency in the county would that be for you?

MS. BERGER:

Okay. This, again, is interesting. Most museums are classified through the Parks Department. We have a very unique classification. On the comptroller's report, we are classified as the "miscellaneous department," as well as the Walt Whitman birthplace is also miscellaneous. We are the only two organizations that appear on the report as "miscellaneous department."

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

"Miscellaneous department?"

MS. BERGER:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Do we have a miscellaneous department?

MS. BERGER:

I wouldn't know.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

So what department of the county filed the recommendation on behalf of the historical society; do you know?

MS. BERGER:

Filed -- I'm sorry?

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Well, it said in the previous schedule that you read, you said --

MS. BERGER:

It doesn't state.

MS. BERGER:

-- a particular department had to make a recommendation or justification of expenses. To your knowledge, did any department of this county make such a report?

MS. BERGER:

The departments that are listed as being responsible are "executive" -- that didn't apply to us -- or "miscellaneous," which is not identified.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Right, but my question is do you know if any department of the county made a recommendation or statement with respect to your funding to justify the funding?

MS. BERGER:

No, that would be, I would think, internal county information. We don't have that information.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

So if you're classified as "miscellaneous," it's possible that there was no county department that took a look at this and had to submit a report of some kind to justify or support your funding request.

MS. BERGER:

It would seem like something went wrong this year, yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

So because you're on the miscellaneous classification does not necessarily mean the law does not apply to you, or do you take the position that the law does not apply?

MS. BERGER:

Well, according to this -- now, this is the comptroller's assessment. According to his assessment, we fall under category one.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Right, but all three categories fall under this particular law; is that correct?

MS. BERGER:

No, not in accordance with in his analysis report.

MR. ANRIG:

If I could just add something.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Let me just ask our counsel if he has an opinion on that.

MR. NOLAN:

There have been some conversations about this the last couple days. It's my opinion that the group does fall under the law that caps the administrative expenses at 20 percent. I think the conversation that's been going on is last year it was determined that the Walt Whitman House and the Vanderbilt Museum, because the state hotel motel tax law basically directs us to give money to those two organizations from those proceeds that we could not hold up their funding based on them going above 20 percent. The Suffolk County Historical Society is not mentioned in the state hotel motel tax law as being entitled to funding.

So I don't think they can be let out of the 20 percent requirement on that basis. I think the only alternative for this group this year is to pass this resolution. It's built into the law that that legislature has the authority has to waive the administrative expense law and allow funding to flow to a contract agency if two-thirds of the legislature approves it, which we've done periodically, not a lot but we have done it at least once or twice or three times every year is kind of my recollection. So that that's the only alternative for this group this year right now.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Very good. Thank you. We appreciate that. Okay. We had some questions from some committee members. If you'll indulge us for a few more moments, I'd appreciate it. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you. First, I thank Counsel for that explanation, but so is it your contention today that you had been classified or operating under the assumption that you had been classified differently in a different category than what's being suggested today?

MS. BERGER:

For as long as we've been funded by the county, which records go back to 1934, we have presented our financials in the same structure annually. This is the first year that we have ever been held to the 20 percent administration restriction.

LEG. STERN:

Before this first year and being notified of that, that you were being treated differently, were you ever aware that there were these different categories or that the other museums, because of state law, has been operating under a different category?

MS. BERGER:

No, it had never been addressed to us.

LEG. STERN:

Okay. When's the last time you had a conversation with the comptroller's office?

MS. BERGER:

About three weeks ago. We've been back and forth. We are also simultaneously following the law and trying to make sure that we are attributing our numbers correctly for the column that he is looking at, so there's been a lot of instruction back and forth from the comptroller's office on what the law is, what is the 20 percent definition, and we've been having conversations back and forth as we've restructured our numbers and represented them to show that we can be within the 20 percent if we are held the law. They would like to see those numbers audited. Now our 2014 was already completed, so that's something we can certainly achieve in 2015 audit. That is why we're asking for the grace of one year to try to find out what we are responsible for and then to allow us the grace period to present our 2015 audited numbers, which would be in compliance with the 20 percent.

LEG. STERN:

And as a result of this issue and your ongoing conversations with the comptroller's office, what, if any, substantive structural changes have been made, or is this simply an exercise in recategorizing the numbers?

MR. ANRIG:

It's really just a process in reallocating expenses, that's all. I mean, the numbers are the numbers. It makes no difference to us internally how we show those numbers at all, but it's just a different way of allocating expenses, which is very easy to do, and if we had been aware of this 20 percent limitation previously, we would have had it done in prior years, but we were not aware of it.

LEG. STERN:

So you're suggesting that the numbers reflect a bookkeeping issue rather than any type of actual expenditures or operations within the organization?

MR. ANRIG:

I'm sorry. I didn't get that.

LEG. STERN:

You're suggesting that if you just report it differently, you will be in compliance as opposed to taking

a look at your operations and making any changes there?

MR. ANRIG:

Absolutely. We've gone back over the 2014 numbers and spread those out in a methodology that other contract agencies use and we comply in 2014 and our projected numbers for 2015 show that we comply again. The problem we have with the 2014 numbers is the auditors have closed the books, that they have finalized the reports and their tax returns and their filings, and the auditors are unwilling to go back and reconstruct those 2014 numbers in the way that the county has requested. It would cost us probably 10- or \$15,000 of accounting fees to do that and the auditors are unwilling to do it. They will make the 2015 numbers comply and construct their numbers that way so that 2015 will comply, but they are unwilling to redo 2014 without a very significant expense.

LEG. STERN:

So it's not that they are unable to do it; they are unwilling to do it as a courtesy to the organization?

MR. ANRIG:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

How many paid employees does the organization have?

MR. ANRIG:

We have one full time, the executive director, and 13 part-time employees.

LEG. STERN:

And the full-time executive director's salary?

MR. ANRIG:

\$60,000.

LEG. STERN:

Is there an average salary for a part-time employee?

MR. ANRIG:

No, I don't have an average on that. I would estimate the average is below \$20,000.

LEG. STERN:

And last year's overall budget?

MR. ANRIG:

It's around a \$450,000 number. I'm sorry, 2014 was \$451,739.

LEG. STERN:

And as executive director, you've been in that position for how long?

MS. BERGER:

Five months, six months.

MR. ANRIG:

The ironic part is the day after she started the job in January, we got the letter from the

comptroller's office. Her first battle scar was that letter.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you, Legislator Stern. Legislator Kennedy, please go ahead.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good morning. Thank you all for being here. I have been to the Historical Society. I will say you do an excellent job. I am a stickler for keeping the history of Suffolk County alive. I just have some questions. The amount of money that you are looking for from the county is for 2014? 2015?

MS. BERGER:

It's our 2016 funding --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh, it's your 2016 funding.

MS. BERGER:

-- that is being withheld.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Based on 2014's work. Okay. What are your sources of income for the museum? You get county money, you get what else?

MS. BERGER:

We get operational grants that we apply for. We get a healthy amount of donation funding. We have membership dues. We have event fees. We have -- we actually make a nice amount of money in reproduction fees. We have historic, one-of-a-kind photographs, and we have a copyright fee for anyone who's interested in those copies, and we do actually sell quite a few and we do generate income from that. We have a gift shop that raises revenue. We receive interest from our investments. Between that, dues and donations and grants make up the remaining balance of our funding.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. I just have a little bit of a concern, as with all organizations, there are other ways to earn income also. Bring students in, the school districts do this all over. Every one of our contract agencies has to get a little bit more self-sufficient at this point in time while we are having a downturn economically, so perhaps, just a suggestion, you could look into other options to assist. Did you hand in, Mr. Anrig, paper that you said you were going to for our perusal? If you could hand them in to the clerk in there so we can just look them over when you're done. Okay. Thank you.

MR. ANRIG:

I should note for our funding, last year, 2015, was an usually good year for us. We were anticipating beginning a construction project, and our grant income, for instance, was up much, much higher than what it had been previously, so we had incurred a lot of expenses the year before for grant writing. We were successful in obtaining those grants, and we wanted to do a handicap expansion on the building and received a \$400,000 grant for that, so we are --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Is your grant writer an employee, or do you have to do that on top of the employees?

MR. ANRIG:

No. We use a contracted person as a grant writer.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you, Legislator Kennedy. Next is Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity. I'm here as a guest of the committee today in support of this resolution. Ms. Berger and I have known each other for some time. Former constituent of mine, now a constituent of Legislator Barraga. Was sad to see her go but Legislator Barraga picked up a good one. She's done some great work at the Islip Arts Council and is well on her way to doing some great work at the Suffolk County Historical Society. I think, at the risk of oversimplifying this, we have a situation where an organization, an agency, whatever you want to call it, has been funded for decades through Suffolk County, held to a certain standard, and upon reviewing the 2014 audited statements apparently, the comptroller has determined, and it's certainly his right to determine so, that the agency should be held to a different standard, which is fine.

The thing that, for me, the couple of things for that really make this simple is that when the 2014 statements were submitted and the audit was submitted, the agency, as far as it knew, was held to a standard that didn't necessitate them categorizing their expenses in such a way that would be reflective of a law that Suffolk County has in place. So, you know, they were quite surprised when in 2016 they were told that they really should have been reporting things in such a way that held to a standard that they had no idea even existed at that point.

The second factor for me is that not only do they say that they're able to meet the standard, if they are, in fact, held to that standard, going forward but they will meet it for the 2015 expenses, which have already been finished, obviously, but that they also meet it for 2014, and the only real problem I guess here is that it would cost them money to have the auditors go back and redo audited statements for 2014.

So it seems to me, based on their testimony, what we've learned today, that it just makes sense to approve this resolution and, you know, give them the funding that they've been depending on, and then if we are to hold them to the standard that is now apparently changed they are perfectly capable of meeting that standard for the 2015 submissions as well as this year's submissions going forward. So I would hope the committee supports this resolution, and, if so, I look forward to supporting it on Tuesday of next week. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you, Legislator Cilmi. Are there any other questions from committee members? And, Legislator Cilmi, accept my apologies for not recognizing you earlier for joining the committee. I appreciate that. And, Legislator Krupski, yes, you did have questions also, so please go ahead.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to address the committee. So when it came to light that the comptroller's office was asking questions about the reporting of the financials of the Suffolk County Historical Society, my office did intervene. We met with the comptroller's office, we met with the county executive's budget people, and we took a trip down to the Historical Society just to try to sort out why is there such a big change. Here they are, they have been doing business, really, the same way, and I can remember going there as a child, and my children all went there on trips, and we took them there. I wanted to make sure their operation didn't change dramatically, I know they've got a new director now, and we met with them, and they made it very clear, and I think it was laid out this morning very well, how they serve not only the smaller community there in Riverhead but really how they serve the whole county by being a repository for all these historical items and artifacts and documents. Because of that and because it came to light that they were reporting something that the same way all those years so that no one's trying to hide anything, there hasn't been any kind of an odd behavior or anything, that I would ask the committee to support this to try to either have them comply with the 20 percent law going forward or else working with anybody and everyone involved in how they're classified in that miscellaneous category to try to resolve that also going forward so they'll be classified as their operation continues forward.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you, Legislator. Any other questions or comments? We do have a motion pending. I just want to thank you for coming down and explaining this to us today. I'm going to support the bill to get it to the floor of the legislature as well primarily based on the representation that you are -- you could have complied in this year and that going forward, being now aware of this law, that you will make every effort to do so in the future and, in fact, we'll comply also with the classification as "miscellaneous." There's no county department that's really supporting or overseeing or advocating your funding or giving you any guidance in that respect, which I think should be addressed also if possible.

The fact that you're asking for only this one year given the history of the organization and the service that you provide to all county residents, I think, certainly makes a case for the exception for this year, especially since you've been so cooperative in trying to bring those expenses into line, and I can only say it's very similar to another organization that was before us a few months ago. The Huntington Chamber of Commerce had a similar situation where they were over the threshold, couldn't get it down but made every attempt to do so and then represented to the committee going forward that they would be in compliance and, in fact, they are this year and have now come off that list.

For those reasons, I'm willing to support the legislation as well. So with that said, there is a motion pending to approve. It has received a second. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. That is **approved. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)** It will now go before the full legislature, which requires a two-thirds vote.

All right. We'll go back now to tabled resolutions.

The first is **1492 of 2016, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Mastic Beach Property Owner's Association)(Browning)**. At the request -- oh, I'm sorry. Go right ahead, Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

I was going to make a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

A motion to table by Legislator Browning. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Resolution 1503 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law to improve the County's budget approval and amendment process to increase transparency and accountability ("Taxpayer Awareness Act"). Requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.
Tabled/Public Hearing (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)

Introductory Resolutions.

The first is **1586 of 2016, Approving County funding for a contract agency (Bayport-Blue Point Chamber of Commerce)(Calarco).** Approves \$5,000 for this organization, which previously failed to file some financial disclosures, but they are now in compliance. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Resolution 1594 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction or errors/County Comptroller by: County Legislature No. 447-2016 (County Executive). I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved/Consent (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Resolution 1595 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction or errors/County Comptroller by: County Legislature No. 448-2016(Amended For Resolution No. 244-2016)(County Executive). I'll offer the same motion, same second, same vote. **Approved/Consent (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

Resolution 1596 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature (Control No. 1029-2016) (County Executive). I'll offer the same motion, same second, same vote, without objection.
Approved/Consent (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

Resolution 1599 of 2016, Approving 2016 Funding for a contract agency (Suffolk County Historical Society)(Krupski), we just approved.

We'll skip to resolution **1620 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law to increase sewer funding and protect water quality in Suffolk County (Trotta).** Requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislature Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled/Public Hearing (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Resolution 1656 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law to ensure revenue replacement (County Executive). Also requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? That motion carries.
Tabled/ Public Hearing (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

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

(The committee meeting was adjourned at 11:33 p.m.)