

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held at the Evans K. Griffing County Center in the Maxine Postal Legislative Auditorium, 300 Center Drive, Riverhead, New York on August 30, 2016.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Lou D'Amaro, Chairperson
Leg. Monica Martinez, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas F. Barraga
Leg. Steven H. Stern
Leg. Leslie Kennedy
Leg. Kate Browning (not present)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leg. Sarah Anker, 6th Legislative District
Leg. Robert Calarco, 7th Legislative District
Leg. Al Krupski, 1st Legislative District
George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Lora Gellerstein, Chief of Staff/Legislature
Amy Ellis, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature
Michael Crowell, Budget Review Office
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office
John Marafino, County Executive's Office
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Lisa Pinkard, Aide to Leg. Martinez
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy
Michael Pitcher, Director of Communications/PO
Dave Schwartz, Newsday
Seth Squicciarino, Aide to Leg. Hahn
Eva Greguski, Aide to Leg. Calarco
Ben Zwirn, Suffolk County Community College
Lynn Bizzarro, County Attorney's Office
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:34 AM

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Good morning. Welcome to the Budget & Finance Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature. Please rise and join the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Monica Martinez.

SALUTATION

Thank you. There's no correspondence for the record this morning. Public comments, to the Clerk, have we received any cards to request to address the Committee?

MS. ELLIS:

No, we have not.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Okay. Is there anyone present who would like to address the Committee this morning? For the record, there is no response. No presentation, so we'll go next to Tabled Resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

The first is Resolution number **1503 of 2016**. **This is adopting a local to improve the County's budget approval and amendment process to increase transparency and accountability. It's known as the "Taxpayer Awareness Act". (Cilmi)** It requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Negative.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Legislator Barraga no.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

And Legislator Kennedy no. Abstentions? Motion carries and the resolution is tabled. **(VOTE: 3-2-0-1. LEGISLATORS BARRAGA and KENNEDY OPPOSED. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

Resolution 1620 of 2016, adopting a local law to increase sewer funding and protect water quality in Suffolk County. (Trotta) This bill amends the County Charter to reallocate 32.15% of revenues generated through the quarter cent sales tax from the countywide tax protection to sewer district development and expansion at a cost of about -- I think the revenue generated that we're talking about here would be about 25 million. I'll offer a motion to table; second by Legislator Martinez. Any other motions? I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. The resolution is tabled. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Next section on the agenda are Introductory Resolutions. The first is **1665 of 2016, approving County funding for a contract agency Middle Country Youth Association. (Muratore)** This approves 13,000 for this group. They had originally filed their financial statements -- or didn't file by the 15th, which is September 15th deadline. They're now in compliance. I offer a motion to approve; second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. STERN:

Just very quickly.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Legislator Stern, on the motion.

LEG. STERN:

This is -- this is to release funds to an agency that had been noncompliant. Do we know how they are now compliant?

MR. NOLAN:

Filed disclosure.

LEG. STERN:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Yeah, I think they originally didn't file anything.

MR. NOLAN:

Right. They have -- all lease contract agencies have to file disclosure forms by a date certain, September 15th. They missed that deadline. The Comptroller won't release the monies until the Legislature passes a resolution authorizing its release.

LEG. STERN:

Okay, so they have now filed the appropriate paperwork and the Comptroller's Office says it's good to go. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

You're welcome. Okay, there is a motion pending to approve. Has received a second, I believe. Okay, I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

Resolution number 1678 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by County Legislature Control numbers 1030 of 2016. (Co. Exec.) I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar; second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT/PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR)**

Resolution 1681 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and rescind refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by County Legislature. This is control number 1031 of 2016. (Co. Exec.) I'll offer the same motion, same second and without objection same vote. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT/PLACED ON CONSENT CALENDAR)**

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Resolution 1685 of 2016, Establishing a Suffolk County Tax Act Study Committee. (Cilmi)

It creates an eight member advisory committee to review the Suffolk County Tax Act and recommend possible amendments that would benefit the County. It would have -- the committee would have one year to produce a report. I'll offer a motion. Yes?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

All right, motion by Legislator Kennedy to approve. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

Resolution 1697 of 2016, amending the 2016 Operating Budget and appropriating funds in connection with bonding for a settlement for a liability case against the County. (Co. Exec.)

This would authorize 200,000 in bonded funds to settle a negligence action arising out of a motor vehicle accident. And this settlement was previously approved and reviewed by the Ways and Means Committee. I'll offer a motion to approve; second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

Next is Resolution 1698 of 2016. This is amending the 2016 Operating Budget and appropriating funds in connection with bonding for a settlement for a liability case against the County. (Co. Exec.) This would authorize 90,000 in bonded funds to settle a negligence action arising out of a motor vehicle accident. This settlement also was reviewed and approved by the Ways and Means Committee. I'll offer a motion to approve; second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

Resolution 1699 of 2016, Tax Anticipation Note Resolution number 2016, delegating to the County Comptroller the powers to authorize the issuance of not to exceed \$110,000,000 Tax Anticipation Notes of the County of Suffolk, New York, in anticipation of the collection of taxes levied for County purposes or returned to the County for collection for the fiscal years commencing January 1, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, and to prescribe the terms, form and contents, and provide for the sale and credit enhancement of such notes. (Co. Exec.) As usual this is more of a cash flow management tool that we adopt on an annual basis now. I believe the Comptroller was here. Not here anymore? He's gone. I'm going to offer a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

Next is Resolution 1734 of 2016, amending the 2016 Adopted Operating Budget to appropriate additional revenue within the Suffolk County Clerk's 2016 Operating Budget. (Co. Exec.) Apparently when people pay filing fees by credit card, the County gets charged a service fee by the credit card companies. And this, I believe, reimburses the County from the state for those fees. And this would accept the reimbursement. I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Second.

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CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

1765 of 2016, adopting a local law to establish a Multi-Year Financial Plan. (Cilmi) It requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table; second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. Oh, I'm sorry.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Opposed.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oppose.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Two opposed? Okay. Note for the record Legislators Barraga and Kennedy opposed. Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. NOLAN:

This is tabled for public hearing.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Tabled hearing, yeah. You're okay, Tom?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yeah, I'm good.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Good to approve? Okay. All right so I'll call the vote on that as unanimous to table for public hearing purposes. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

Next is Resolution 1769 of 2016, amending the 2016 Operating Budget and appropriating funds in connection with bonding for judgments in a liability case against the County. (Co. Exec.) This bill would authorize \$407,300 in bonded funds. There was a trial and a verdict. And the judgement was rendered against the County. I'll offer a motion to approve; second by Legislator Martinez. Lynn, go ahead. We have Lynn Bizzarro from the County Attorney's Office. Good morning.

MS. BIZZARRO:

I'm sorry? Oh, thank you very much. Excuse my voice this morning. I apologize but I ask if this resolution can be tabled this morning. There was a trial. There was a verdict. The problem is that after we filed the bill, the plaintiff's counsel filed a motion to reconsider his attorney fee award.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Okay.

MS. BIZZARRO:

We are hopeful that the Court will not increase the award, but we do not know at this juncture. So we just ask if you could table it for one cycle.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Okay, fair enough. I withdraw my motion to approve and offer a motion to table.

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LEG. MARTINEZ:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON D'AMARO:

Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEGISLATOR BROWNING NOT PRESENT)**

MS. BIZZARRO:

Thank you.

LEG. D'AMARO;

You're welcome. Thank you. No further business this morning before the Committee, we are adjourned. Thank you.

(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 10:44 AM)