

BF 9/27/16

**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 September 27, 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  
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern  
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Katie Horst - County Executive's Office  
Robert Lipp - Director, Budget Review Office  
Lynne Bizzarro - County Attorney's Office  
Rick Brand - Newsday  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken and Transcribed By:**

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

(\*The meeting was called to order at 10:28 a.m.\*)

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Good morning. 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\*)

For the record, the committee has not received any correspondence this morning. *Public comments.* We do have one card. Gregory Noone.

**MR. NOONE:**

That was quick.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Good morning.

**MR. NOONE:**

Good morning. How are you, sir?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

I'm fine.

**MR. NOONE:**

If I could just get your attention for a moment, I'm sure everybody is aware of what's going on with the budget proposal, so I'll just make a couple of quick remarks, if I could. (Speaking in unknown language). Good morning, Friends. I had hoped to speak to you about a brighter tomorrow for Thursday's Child, its HIV services to the county and our goals for 2017. Instead, I'm here to plead with you to continue the funding, which the county executive decided to completely cut and close our region's only full-time HIV/AIDS nonprofit. Allow me a few moments to tell you why Thursday's Child is unique in its mission and the services and a little bit about whom we serve. There's only one group that we serve: people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, period. Gay, straight, black, white, Hispanic, young or old, every race, ethnicity; we neither care what your creed is, where you were born, what language you speak. If you are HIV positive or designated AIDS, we will do whatever we are able to keep you healthy and engaged in your medical care.

Anthony of Patchogue asked us for help with cat food and household cleaning supplies because he is poor and out of work; we said yes. Arlufo (ph) of Lindenhurst asked us for help finding an HIV doctor because he recently moved back to Long Island after retiring from his factory job in Pennsylvania; we said yes. The infectious disease primary care clinic at Stony Brook called us. A woman just recently tested positive for HIV and just immigrated here from Nigeria. She now lives in Medford. Could we help her get a New York State AIDS Drug Assistance Program application done quickly so the woman could be seen by an HIV specialist; we said yes. Edgardo (ph) from Coram asked for help completing his HUD Section 8 renewal documents; we said yes. TL from Riverhead is very ill, both from AIDS and unusual blood lymphoma. He asked if we could help with NatGrid bill; we said yes. Odom (ph) from Shirley needed guidance and a little help getting his PSEG electric bill payment plan back in order; we said yes. Donna's son and his family of five children just got a place in Mastic Beach and needed furniture; we said yes. Walter is in a shelter in Huntington and asked for help getting his HIV prescriptions renewed; we said yes. Rosa from Wyandanch, recently retired from work due to surgery from a car accident, asked for personal and household cleaning goods because they cannot be purchased with her food stamps; we said yes. Jenita (ph) from Patchogue's air conditioner stopped working this summer. She has an oxygenator

from COPD and is being treated for breast cancer; could we get her a new air conditioner? We said yes. Suffolk County Community College requested that our early intervention services' staff arrange for HIV testers to come in monthly and for us to set up an HIV information table to all of their campuses; we said yes. Forty-five children from 24 families countywide wrote letters about their summer activities and favorite subjects in school. Someone in their family is living with HIV or AIDS. We said yes to each child for \$100 each child and back-to-school supplies cards. Last Christmas, 425 children wrote letters to Santa and Papa Noel asking for presents for their holidays. We said yes to each and every one. And each and every month of the year, over a dozen person on fixed and low incomes request emergency access to fresh nutritious food vital to maintaining their health. We always say yes.

This is what Steve Bellone wants to close? I beg of you today to not let that that happen. There is no one else who does what we do. Pieces, maybe, parts, some; but the medical providers and the case managers rely on us to help their clients. We're winning the war on AIDS. New infections are down, less people are dying, more are living longer, more productive lives. To pull the rug out from under our feet and end one of the most successful and long-term successful and long-term HIV services agencies is just plain wrong. Please keep us open in 2017.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Greg, thank you. The county executive's budget has zeroed out all of the funding that the county is providing for this program or for your entire organization?

**MR. NOONE:**

Zeroed us out completely for 2017. The money that we receive from the county pays for 40 percent of our administrative costs, everything from our rent to 40 percent of our salaries. The rest of our money comes from the United Way via the federal government Ryan White program aids to localities, which is dependent upon having the administrative cost in place. If we lose our funding from the county for next year, we will lose the federal funding come March 1.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

What's your overall budget?

**MR. NOONE:**

We estimate \$345,000 for the entire year.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

345, that covers all services, programs, and administrative?

**MR. NOONE:**

Everything, four-person staff.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

And you're saying -- what's the amount that the county provided to your organization?

**MR. NOONE:**

This year, \$110,000.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

110, and then the balance is all federal assistance?

**MR. NOONE:**

About \$130,000 from Ryan White part A grant aids to localities, and the rest comes from a small rental income, private donations, and foundations. So roughly a third of our budget is covered by

this contract.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Yeah. Well, your testimony has certainly indicated the severe impact that that cut would have on your organization. I appreciate you bringing it to our attention. Does anyone have any questions? Okay. Thank you.

**MR. NOONE:**

Thank you, sir.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Is there anyone else present who would like to address the committee? For the record, there is no response. We don't have presentations today, so we'll go to tabled resolutions.

The first is **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") (Cilmi)**. It requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?  
**Tabled/Public Hearing (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

Next is resolution **1620 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law to increase sewer funding and protect water quality in Suffolk County (Trotta)**. This is a bill that would reallocate a portion of the quarter cent to sewer development as opposed to I think general property tax relief in the budget. Motion by Legislator Stern to table.

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Kennedy. Any seconds?

**LEG. MARTINEZ:**

Second to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Second to table by Legislator Martinez. I'll call the vote on the motion to table. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

One in opposition, I believe. Motion carries. The bill is tabled. **(VOTE: 5-1-0-0, Opposed: Kennedy)**

Next is **1765 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law to establish a Multi-Year Financial Plan (Cilmi)**. Motion by Legislator Kennedy to approve. Motion by Legislator Stern to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

I'll second the motion to table. I'll call the vote on the motion to table. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

**LEG. KENNEDY:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

One in abstention. The motion carries. The bill is tabled. **(VOTE: 5-1-0-0, Opposed: Kennedy)**.

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 (County Executive)**. This is an authorization for 407,300 in bonded funds after trial and verdict. It was reviewed and approved by the Ways and Means committee. I'll offer a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Stern.

**MS. HORST:**

Legislator D'Amaro, the county attorneys --

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Oh, yeah. I'm sorry. My apologies. You're right. There is a motion pending within the lawsuit to review the legal fees award; so on that basis, I'll withdraw my motion to approve and offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)** My apologies for that.

Next, **Introductory Resolution 1780 of 2016, To readjust, compromise, and grant refunds and chargebacks on correction or errors/County Comptroller by: County Legislature No. 449-2016 (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 **1853 of 2016, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Charter Law to ensure revenue replacement (County Executive)**. Requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled/Public Hearing (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

And the last resolution is **1873 of 2016, Amending the 2016 Operating Budget to provide funding for the William Floyd Community Summit (Browning)**. Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

That concludes the business before the committee this morning. Thank you for attending. We are adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.)

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. We're going to reopen the budget committee for a few moments. Mr. Quinn, would you like to address the committee this morning?

**MR. QUINN:**

Yes, I would.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Please go ahead. We do have a quorum present, just note for the record.

**MR. QUINN:**

Good morning. My name name is Peter Quinn, resident of West Islip. I appreciate your reopening the committee for my benefit, but I had two items of concern. A month ago, Newsday published 15 items from County Executive Bellone for consideration to manage the budget better, and I had two items that I had used when I spoke with Maria from the County Executive's office, one of which dealt with a moratorium for the IDA. The IDA, we're dealing with government and the private sector, and we're giving the private sector businesses an extraordinary amount of money in tax eliminations, sales tax eliminations, mortgage transfer tax, et cetera, and it seems to me a burden on county government to give so much money aware while we're struggling with balancing a budget which is in considerable debt. So a moratorium for one year would do an extraordinary thing to benefit Suffolk County's budget by saving money, doing an assessment after one year, and determining that, hey, we can save money and balance our budget more effectively. And second the idea of a volunteer period of time for the three different police departments which negotiate beautiful budgets for themselves, it seems to be prudent to say that there are some activities in which the police get overtime that would extremely benefit our budget in Suffolk County.

So if they had such things -- and I'll just give a you a couple examples -- if we had five, 10, 15 kilometer runs where the police are engaged, it just seems to me you say, Let's do this on a volunteer basis prior to doing overtime. Similarly, if there's a parade, it seems to me that that's a cushy arrangement. It would be more prudent for the police. It would be more beneficial financially for the county to, say, volunteer when you're sitting in the police car at a parade. And the negotiators for Steve Bellone can come up with a dozen other reasons why volunteer time should come before overtime, and that way we can reduce a substantial portion of our budget problems.

I thank you very much for extending me the time, and I appreciate your listening. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Thank you for your suggestions. Okay. Once again we are adjourned. Thank you.

(The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.)