

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Of the

Suffolk County Legislature

A Special Joint Meeting of the Public Safety Committee & Consumer Protection Committee 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 21, 2008, to discuss the matter of the Capital Budget.

Members Present:

Legislator Jack Eddington - Chairman/Public Safety Committee
Vice-Chair/Consumer Protection
Legislator Lynn Nowick - Chairperson/Consumer Protection
Member/Public Safety
Legislator Kate Browning - Vice-Chair/Public Safety Committee
Member/Consumer Protection
Legislator Wayne Horsley - Member/Public Safety & Consumer Protection

Members Not Present:

Legislator Thomas Barraga -Member/Public Safety & Consumer Protection
Legislator Daniel Losquadro - Member/Public Safety Committee

Also in Attendance:

Presiding Officer William Lindsay - District #8
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader Losquadro
Greg Moran - Aide to Legislator Nowick
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Jim Maggio - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Jill Moss - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Carmine Chiuiano - County Executive's Budget Office
Brendan Chamberlain - County Executive Assistant
Ed Webber - Chief of Support Services/Suffolk County Police Department
Dennis Caine - Deputy Chief of Support Services/Suffolk County PD
Robert Scharf - Lieutenant-Commissioner's Office/SCPD
Susan Vail - Administrator/Budget Office/SCPD
Patricia E. Sitler - Administrative Services Bureau/SCPD
Marianne Scheschowitz - Budget Analyst/SCPD
Dominick Varrone - Chief of Detectives/Suffolk County Police Department
Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Warren Horst - Suffolk County Fire Marshall
Thomas Kost - Executive Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy
Richard Stockinger - Executive Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy.
Debra Alloncius - Legislative Director/AME
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Denise Weaver - Legislative Secretary

(The meeting was called to order at 2:11 P.M. *)*

Salutation

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Hello, everyone. This is a joint meeting for Consumer Protection and the Consumer Affairs Committee and Public Safety. I'm going to start with the Consumer Committee. Is anybody here that would like to address the committee? There is nobody here, so that's the end of that committee.

Well, moving right along. Did somebody have an arm -- a hand up?
Too late.

*(*Legislator Browning entered the meeting at 2:11 P.M. *)*

We're going to go on now to Public Safety. Gail, do you want to give me an overview or do you want me to bring up the individuals, FRES first and then you'll give me an overview on that particular unit; what would you prefer?

MS. VIZZINI:

We'd be happy to respond if the departments have any questions in regards to our report.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay, that's the way we're going to do it then. If you have anything that you would like to speak to us on, please come up. We'll start with FRES, is anybody here? Yes. If there's anything that you want to address the committee about?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Okay, what can we do for you?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Today I have with me Chief Fire Marshall Warren Horst, Chief Tom Kost, the Executive Director of the Fire Academy and Chief Richard Stockinger, the Deputy Director of the Fire Academy. We're here to appear today, we're very satisfied and happy with the recommended budget and look forward to working with both branches.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh, that seems like a good time for you to sit down. Gail, did you need to add anything to this? Having heard any -- no? And there's no problems, we're okay?

MS. VIZZINI:

Yeah, we thought there was a good commitment to FRES in the proposed Capital Program.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. That's it.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Thank you.

MR. HORST:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Okay. That wasn't so bad, right? Okay, how about the Police Department? Did you have anything specific that you wanted to address and between the committee and yourselves and Budget Review we could all work on it?

*(*Presiding Officer Lindsay & Legislator Horsley
the meeting at 2:14 P.M. *)*

entered

CHIEF WEBBER:

No, actually -- good afternoon. I just wanted to thank BRO for their in-depth, thorough review of our project.

MS. MAHONEY:

Can you pull the microphone closer, please?

CHIEF WEBBER:

Can you hear me now? I just wanted to thank BRO for their in-depth review of our projects. I just wanted to go over two particular ones that we concur that we need, but I just want to emphasize their importance.

The one is the GPS system. I wanted just to clarify that our radio system is used by the entire County, the DA, the Sheriffs, the Health Department, the Police Department, east end departments. It's for the entire Department and it's not a global positioning system; I just wanted to clarify that. It's replacing our frequency control modules that could possibly take the entire system down.

So I just wanted to reinforce what BRO suggested, that we do get them, they're very important. And again, it may be misconstrued because it's called GPS, so it's something other than that and we could be without a radio in the County of Suffolk.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And that was the only thing that you wanted to --

CHIEF WEBBER:

Well, the other one was just the two-car carriers. Again, vehicles from time to time come up for discussion. We have four two-car carriers at the moment.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Gail, what page is that on, the carriers? A Two-car carrier carries cars?

CHIEF WEBBER:

Yeah, they're tow trucks. Replacement of the two-car carriers.

MS. VIZZINI:

It's on page 181, I think.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay.

MS. VIZZINI:

Oh, no, that's not it, that's the Sheriff.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I See the GPS.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's to take those little red convertibles away that are parked outside.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Behind the blue cars?

CHIEF WEBBER:

I'm sorry. I'm sorry, it's an existing one for which we are planning to go out for a number of years. It's not a new Capital.

MS. VIZZINI:

It was one of those projects that they -- the funding was recommended as requested by the Department and we agreed as well. So it is included, we didn't address it in the report.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay.

CHIEF WEBBER:

Again, it was just the importance. We wanted to stress that these things run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The one, the highest mileage is 397,000 followed by 310,000. So they're very high mileage use and they're very critical in carrying out a lot of the initiatives that the Legislature puts forth, the DWI enforcement, unlicensed operators and all those things. So again, I just wanted to reinforce that we really do need them and continue throughout.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. And there was a third thing you wanted to --

CHIEF WEBBER:

No, that was the only two.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That was it.

CHIEF WEBBER:

That's it.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Budget Review, did you want to add anything to this?

MS. VIZZINI:

Well, we basically concur with what the Police Department said. That project, the heavy duty vehicles, there's \$100,000 in each year of the Capital Program, with the exception of subsequent years, for the ongoing replacement of that type of equipment.

Budget Review did recommend that we fast-track the replacement helicopter. There is funding of \$7 million in 2011. We have recommended that the Legislature consider moving that funding up to one of the earlier years, possibly 2009, to maximize the trade-in value of the existing helicopter. But the money is in the recommended budget.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All right, so we'll talk about that again tomorrow. And was there anything else from the Police Department that we need to address?

CHIEF WEBBER:

No, Ma'am. That's all.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Probably a good idea, then, for you to leave, because you're in good shape.

CHIEF WEBBER:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thanks, guys.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is there anyone here from the Sheriff's Office that would like to address the committee? Anybody from the Sheriff's Office?

Is there anybody else that needs to address this Capital Budget Committee for Consumer Affairs and Public Safety? Okay. Since there's no one else, I will adjourn this committee. Thank you. Thank you for your attention.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 P.M. *)*