

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Economic Development & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **August 23, 2001**.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Jon Cooper - Chairman
Legislator Andrew Crecca - Vice-Chairman
Legislator Ginny Fields
Legislator Martin Haley

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino II - Counsel to the Legislature
Gerard McCreight - Aide to Legislator Cooper
Linda Bay - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Todd Johnson - County Executive's Office
Gordian Raacke - CAP
Todd Stebbins - NYPIRG
Mayor David Kapell - Mayor of Greenport
Thoman Conoscenti - Village of Greenport
Michael Hollander - President of the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
Marie Pendzich
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Barrett - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:45 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I'd like to welcome everyone to the August 23rd meeting of the Economic Development and Energy Committee. Legislator Fields, if you could lead us in the Pledge, please.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Thank you. We have several people who have filled out speaker cards. I think we'll lead off with Todd Stebbins from CAP also representing the Citizens Energy Plan. Todd, thank you.

MR. STEBBINS:

Actually, I'm from the New York Public Interest Research Group. I'm actually the Long Island Regional Coordinator, of which we work with the Citizens Advisory Panel on not only the Citizens Energy Plan, but

we've worked in the past with CAP as well as the Suffolk Legislature on the State take over of LILCO, which was years back. As the Long Island Regional Coordinator, I've seen tremendous amount -- obviously, we've all seen in the papers a tremendous amount of publication over our energy needs. And what's gone on in the last couple of months is crazy.

We've seen over 20 different proposals for different power entities on Long Island. No master plan for what is actually going to occur. The majority of these proposals are in Suffolk County. As of today, if it's to my understanding, what we're looking at is the authorization of the Citizens Advisory Panel to assist in the development of a Citizens Energy Plan under CAP's contract with the Legislature. I don't know the specifics of CAP's contract, I don't think anything about it what so ever, but what I do know is that the Citizens Advisory Panel has helped along with NYPERG and several other groups to develop a sustainable energy alliance on Long Island. And this alliance is a group or a gathering of over 40 different civic, environmental, health and religious groups that want to work together to help find a common sense solution to our energy needs on Long Island.

Now, an energy plan or Citizens Energy Plan may not be the final answer, but there is a deeper need for the Citizens Energy Plan to be worked on. Mr. Raacke happens to be the glue that binds this plan right now. Everybody looks to him -- all of these groups, I can definitely attest -- they look to him as the centerpiece or the person that's going to help keep these people together. By allowing the Citizens Advisory Panel to continue to work on a Citizens Energy Plan, you're not only going to get, hopefully, a Citizens Energy Plan out of it, but you're getting an extreme investment in getting civic-minded people involved in our energy needs for the future. This is something that would never happen unless the initiative was taken by CAP, and this is something that NYPERG as a whole is beginning to, you know, really work on a tremendous level on Long Island as well. But without the local face and the local presence and the expertise of Mr. Raacke, we would, honestly, be nowhere right with the Citizens Energy Plan. It's tremendously difficult to organize on Long Island without some

people that have expertise, and that's what Mr. Raacke provides.

It's to my understanding that there might be some bias as to whether or not Mr. Raacke can work with LIPA or look at LIPA's plan, if they happen to bring out a master energy plan for Long Island. To that question, I don't have an answer, maybe Mr. Raacke does, but what I do know is that this is, you know, a time where, you know, we have to be critical and question authority and question what is going on with our future.

This is a time, and a very, very crucial time right now in our energy

future that's going to affect the next couple of decades, and it's going to affect our environment permanently. And this is something that we need to take a very long look at, and the more public involvement that we have more beneficial this will be for our public entities when the time comes to make decisions on what power plants to build, what power plants not to build, what kind of renewables we need to use and things such as that that we all know -- we all know what's going on right now with regard to energy, what we need to do is make sure that we make the right choices. I think Mr. Raacke is being extremely beneficial to the Citizen Groups of Long Island and to the Legislature by doing this and making sure that we continue to be mindful to what is going on, especially with getting a lot of public outreach to as many people as possible. Not everyone watches News 12 and sees the LIPA commercials that go on, and this is something this is unfortunate. Not everybody listens to the radio that, you know, LIPA commercials are on. But what people do see it literature, things in their local schools, their libraries, in the newspapers, and this is what the Citizens Energy Plan and the Sustainable Energy alliance can do other time is help to publicize and bring about change and make people more mindful of the changed they need to personally make in their homes in order to conserve energy and to make sure that we move into the future with a more mindful or -- let's say a better necessity to conserve energy and look into renewables for the future.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Thank you, Todd. I'm just looking at this list -- I don't know whether everyone -- I believe everyone has the listing of the organizations that are -- that make up the Citizens Energy Plan; Steering Committee -- I'm not sure of the terminology of this -- but the members of the Citizen Energy Plan Organization, in addition to NYPERG, there are a number of the major statewide environmental organizations, certainly, I think all the major environmental groups on Long Island, so it's a very impressive list. Todd, you may have seen a couple of weeks ago on, I believe, News 12, it was after one of the CEP meetings, where Richie Kessel was interviewed and he expressed surprise at what he portrayed as CEP's ignorance of the fact that LIPA already had a master plan. And he was -- he couldn't understand why you were not aware of this, and he held up a document that he distributed several weeks earlier to, I think, all the Legislators, and I don't know if you've seen that document.

MR. STEBBINS:

I have.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Is there anything that you believe should be part of a comprehensive master plan, master energy plan for Long Island that's not in that document?

MR. STEBBINS:

I wasn't prepared to speak about that, but I think -- I'm not here prepared to speak to bash LIPA in anyway, --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

It's not bashing, but I'm--

MR. STEBBINS:

But what I can say is you're talking about the same plan -- Legislator Crecca, can you hold that up for a second, please? That's the one, if I can see it correctly.

LEG. HALEY:

That's a point presentation.

LEG. CRECCA:

I got this --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

No. This is a their master plan.

LEG. CRECCA:

I got this -- if you would suffer an interruption. I have a letter -- yeah, you have the same letter. It says -- it calls it -- it calls it the plan.

LEG. FIELDS:

This one?

MR. STEBBINS:

Yeah.

LEG. CRECCA:

Mine's not in color. Only the Democratic Legislators got it in color.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Mine's colored.

LEG. CRECCA:

Just kidding, it was a joke.

LEG. HALEY:

It says it right on the front, it indicates a briefing for it.

LEG. CRECCA:

I don't disagree with you.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

But the cover letter explained that this was their master plan, and he went on News 12 and told the viewing audience that they had a master plan and he waived this. I read this, and i certainly found some

things lacking. We don't need to segue to that, but, you know, that just points out why I believe it's critically important that we do everything to support the efforts of Citizens Energy Plan, because we need a counter weight to -- right now LIPA, which is the only organization that is being relied upon to produce a master plan -- and I really have some questions about the work that they've done so far, and where they plan to go with their -- with their plan. And certainly, what I've seen has been nowhere near the detail that, I think, is necessary to if we're to make informed educated decisions about your energy future. Does anyone have any questions? Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:

You mentioned earlier that CAP has been working with the Citizens Energy Plan; is that correct.

MR. STEBBINS:

I represent the New York Public Interest Research Group. The Citizens Energy Plan is merely a, I guess, an idea --

LEG. HALEY:

Could you repeat what you said earlier about CAP's participation?

MR. STEBBINS:

That I think it's paramount that CAP continue to participate with --

LEG. HALEY:

What do you mean continue? What was the participation up to date with this Citizens Energy Plan?

MR. STEBBINS:

I don't know. I can't quote you hours or rates or anything such as --

LEG. HALEY:

I didn't ask you to quote, I just asked you to repeat what you said earlier.

MR. STEBBINS:

I'm trying to get --

LEG. HALEY:

Could you repeat what he said earlier? Do you think you we could find that?

MS. BARRETT:

I'll look.

LEG. HALEY:

You just talked about CAP's --

LEG. CRECCA:

She's off -- you're not on the record. The reporter can't take it down and look --

LEG. HALEY:

Let's try it without it.

MR. STEBBINS:

I'll trust what you --

LEG. HALEY:

What I understood earlier is that you said that CAP was an active participant in the Citizens Energy Plan, that he's the glue that tied all of this together.

MR. STEBBINS:

I don't think that I said that they were an active participant, but yeah, they've definitely been involved and have definitely -- Mr. Raacke's presence at these meetings is definitely important.

LEG. HALEY:

Okay. So Mr. Raacke has been present at the Citizens Energy Plan and has helped these groups, obviously. You said that he's been a valuable asset -- I think that was your expression or something, to paraphrase --

MR. STEBBINS:

Yeah.

LEG. HALEY:

-- to this particular group. And now what you're saying, I believe, is now you expect us to support -- support him to continue in that regard. I'm not sure what you're asking us to do because if he's doing such --

MR. STEBBINS:

To my understanding --

LEG. HALEY:

-- he's doing such on his own, in my view. And if he's doing that on his own, that's fine because I sure as heck hope that he doesn't expect any compensation from this Legislature.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Legislature Haley, that's why this has been before this committee for the past two meetings. To determine whether or not it's appropriate for him to expend time and effort on this and be reimbursed by the County.

LEG. HALEY:

I understand that. Well, he's -- Citizens Advisory Committee is incorporated. On his own, obviously, it seems to me he can go and do whatever he wants, provided he doesn't expect remuneration from us.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

He is hoping for remuneration.

LEG. HALEY:

After he's now -- what he's done --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Marty.

6

LEG. HALEY:

The guy should be a politician. I have the floor, let me finish. Let me finish, I have the floor.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Okay.

LEG. HALEY:

The guy should be a politician. He's, by virtue of the comments made by this gentleman, he's -- what he's done is he's enabled a market -- hello -- he's enabled -- what he's done is he's created a market for himself. That's what it sounds like to me, and I'm very much concerned about that. Does anybody follow what I'm talking about?

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I for one, do not.

LEG. CRECCA:

I have the same lining of questioning, if you'll defer?

LEG. HALEY:

Go ahead.

LEG. CRECCA:

I guess -- I think what Marty's driving at because I had this written down the same -- a couple of the same questions --

MR. STEBBINS:

I'm sorry. Was there a question that I was supposed to answer from Legislator Haley?

LEG. HALEY:

No. Essentially, I paraphrased what I thought I heard you say in the beginning.

MR. STEBBINS:

Yes.

LEG. HALEY:

And you've kind of reiterated that yes, that's similar to what you said earlier. I mean, we'll find out eventually on the record, but I was concerned with your comments relating to CAP's involvement in the Citizens Energy Plan.

LEG. CRECCA:

I think what -- I was under the impression -- and I'll share this with everyone because -- that CEP existed before CAP, and that CEP had come to CAP and said, we need our expertise, please help us. Could you explain? You're shaking your head no. That's what I'm saying.

MR. STEBBINS:

No. That's exactly the wrong idea that people would want to get from this is actually, the Citizens Advisory Panel has existed long before CEP, if you want to call it CEP. It actually is under an umbrella group, a group -- a coalition that began a few months back called the Sustainable Energy Alliance of Long Island. It's different groups

7

that are involved, under which the Citizens Energy Plan is being enacted. Groups can sign on, and what we've done is put together a disclaimer that allows people to sign on to be in support of putting together a Citizen Energy Plan. That's basically what it's come to. CEP, the way that you call it, has only been alive for a few short months.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. But what I was saying was did CEP exist -- I know CAP existed long before CEP, I understood that, especially with the one letter difference, it makes so hard to tell. I understand that. I understand that CAP existed before CEP, but, I guess, I was under the impression that CEP was an entity out there that wasn't involved with CAP.

MR. STEBBINS:

No. Not at all.

LEG. CRECCA:

But CAP's been involved with CEP since day one of CEP's existence?

MR. STEBBINS:

All CEP truly is a coalition. It's a coalition of like-minded civic environmental health-based --

LEG. CRECCA:

What is the purpose of CEP -- because that's my other question too is what is CEP?

MR. STEBBINS:

It's more than just a Citizens Energy Plan. The Sustainable Energy Alliance wants to build a Citizen Energy Plan. These groups that have signed on supportive of Citizens Energy Plan agreed to help and support and, hopefully, work on a plan. Some of them don't, some of them say we endorse this, we endorse the idea of this, we like this.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. What is the idea? That's what I'm asking you.

MR. STEBBINS:

The idea is --

LEG. CRECCA:

If I went on your website, which I -- you guys have a website?

MR. STEBBINS:

It's a small website, it hasn't been updated. It's the beginnings of a website.

LEG. CRECCA:

What is CEP -- I'm a group out there. What is CEP representing themselves as, and what is their purpose?

MR. STEBBINS:

Well, we can -- if you've been to the website, you've --

8

LEG. CRECCA:

I haven't, no

MR. STEBBINS:

Okay. There is a mission statement on there. I probably can't quote it for the life of me right now, but what it is is basically groups that are interested in the future of energy for Long Island, Long Island's energy need for the future, what's going to happen. Right now there's a huge scare right now, where, you know, people are afraid Long Island is going to become and New York State is going to become the next California. That's what we're all afraid of right now. There's 20 different power proposals or entities or scoping -- preliminary entities right now for -- mostly for the most part for Suffolk County. As of right now what we're looking at is people, you know, being afraid of that. So many power plants being built on Long Island, that's a scary thing.

Those are things that can impact people, the environment and people's health very, very strictly over the next couple of decades. Right now Long Island is in severe nonattainment, according to the EPA, of ozone standards. So with that in mind, these citizen groups people that belong to these groups figure since there is plan right now from the Long Island Power Authority, or for what Chairman Kessel says is a plan really isn't, to our understanding or to what we feel, isn't a thick enough plan. I mean, really there aren't enough pages to describe, you know, one part of Long Island -- the Long Island Power Authority's needs, but what there is right now is a need for a Citizens Energy Plan or a plan in the whole. As citizens we say we can't get into the Long Island Power Authority, we cannot, you know,

help with this right now. What we want to do is work with the Long Island Power Authority to develop a plan. So we're work on the side right now until Long Island Power Authority wants to sit down with us.

LEG. CRECCA:

So what is the -- the purpose is to put together a plan.

MR. STEBBINS:

Yeah.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. And what's the plan? The plan is supposed to be a energy plan for Suffolk County or Long Island, I should say.

MR. STEBBINS:

Long Island as a whole, but Suffolk County in particular a lot of these groups are based out of. Right now, hopefully, more people will be recruited from the Nassau County area, but of Suffolk County as a whole right now is really what's being represented. And the ideas, as this plan is developed what it will do is promote more like-minded thinking amongst other citizens throughout the region.

LEG. CRECCA:

That's what I'm saying. You keep saying like-minded thinking, get everybody thinking the same as these groups. That's what I'm saying, is there an agenda?

MR. STEBBINS:

Yeah, there is an agenda; conservation, the establishment and development of renewable energies on Long Island, and, you know, I think you can lead on with that and continue to go on with this. But what it is is really, you know, continuing to conserve so that we can, you know, see where we go, see what we can do.

LEG. CRECCA:

Are these groups openly or is CEP openly against the building of power plants at all?

MR. STEBBINS:

No.

LEG. CRECCA:

I didn't get that impression, I just wanted to make sure.

MR. RAACKE:

If I could interrupt for --

LEG. HALEY:

Suffer an interruption. There's is different between what we're

calling the plan versus a group called CEP. You said CEP opposed, you construed it as a group. When you're referring to CEP, you're just referring to a plan, right?

LEG. CRECCA:

I don't know. I thought CEP was an alliance. Is CEP, Citizens Energy Plan, is that an alliance of groups or is that -- is that alliance called the Sustainable Energy Alliance or are they one in the same?

MR. STEBBINS:

There are somewhat one in the same. The problem is that some people had reservations about signing on to the Sustainable Energy Alliance of which does not say no to power plants either, but people did say or groups were more likely to sign on to a Citizens Energy Plan. And what we came when we again recruiting and getting more and more civic groups involved was we came to a wall where people said, I don't want to join your group, but I'm interested and I support the idea of a plan. So we said, okay, let's have more people sign on and get people together on just the plan alone.

LEG. CRECCA:

Does anybody, other than CAP, who's involved in this group have any expertise in the area of energy, you know, electricity and power generation and things like that?

MR. STEBBINS:

Not many. Not many.

LEG. CRECCA:

There are some people, though?

MR. STEBBINS:

There some people that know how to analyze policy, but as far as load capacities and what not --

LEG. CRECCA:

Right. That's what I'm talking about, the technical aspect.

MR. STEBBINS:

No. No, there aren't that many. There is -- there is one or two other people, but I wouldn't say that they're full time -- have full time technical expertise.

LEG. CRECCA:

Are they mostly environmental groups or civic organizations type thing?

MR. STEBBINS:

For the most part, there are some people that have been involved in the past in other types of energy needs and other types of energy

analyzation.

LEG. CRECCA:

I have another question, just hold on one second.

MR. RAACKE:

I just wanted to interject. A lot of these questions are addressed in the memo that I submitted, including the statement of need for a Citizens Energy Plan.

LEG. CRECCA:

I did -- I know I read it briefly right before the meeting, but I did go through that, but I wanted to hear from this gentleman because, you know -- I'm sure we're going to talk to you for a long time, Gordian. So we'll get to you in a little bit. So I really wanted to speak to this witness at this time. Witness, I shouldn't say -- witness is a terrible word. I'm sorry. Speaker. I apologize. To many days in court.

LEG. HALEY:

To much lawyers in the Legislature.

LEG. CRECCA:

That's right, actually, you know what? I think you've you pretty much answered my questions, but, I guess, does CEP have a time table for trying to put out -- are they going to put out like a published document? Obviously, I hate to refer to the LIPA one because --

MR. STEBBINS:

The intention is to put out a published document. The sooner, obviously, the better, but we're not going to put something out that's a thin piece of material. And it all depends on how quickly these groups work and how, you know, productive things are during the meetings. There are weekly meeting now with different working groups. And these different working groups are working on different entities or different parts of energy planning, such as legal, such as renewables, such as conservation. There's different types of working groups that are going on right now.

LEG. CRECCA:

What other working groups are there beside the three that you

mentioned that you know of?

MR. STEBBINS:

Public Outreach, Conservation, Alternatives and Renewables -- let's see -- Legal and Regulatory, dealing with things such as Article 10 and seven -- Article 7, Title 5. Those are different types of things I'm sure you're familiar with, or if not, I can probably make you familiar with them. Other things such as that. Technical and

Advisory, there's a Steering Committee, you know, it's a run-of-the-mill set up of up all different energy needs. I think the only thing that -- I think we've covered just about everything. And as time develops and as new things come up, we create -- we might have to create more committees, but as of right now what we have is a working group of committees --

LEG. HALEY:
Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:
Yeah. You want me to defer to you?

LEG. HALEY:
What you were asking for him was to describe some of the expertise of some of these names listed in this document?

LEG. CRECCA:
Right. I'm look -- I just -- I know that CAP, certainly Gordian has expertise in this area. I just didn't know looking at the list of other groups, i didn't know if anybody had, like, you know, the technical expertise in power and things like that. That's why I was --

LEG. HALEY:
That's what I was going to ask, because I specifically wanted to know what the committee at the Brookhaven Town Young Democrats have to bring to that table.

LEG. CRECCA:
I think, and correct me if I'm wrong, but this is open to anybody. I could, you know, I mean, I'm not a group, but I'm saying.

MR. STEBBINS:
If you started -- if you were to have a group in your area, in your district that you were part of, the Hauppauge Civic Association or something to that effect, you would be able to join on. There are different, you know, like I said, all of these groups and everybody's invited and we've actually done extensive outreach to different groups to get as many people involved as possible. And so you know Legislator Crecca, this isn't a very specific -- this is more of a policy document that we are working on. Not something that's extremely specific, we're not going -- we're not going to be going into the nitty gritty of, you know, extreme numbers and crunching of numbers. That's not our job. Our job is to find out and to use the public to find out what we want or what we need for the future or what we seed that we need, present that to LIPA. It's LIPA's job to crunch numbers. And we're certainly not going to try to undertake something

time. I think we know what we want to do as far as, you know, hosting a Citizens Energy Plan.

LEG. CRECCA:

What is that when you say you think they know what they want to do?

MR. STEBBINS:

Well, as a group, the idea is to develop a policy document, a public policy document say what we want in the future for the future as far as Long Island Citizens' energy needs.

LEG. HALEY:

I just can't imagine getting these many groups, some of which are extremely special interest, to agree on a policy statement. And if you do. It's going to be so watered down and generic, it's -- it probably would be a conclusion we can probably come to within five minutes anyway.

MR. STEBBINS:

Your welcome to attend Legislator Haley.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Marty, I'll tell you one thing that they've accomplished already is that they've forced Richie Kessel, Chairman Kessel, to commit by default to come before this committee and present a written detailed energy plan for the first time. I believe you --

LEG. HALEY:

That has nothing to do it. The Sense of the Legislature has already called for that on a number of times, including -- I think you have one now that's asking for him to produce the same.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Right. Excuse me. And our requests have been ignored for months. Excuse me, I have the floor. What finally got Chairman Kessel's attention was meetings organized by CEP that put him on the spot publically and forced him to respond publically and if it were not for that, we would not be where we are today, which is, hopefully, on the road to getting some sort of a written document from Chairman Kessel. So I happen to think that if we reach a consensus that it is important and it is worthwhile for Suffolk County to have a long term energy plan with detailed vote forecast and with concrete recommendations for the siting of future power plants and transmission lines in the like then we need some sort of a counterpoint to LIPA to make sure that they're moving in that direction. They're not going to listen to us, they haven't done it so far.

LEG. HALEY:

Yeah, but the problem I have with that is that we need to get the Nassau County Legislature or Nassau County on board with that as well. Let me explain something.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Excuse me. No. We're not going do wait for Nassau County Legislature to get their act together. Not on record

LEG. HALEY:

No. We're not, but what's going to happen is LIPA that -- what happens is that Richard Kessel -- I have no problems working with the Nassau County Legislature, Democrats or Republicans.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I second that.

LEG. HALEY:

LIPA, obviously, serves both counties. And to the extent that we have, you know, a particular pressure from Suffolk County, which we're attempting to do all along, I think we should included Nassau in anything we do, because you're not going to establish -- you're not going to have any energy plan -- Nassau County is not going to be interested in any energy plan that you develop unless they're a participant.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

My concern is Suffolk County, not Nassau County.

LEG. HALEY:

Right, but you're going to develop an energy plan --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I'll develop what I can develop.

LEG. HALEY:

-- for just Suffolk County. Is that what you're going to do?

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

If we can get Nassau County -- there are some Nassau County groups involved. If more want to join and get involved, if the Nassau County Legislature wants to get involved, so much the better. But if we have to go on our own, then we'll do it.

LEG. HALEY:

We'll find out because I'm not so -- because it looks to me that they're looking to create a plan for Long Island, but that's a question for another time.

LEG. CRECCA:

I just want follow up on what I was saying. It's not to develop a plan, it's to develop a policy statement, correct?

MR. STEBBINS:

Which is a plan, not a complete plan, but at least something more than LIPA's put out.

LEG. CRECCA:

Well, see, that's where I'm confused. Is it going to say, like, we think there should be conservation and no new power -- I mean, I'm not boxing them into what it's going to be, but they're going to be general policy statements. It's not going to be that we need, you know, 200 more megawatts over the next 10 years and we need to find that energy in these places. Is that what it's going to be or --

MR. STEBBINS:

These groups don't have money to go out and hire experts, and a lot of these groups don't have experts. So the idea is to really develop more of a policy oriented plan right now and, hopefully, use that material to help push the idea of doing the true plan by the Long Island Power Authority.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. Okay. That's fine.

MR. STEBBINS:

The idea is to push the Power Authority to do its job.

LEG. CRECCA:

See I really appreciate you, you know, testifying -- for lack of a better word -- or speaking to us today because I really, honestly was under the impression that Citizens Energy Plan was to come up with -- I thought a technical specific plan --

MR. STEBBINS:

If you'd like to talk more about it, i would be more than happy to talk to you over the phone, Legislator Crecca. I mean, you can give me a call, I'll give you my card. It would be no problem and we can talk more about it and see where you think the Long Island Power Authority should be going, if they're not going in the right direction or if you don't believe that. Or if you think the Sustainable energy Alliance along with the Citizens Energy Plan -- you're allowed to put your two cents in. You're certainly allowed to come to the table and talk to everybody, and we welcome as many people as possible. Any of the Legislature, you know, please do attend. Legislator Cooper has attended at least once, one of his aides has attended. We're trying to get as many people to come as possible. And just of your own free will ideas, we'd love to have you.

LEG. CRECCA:

And I do agree -- I mean, I'll state on the record here today -- with the concept that other Legislators have expressed here today, that LIPA needs to do more than just give us their power plant presentation as far as a master. And while I believe that it will always be an evolving document, a master plan, it should involve the technical aspects of, you know, how much is going to be by conservation, how much is going to be by new power generation if that's the case and all that, and that's what it is lacking, and I agree with that, and I, you know --

MR. STEBBINS:

As long as you approve or as long as you think that, you know, Mr. Raacke and the Citizens Advisory Panel can continue to help us and continue to help develop this coalition and continue to develop the Citizens Energy Plan, I think we'll be happy today and continue to move on and move forward and continue to push the Long Island Power Authority to put out a plan, put out a right plan, a plan that really helps us and not just waves at us and shows us paper.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

And also a plan that does not represent the interest just of the

energy companies, but that also represents the interest of --

MR. STEBBINS:

I'm not here to say that.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

-- well, I'm here to say that -- the environmental groups and the civic groups and the citizens of Suffolk County. The people that live here. And, of course, LIPA's the organization that has the technical expertise to come up with detailed plan, but I think that it's

important for us to give them a little bit of a push in that direction and to provide another voice so we make sure that the plan is as comprehensive as possible and represents the broadest possible spectrum of interest. Thank you very much, Todd.

MR. STEBBINS:

My pleasure. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Gordian, did you want to come up, please.

MR. RAACKE:

Good afternoon. For the record I'm Gordian Raacke, Citizens Advisory Panel. You have a memo in front of you that lays out much of the facts that were discussed earlier here, the questions that arose earlier. I wanted to just refer to Page 2, once again, which lists the declaration of need for a Citizens Energy Plan. I think that statement is pretty clear. I also wanted to -- later on that page, you see the description of the relationship between the Sustainable Energy Alliance and the -- and its project, the Citizens Energy Plan. I wanted to point that out to you. And I should stress that -- as Mr. Stebbins has already indicated, but the sustainable Energy Alliance and the work it does on the Citizens Energy Plan is open to all civic, environmental, health and faith-based organizations.

In fact, anyone can participate in the meetings. These are open meetings. We've had a lot of people come in and express their views. In fact, there was discussion about holding several public events, where the public could participate even in a broader -- in a broader context. So this is really an effort to hear the people, to hear from our constituents, to hear from all citizens on Long Island. That's why it's called a Citizens Energy Plan, after all, of course.

I just wanted to go over the current CAP contract with the Suffolk County Legislature, that's on Page 3. I'm listing there some excerpts from our current contract. When I looked at that contract again after the last meeting of the committee, it became clear to me that really the work I'm trying to do here in assisting the Sustainable Energy Alliance in putting together a Citizens Energy Plan is covered under the contract. A lot of the things that I would be doing are part of the mandate that is expressed in this contract, such as monitoring -- if you look at C on Page 3, monitoring the development of new technologies, policies and legislation in the field of electric utilities. That's part of the expertise that I hope to bring to these groups. And by the way, I also wanted to point out that I think this is a very important effort when you bring together these diverse

groups from different parts of Suffolk County and different parts of Long Island, because it is a chance to overcome NIMBYism. It is a chance to look at the whole picture. It is a chance to reconcile differences. It is a chance to get over this initial reaction that every civic group has when it gets a proposal for a power plant in their backyard. And I've made it very clear at these meetings --

LEG. FIELDS:

Excuse me. Can I interrupt? I think Marty Haley would have a lot of the same questions of the answers that you're answering. And I think he'd be very interested in hearing what Gordian is saying, so if we could maybe, you know, ask Marty to be here, because I think he wanted -- one of the problems that we came up with last month was whether or

not you should be involved in these things. And I think it's very clear when we read the contract that yes, you should be involved. And I really believe that Marty should be hearing this what you're saying so --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I'd like to call a five-minute recess.

(*A RECESS TAKEN AT 2:20 P.M.*)

(*THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED AT 2:25 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Okay. The committee is reconvened. Where were we?

LEG. FIELDS:

You were explaining your contract.

MR. RAACKE:

Yes. I was just referring to Page 3 of the memorandum I submitted to this committee, which has a page of information about the current contract between the Suffolk County Legislature and the Citizens Advisory Panel. And as I was saying in -- in reading this -- some of the language of the contract again, it occurred to me that much of the -- much of the activities that I would be engaging in assisting the Suffolk -- in assisting the Sustainable Energy Alliance in putting together a Citizens Energy Plan, much of those activities are covered under this contract, such as if you look at Page 3 here, some of the bullets I excerpted from the contract say "monitor rates, policies and other practices of LIPA and activities by KeySpan pertaining to electricity issues, or monitor the development of new technologies policies and legislation in the field of electric utilities, assisting the County Legislature in developing positions, politics and so on."

So a lot of the things that I was hoping to bring to the table add in assisting the various civic groups with are things I typically would do in order to fulfil these functions. So it's not something that is entirely new or entirely different from the contract and the mandate that we would have here. I've also added some bullets here of typical activities that we engage typically in working under this contract. And you see that in these bullets here, there is a lot of, you know, researching, monitoring and reviewing, planned a possible addition, upgrades or changes to the electric system and so forth. So I just

included that here in this memo to let you know that this is -- the activities that I would be engaging in are not new and additional activities, really. Really it's already in the contract.

LEG. HALEY:

Mr. Chairman, may I? While you're talking, I want to ask him a question. I call this the Lee Lutz Syndrome, you're in the process of creating yourself even more work. It seems to me that this particular group -- and to use your words -- has decide to -- they have signed the declaration, which I haven't seen -- you've kind of didacted -- I shouldn't say didacted, you've only given us certain pieces of stuff out of, I would imagine context of what should be a more substantial document in the declaration that this particular group as decided to accept. And so I'd like to see all that information.

Secondly, we pay you to provide all of those things for the benefit of

the representatives of the taxpayers of the County of Suffolk . Now you want us to pay you to do the same thing for these groups. Whether it's one group or 30 or 40 groups, to me it doesn't make a that much of difference. It's basically the same view, and I don't understand that because it seems to me that all the stuff that you do for us, anybody would really have access to that -- that particular information. But for you and -- it seems to me that using you as a -- I like to think of you as our watchdog over the entire situation, not just LIPA. I'm not about to join in and start creating that old anti-LILCO sentiment, anti-Shoreham sentiment that started years ago. I'm simply asking for you -- and the only thing I'm going to support, and I'm going to tell you right now, is you is to continue to provide the oversight and give us as much information as possible so that we can do what we think is beneficial for the benefit of the taxpayers, not Townline or the Civic Association. All right?

Who happens to just grab a whole bunch of people and lays claim that they now represent, you know, tens of thousands of people, when, in fact, they only represent their simple little membership. Okay? And so I'm concerned about that. We are the elected representatives in the County of Suffolk . We've asked you to report back to us to be a watchdog of LIPA. I say the same thing about this. If you want to ask me for money, you want me to approve money for you, it seems to me that I want you to do same things concerning a sustainable -- I want to make sure I get the correct -- Sustainable Energy Alliance as I would LIPA. So that we can make informed decisions. For you participating and now being, in essence, because what we right now tend to believe that LIPA has failed to come up with an energy plan. I, you know, to this extent, I agree because I haven't seen anything either. Now, all of a sudden, we're already taking -- by hiring you or expending more monies for you to take up this banner puts us in a position we're not -- we're not being, I think, objective about our view of the entire situation. LIPA's only been in existence a very short time. I think that some of the efforts that they've made, I think, are somewhat admirable. We have, in fact, reduced rates to many people throughout Nassau and Suffolk. I think some of the problems we have go beyond just the short-term needs of an energy plan, I think it goes to -- for instance, I don't believe we have enough representation on the Board of Directors of LIPA, in numbers we do. Suffolk County has the same number of individuals as Nassau

County, but the guy who runs the show is from Nassau County, that's Richie Kessel, the Chairman of the Personnel Committee is from Nassau. I think they have a Financing Committee, I think they have a Finance Committee -- I think it might be finance -- is also from Nassau. So in essence, Nassau tends to control LIPA. So when we talk about -- and there seems to be a confusion as to whether or not we're going to simply represent Suffolk, we have to understand that until we get to some point where we have effective representation on the LIPA Board, and until we have an effective view of not only what LIPA's doing, but any other major group or coalition of groups, it would be really tough for us to take official positions.

I have to tell you something, Gordian, I'm being honest with you. I'm being honest with you, and I'm going to do it on the record. All right? I really have bent over backwards supporting CAP simply because what I found out, and one of the things I did not like about the LIPA legislation is that we don't have the overview that normally LILCO would have or the Public Service Commission or anything like that. And we needed you to do to that for us, for the benefit of the

people of Suffolk County, but this whole tact that you're taking, really bothers me. And I'll end with saying again, I still think -- I call it the Lee Lutz Syndrome.

LEG. CRECCA:
May I?

LEG. HALEY:
We'll have a conversation.

LEG. CRECCA:
Actually, I was listening. You and Ginny can now talk. I apologize. We were having a little mini debate over here. May I? Mr. Chairman, may I?

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Yes, you may.

LEG. CRECCA:
Gordian, right before the meeting one of the things I said to you is my concern is, and I'm reading from right out of your memo and looking at, you know, what it was a local law, which was the County implement and carry out LIPA oversight function, and basically it was a Charter Law ensuring consumer protection oversight of LIPA. Okay? That's the purpose of why we hired CAP, to do that. And I agree with you with the B, C, D, E, the things you've pulled out of the contract, which are some of the functions we've hired you to do. One of my concerns is that when -- if we have you -- and it's already apparent that Citizens Advisory Panel has been involved with CEP from the beginning or at least that's what came out. First of all, would that be the case?

MR. RAACKE:
Absolutely.

LEG. CRECCA:
My concern is this: They're going to come out with a policy statement at best, and possibly even more that a policy statement, a policy statement/plan, correct? Whether it's October, November, next year; is that right?

MR. RAACKE:
Right.

LEG. CRECCA:
Okay. If we fund the development of that plan by saying, okay, you know what, we'll pay for -- Gordian, for you to go and advise this group and help them formulate a plan. A big part of that plan will involve your work, correct?

MR. RAACKE:
No. That's not necessarily so. The group could decide to -- I would provide technical expertise and advice, but the group is completely, you know, is not under control my control by any means. The group could completely disagree with any advice I may give and decide to go off in a totally different direction or a somewhat different direction. So I cannot say that the group is going to take my advice or take my technical information that I may have and run with that.

LEG. CRECCA:

But see, you just said it there. The groups may not take your technical advice, they may not take -- you know, agree with you. But the way I see it is our contract with you is to hire you to act on our behalf, we're the client. And CEP may come up with what ultimately is an excellent policy statement or an excellent plan, but I don't believe you're going to be in a position as our representative, as our agent to be to be critical of that plan, positive or negative, whatever it be, be independent -- see right now, it's great, because when you deal with LIPA, I mean, there's almost to a slight bit, that adversarial relationship.

I hate to say it, but, you know, it's I think anybody who denies that is not, you know, it would be living on a different planet. And some of that is -- it's good because from that little bit of adversary comes that watchdog, that oversight element of the whole purpose of why you are hired by Suffolk County. Once we take you and say to you, you know what, we'll pay for your services to go out to what, for the most part, is a group, an alliance of groups -- now, Legislator Cooper and I, I think, disagree on this, but a group with all special interests -- and we say, give your technical expertise to them, help them put a plan together or a policy statement, whatever you want to call it, okay, and then to turn around and say to you, we'll criticize it and be critical of it, I don't think -- do you think you can do that, you can be independent and act as our agent after you've helped draft a plan or a policy statement?

MR. RAACKE:

No.

LEG. CRECCA:

That's -- that's the problem I have. It's not that I don't think -- I think this is a good thing. No offense to any of these groups, but I hope another group -- set of groups come up with a plan. And the more

that we have to pick and choose from, great. And, you know, Legislator Cooper brought up a good point in conversations to me, and that is we need to get going and to get a detailed master plan, and I agree with that. And Gordian, I would support you telling us what steps we should take in order to do that, but to take you on the County payroll, so to speak, on the County dollar and say, go advise this other group that's out there that's trying to put a plan together and then to say to you, act as our agent, to be independent and critical, and say to us, you know what, the problems with their plan is, is that they ignore this or they fail to recognize that. You're not going to be able to do that.

I mean, you're not going to have that independence, and that's the problem I have, not the problem that I think that this group has any ill motives or anything like that. I think it's great. I think it's groups like this that will help put pressure on LIPA. But once CAP is their lead person or, as the speaker said, the glue that holds the organization together. When you're not independent anymore, now, you are, you know, that policy and that a plan is now, you know -- you're not our client anymore. You can't work for two clients at the same time necessarily and be independent, and that's the problem.

MR. RAACKE:

If I may respond. Of course, I think if you participate in a process, and if I were to participate in this process, it would be -- it would

be difficult to be unbiased later on to evaluate the product on which you have, at least in part, worked on. And my part maybe small, but still being involved in such a process would make me, I think, biased in then evaluating that end product. No matter how small your involvement may be. So I completely agree with you. I could not then turn around, if I participate in this plan, turn around and then evaluate this plan with a completely unbiased mind set. I think you're completely right there.

On the other hand, I think you need to understand that, and I think it's been said before here, but I think it is important to remember is that here are citizens, citizens of Suffolk County. Here are your constituents. We're trying to put together a positive effort to put together a plan, a Citizens Energy Plan, that has as one of its goals to overcome NIMBYism. We've heard so much about how difficult it is to make these decisions with a -- with a sober frame of mind and based on the facts, and here's an effort to do just that. Here's an effort to work out differences between the various groups, the various neighborhoods, the various NIMBY quote, unquote groups.

And I've made very clear that all of these meetings that I've attended that you cannot put together a plan, a Citizens Energy Plan or any other master plan if you approach it from a NIMBY perspective. And that's why I think everybody in this county should support it, including the Legislature, because here's a serious effort to put together a number of groups, a very diverse set of groups with one goal in mind. Not to say, you know, take that power plant and put it down the road a couple of miles, but to say okay, how much energy do we need, how are we going to meet energy demands in the future, how are we going to do that so that our lights stay on and we can still bring up our kids here and live in a healthy environment and maintain

our level of comfort and our level of, you know, standard of living. That's the effort that these groups are trying to make, and they're asking you to support that effort.

LEG. CRECCA:

Do you think these groups though, absence yourself, -- and I say absent because I want to just take you out of the picture -- do you think this groups -- these groups have that expertise to do that?

MR. RAACKE:

I'm not the one to judge that frankly, because that's up to you to judge. I obviously, has done this kind of work for many, many years here on Long Island. I'm often called upon to provide information regarding Long Island energy issues. That's what I do. That's what I've done for many, many years, so, you know, make that judgment for yourself. I'm not in a position to judge myself.

LEG. HALEY:

Maybe we should hire somebody to do that.

LEG. CRECCA:

Well, by the way, I don't mean -- Legislator Fields, I just wanted to throw this in there.

LEG. FIELDS:

I'm going to leave.

LEG. CRECCA:

No. No. Don't leave, I want to hear what you have to say.

LEG. FIELDS:

I'm the only one sitting here not taking and I can't --

LEG. CRECCA:

She is right about that. I hate to say it, but I have to say, Legislator Fields is actually right. The only thing I wanted to add is you know, Marty just threw something out half-jokingly, but I'd like to hire somebody to create this master plan, a completely independent employee of the Suffolk County Legislature, and I'll leave it at that.

MR. RAACKE:

One other thing I wanted to point out is -- and I'm not sure whether Legislator Haley -- whether I understood what you said correctly, but just to make this absolutely clear. Once again, I said this at the last committee meeting, we're not asking for additional funding here, we're not asking for additional work to be authorized, we're merely -- we would merely be doing this work, and this is only a small part of our work, of course, under the county contract.

LEG. HALEY:

So you're just asking to change the scope.

MR. RAACKE:

No, we're not. That's what I was saying earlier, we're merely saying that -- and I've come before this committee the last time to tell you

about this effort going on, to tell you that I've been working on this, that I've not been billing for previous hours that I've spent on this, but that I feel that this is a worth while effort, and that this is, as I see it actually, covered under the contract. I just didn't want there to be any misunderstanding.

LEG. HALEY:

The contract is with us, it's not with them.

MR. RAACKE:

That's right. That's what I'm saying.

LEG. HALEY:

Thank you.

MR. RAACKE:

Again, it's for you and for Counsel to make that call, of course, but the way -- the way I understand it --

LEG. HALEY:

Gordian, I'm going to tell you something right now. I'm looking for somebody else to replace you.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

No one else speaks until Ginny asks her question. She's about to burst here.

LEG. FIELDS:

I just want to ask two questions.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

It better be a good question, Ginny.

LEG. CRECCA:

I know, we're all waiting now.

LEG. FIELDS:

Maybe I should just not show up for any of these meetings. Or maybe meet with more adults. Gordian, are you capable of creating a plan or a policy to offer to LIPA?

MR. RAACKE:

Yes.

LEG. FIELDS:

And the people that are on this peach-colored sheet of paper, are any of them capable? Bless you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

Thank you.

MR. RAACKE:

That's a difficult question, and I can't really answer that question. You'd have to ask those people. There's some groups on here that have some -- that have some energy related experience, but they're mostly environmental groups that look at this from -- through an

environmental lens. As you know, my work has been more from a consumer advocacy perspective and a citizens perspective, than merely an environmental perspective. So there are some groups on here that have expertise in the energy field, but it's of a more narrow focus.

LEG. FIELDS:

So if the concern that I'm hearing on my right ear and on my left ear is that they don't you to be part of the meetings because you might charge the Legislature for being part of the meetings, perhaps they can meet, and if you feel like going to the meetings with them or they can advise you what's gone on at the meetings or give you a report at the meetings since they find that the testimony that we heard today was that they find that your information and your expertise is very valuable, then I'm not quite even sure why we're having this conversation or this testimony, but why can't we just, you know, allow the process to go and progress and then if they come up with a plan, fine, or perhaps you can come up with a plan and then, you know, if the Legislature feels that it's important that we have an energy plan then maybe that's what we should be talking about, is whether Gordian can come up with a plan and that's what Suffolk County Legislature wants its residents. You know, to have some kind of an opposite side of maybe just understanding what it is LIPA is doing and the way that we want things to be done.

LEG. CRECCA:

Would you suffer an interruption, because I think --

LEG. FIELDS:

I just needed to get that out, that's all I wanted.

LEG. CRECCA:

I don't think you're far off. There's a difference between what you're proposing and what is it -- and I think your right, I think one of the things I was trying to drive home is Gordian may have the

expertise himself and with his staff and things to create a master plan or -- certainly, I think he could easily critique if LIPA had a real master plan out, he would be a great person to sit there and critique it, but I --

LEG. FIELDS:

One of the things though that -- when I first got here and read it and heard a little bit of it, and again, I usually try not to make a decision until I have as much information as I can so that it's an intelligent decision, but my first decision was, go for it, Gordian, but I'm almost starting to feel now that you are the mentor of this group. And I'm not quite sure that, you know, that's where we want to go.

Yeah, you probably are the mentor, and that's why I asked do they have the ability to come up with a plan. If they need you to meet with them and you're the mentor of the group then we really have nothing, on the legislature, to do with this, except that, you know, that's what you're doing. You don't even need to tell us that you're meeting with them, if you're not billing us. You know what I mean? But, you know, I almost would rather just see you come up with a plan and approach the Legislature so that we can say, yeah, I think that's

a great plan or whatever.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Excuse me, playing off that. Gordian, if the Legislature were to give you the mandate to come up with a plan -- first of all, this wouldn't be necessary -- do you have any idea who at LIPA is formulating their plan, assuming that they are indeed coming out with a comprehensive plan, who at LIPA is -- who's on the committee? Do you know?

MR. RAACKE:

Well, Richie Kessel is -- has the master plan in his head.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Aside from Richie Kessel, who else at LIPA is on the committee -- there must be a committee that's formulating this comprehensive detailed master energy plan. Do you know who's on that committee?

MR. RAACKE:

There's no committee on an energy master plan for LIPA that I'm aware of.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

So you're certainly not a member of that committee.

MR. RAACKE:

No, I'm not.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

And do you know of any environmental groups that have membership on that committee?

MR. RAACKE:

No.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Or any civics that have membership on the committee?

MR. RAACKE:
No.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
So it's Richie Kessel and perhaps some additional --

MR. RAACKE:
Consultants.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
-- consultants that are on this committee. So I don't know whose interest that they're representing. I think primarily, they're representing the interest of LIPA, in which that's fine. I mean, LIPA is the organization that's producing the plan. But I would feel more comfortable with a master energy plan for Suffolk county, or more importantly, Long Island if I new that citizen groups, whether they be environmental groups, civic groups, or other groups had some sort of a say in formulating that plan. So if we give you the mandate to come up with your own master energy plan, so that you're now working for Suffolk County, we've asked you to come up with your own recommendations for this plan, are you going to be working in a bubble onto yourself or will you be -- will you be consulting with others and trying to get outside expertise in helping you draft this plan? Will you be requesting input from environmental groups and citizen groups and other experts?

MR. RAACKE:
Of course. I mean, we are called the Citizens Advisory Panel for a reason.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Right. So what -- whether it's Lee Lutz, you pick the expert that we higher.

LEG. CRECCA:
It's right on this point. I want to ask him a question.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Excuse me. What expert works in a vacuum where they go up into an ivory tower somewhere and they close the doors and they come up with -- no, they consult with people. What better forum for you to consult with people, our constituents, I mean there's George's constituents right there. These are my constituents. Oh, there are your constituents. So these are not people from another planet, these --

LEG. HALEY:
Those constituents don't represent everybody in my district, I do.

LEG. CRECCA:
And the other thing too is --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Excuse me. Any -- excuse me. Any group of constituents in Suffolk County that wants do have a role in this, wants to have a say in this, can have a role. They're open to anyone. LIPA certainly isn't affording them that opportunity. When is the last time that you gave your input to Richie Kessel on this or any of your constituents? At least this is a forum for our constituents to have a say in our future energy policy. And I, for one, have more confidence in what's driving

these organizations then what's driving LIPA.

LEG. CRECCA:

If I may on this particular point. On that particular point, though. Gordian may -- Gordian, you may reach out to certain groups and get their input and things in formulating a master plan, but it would, like, blow my mind away if you would actually, affirmatively go out in preparing a master plan and ask for the input from the Committee of the Brookhaven Town Young Democrats, or for that matter, the Committee for the Smithtown, you know, Young Republicans Club. I mean, and I say that because, I mean, if we're hiring you as a technical consultant to prepare a master plan for us, while I don't doubt that those groups might have some opinions, and valid ones and all that, they -- I would not -- just like if a hired an attorney or I hired an engineer to prepare something, I wouldn't expect them to go out to everyone and anyone, you know what I'm saying?

I mean, obviously, unless we had limitless dollars, but you would go to people who could provide relevant information, things that you needed technically, you know, regarding technology, conservation, energy generation and things like that. You know, I don't think we want to hire Gordian to do a public opinion poll, that's not what we're asking.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Excuse me. What other experts have we ever hired at the Suffolk County Legislature where we've micromanaged to the point where before he had the opportunity, the right to call someone or meet someone, he had to get prior approval from us? So if we're telling Gordian, Gordian, we trust your judgment, we've given you this mandate now -- I think there's a consensus that we're going to give Gordian a mandate to come up with a comprehensive energy master plan for Suffolk County -- if that's what we're saying, you want to tell him in advance who he can and cannot meet with? So if he wants to meet with this coalition, even though it may include the local Republican Club --

LEG. CRECCA:

I never said he couldn't meet with the coalition, but the bottom line is, is that he also said here today that should he put together a plan with this group, that he would not be able to be independent. I think Ginny --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Well, great, but now it's --

LEG. CRECCA:

-- Legislator Fields said very well when she said he would be acting as a mentor to this group, and that's not what his role is under what the referendum called for under the local law, that is certainly not -- it called for a watchdog group, it called for an oversight of LIPA, it called for -- that was the role. I mean, it's clearly laid out, it's laid out in the contract.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

We've now reached a consensus that we have no problem with Gordian coming up with a master energy plan.

LEG. HALEY:

I do.

LEG. CRECCA:

I don't think we've come to that conclusion. I think -- I think we've come --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I'm sorry, I thought that you just said that.

LEG. CRECCA:

No. I think we've come to the conclusion that first of all -- or I've come to the conclusion that it's not an appropriate role for him to have. I don't think it's appropriate for him to be acting as an advisor to this group that's going to come up with a plan. It's not under -- I think, to be honest with you, I think it could be struck

down. I think a taxpayer could bring a lawsuit against us and saying, you're going beyond the scope of the referendum, possibly. But I don't think it's proper, number one. I think that if the Legislature should choose -- or for that matter, this committee should choose that they would like Gordian as our consultant to prepare a master plan so that we have something that that might be a possibility. I don't think anyone committed to that or said they would do that, but that would certainly be a lot more independent, which is what Legislator Fields was talking then what is being proposed to us today. And I'll be honest with you, I would assume, and Gordian, this is a question to you, that that would be a rather onerous task, a large task, for you to undertake to come up with a master plan for Long Island, and that is not something that I would --

LEG. FIELDS:

I don't want it for Long Island, I want it for Suffolk.

LEG. CRECCA:

-- or for Suffolk County. Well, I think -- you know, I think, and I don't know, it would probably be difficult to do for just Suffolk County. You'd probably have to look at --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Not really.

LEG. CRECCA:

-- Nassau and Suffolk, wouldn't you, or no?

MR. RAACKE:

Well, you'd have to look at the whole region. In fact, you'd have to look at a larger picture than the whole region, but you can make planning recommendations for Suffolk County.

LEG. CRECCA:

I mean, if that was the case, and we do decide to go that route, depending on what the scope of that project is and the course of that project is, that might be something that we need -- I might want to defer to the entire Legislature. Certainly through this committee first, but if we're going to commit that much time or resources or money to such a project then that would be something that, you know --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I'm sorry. I'd like to have Legislative Counsel weigh in on this.

MR. SABATINO:

What's being described really falls under Paragraph G, which is not

indicated on that memo. Paragraph G in the contract is really the relevant one, which is "authority to assist Suffolk County in developing an energy conservation measures or recommendations or plan as directed by the County Legislature or its Economic Development and Energy Committee". The idea there was that if you were going to get into the master plan or the energy conservation idea, it would have to be something initiated by the Legislature either through this committee, you know in the first instance, or if this committee chose not to, by the full Legislature. So both the Chairman and Legislator Crecca are correct from the standpoint of it can be done, you know,

either way. If you're going to go the route of, you know, calling for or directing the consultants to prepare the plan, you could put perimeters on it. So you can say either a time line or you could put a dollar amount restriction or limitations, you can further say that as opposed to, you know, as opposed to conferring or consulting with these advisory groups, that you would hold public hearing and take testimony -- and take testimony from the public at large, not just take testimony from the people that are indicated or the groups that are indicated or listed on that sheet. I mean if you wanted to exercise, you know, the power under Paragraph G.

LEG. HALEY:

Thank you. I have a couple of concerns. And I understand exactly what your saying, Counsel, and I appreciate that. But just trying to imagine the scope of work that has to take place in spite of what Paragraph G says, I think it's something for the full Legislature to decide, number one. Number two, obviously, the scope is substantial, and I'm not convinced that CAP is within that capability, number one. Number two, when you define the scope, and you realize the amount of monies, you know, maybe there's something that going to have to extend beyond CAP. Maybe CAP would be a participant, maybe there would be an RFP or something like that.

It is rather obvious that we do have an idea, I think we have a sense of where we're going. We're off on this -- way off on this tangent, and this is a Sense Resolution that we've called for them to provide our master plan. I haven't -- and I apologize -- I have not read Legislator Fields', but it, in essence, says for them to disclose the master plan. And I think that's a continued pressure that we, as representatives of all the County residents, have to continue to put upon, and hopefully, consistent with what's typically been done by CAP, he can review the same. However, the big problem I have with you right now is, you know, we've all recognized, all right -- as elected officials, sometimes we take some license and say what we think is necessary.

We have, in a very professional way, have asked them to produce a master plan or to issue a master plan, in another case, produce a master plan, and the only comment you have is that the master plan in his head. You know, that tongue and cheek I don't think is appropriate and professional for someone who's put in the capacity that you have to provide expert technical consultation to us. I think the best way to say, is, well, I haven't seen, I've yet to see anything substantial in writing concerning the master plan for energy use on Long Island. Not that Richard Kessel has it in his head.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Excuse me. That's what Richard Kessel said. He's quoting Richard

Kessel.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

That was a quote.

LEG. HALEY:

Excuse me. You don't have a right here. Sign a form.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Oh, please, Marty.

LEG. HALEY:

Sign a form and then you can speak.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Richie said -- depending on when you heard Richie, he would either say that -- excuse me. He wrote to me -- and I believe that you have copies of the letter he sent -- he said, well, they haven't put it in writing yet, but they're going to start --

LEG. HALEY:

To say it's in his head --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Excuse me. Well, he is the one who's primary responsibility or largely responsible for coming up with a plan. If he hasn't put it in writing, then it's in his head.

LEG. HALEY:

That's a personal comment between -- that I wanted an observation. I don't need to debate that with you. I understand that. There's an intuition the gentleman might be very capable, he may, in fact, have something in his head, but I'm sure that intuition extends to all of the people, his Board of Directors and everything like that. The fact of the matter is they have to get off the dime and produce something, and that's really what we've been after them to do.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Right. And until the Citizens Energy Plan began holding their public meetings and began putting public pressure on LIPA, we were no closer to seeing that written document two months ago or three months ago then we were six months ago, a year ago, a year and a half ago. Now it's because of this coalition that has formed that there is this public counterpoint and that's why I -- at least we have a written commitment now from Chairman Kessel for the first time, as I said, by the fall to put the plan down in writing and come before our committee. I look forward to seeing what he has to produce.

LEG. HALEY:

So do I.

LEG. FIELDS:

It would seem to me that LIPA probably before they started a day into the process when they were first formed, should have produced a master plan anyway. And so the fact is that I don't think we need to protect Richie Kessel or worry about words that were taken out of context that Richie Kessel said. I think that he should, on behalf of LIPA, produce a master plan. But secondly, Marty, since you didn't read the legislation, my bill is not to disclose a master plan for LIPA, but just for the transmission and distribution lines.

LEG. HALEY:

I'm sorry, I didn't hear that.

LEG. CRECCA:

There is a Sense Resolution now that's already been prepared and voted on and sent out calling on them to issue us a master plan correctly.

MR. SABATINO:

We missed the vote the last meeting, but it's on the agenda.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. I meant it's out of committee and it's there. It was my understanding, I just wanted to make sure.

MR. RAACKE:

If I may, I just wanted to qualify my statement about the energy master plan. On July 11th, a group of civic -- a coalition of civic environmental and health groups including the Citizens Advisory Panel held a press conference announcing plans to develop a Citizens Energy Plan. And part of the reasoning was -- part of the reason for developing such a plan given by those groups was that LIPA does not have an energy master plan. On the evening news, on News 12 that night, on July 11th, Chairman Kessel had a written statement up on the screen that said and I quote, "LIPA -- the Long Island Power Authority has a comprehensive energy master plan for Long Island. LIPA is following this plan and we welcome public input from anyone on this plan".

The next morning at an energy summit put together by Brookhaven Town Supervisor, John LaValle, Chairman Kessel was there and he was asked whether he could provide that comprehensive energy master plan. That's when he said he had not written that down yet. I submitted a letter on July 31st, requesting the comprehensive energy master plan, I've also submitted a Freedom of Information Law request for that plan and all related documents. To date, I have not heard from the Long Island Power Authority as to that formal request. I have received a letter dated August 17, from Chairman Kessel directed to me, a copy to a number of elected officials, including Suffolk Legislature, where he starts out saying, "I had to laugh when I received your July 31st letter" -- I'm going to skip over these parts, but he then, in essence, says in the third paragraph, "I am enclosing a copy of our Long Island energy plan". This is the copy that Legislator Crecca had in his hands earlier. You should have a copy of that plan. So that -- that's the one -- it's not even called a Long Island energy plan, it's called a briefing to Legislators.

LEG. FIELDS:

This is absolutely not a plan.

MR. RAACKE:

So this leads me to believe, unless I'm receiving the comprehensive energy master plan in the next few days from LIPA in response to our formal request, that LIPA, in fact, does not have a comprehensive energy master plan other than the document you have before you, which is, I believe, 26 pages long.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Are there any other questions of Mr. Raacke? Gordian, thank you very

much.

MR. RAACKE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I'd like to move to the next public speaker. We have Mayor David Kapell, Village of Greenport.

MAYOR KAPELL:

Legislator Cooper, Legislator Crecca, Legislator Fields and Legislator Haley and Counsel Sabatino, it's a privilege to be before you this afternoon, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. I'd like to start, if it's not out of order, to distribute some materials to you. And while that's happening, I don't want to reintroduce the subject that you just concluded --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Thank you very much.

MAYOR KAPELL:

-- but I do want to make one remark. And that is for those of you who aren't aware, Greenport has a power plant. We're one of three -- we're the only municipal electric utility in Suffolk County and have had a power plant within our Village for over a hundred years. It's still an active operating power plant, although it serves only at this time to provide for the emergency back-up needs of the Incorporated Village, in that we purchase power under a contract with the New York Power Authority for Niagara Falls hydropower at a rate that so reasonable that we can't produce energy ourselves competitively. We also utilize the plant from time to time to provide backup power to the LIPA system in times of peak demand.

We are interested in Greenport, and this is the reason I bring it up. I'd like to go on the record with the Legislature that the Village is proud of its power plant. We recognize that we have an underutilized power plant, and we're interested in seeing its use expanded and extended to address the power needs of Long Island. I'll grant you that this is, you know, it's a small opportunity relative to the overall needs of Long Island. There is a limit to the size of the property that the plant sits on, but it is significantly underutilized. And I just want to extend an offer that if you see an opportunity at some point for Greenport to be included in the solution to the County's power needs, we're interested.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Thank you. Next speaker. Just joking.

MAYOR KAPELL:

That's it, I used my time.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

You had three minutes, sorry.

MAYOR KAPELL:

I'm here before you this afternoon in connection with Bill IR 1721, which is a resolution which, if adopted, would provide some relief to the Village for tax liens, which were in place on a piece of property

that the Village acquired on September 3rd of 1996, formally known as

the Mitchell Property. For those of you who are familiar with Old Greenport, the Mitchell Property was the site where Mitchell's Marina and Restaurant was located for many decades and served as a mainstay of the Village economy, but succumbed to a catastrophic fire in 1978, and then sat vacant and steadily blighting over the ensuing years until we bought it in 1996 at a foreclosure sale from Republic National Bank.

At the time of our acquisition, there were tax liens that were -- we bought the property subject to tax liens that were left unpaid by the prior owner. And in cooperation with the County Treasurer and our County Legislator, Mike Caracciolo, a collection of these liens have been waived pending a request to this Board -- to this Legislature for some relieve from these liens. The purpose for which the Village acquired the property, which by the way, cost us a \$1,200,000 when we bought it, was to convert the property into a public park. For many years, there is a raging debate in Greenport about how we could make better use of what everybody recognized was our chief resources, the waterfront. The board -- the Village Board concluded in its wisdom that acquisition of the Mitchell Property and conversion into a significant public access between the business district in Greenport and the waterfront would provide, not only an economic lift and psychological lift and aesthetic lift to the Village of Greenport, but would also serve the broader community of the North Fork and Suffolk County at large.

Consequently, we embarked on a very ambitious, growingly ambitious redevelopment plan for the property. And you have before you a document entitled "Village of Greenport Master Plan", and if you open that on the first page you will see a synopsis in a graphic form of what we have contemplated and what have undertaken. It consist essentially of -- see all the green area in the foreground is what we now call Mitchell Park. It's what we now call Mitchell Park. We've recently completed and opened and dedicated the first phase of Mitchell Park. This was an undertaking that cost the Village \$3.6 million in development funds -- excuse me, \$4.2 million in development funds of which the Village put up \$2.4 million, and the remaining 1,800,000 came from a variety of State, Federal and a small County grant. In addition, we are about to go out to bid on Phase Two of the project, which will -- by the way, Phase One just to summarize, includes a housing facility for the carousel that was given to us in 1995 by Northrup Grumman Corp., a boardwalk that will connect the park when it's complete with the Long Island Railroad property so the people coming out by train, bus and ferry can access the park and the downtown Village, and an amphitheater.

Phase Two when it's complete, will include Suffolk County's first municipally operated outdoor refrigerated ice-skating rink, as facilities building that will accommodate offices for planned high-speed passenger ferry services, cruise boat services that are already patronizing the Village and are expected to expand and restrooms and showers for a transient vessel marina that is planned to be constructed following the completion of the upland portion of the development. Phase Two also includes the connection of the boardwalk that's been built so far with the Long Island Railroad property. The

cost of Phase Two development is roughly \$2.3 million, of which we have a total pledges of \$1,700,000 in State and Federal grants, the remaining \$600,000 to come from Village revenues. So at this point you can see that between acquisition of the property, the local match

portion of Phase One and the money required to provide the local match for Phase Two, we're up to \$4.2 million in Village commitments to the project matching \$3 1/2 million in a variety of State, Federal and County grants.

This is a hugely ambitious undertaking for Greenport, and we've been able to meet our commitment for local match by a variety of methods including some very unusual and innovative restructuring, undertakings within the village, including the abolishment of our police force a number of years ago, which saved us a tremendous amount of money. We sold a significant portion of our water system to the Suffolk County Water Authority three years ago in an action that was authorized by this Legislature for \$3 1/2 million, and we have used that money to fund our share of this project. But there's more to it.

In addition, we're going to construct a marina that when it's complete will cost around \$4 million. And we have a municipal parking project that is already becoming needed and will increasingly be needed to service the increased traffic generated by these attractions that we've developed, and that is expected to be a five to \$6 million undertaking. To say that we have financial need beyond our ability to fund is an understatement. And consequently, we're appealing to every level of government for assistance, and that's what gives rise to the request for some relief from these tax liens.

LEG. HALEY:
Mr. Chairman.

MAYOR KAPPELL:
Legislator Caracciolo has introduced a resolution, which is before you, which would waive penalty and interest on the outstanding tax liens. Obviously, our dream would be to have the liens waived in their entirety. I mean, we're in -- we're in up to here. We honestly believe, and I think for those of you who haven't been to Greenport, I extend an invitation for you to visit and see what we've done and what we're doing. I don't think anyone would argue that the attraction that we're creating in Greenport is of benefit to the entire County of Suffolk.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
If I vote for this and I do actually come to Greenport some days, is there like a free dinner in it for me?

MAYOR KAPPELL:
Come on out. We'll even give you a ride on the carousel.

LEG. HALEY:
I would support you striking that from the record.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Can I do that? No. Everyone has a sense of humor. My constituents have a sense of humor.

LEG. FIELDS:
I would say it on the record that that was a joke.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
That was a joke.

LEG. HALEY:

May I?

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Legislator Haley.

LEG. FIELDS:
No. Let me interrupt.

LEG. HALEY:
I'm so used to Legislator Foley doing that. I've been to Greenport many times. I think it's a great place, I think you're doing a wonderful job. I mean that sincerely.

MAYOR KAPPELL:
Thank you. Thank you, Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:
And if I was going to stay long enough to vote for this, I would, except there's only one question as to whether or not it's within our capabilities. It's not typical of us to waive interest and penalties consistent with our policy. However, in absence of that, let's say -- Counsel will probably answer that for me before I leave -- in absence of that, I support the concept from an economic perspective of giving you an extension of time with which to pay those taxes, those back taxes that are applied against that property. I'm certainly willing to do that. And I'm certainly willing to that if we're unable to waive the interest and penalties, to do the same with that interest and penalty money, whether it's over five years or even maybe doing the six years because I know cash flow and everything is important. But I'm totally in support of your idea and what you've done to date and what you're going to do in the future out there. So with that, I'll ask Counsel about that technical question concerning our ability to waive interest and penalties for another -- in this instance.

MR. SABATINO:
Well, under normal circumstances, you're correct, it wouldn't flow within the normal perimeters, but what was worked out here was two things. One is something you just described, there this is an installment payment plan in here for the principle amount, it happens to be five years. With regard to the interest and penalties, what -- we worked on this about two or three years ago. We met with the County Attorney's Office, County Exec., the principles, and what we came up with was if they could provide independent documentation that there was a tourism economic benefit that exceeded the value of the lost interest and penalties, you can treat it as a an indirect grant, because we would clearly have the authority to give them a \$35,000 grant to promote tourism because we have THA ability to do that. So instead of giving the a \$35,000 direct grant --

LEG. HALEY:
It's like a --

MR. SABATINO:
It's an indirect -- it's a back-door grant to do the same purpose. And we have a documentation, it took two and a half years to get it, but Conoscenti & Associates provided something which shows that they're generating \$8.1 million of economic activity which far exceeds the 35,000 -- 32,000, I should say.

LEG. HALEY:

That satisfies me unequivocally. I would love to take it out of order. I make that motion.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I second the motion.

LEG. FIELDS:

What grants have you gotten from the State?

MAYOR KAPELL:

We have -- I mean, it would take -- if I can list them, we got a \$75,000 member item from Senator Ken LaValle for the purchase of the property.

LEG. FIELDS:

I don't mean the amounts. I mean under what programs; economic --

MAYOR KAPELL:

We've had -- we've had grants under the Environmental Protection --

LEG. FIELDS:

Right.

MAYOR KAPELL:

-- under the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act, under -- through the Empire State Development Corp., through the New York State Department of Parks, the New York State Department of State. We've had funding from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Brownfields Clean Up. We've had funding from New York State Department of Transportation; both Federal funding and State funding related to Storm Water Abatement --

LEG. FIELDS:

How about the Quality Communities or the Coastal Rehabilitation Grants that the state has been given?

MAYOR KAPELL:

Not -- well, Quality Communities is not a funding program. It's actually a coordination program, but the New York State Office of Coastal Resources and the Department of State has been probably the major state partner in the process.

LEG. FIELDS:

Okay. All right. That's all I needed to know. Thank you.

MAYOR KAPELL:

Thank you.

LEG. HALEY:

That motion was to take it out of order. I also make a motion to approve then.

LEG. CRECCA:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Second. All those in favor? Opposed? IR 1721 is approved.

MAYOR KAPELL:

Thank you very much. Just, if I may. I brought Dr. Thomas Conoscenti with me, our consulting economist who prepared that report --

LEG. FIELDS:

I would just recommend --

LEG. CRECCA:

I just want you to know, we didn't hold that against you.

LEG. FIELDS:

I would recommend though, although it passed in this committee, that you present the same information to the full Legislature, because this is a bit unusual, and they're going to want to hear this from you.

MAYOR KAPELL:

Thank you very much. If I could extend a sincere invitation to any of you that would like to visit the Village, please feel free to call on me directly, and I'll give you the cook's tour, personally.

LEG. CRECCA:

How long has the carousel building been up this building, because I've out there, but it's been a little while?

MAYOR KAPELL:

The building that it's in now, we opened on June 29th.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay.

MAYOR KAPELL:

Believe it or not, we've had 80,000 riders.

LEG. CRECCA:

Because I've been on the carousel -- the carousel used to be housed in a different building, right?

MAYOR KAPELL:

It was a temporary place.

LEG. CRECCA:

Right. Okay. I've been on the carousel there several times, so I'd love to come out and see it. Great. Thank you.

MAYOR KAPELL:

It's great.

MR. CONOSCENTI:

Chairman, if I just may make a comment. In the study that we did, basically it was on data that we had last year and the year before, and we estimated at that time based on some meetings with the merchants in the Village a 15% stimuli, and I think this fall we're going to go back and update the numbers because this summer has been overwhelming for the Village of Greenport. Just to make a comment that we had estimated for the total sales tax receipt in the study to be approximately \$18 million, that's got to be on the conservative side when we get a chance to go back and review what the activity of the summer is.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Thank you, Tom. Thank you, Mayor.

MR. CONOSCENTI:

Thank you.

MAYOR KAPELL:

Thank you.

LEG. CRECCA:

I think we're going to raise the sales tax in Greenport.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Okay. Next speaker, we have Marie Pendzich, representing herself.

MS.PENDZICH:

My name is Marie Pendzich, and I'm is citizen of Nassau County. I've attended Nassau County Legislative meetings and Suffolk County Legislative meetings.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Which ones are better?

MS. PENDZICH:

If you want the truth, Nassau. I know there's more that two members on the Board here, but I find -- I think you have to do a little house cleaning, because when a certain Legislator calls someone -- tells someone that they are rude when he was just give a quote from the person he was just quoting for is terribly wrong. If you want to know what rude is, take a look at the distraction, the inattention when someone's presenting, the walking in and out of the rooms, the going to doughnuts and even one of your Legislators who spent the whole time that we were at a hearing sitting there with his laptop totally not paying attention to the presentation that was being given. That, to me, is an example of what rude really means. I've been to Nassau County Legislative meetings, and I haven't seen that same behavior. So unfortunately, the person who called the kettle black is not even here to hear that statement.

But as far as CAP is concerned, C-A-P, Citizens Advisory Panel. I take offense to the fact that you said that Gordian was hired by you.

He may have been -- he may be paid by you, but you but he is supposed to be representing the citizens; me and my neighbors. And he's supposed to be representing what we say, what we want to see happen in a Citizens Energy Plan. I put my money where my mouth is. I have solar hot water, I had solar electric put in my house, I brought a car that gets 41 miles per gallon, and I'm very conscientious of energy and the problems that we have inflicted upon this plant because we don't know how to be energy efficient. Asthma, children -- the percentage of asthma has risen by 62%. Kids by the thousands go to hospitals every year with asthma so serious that they can't breath and hundreds of them die.

To simply say that we need to put -- build more power plants is ludicrous. Oil and fossil fuels are dwindling resources that are costing us more and more money. They're getting more and more expensive. To build a power plant sounds like a good idea today, but it's a temporary fix. It's like a heroin addiction. You don't solve a heroin addiction by taking more heroin, you solve a heroin addiction by getting off the damn drug. And building power plants is just giving yourself another fix of the drug that's costing us more, is in

less and less supply every year, and we're not concerned about the future and our children and our grandchildren. What are they going to do when they're still paying taxes for buildings that were built and we have no fuel to burn in them. It makes sense at all.

So we definitely need an energy plan. And I don't think it's CAP's to give you the plan. I think it's CAP's job to represent us, the citizens, to the Legislature, and tell the Legislature what we want. And what we want LIPA to do and what we want LIPA -- what we want to see LIPA do. LIPA belongs to us, the people, and until we have deregulation in New York State, that's the way it is. And LIPA is not coming up with a plan. Richard Kessel quote, unquote said, it's all in my head. I think there's a few other things there, but that's neither here nor there. I think CAP is the -- that Gordian is one of the best people I know to represent us. He's more energetic, he's dedicated, he knows his stuff. Maybe many of the citizens who belong to this plan don't have the expertise that he does, so we are getting a little bit of guidance, and we're contributing our own knowledge, which again, may not be technical, but we at least see what's going on around in the world around us. You know, we have threats of global warming.

Long Island's water is raising -- is rising by an inch every decade. This is significant. We may be inflicted with salt water intrusion as a result of it. And all you have to do is read. The knowledge is out there. Everybody has a computer. Everybody's hooked up to internet. The information isn't a secret. It's out there, all you have to do is be educated enough to want to read and to learn more about it. Now, there are many people out there who are too busy with work to be devoted, you know, as devoted as I feel I am to the issues and wanting to educate myself. But, again, I reiterate: It's not CAP's job to come up with a plan. It's LIPA's job to come up with the plan. Unfortunately, in this society, it's the masses that get the wheel to move. And right now, the wheel is not moving, it's stuck.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Marie, thank you. A couple of my colleagues have questions for you.

MS. PENDZICH:

Okay.

LEG. CRECCA:

Actually, mine is a request rather than a question, and I'll be real brief. If you could go back to your Legislature, the Nassau County Legislature -- and it's obvious that you have tremendous support for CAP the organization. And I would just ask to go back to your Legislature to remember and ask them to fund CAP. We fund CAP. Nassau County Legislature, this past year, has refused to do that. And if you believe strongly in that, I would ask that you go to them and ask them to provide funding for them too, because basically, we're paying for CAP, and I believe which -- CAP provides services whether we like it or not to Suffolk and Nassau County. So I would just ask you to --

MS. PENDZICH:

You have a valid point there. I certainly will.

LEG. FIELDS:

I think we all agree about the value of Gordian Raacke. I think he's been the only one that I've seen and heard that has represented what

we really need since LIPA has been developed, but we do have a contract with Gordian. And I think that what you're hearing today -- I don't know if you've been here before for this committee or not, but what you're hearing today is a culmination of some of the situations where we give Gordian a direction to go do something, and Gordian earns his living by billing, you know, the hours and the amount of work that he's doing, and we have a certain budget, and we are trying very hard not to be Nassau County. And we're going through some difficulties at this point in Suffolk County with our economy, and we don't want to just be a kind of open check book and say, okay, you know, whatever we want, whenever we want it, let's just continue to fund it.

So we're trying to keep it so that Gordian follows the budget constraints and the contract that we have authorized. So every time Gordian comes here, you know, if there's something new, he's kind of asking is it okay for me to do, is this within the boundaries of what it is that you've asked me to do. But I think that -- I'm going to speak for myself -- I think we all feel that he is a tremendous asset to the whole County and to Nassau County. And I will agree with Legislator Crecca that we wish Nassau County would put in their part.

MS. PENDZICH:

Well, they definitely should, because a lot of the groups that signed on are Nassau based. And I will report to those groups, because I have contacts with almost every one of them. And I will, you know, we'll work together on getting Nassau County involved, because they should be. There is no China Wall that divides Nassau and Suffolk County.

LEG. FIELDS:

But the wall was money.

MS. PENDZICH:

But I'm saying, the air from Suffolk blows to Nassau and the air from Nassau blows to Suffolk. And power plants anywhere will affect all of us so we are definitely on the same boat together, and there's one hole in the boat already, we're sinking.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Marie, thank you very much. Our final speaker is a Michael Hollander.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Mike, I cannot take you seriously without your mustache, I'm sorry.

MR. HOLLANDER:

I am here to just talk a little bit about --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Mike, can you talk into the mike, please.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Yeah. Talk a little bit about the bill 1531 --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Oh, Mike, can you identify yourself for the record, please.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Michael Hollander. I gave it to her. Michael Hollander, President of the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau. That's sounded mumbly

too -- about 1531, which is to establish an eco-tourism task force. I've been working, so you all know, with Legislator Cooper and Legislator Tonna's Office, particularly Jim over there. We think it's a good bill. We're supportive of the idea of looking at eco-tourism and coming up with ideas that maybe we haven't thought about on how to make it work better.

But it's important that you know that we do have an Eco-Tourism Committee. We've had one for about three years. We've biologists on it, we have natural on it -- naturalists on it, environmentalists, we have canoe people, kayacking people, people that deal with bird watching, we have state agencies and local agencies. And in fact, we've been doing a lot that has to do with eco-tourism in the past several years, including making sure the travel guide is up to date on those areas. But there's always more you can do. And certainly, Long Island has the opportunity to be very eco-tourism orientated, because it is a multi-billion dollar industry here on Long Island. Because eco-tourism takes in the beaches, bird watching, fishing, our marine life and things like that. In working with Legislator Tonna's Office and Jim, we've sought of cleaned it up.

I think you can tell the legislation now is somewhat different than it was when you first received it. And we've sort of gotten out the things that weren't necessary and have sort of really focused in that the intent of the resolution is to review and evaluate how the Bureau can increase the market segment of tourism by improving it's focus and direction in targeting Suffolk County ecological tourism. And we think that that's a good way to go, and we think by staying in eco-tourism, we're not going to drift into a zillion other things and we can come out with something. I think the biggest thing that I want to talk about to you or suggest to you is that you pass the resolution, but I want to suggest it come out with a recommendation. And I've spoken with Legislator Tonna's Office, and I don't think they have a problem with what I'm about to say, but somehow or other I just can't seem to get there in the resolution, and that is that The Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau as me, the president, should be a part of the task force.

To have a task force that's going to look at eco-tourism and not have on the committee by other than appointment -- I mean, I understand that it can be an appointment by the County Executive or various people -- I think is a mistake, because you guys and girls have at your disposal an organization who you sort of funnel money to who's out there doing the job. All these people that we have that work on air eco-tourism are resources that the bureau can bring to the table to make this happen. And I guess what I'm talking about is a task force that I believe that if we're a part of, recognizing at the beginning they can get something done. That without getting through -- caught up in the red tape and all the other stuff, you know, if that group comes to an agreement of what it wants to do, we, in essence, can make it happen without having to go through a lot of hoops and hurdles to get somewhere, which is what sometimes happens.

In the 7th Resolve, you'll see it talks about us putting up total expenditures not to exceed \$2000 and that will be paid by us, and I don't have a problem with that. We'll just have to explain to me subject to a Legislative approval. You know, how you approve the expenses so that I can pay them, whatever the mechanics are. In the 8th though, we talk about the fact that if the Department of Economic Development is unable to provide services such as supplies or postage,

that we'll do it. And that's a problem for me, but let me make sure that we're clear on something. Neither that part in seven or eight was in the original resolution. It came up because I went to Jim and basically had a conversation that went along the lines of "I really think that the Bureau should be part of the task force, and if the Bureau is part of the task force, it has certain support services at hand that he can bring to the table". Now, I didn't mean that in any type of bribery-type of sense, but it's what happens out there normally.

If you or your organization serves on a committee of the Boy Scouts like I do or the Philharmonic, you bring certain things to the table to help that group get where it's going. Just like I bring services to the fire department on that I serve on that have that -- just things that I can do. That was the intent. The intent was to say that the Bureau should be part of the task force, and it could be bring to the table certain services. Clearly, you know, if the Department of -- well, Economic Development decides they don't want to do it, they just say no, this says that I should do it, but I'm not in a position where I can just send a secretary to go take notes, because how do I control what she's doing or what she doesn't do. What this was meant to say was is that if we were part of the task force, as part of the 8th, and I went to it then I can bring along somebody that provides the services at the level that I can do them or the level that I do other things. So it wasn't meant that you put the Bureau on the committee and in return get services, that's not the intent here. I'd rather see you take out the 2000, take out providing the services, put us on the committee and I'll bring that along, because that's what happens out there in the normal world.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Are you saying you mind providing punch for the prom as long as you get invited in the prom. You're not going to provide it unless you're a participant.

MR. HOLLANDER:

I want to provide it, but I just --

LEG. CRECCA:

Let me just interrupt -- if you don't mind, I would like to interrupt the speaker for one second because I have a question for Counsel. Is there a way if we wanted -- let's assume the Presiding Officer was willing to make certain amendments to the bill, is there a way we could get this out of committee today and have those amendments at the -- on the -- at the floor of the Legislature?

MR. SABATINO:

Well, the deadline for the corrected copy has come and gone so the only way to achieve what you just described would be with Certificate of Necessity. However, I'm just looking through my notes because this bill has been changed on numerous occasions, and I just want to look at the last -- August 15th was the last version and, you know, the cover letter was the 15th. I'm just trying to remember which --

LEG. CRECCA:

The Long Island Visitors and Convention Bureau is not on the task force. So it's a named party per se; right?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Right.

MR. SABATINO:

Well, no. What happened was -- no. There's -- in Item Number Two, which is a representative from the field of recreation and tourism could be selected by the Presiding Officer.

MR. HOLLANDER:

And there's one that could be decided by the County Executive.

LEG. CRECCA:

Right.

MR. HOLLANDER:

What I'm suggesting to you is --

MR. SABATINO:

And also, no. There was also another category -- the change we made was we put another representative from Tourism and Travel could be selected by the Chair of the Governmental Operations Committee. That's where the second category came up. So there would be two possibilities, you could be appointed either through the Presiding Officer or through the Chair of Government Operations. And I think with the \$2000 the language was modified in the 7th Paragraph, and that's where, you know, the task force actually makes the request, you know, for funding. But that would be subject to a Legislative approval, it's not an automatic \$2000. That was the point I wanted to make.

MR. HOLLANDER:

What I'm trying to suggest is that the number 8 should be a representative if the Convention and Visitors Bureau in the form of its president. And that it shouldn't be subject to an appointment, because if they decide not to appoint us, then you, the Legislature, leave out an important -- it's not that they wouldn't. I guess it's like principle. Okay. And I guess the principle is, is that I tell my Board that we're a part of what's happening and not an afterthought of what's happening. And again, and I think that, you know, Jim agrees with it is we want to make this happen. This isn't like us figuring out how not to make it happen. We're into this. We've been doing it. And if we can get together a group of people that you've put together on the task force and enhance it with the people we've got, just like I'm on this Agri-tourism Committee that you guys have, and we can just really get going and make things happen, whereas, you know -- again, another point. \$2000. I can't tell you that 2000 is going to cover the things you're talking about. But if it went -- if it was a little bit more --

LEG. CRECCA:

Mike, can we make a suggestion?

MR. HOLLANDER:

Sure.

LEG. CRECCA:

Rather than -- because everybody -- this is good. Everybody likes it, I think. I think that's the general feeling we're getting. We can table it one more time if you'll --

MR. HOLLANDER:

I'll do whatever works for Jim because I know --

LEG. CRECCA:

We can't move it out and then have it before -- but what I would say is --

MR. HOLLANDER:

Again, whatever works for Jim.

LEG. CRECCA:

-- we have a short cycle this time. Let's --

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Yeah, Jim, can you wait two weeks.

MR. DOBKOWSKI:

Yeah.

LEG. CRECCA:

And then I'd like you to work with Jim and let --

MR. HOLLANDER:

He's up to speed. He's -- I'm trying to help him get it done so that he and I can get going on this --

LEG. CRECCA:

I can't get -- we can't get it out today and have it voted on the way you'd like. I don't disagree with your comments, I don't think anybody else here does, including the sponsor's representatives who are here, so I think what's on the agenda, we'll make a motion to table it --

MR. HOLLANDER:

Just so we're clear so even Paul knows. It's not a quid pro quo, that's not what I'm trying --

MR. SABATINO:

I know, but the way -- you should be careful of the way you word it on the record, in all honesty, because it doesn't come out the right way. And secondly, I just wanted to clarify because a question came up last week. It's the County's money. I mean, you understand, that is the Motel/Hotel tax money. It's not like we're going and taking money from somebody, it's our own money. Okay. So I mean -- it's Suffolk County's money.

LEG. CRECCA:

For this you're talking about?

MR. SABATINO:

Yeah.

MR. HOLLANDER:

Yeah.

MR. SABATINO:

I'm just putting that on the record because I think the impression was left that we were taking somebody else's money. I was just talking in the abstract, Mike.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Any further questions, okay. Mike, thank you very much. I think we

can move on to the agenda.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

IR 1531-01 (P) To establish Eco-Tourism Task Force to evaluate the potential of an Ecologically-Based Tourism Industry on Long Island. (TONNA)

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Tabled Resolution 1531.

LEG. FIELDS:
Motion to table.

LEG. CRECCA:
Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
All those in favor? Opposed? 1531 is tabled. TABLED (VOTE:3-0-0-1)
(ABSENT: LEG. HALEY)

IR 1602-01 (P) Directing County Department of Public Works to prepare co-generation RFP for County facilities in Yaphank. (CARACCIOLO)

LEG. CRECCA:
I'm going to make a motion to table, but I would ask the Chairman to invite -- I'd like to hear Public Works speak on this. So if you could invite Public Works to the next meeting to comment on this or at least to provide written comment if they can't be here. Would that be acceptable? Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? 1602 is tabled. TABLED (VOTE:3-0-0-1) (ABSENT: LEG. HALEY)

SENSE 64-01 (P) Memorializing Resolution requesting Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) to issue master plan for proposed power plants. (BINDER)

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Is there a motion?

LEG. CRECCA:
Which one is this?

MR. MCCREIGHT:
It was Allan's.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Is there a motion? Going once. Going twice.

LEG. CRECCA:
Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
I second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Sense 64 is tabled. TABLED (VOTE:3-0-0-1) (ABSENT: LEG. HALEY)

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

1721, oh, I'm sorry. We already approved that.

IR 1790-01 (P) Local Law to establish Lamp Light Conservation Policy to conserve energy. (COOPER)

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

It has to be tabled because we will be having a public hearing.

LEG. FIELDS:

Second the motion

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

All those in favor? Opposed? Resolution is tabled.

TABLED (VOTE: 3-0-0-1) (ABSENT: LEG. HALEY)

SENSE RESOLUTIONS

SENSE 73-01 (P) Memorializing Resolution requesting Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) to disclose Island-wide master plan for transmission and distribution lines. (FIELDS)

LEG. FIELDS:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Second the motion.

LEG. CRECCA:

On the motion. I wanted a real brief explanation, because I did read it. Is this to deal with more safety issues, Legislator Fields or from Counsel, either one?

LEG. FIELDS:

Actually, in my district what happens was LIPA went into a particular town and decided to erect poles that were in some cases almost twice as high as the poles that were there and to increase them, jeopardizing really the way that the pedestrians were involved in the hamlet and the cars, not actually even being able to come out on the street and see the oncoming traffic. When we asked LIPA to bury the lines, as they had done in Southampton, when they buried 17 miles of line in Southampton to the tune of \$82 million, this was five miles that we asked them to bury, and they told us, flat out, no.

So it occurred to me that if is happening in one of my areas, it's probability happening in a lot of other areas. We then were able to get Richie Kessel and a couple of other representatives, including civics, to do a walk-through and point out the danger and the lack of safety that we were -- that the people were involved in. And they were willing to move this pole, and take that pole, and do this -- you know bury this, bury that --

LEG. CRECCA:

Right.

LEG. FIELDS:

So there really ought to be as we said before on the record, a master plan for everything that LIPS does, including this, which I think is extremely important to all of our constituents.

LEG. CRECCA:

Is it in the future or to the existing lines now?

LEG. FIELDS:

No. No. No. In the future, every time they decide they want to put a pole anywhere, they can just put it anywhere. They can take your residential street and put high-tension lines, and instead of their being four on your street, they could increase it to 50. It actually

--

LEG. CRECCA:

What is this -- what is this just calling them to have a plan so -- to plan ahead?

LEG. FIELDS:

Right.

LEG. CRECCA:

So people can make --

LEG. FIELDS:

So people know, you know?

LEG. CRECCA:

Yes. It doesn't prevent them from doing it, per se.

LEG. FIELDS:

No.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay.

LEG. FIELDS:

I don't think we can prevent LIPA from doing anything they want to do.

LEG. CRECCA:

No. That's what I'm saying. I just wanted to make sure because I don't think we have the legal authority to do that, but it is a Sense so.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

There's a motion to approve and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Sense 73 is approved.

APPROVED (VOTE: 3-0-0-1) (ABSENT: LEG. HALEY)

Thank you very much. Good evening. Motion to adjourn. Is there a second?

LEG. CRECCA:

Second.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:40 P.M.*)

{ } denotes being spelled phonetically

