

**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 Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **July 30, 2003**.

Members Present:

Legislator Jonathan Cooper - Chairman
Legislator Angie Carpenter - Vice-Chair
Legislator Brian Foley
Legislator Lynn Nowick

Members Not Present:

Legislator Allan Binder

Also In Attendance:

Edgard Laborde - Aide to Legislator Cooper
Roger Podd - Aide to Presiding Officer Postal
Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator Nowick
Dave Ryan - Aide to Legislator Nowick
Ray Zaccara - Aide to Legislator Bishop
Jim Spero - Deputy Director/Budget Review Office
Joe Muncey - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Joe Schroeder - Budget Review Office
Catherine Stark - County Executive's Office/IR
Ken Knappe - County Executive's Budget Office
Theresa Lollo - County Executive's Budget Office
Carolyn Fahey - Department of Economic Development
Pauline Mize - Manager/Suffolk County Gabreski Airport
Bianca Dresch - Department of Public Works
Peter Quinn - Long Island Coalition for Democracy
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 11:41 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I would like to welcome everyone to the July 30th, 2003 Economic Development and Energy Committee meeting. Legislator Nowick, if you

can lead us in the pledge, please. Thank you.

Salutation

Thank you. We have no speakers or presentations so I'd like to move directly to the agenda. First of all, take up a couple of Tabled Resolutions.

Tabled Resolutions

IR 1361 - 03 - To establish County Office Space Policy for Downtown Revitalization (Postal). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I don't know. I know Counsel is not here, I don't know if there were changes made.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

We have a request from the sponsor to table the resolution.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

All those in favor? Opposed? IR 1361 is tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Binder).

Procedural Motion No. 9 - Authorizing litigation against LIPA to recover County construction project utility costs (Towle). I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

All those in favor? Opposed? Procedural Motion 9 is tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Binder).

Introductory Resolutions

IR 1583-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with airport fencing and security system at Francis S. Gabreski Airport. I will make a motion to approve.

LEG. CARPENTER:

What is the amount of money? I don't have a copy of the resolution here. Oh, here it is, I do have it, I'm sorry. So is this going -- is this one of the resolutions going from G Money to B Money; yes?

MR. KNAPPE:

Yes, that's correct. It does require three-fourths of the Legislature's vote --

LEG. CARPENTER:

Right.

MR. KNAPPE:

-- next Tuesday if it passes out of committee. It is bonded.

The department will be seeking through the FAA some Federal aid for this project. We just do not feel overly confident that we can put it into the resolution at this time, so if we do receive aid in this project it will be used to pay down the debt service on the project.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I take it this went out to bid? This seems awful high, it's got to be a lot of fencing though.

MR. KNAPPE:

We do have the department here to speak on the resolution as well as a Public Works representative if you have specific questions about that.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yeah, I think that would be a good idea.

MS. FAHEY:

Good afternoon. I'm Carolyn Fahey with Economic Development to talk about the resolution; Pauline Mize, the Airport Manager; and Bianca Dresch from DPW who worked on the outline of the fencing for us and came up with the cost estimates, so your questions would be addressed to Bianca with regards to the cost of the program. We have not gone out to bid yet. This was an estimate that we asked the Department of Public Works to put together for us so that we could go out to bid.

LEG. CARPENTER:

How much fencing is this?

MS. DRESCH:

Good morning. Bianca Dresch, Civil Engineer with Public Works. We have two types of fencing, we have security fencing which is ten feet high with coiled {concertine} and barbed wire at the top, that would be initially -- that would be installed around the hangar areas and that quantity comes to 303,680 feet. And we have around the air field six foot high fencing with barbed wire atop and that linear feet comes to 10,825 feet.

LEG. CARPENTER:

May I ask -- it seems like an obvious question, but why the move now; are we replacing fencing or are we installing for the first time?

MS. FAHEY:

We're installing for the first time 90% of it. Right after September 11th we came to the Legislature and asked for money for just a stockade fencing along the interior flight line to do some basic security initially. In the interim of us receiving that money, the

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FAA came out with guidelines with a type of fence and so on to put up, so we've modified our request for that. Ninety percent of this is going to put new fencing in that would secure the interior flight line and avoid intrusions on to the runway from the northern area and the southern area. Some of it will connect with old existing fencing that was on the airport that eventually will be replaced when and if we get FAA funding for the parameter fencing.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Has -- where are you in the process as far as grant applications or I know that there is an awful lot of money, in fact I was at an SEMO Conference yesterday and there's literally billions of dollars out there in grants, as long as they're written properly, because of security issues.

MS. MIZE:

Legislator Carpenter, currently we've submitted to the FAA a complete packet for the project. They have given us positive indications but do not do their airport improvement funding until October 1st. We're in before the September 14th deadline so our paperwork is already in waiting approval. Again, they have given us a positive indication but we don't have a firm commitment and that's why the Budget Office and the department agrees that we need to move forward with the funding at this level.

We currently don't have any interior protection for the flight line and runway areas. Our original estimates were sadly under estimated because of requirements and because of some of the gating that we need to put in around the flight line and ramp area. So yes, we have applied.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay. All right.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

I have a couple of questions. At whose recommendation is this fencing

being installed?

MS. FAHEY:

The department's request based upon FAA guidelines. And we have a security panel that we put together after September 11th and they've also requested that the department seek funding to put some sort of interior fencing.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

So the FAA is recommending fencing of this type for airports of this size.

MS. FAHEY:

That don't already have it; most of them have it.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

So, for example, Islip McArthur has something similar already in place?

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MS. FAHEY:

They have fencing, yes.

MS. MIZE:

They actually have stricter guidelines because they're a commercial facility, ours are not as strict and not as formalized as theirs.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Okay, thank you. Any other questions? Okay. Once again, I'll make a motion to approve the resolution.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

All those in favor? Opposed? IR 1583 is approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Binder).

Sense Resolutions

Moving on to Sense Resolution No. 51-2003 - Memorializing Resolution requesting LIPA to terminate public relations contract (Fields).

I would have liked an explanation on this.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion to table.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

All those in favor? Opposed? Sense 51 is tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Binder).

Procedural Motions

And Procedural Motion No. 6-2003 - Procedural Motion for LIPA Oversight for 2003 (Binder).

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion to table.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

All those in favor? Opposed? Procedural motion No. 6 is tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Binder).

We do have one speaker that just filled out a card, Peter Quinn from the Long Island Coalition for Democracy. Good morning, Peter.

MR. QUINN:

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislature, my own Legislator included.

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LEG. NOWICK:

I saw you on TV; good job, Pete.

MR. QUINN:

I wasn't aware of that. Three issues, one I'm hopeful that -- I don't know what motion six was that you tabled but I hope it's not the tabling of the retention or rehiring of Gordian Raacke; I would like to see that expedited as quickly as possible.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Right, it's not that resolution.

MR. QUINN:

Okay. But I hope that that comes before the Legislature on the 5th is it?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yes.

MR. QUINN:

Next week, Tuesday. I think it's essential that we have someone of his knowledge and expertise providing information to the Legislature, so I would urge that passage next week.

The second thing is I think it's time for the County to hire an energy efficiency manager to examine all of the facilities in Suffolk County that are owned by the County to do an analysis. There hasn't been one in 15 years, it was rather a comprehensive and extensive one about 15 years ago, there hasn't been one done since. And as I see the direction of the County, and I mentioned this at the June 28th full Legislative Meeting, that the Suffolk County Legislature seems to have become somewhat lax in promoting both renewables and energy efficiency and I think it could do more. So I would urge that that be a resolution that could be entertained.

(*Legislator Foley entered the meeting at 11:51 A.M.*)

I don't see the Department of Public Works doing that kind of effort. They already claim that they're under staffed, and as far as I know they have only one person who has the technical knowledge there. But I think there should be a search for somebody who could look at buildings and determine what needs to be done and so that the County has a plan in place a year from now to do some kind of retrofitting.

And the third point concerns --

LEG. CARPENTER:

Before you go on to your next -- may I?

CHAIRMAN COOPER:

Please.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Before you go on to your next comment, I'm really delighted to hear you say that. I had sponsored and we passed a resolution about the County purchasing energy efficient appliances, anything that is Energy

Star, needs to be Energy Star with anything that we're purchasing. And I have been moving in the direction of just what you're talking about, to really look at our County in a more comprehensive fashion. And Counsel has been out because he had some surgery, but I am working towards doing exactly what you're saying. So as soon as we get that resolution drafted I'll be sure to share it with you as I plan on sharing it with the members of this committee to see if anybody wants to cosponsor it, but this is something that we've been working on.

MR. QUINN:

Well, I would point out that, you know, the Energy Star label is nice, but LIPA has an Energy Star label for an air-conditioning unit, the problem is Energy Star is labeled for 9.5 EER, there are energy efficient air conditioners that are 11 that are almost twice as efficient as the ones that are 9.5. So we've got to look beyond the Energy Star label and find out what is the most efficient appliance that's going to be installed. And the cost is not that substantially different.

But the other point had to do with the Solar Power resolution that was passed a year ago by the full Legislature. And the reason I raised it at June 28th and said there should have been a study completed within 330 days, and that's part of the RESOLVED of that Resolution 505. But then it directs the Department of Public Works to inquire from NYSERTA, and NYSERTA told Charlie Bartha -- and I was at yesterday's meeting and Brian will confirm that -- that NYSERTA asked the Department of Public Works to seek information from LIPA; I mean, that's like putting the fox in charge of the hen house.

You're not -- you know, you're not going to achieve energy efficiency by asking LIPA to provide it. They're in the business of selling electricity and when you compare a billion dollars spent for fossil fuels and \$32 million spent on renewables and energy efficiency by that company, we're not getting a fair shake if we ask LIPA to do an analysis for us.

Now according to Charlie yesterday, oh, they called or they checked with Santa Monica, California which has this Solar Port in place, he said, "And they said it wasn't very effective," I think it was words to that effect. But it seems to me you should be getting a report from Charlie Bartha showing the letter from Santa Monica's Mayor or City Manager that says what the defects, if there are any, in that effort there. They have 39 electric cars hooked up to a Solar Port and enough electricity left over to accommodate their civic auditorium nearby; now, that sounds to me like it's a worth while proposition. But the difficulty is you're never going to get anything out of this resolution. You haven't gotten the study so far and the way one of the RESOLVED reads, there is some hesitancy about their doing anything. It says that the State -- "RESOLVED that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act, SEQRA lead agency, hereby finds and determines that the resolution constitutes a TYPE II," and so on and so forth. But then it adds -- just a minute, I'm reading the wrong paragraph, I'm reading the wrong paragraph, wrong RESOLVED. And it's that, "The report to be issued to the Suffolk County Legislature and to each member of the Suffolk County Legislature no later than 330 days subsequent to the effective date of

a subsequent County resolution authorizing funding for the consultant's study". Well, it seems to me until you have a study in hand, you're not going to put out an RFP for the consultant's study, and then it will be another six months to a year before you actually act on this resolution which was passed a year ago.

So I would urge that somehow the wording of this RESOLVED be reexamined and some changes made to it so that there is an expeditious response to this RESOLVED which all of you passed. Thank you.

LEG. CARPENTER:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Thank you, Peter.

LEG. FOLEY:
Mr. Chairman, if you could list me with the majority of the committee on the votes that we've had. The only caveat I would add is I reluctantly join the Chair in tabling 1361. It's my hope and expectation that we could at some time in the near future approve the resolution that would establish a County Office Space Policy for Downtown Revitalization. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN COOPER:
Thank you, Legislator Foley. There being no further business before this committee, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 A.M.*)

Legislator Jonathan Cooper, Chairman
Economic Development & Energy Committee

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