

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**HIGHER EDUCATION**

**and**

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**of the**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & 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 **Wednesday May 11, 2005.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Lynne Nowick • Chairperson

Legislator Angie Carpenter • Vice•Chair

Legislator Brian Foley

Legislator Jon Cooper

Legislator Jay Schneiderman

Legislator Cameron Alden

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mea Knapp • Counsel to the Legislature

Joe Schroeder • Budget Review Office

Joe Muncey • Budget Review Office

Ilona Julius • Deputy Clerk of the Legislature

Ben Zwirn • County Executive's Office

Carolyn Fahey • Economic Development

Dr. Shirley Pippins • President • Suffolk Community College

Charles Stein • Suffolk Community College

George Gatta • Suffolk Community College

Kevin Rooney • Oil Heat Institute

Peter Quinn • LI Coalition for Democracy

All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano • Court Stenographer

**(\* THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:36 A.M. \*)**

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good morning, everybody. We're ready to start the meeting. Legislator Schneiderman, would you lead us in the Salute to the Flag.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All rise, please.

**SALUTATION**

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good morning, everybody, and welcome to the meeting of Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy. Good morning. We are going to start with presentations today. First, we have Dr. Shirley Robinson Pippins from Suffolk Community College. Would you like to come up?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Good morning, and thank you again for the opportunity ••

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good morning. It's nice to see you.

**DR, PIPPINS:**

It's good to see you. And thank you for the opportunity to again address the Education Committee. I thank you for your continuing support of the college and your willingness to make strategic investments in Suffolk County Community College and the future of Suffolk County.

The college now has independent economic impact data that validates the vision you displayed in supporting our Operating and Capital Budgets in 2004•2005. As good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, I know you take pride in knowing that our research indicates that 94% of our graduates stay and work in the region initially creating a highly talented work force fueling our local economy. The impact of the quality of our 22,000 students should not be minimized, we know that, whereas in real estate it is location, location, location. In economic development it is workforce, workforce, workforce.

It is decision time, again, and I'm here today to ask that you review the historic results of your investments in Suffolk County Community College, consider our impact on the quality of the workforce, and again make strategic, bold, visionary investments, not just in our institution, but in the future of Suffolk County. I ask that you consider carefully our research that indicates that in just 8.4 years, New York State and Suffolk County taxpayers see a 100% return on their investment in the college, and that students see a 100% return on their investment including foregone wages in just 8.2 years.

That data would suggest that decisions being made to delay or eliminate capital improvements at the college are at best shortsighted and may be potentially damaging to long term opportunities for our citizens and the economic health of the County. Let me briefly review the delayed and deleted projects. First, the gymnasium, health and fitness center at the Eastern Campus. This project fulfills the college's mission in two ways; it allows us to provide comprehensive services to the growing student body at the Eastern Campus and also provides additional resources to the County in general. Consider the value and impact of the sports and health facility at the Grant Campus. Imagine that on a smaller scale. Imagine the impact the sports and health facility can have on Eastern Long Island's economic viability. We are seeking state support for this initiative. Removal from the local budget minimizes our ability to secure state support for this important project.

Second, the Learning Resource Center at the Eastern Campus. This project was included in last year's Capital Program. The need for a Learning Resource Center on the Eastern Campus is well established. The lack of a quality facility has been noted by our accrediting body, which returns in 2007. This project is included in the current state five year plan. Eliminating this project results in a loss of \$7,250,000 of state funds earmarked for this project.

Third, partial renovation of the Peconic Building at the Eastern Campus. This project was also included in last year's Capital Program. The project increases campus capacity by 255 students.

The Executive's proposal removes this project and will prevent the college from addressing any additional evening classes, leaving us unable to meet demand. It is crucial to note that this project is included in the current five year plan for the state. Eliminating this project results in the loss of \$700,000 of state funds earmarked for this project.

Research shows that to the extent that students are engaged in their educational environment, they succeed. Eliminating renovations and learning resource centers and sports and health facilities at the Eastern Campus send a negative message to the students and the community on Eastern Long Island. We are not second class citizens. And it also minimizes opportunities for student engagement and success.

Fourth, the learning resource center at the Grant Campus. Again, we are seeking state funding for this project. Deletion of the project from the local Capital Budget jeopardizes our ability to secure state funding. The current Grant Campus Library is half, half the size required by SUNY standards. This at the same time that enrollment at the Grant Campus is growing. It is also important to note that the Executive's budget proposal includes the Sagtikos Building renovation, which can't take place without the learning resource center.

Think for the moment about the lost opportunities for quality study and research space for students from less than conducive home environments. Reflect on the lost opportunities for quality study time for working students and parents juggling job, home and career who need every moment for study and projects. And in the context of pending reaccreditation reviews, the proposed delays and elimination of learning resource centers reflect a lack of local support and place the college in a position of not complying with state and regional accreditation standards.

Fifth, planning for dormitory housing. This project was designed to explore housing options for individuals connected to the college and address the housing crisis in Suffolk County. In our

current search for Campus Deans, several other leadership positions and faculty searches, we have lost many of our best candidates because of the high cost of housing. This initiative will explore strategies both for enhancing our ability to attract talented individuals who are deferred and deterred by the high cost of housing and give out honor students, alumni and neighbors opportunities to live in Suffolk while acquiring funds for more permanent living situations.

We all know that the quality of faculty and the leadership of our institution play a major role in determining the quality of educational experiences. We also know that highly credentialed faculty attract students to our institution, enhance the prestige of the institution, and therefore, enhance transfer opportunities for our students and increase our opportunities to secure highly competitive grants.

Sixth project, replacement of unsafe tennis courts at Ammerman. This project was also include in the last year's Capital Program. It is included in the state's new five year plan as nonbond funding. All funding is currently available as cash. The condition of the existing courts is hazardous and sometimes completely unplayable. The Executive's proposal delayed construction funding to subsequent years creating a gap of at least four years between design and construction.

And the final project, improvement at college entrances at the Ammerman Campus. This project was also included in last year's Capital Program. It is included in the state's new five year plan. The timing of the funding was requested to keep pace with the Nicholls Road project, a federally funded improvement project managed by Suffolk County DPW. The Executive's proposal delayed construction to subsequent years creating a gap again of at least four years between design and construction. DPW will be set to construct improvements that affect the college by 2006. The college must be able to coordinate its own improvements as Nicholls Road improvements occur.

In conclusion, our Capital Program proposal asks for the County's support as the college seeks to continue its pursuit of excellence, provide services to our citizens, support economic development in the region and prepares for our very important Middle States reaccreditation visit. All the data validates that an investment in Suffolk County Community College is a strategic investment in Suffolk County. I applaud this committee and the Legislature for your visionary investments historically. And I am confident that after your usual thorough examination of the facts and investment realities, you will again support the Capital Budget for Suffolk County Community College. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you very much, Dr. Pippins. And I just want to go on the record, and I'm sure this committee feels this way, you know we support the school because we feel that this is an economic stimulus for the County. And just to address the library situation, if anybody •• and I'm sure most people have been through college catalogs when they're looking for their children to go to school •• the library is one of the things that they list in those catalogs and what the library includes. It's a very important asset to the college, and that's something that we need to support, and we know that over here.

And the other thing I wanted to bring up is the point that you are making with housing, another very important issue, because if the student is accepted to the college and doesn't have transportation, if we could make it possible to have affordable campus housing, an affordable place for them to live, it makes it easier for them to attend the college. Otherwise they have a dilemma. I know that, I see that with my own girls. That is a dilemma. So again, as Chairwoman of this committee, and I know my Co•Chair always •• and I don't want to speak for you •• but we support the college, and you know that. And this committee is very supportive. Cameron •• Legislator Alden.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Vice President Stein is with me to answer any really, really tough questions that you have this morning.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I don't have any tough questions, but I do have a couple of questions. The Capital Budget, that's not paid for out of operating funds, right?

**MR. STEIN:**

No. The Capital Budget is financed 50% from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York and 50% by Suffolk County.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And Dr. Pippins, all those projects that you noted just a few minutes ago, those were in that report when you and I had a meeting that you dropped off at my office?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

I focused primarily at that meeting on the Operating Budget, and this is a supplement to that.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Just the point that I want to make is if we could get a copy of all those exact projects, because we form an omnibus, those would be some of the things that we as a committee would put into it.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We'd be happy to provide you with that information.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good. One more thing on the college, and then I just have something that's a little tangential, but the housing, do you anticipate that we have enough property on the campuses to do the housing on campus, or would we be required to purchase more property?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Well, the study will review that in some detail, but we do believe that there are some spaces on at least two of the campuses where we might look at that.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. And then this last one doesn't directly impact Suffolk Community College, but the Highway Patrol, we're going to be voting on locating the Highway Patrol possibly at the Grant Campus, is that something that, you know, you can comment on now?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

It will be temporarily used by the County and then returned after a prescribed period to the college for its use. So it's a temporary facility. And it will, in a period of three to five to seven years, become the property of the college. You want to add to that?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

We looked at it as a stop gap, because right now they have to get out of where they are, and in a couple of years from now, we might have that rest stop completed with New York State, so they can move in there. And one of the things I had suggested was to look at Suffolk Community College. And they're going to •• I think it should work out all right, but I just wanted to check with you and make sure that those are the things that you discussed.

**MR. STEIN:**

I think what's being proposed, in fact, is the result of those discussions that took place.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Good. Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Do we have any other questions?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

On that, I think it's •• if that's going to happen, it is going to be just a temporary use and then the college will get the building? And will be a usable building for the college? Is it sited appropriately? Do you have, you know, a long term plan as to how that might be used?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Vice President Gatta, you want to address that?

**MR. GATTA:**

Good morning. Actually we spent a great deal of time looking at both the short time and long term •• short term plans and the long term master plan for the Grant Campus. As we looked at an area within the campus that would be the compatible, the site that was selected does not conflict with any short or long term plans, and, in fact, in the long term, would be able to be used •• that facility, that building, would be able to be used by the college for plant and facilities for storage, for warehousing, for maintenance and those type of functions. So it would be a good addition to the campus when the Highway Patrol moves out in five years or so.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You don't have a site plan for that campus, do you, a diagram that for somebody who is less familiar like myself can see where it's going?

**MR. GATTA:**

I'll be glad •• I could fax you one.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is this a time sensitive one?

**MR. GATTA:**

Well, it's time sensitive for Highway Patrol, because they're currently located in the facility that's now owned by the Touro School of Health Sciences, which was formally a County facility in Bay Shore. That lease has expired, and it's my understanding they may need to get out of there as soon as possible. So it is time sensitive. I could provide you with a site plan of that campus, I can fax it to you later this morning when I get back to the office.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's a possibility.

**MR. STEIN:**

If I could just also make note. On your computer, if you go to the college home page, [www.sunysuffolk.edu](http://www.sunysuffolk.edu), we have the entire master plan on our homepage. And it shows all three campuses, and you can actually see the site plan there.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I appreciate that. I have a question on the Capital Budget also. I'm sorry, George.

**MR. GATTA:**

Just so you know where it is on that site plan, on the perimeter road of the Grant Campus on the very west side, there is •• you'll see a recharge basin. There's a building, a maintenance and storage building, just to south of that. This new facility would just on the other side, just to the north of that recharge basin on the west side of the campus right off of the perimeter road.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Going back to the Capital Budget, I, too, have always supported the college and want to give all the facilities that you need to have, you know, a strong academic program there. Certainly the library is essential at the Eastern Campus. I've been there, I've toured that facility, and I understand the need. And converting the space back is also very important. I think it's also important to have a place to recreate and for physical fitness. I noticed when I was there that there was nothing, not even a place to throw a basketball. I think that's essential.

In the capital •• proposed Capital Budget, the money has been taken away for that facility, and I just question the number that's attached to that project. I understand that the state is going to give 50%, but \$17 million sounded high to me for a gym and a swimming pool. Could you elaborate on the record for me a little bit on how you arrived at the \$17 million figure for that building.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

You want to address that first, Chuck?

**MR. STEIN:**

Sure. First, I just want to point out that the proposal that was put it follow SUNY standards and requirements in terms of construction of these types of facilities. The building consists of two classrooms and a multipurpose room of 2880 square feet; there's office space of 400 square feet; the lobby is 1100 square feet; the gymnasium itself is the largest part, that's 12,895 square feet; locker rooms, 2000 square feet; the pool is 8582 square feet; then there's a training room of 1500 square feet; and an aerobics room of 1154 square feet. The net total there is 30,511 square feet. There's also a construction factor called a "grossing factor" that's standard in all construction, it's 1.6. That brings your total gross area up to 48,817 square feet.

The construction costs that we calculated is \$210 a square foot, which is right in line with industry standards. There are administrative costs and fees factored in at 15%, which is standard in costing out a job. Furniture, fixture and equipment is slightly other two million, and then there are contingencies of 1.1 million. You have design costs that you have to add to that, as well as some additional furniture and equipment.

So the total comes to 17.7 million. And I know this is being closely reviewed by the Budget Review Office, which does a thorough job in terms of its examination of what numbers are proposed with the Capital Program. I know that they reviewed it last year with these factors and supported it independently, and that pretty much determined what the project was.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Well, I know that you'll be before us in a short time talking about the Operational Budget. And besides that \$17 million or seventeen•seven, there's going to be costs for, you know, the utilities for running the pool, pool chemicals, staff, lifeguards, all kinds of things. Have you looked into what those operational costs are going to be and how that might affect your Operational Budget?

**MR. STEIN:**

Yes, we have. The total staffing cost \$297,514 calculated at \$2004, so there would be a slight increase with each year. That includes the physical education instructor, a professional assistant, a principal stenographer, custodian for day and a custodian for evening. Also on the electricity, it was calculated out at \$2.07 a square foot, which came to \$101,214. The heat was calculated out. I won't go into the details, but the heat was calculated out costing on 164,400 on an annual basis. Supplies and materials at \$10,000. So the •• we've gone through quite an extensive detailed examination on the cost, both for Capital and Operating on this. Again, this was independently reviewed by Budget Review last year.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I think those numbers are actually low on the operational side. What I think •• you know, other people may have different •• different opinions here is that that project needs to be scaled back a little bit. I think it should have a recreational facility, but I'd like to see something that would cost a little bit less to run and something that would cost a little less to construct. But it should be •• there ought to be something in the budget reflecting the County's desire to construct a recreational facility. And just one last thing before we move on, and that it's going to be open to the community as well; am I correct?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Right. I think it's important keep in mind that it is an educational facility and it is a resource to the community so that you can have things on a smaller scale than those that we might do, for example, at the Grant Campus. So it has both an educational impact and an economic impact on the area.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So it can function like a YMCA might function. Will there be •• we didn't talk about revenues, but would there be •• I'm assuming there will be fees charged for using the swimming pool or other facilities; is that correct?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We would establish a structure somewhat similar to what we're doing at Grant.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. So there would be some revenues associated with this building as well?

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Yes.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Good morning, Dr, Pippins.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

Good morning.

**LEG. COOPER:**

I missed the beginning of your presentation so you may have touched upon this, but how does this recreation •• recreational facility compare to those in place at the other campuses as far as the size and scope?

**MR. STEIN:**

Well, at the Ammerman Campus, we have a gymnasium, we don't have a pool. At the Grant Campus, we have the field house, which is multipurpose and we also have the pool. At the Eastern Campus, we have an open field. We have nothing right now.

**LEG. COOPER:**

And it appears as though this is going to be a level above what's available at the other campuses.

**MR. STEIN:**

No, not at all. I think this is sized to the campus, sized to the Eastern Campus.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Well, that's the point I'm getting at. Is this in line with what's being offered at other campuses based on the student population and all the other factors?

**MR. STEIN:**

Given the student population and the surrounding community, this design will meet the needs of that •• that group. Certainly, if this was a much larger campus out east with twice the student body, this facility would sized accordingly.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

We were talking earlier today, the Grant facility, which if course, houses the police academy was, what, 53 million?

**MR. STEIN:**

It was \$54 million for the whole facility.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

That's years ago.

**MR. STEIN:**

And we also have an auxiliary gym at the Grant Campus, which is used almost exclusively by the Suffolk County Police Department.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you very much, Dr. Pippins. Legislator Carpenter has a question.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Thank you. First of all, I just want to say it really appears to be quite an exciting time for the college now with all of the initiatives that are going on. Some of us were able to be at the event in Sayville kicking off the Nursing Program partnership with Good Samaritan, the Sayville School District and the college, and that was really very exciting. And the college was at the forefront of

the issue with the nursing shortage, not only on Long Island, but nationwide, and you are going to make an impact. It was my hope when we put the money in the budget for the dorm and the housing study, that the college would be positioned to make the difference in another area that's of concern to all of us. And I know the money is in there for this year's budget, and there wasn't any put in for subsequent years or for next year. The working group will be addressing that along with the other Capital Project. But I would like to know where we are with that right now. Has that kicked off at all?

**MR. STEIN:**

We, in February, submitted the request for the appropriating resolution. It has not yet been sent to this Legislature by County Executive.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

That really is unfortunate. And I know that the County Executive's representative is here. Ben, would you please check on that and expedite that, because if it went over in February and here we are in May, and I know the County Executive is committed to the issue of affordable housing, and there is a link, okay?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We have •• we have discussed it. We have discussed it at the •• you know, in the County Executive's Office, this has been a topic of great debate. And I'll be up later to talk about some other •• I don't want to interrupt the Suffolk County Community College people from their presentation today. But glad to speak to that if you like just briefly.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Rather than speaking to that and speaking to us, I'd prefer that you take the message back that we'd like to see this move forward expeditiously.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Sure.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

I think the time for talking is over and the time for doing is now. Thank you. The other initiative that the college is working on that I've heard a lot about and a lot of excitement is the Riverhead project with the Culinary Program, again, tying into the downtown. And you just have been doing so many wonderful things. And I thank you for coming forward today with this outline of the Capital Projects, because I think it's very helpful. We just had our first working group meeting yesterday and starting touching on some of these projects and having this knowledge. I know yesterday we had a hearing and Chuck brought up with the point of the Nicholls Road project and how important it is to coordinate these kinds of things.

You know, you hear from people all the time, I don't understand it, you know, the water company came in did •• you know, laid some lines and then •• you know, right after the road was repaved and why can't you guys get together and do things in a coordinated fashion. And that's what you're trying to do. So that is really very important in this time of decreasing revenues that we look at how we spend money and spend it carefully and make sure that we're not doing things twice. So that was an important point.

And the other thing I wanted to mention, I happened to be at the Grant Campus for something the other day and came upon a group that was just leaving a meeting, and it was the group for

the Middle States Accreditation. And I know it's referred to time and time again, but sometimes I think people lose sight of import of Middle States and what extremely long laborious project it is for the college to prepare for this. And here we are in 2005, Middle States Accreditation is taking place in 2007, and they're already working on things that they can do to make sure that we do get that accreditation.

It's the first time that Middle States is looking at us with the idea of the one campus •• one college and three campuses rather than looking at the campuses individually. And the point was made about the last time they were here that we were cited for not having a library in an appropriate fashion at the Riverhead Campus. So that really makes it more incumbent upon us than ever. The actions that we take here at the Legislature, sometimes we don't stop to realize how the ripple effect and how important it is for other things. So thank you for bringing that to your attention, and we look forward to working together with you on it.

**DR. PIPPINS:**

All right. Thank you very much for your support.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you, Dr. Pippins. And, George, you might as well stay right there. We're going to go right into the next presentation.

**MR. GATTA:**

I wanted to spend just a few minutes giving you an update on our progress in moving forward the project that Legislator Carpenter referred to earlier, and that is the Culinary Arts and

Hospitality Facility in downtown Riverhead. I was here •• but before I say that, there are •• we do have some representatives here from our Parr Development and also from Baldassano, the architectural firm who is working on the project. And they will be coming up and talking about the facility itself.

If I would, I'd just like to take a minute to, you know, give you an update from when I last briefed you, which was back in November, when we were here talking about some funding that the Legislature provided through Resolution 1112•04 where you provided \$30,000 for some upfront money to help us begin acquiring some of the equipment that would be needed to outfit this new facility. Thanks to your support, the Legislature unanimously approved that resolution, and we're in the process of acquiring that equipment •• some of that equipment right now.

Just briefly, we went through a competitive Request For Proposal process over the past year with respect to this facility. The college received two proposals. The most superior proposal was for this site from Parr Development. The Board of Trustees reviewed that with administration and in January, authorized us to negotiate a lease with Parr Development for this facility. You have a copy of elevations and floor plans for that facility. It's two stories, approximately 28,000 square feet and contains both •• all the facilities we would need for not just our current program, which offers a Culinary Arts degree, but would allow us expand into culinary and restaurant management, hotel and resort management, and a third being baking and pastry arts as well as offering a certificate in wine studies linking very closely with the growing wine industry that we have on the East End of this County.

Following the authorization by the Board of Trustees to negotiate that lease with Parr Development, we have made excellent progress. And we are very close to finalizing those negotiations, and we anticipate bringing it to the Board of Trustees within the next month. And we would then hope to bring it before this Legislature in a similar time frame. There was an issue and there is an issue relating to the property on which this is located. That property is currently vacant, and there's been a title dispute between Sweezy's and the Town of Riverhead,

which has been in the courts. But last week, the Town of Riverhead authorized a public hearing to commence eminent domain proceedings to take title of that property to allow this project to go forward.

So what we're seeing is really a local, County and state partnership, and I mention state, because Senator LaValle has already pledged and we've already applied for \$250,000 in state money to also help us along with County funds to outfit that facility to pay for the pastry labs, the culinary labs and the other equipment that needs to go into that building. So the project is moving along well. In terms of the facility itself, Charlie Baldassano and his staff could •• could run through it quickly it with you, and then if you have any questions, we would be very happy to respond.

**MR. BALDASSANO:**

Good morning. We are here this morning to present a very exciting project out in Riverhead, the Suffolk County Community College Culinary Arts. In conjunction with Parr Development, we are currently advancing the design. We have the presentation material that we'd like to quickly go through with you. We also have the handouts that you can review at the same time. But this becomes another economic generator for the Town of Riverhead where both the patrons and the merchants in the community can begin to enjoy this facility right on Main Street right in the middle of •• the center of Main Street, both east and west. So Phil can now walk you through quickly the lab, the plan, starting with the site plan. Thank you.

**MR. MONASTERO:**

Okay. The site is located, as was stated, at the previous Sweezy's site, which is just east of Roanoke Avenue right in the heart of downtown Riverhead facing Main Street. It has access to Main Street as well as the municipal parking lot in the rear of the building. So just to give you an orientation, it's right in the heart of Riverhead. And I'll go through the floor plan quickly just

to show you the functions on each floor.

The first floor •• you can see it from your handout, it might be a little better •• you'll see the culinary arts lab as well as the bakery•pastry located •• I'm sorry. The first floor, the main entrance would be at the lobby here on the parking lot side on the north side of the building, which would be the main entrance and the security desk for the students. On that same floor there will be the bakery and pastry lab as well as the culinary arts lab. There are other rooms as well as classrooms, lecture rooms, that can be divided up into classrooms or other multipurpose spaces.

On the first floor it's relatively faculty and other conference rooms as well as a demo theatre, which will act as a demonstration area for their instruction. One of the most exciting parts of this is that the retail bakery will actually be on Main Street and will have access to Main Street as well as the school.

On the second floor will be the seven classrooms, the building administration, office space for adjunct professors as well as other utilities and student study areas. Just bring you over to the elevations, you can see from the top elevation will be the main, the north parking entrance, will be the student entrance which will have class and be very exposed and natural light being brought into the lobby area, which can actually act as a reception area when there are functions.

The Main Street elevation is really exciting because what we tried to do is blend the elevation with the existing buildings on Main Street, breaking down the patterns and giving it that Main Street look with awnings and that type of architecture. So as the building really relates to the college, to the parking lot and the rear entrance and to Main Street, I think you have a building here that really satisfies a lot of goals. And it's an exciting project for us. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you. Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

George, you mentioned before that Riverhead is going to do an eminent domain on part of this parcel.

**MR. GATTA:**

They've already authorized the public hearing, which I believe set for June 7th on this •• on this parcel. Also I believe they've begun to take steps to designate Parr Development as an urban renewal sponsor for this project.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

This is a partnership project with them, so we're not going to have to reimburse them for their costs incurred through the eminent domain, right?

**MR. GATTA:**

The cost for the eminent domain will not be handled by •• it won't be a County obligation. We will •• we will be leasing this facility from Parr Development for a 20 year period. The payments right now are \$19 a square foot for that facility. But all of the costs associated the taking of the property and any ancillary costs there are not our responsibility.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. So we anticipate Riverhead consolidating title and then transferring to Parr Development and then we deal with Parr Development for 20 years.

**MR. GATTA:**

That's correct.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

All right.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I want to thank you for the presentation. And I want to go on record as saying this is sorely needed in Riverhead. I love the idea of having the bakery, and better yet, having a community college that has a Culinary Institute. It's really something we can be proud of.

**MR. GATTA:**

I thank you for the opportunity this morning. I just wanted to put this on your radar screen. Once the resolution is sent over, I'll be glad to go into it in much more detail. I'll be happy to respond to any questions you have at that time.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you very much.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We are going to go to the cards. Peter Quinn.

**MR. QUINN:**

Good morning, members of the committee. My name is Peter Quinn, Energy Analyst, Long Island Coalition for Democracy. On the one hand •• well, you know that for many years I've been an advocate of renewable energy and energy efficiency. So on the one hand, I applaud you for passing two pieces of legislation dealing with that subject. On the other hand, I'm critical, because the amount of money is so negligible when you think of it. Both combined proposals don't even match the proposed recreation center in Eastport ••

**LEG. COOPER:**

Peter, check your mike.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We're keeping it off to conserve energy.

**MR. QUINN:**

As I was saying, neither of those proposals even come close to matching what the Suffolk County Community College called for their recreation officer, but I was •• by comparison, when one considers Broadwater Energy and the cost of natural gas. An energy person at a meeting I

attended last week suggested that the cost would be around \$70 billion given the current cost of natural gas over a period of 30 years. Now, Long Island's section would get roughly 25% of that. My guess is that the price of natural gas isn't going to stay the same, so that the total cost may run as high as \$100 billion just for natural gas.

So consider instead •• I had made the proposal at a previous hearing of \$155 million bond. I based that on the \$31 million that taxpayers would save from a 1% cut in energy taxes, and I simply extrapolated that for a period of five years. Suppose instead that you proposed \$250 million in a bond that allowed the public to decide on instead of the partisanship behind your bipartisanship in passing those two pieces of legislation. I've been around here for 30 something years, so I know what happened in passing both of those bills. Neither side wanted to lose credit for saying that the other side passed a resolution on renewable energy. But suppose this were divided over the same period of years, that's \$50 billion a year, it's more than what LIPA currently spends across Long Island on renewable energy with half of that taken up advertising ad nauseam, you allowed money to be spent evenly among government, business and homeowners, and you set up a program to arrange this to happen over a period of five years. Now over 70% of the people in polls have shown that they support renewable energy.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Just sum up.

**MR. QUINN:**

Why not let them decide by putting a proposition on the ballot that enabled them today? Then if people don't support it, then you have lost nothing. If they support it, then you have all benefitted and can take credit for it. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

That you, sir. Joanna \\_Ferrara•Levy\\_.

**MS. \\_FERRARA•LEVY\\_:**

Good morning. I represent the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Good morning.

**MS. \\_FERRARA•LEVY\\_:**

And we have a resolution, Resolution 1386, is on your agenda today. And although I am staying here for another meeting at 11 o'clock, I brought along with me our consultant, Walter Dunn from Dunn Associates. So I'm just asking, respectfully asking, if we could possibly move up on it a agenda so that he could go to his next appointment. Thank you.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I can make motion to take that out of order.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you very much. While you are here, I have a motion to take 1386 out of order, I will

second the motion. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Why don't we just finish the public portion, though. We have two more cards.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I made a motion to take 1386 out of order.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

You didn't finish the public portion yet. So you made a motion to close the public portion?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No. No.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

No. We just want to take 1386 out of order.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

How many speakers do we have?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We have two more speakers. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Opposed. You have two more cards.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Opposed, one. Okay. **1386** is before us, **authorizing use of property at Gabreski Airport by the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center.** Do I have a motion?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Seconded by Legislator Foley.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Explanation.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Explanation, Counsel.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

This is a proposal to use an area at Gabreski airport for parking related to a concert, the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center. It's a benefit concert for the center itself, and it's not going to require any shutting down of any runways or anything else. It's •• Dunn has presented before the Lease Screening Committee, which went through unanimously, the approval for this. It's non•aviation so you're seeing it before you here today. But I think it's very well organized, and I don't see it as a problem. And it's something that's going to benefit the Westhampton Beach Village area.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

What are the costs associated with it?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We're receiving, I think, \$1000 in payments based on the number of cars that will potentially be there.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Do we have to provide security or any type of services for that •• for the use of it?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Maybe they can answer that. I will they came •• they asked •• there was a similar request last year, but because of US Open, we were not able to grant it for a concert. I'm hoping we can this year. The representative from Dunn is here.

**MR. DUNN:**

Good morning. My name is Walter Dunn from Dunn engineering Associates. I'm very pleased to be here today. I mentioned when I came before the Screening Committee last time that I have the rare honor of being here to sing for Aretha Franklin so she can sing for us, and she will be the main attraction.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's changed.

**MR. DUNN:**

I apologize. I guess I'm getting updated information like the Legislators are.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Wait. Wait. What happened to Aretha Franklin now?

**MR. DUNN:**

I guess it's Patti Labelle.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

So took the last train to Georgia •• midnight train.

**MR. DUNN:**

I'm going to be singing for the first time for Patti today then. Essentially, we developed certain elements. One of them is a security plan, and the security plan is aimed at ensuring the security of the airport grounds and also protecting the safety of the patrons coming in to park their cars at the airport. There will be a shuttle bus operation that will bring the patrons from the parking area to the village and return the same route at the end of the show. What we have been doing is we've worked with the airport manager, developed a security plan which included security fencing, there's also personnel that's going to be on•site to maintain the security, and that will be both a private firm as well as police officer and volunteers.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm going to address the questions, through the Chair to you then, I guess. Do you have an insurance policy that names the County, and what amount?

**MR. DUNN:**

I believe it's \$2 million the that the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center had.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

And there's an indemnification clause, too, whereby if we're sued, you're going to indemnify and

hold us harmless?

**MR. DUNN:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Out in the peanut gallery I see them nodding their heads yes.

**MS. BRADDISH:**

Basia Braddish, County Attorney's Office. I believe the license agreement was attached. It essentially includes all our standard requirements that we would have in any lease or license agreement, insurance, security, clean up responsibilities, indemnification, so.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Is the \$2 million a new limit?

**MS. BRADDISH:**

Yes.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

It used to be \$1 million, right? Now, I saw a memo that everybody's got to have \$2 million worth of insurance.

**MS. BRADDISH:**

I think it's been that way actually for a while.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I have a motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

A second by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? 1386 is **approved. (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

**MR. DUNN:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**MS. \\_FERARRA•LEVY\\_:**

I just want to thank you very much. We're a not•for•profit organization that raises about \$700,000 for operating, and this will be part of work this year. And the County has been very supportive of us from our very beginnings in 1998. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you. Next card, Kathleen Giamo. Kathleen, you filled out a card to speak. Did you want to come up speak, you had spoken last time you were here?

**MS. GIAMO:**

No. I just wanted to make everyone aware, I was here. If there are any other questions anybody had, I'm prepared to answer.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Diana Schmidt•O'Brian.

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

Good morning. My name is Diana Schmidt. I'm here this morning, I guess, to talk about the Film Commission. And I've been talking to Michele Stark about trying to bring film work to the Eastern End of Long Island. I think I would be a valuable asset to the committee, because I do work •• I'm a line producer•production manager in the film business, and I deal primarily with unions, the Mayor's Office and the practical logistical ends of making films happen.

And quite frankly, there's a huge population of filmmakers that live on the East End, and there's no work here. So I would like to bring that work here. There's a number of ways to go about it; bringing about qualified production facilities, working with the unions to make Long Island, a portion of Long Island, a designated production zone so that the unions can get around and producers can get around the hurdle of putting up crew members on the East End. The per diem and the housing costs have always been prohibitive to bring work out here. So I think that by working the unions, bringing in a stage facility of some sort like Bayonne, New Jersey, we can bring work out to Long Island.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you. And thank you for coming here. I know you've been out of state for a while producing all sorts of movies. It's nice to have you here. Thank you. Does anybody have any questions?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I would just say that, you know, I appreciate your willingness to serve. I know you are very busy. It's great to have somebody, you know, with the type of credentials you have. My own question might be is will you have the time to put into this committee being that you have such a busy work schedule?

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

I mean, quite frankly, you know, I am busy, but I think this is a very important cause, quite frankly. I live in North Haven, and I would love to bring the work out there so I can live there full time. I am very dedicated to it. I'm sure there will be times where I'm on a job and I'm

working a 24 hour day and I won't be able to make it. However, from my conversations with Michele, I believe the required meetings are only quarterly. And I think a lot of the work that can be done are meetings actually with the Mayor's Office in New York, the IA Locals, Local 52, Local 600. So a lot of that work I can do sporadically. It doesn't have to be necessarily driving out here for •• you know, a two hour drive to come out here. I can do a lot of the work home •based, over the phone, setting up meetings, etcetera. And I think looking at the committee, there needs to be practical understanding of how film making happens to make those contacts.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You understand driving two hours to do what you have to do. Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Hi. Thanks for coming down. Could you just explain a little bit more about what you said before and how there's no •• it's expensive, I guess, and there's no facilities right now to house the production crews and things like that. What you were talking about a partnership with New York State? So New York State would build dormitories or New York State ••

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

No. No. It's not about that. It's just that major motion features are based on union crews, IA local crews, and you have to pay per diem and housing costs if they come out here overnight. However, I would say conservatively 30 to 40% of the membership lives within the 631•516 area code area. If there was a clause in the union deal that anyone that lived within a 30 mile radius of any production facility or that location, they didn't have to house them, per diem them, that's saving probably \$150 per day per person. So that cost right there is a savings that can be tabled.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That might be a tough sell to the membership, though.

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

Well, the membership has a huge population that lives on the East End, and I think they would

rather reverse the commute. I know people that drive from Southampton every morning at 5 o'clock in the morning to get to the city on time for 6:00 a.m. call or whatever. They would rather do the reverse commute and drive from Riverhead to Southampton. And the locations out in the East End are beautiful, and the only thing that's prohibiting the shooting out here is that cost.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

So you would work with who to try to get those clauses?

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

I would love to take Michele to Local 52, meet with John \\_Fundis, Heim Kanser\\_ at Local 600. I mean, it's a long hurdle. It's union legislation as well, it's labor laws. However, there's a studio in Bayonne, New Jersey. They accomplished that. They built a studio there, they declared it a production zone, and all the crew members report there as locals.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

All right. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. COOPER:**

I don't know if you can answer this question or not, but a few years ago, I won a walk•on role in Law and Order in the Leukemia Society auction. Obviously I wasn't a SAG member, but I spent 14 hours on the set. I had the choice location. They happened to choose me to sit right behind the defense attorney for the first half day of filming and right behind the prosecutor the second half day. And I got paid \$31 for 14 hours of work, and I ended up with, I think, being on the show for four seconds. The rest ended up on the cutting room floor. How common is that?

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

Very common, extremely common.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Welcome to Hollywood, Jon.

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

I spent two years in Sex and the City and often we would shoot on the average seven minutes of scenes that never ended up in the show.

**LEG. COOPER:**

They actually had •• at my office, they had an office pool, and they made a poster with my photo and the star •• "A Star is Born," and everyone guessed how much time I would actually get to appear, and I think they ranged from ten seconds to 25 minutes. And I said, whose the joker who said ten seconds. I think it was four seconds. I mean, you saw my shoulder in one scene and my other shoulder in the other scene, but it was an experience. And if I could have signed up, you know, paid dues and become a SAG member, I would given this all up in a second, because I really got into it, but then I found out that you needed to have experience on Broadway first, it's not that easy to just become a SAG member.

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

It's kind of a Catch•22.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Do you want to go on with this meeting or you want to go onto Broadway?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

He wants to talk about his failed Hollywood career here.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you very much. While we are here and we have people coming up, I'm going to ask Cleveland Johnson to come up and make his presentation, please. Maybe you could just make a short presentation for us before we go into the agenda.

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Madam Chair and members of the committee, good morning. I'm Cleveland Johnson. I am, I believe, here to be considered as a possible candidate for the IDA Board. I'm pleased to be given the opportunity to meet with you to discuss that possibility. And I don't want to just go into a litany of past employments and activities, but to give you a very brief background check ••

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Excuse me just one second, if I could stop you. Do we have your resume?

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You can go on while we're looking.

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Work background, I guess, would be the appropriate area to begin with. My work background is that I've worked literally at every level of government other than village, leaving what was to be a full career in the Police Department of New York City. I began work out here in Suffolk County in local government in the Town of Islip. I started a Department of Community Affairs for the town, which at that time, I guess, was the first town-wide department of such in the state. The focus of that and my efforts then were to assist in the somewhat of cleaning up of the problems that had been hoisted on the town by the rapid expansion of housing in Islip's sections on Brentwood, Bay Shore and Central Islip to accommodate the growing employment needs in our then roaring defense industry.

Houses were built in a somewhat shoddy fashion in those years to meet that need, very low income construction costs. And it resulted in a considerable number of problems, both economically and socially. From that effort in the town, which I consider to be one of my most memorable parts of government service, I thought at the same time that it allowed me to be as creative as possible in a government position, creating programs that affected not just the housing and physical structures of the region, but also to work with the residents and community.

I must have done something right, I was asked to subsequently become Deputy Supervisor

under two supervisors there of both party's administrations. And having served there for a number of years, I was then given the opportunity to work here in County Government as Deputy County Executive under John Klein. I served for most of his two terms and then was invited to go into higher education as the Chief of Staff, Executive Assistant to the President of the State University serving in that for a number of years and then being promoting to Vice President for College Development and having responsibility for raising funds for the campus, coordinating alumni, creating the foundation.

I thought after that ten years at University, I was combining my town and county and state service and retiring from government. I began my consulting work and was then asked to come to the White House to be interviewed for an assistant secretary position there. At that stage of my career, I declined that and wanted not to go to Washington, so I was appoint Regional Director for the US Department of Health and Human Service for Region II offices in New York City. During that period, my responsibilities were for all of the Human Service Programs, including Social Security at the time for the 27 or so million people in this region consisting of New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

My department at the time, Health and Human Services, was probably •• not probably, was indeed the largest unit of government, a budget of somewhat \$600 billion at the time. My region, which I was responsible for, Region II, comprised some \$64 billion in expenditures. After a term there, I again retired from government and have been engaged in private industry since. The activities in private industry have been primarily consulting with a number of my own companies and also a couple of public companies, which I serve on the board. I'm a Director with Allstate Life Insurance, IntraAmerica Life Insurance, and I have interest in a couple of other local businesses, health care, etcetera. I currently do some fundraising for not•for•profits through another company that I'm engaged in, and I'm in my own consulting business. And I look forward to, if possible, the opportunity to serve with my County again in this capacity.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Does anybody have any questions? No questions? Thank you. Oh. Our guest today, Legislator Lindsay.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

Good morning, Mr. Johnson. Thank you for coming here.

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Good morning.

**LEG. LINDSAY:**

There are two candidates vying for this appointment, and we asked the same question of the previous candidate, so it isn't as if I'm picking on you. Recently this Legislature passed a resolution that was sponsored by the Presiding Officer that more than strongly suggested or asked that our IDA appointees to try to implement a policy within our Suffolk County IDA to have prevailing rates paid on IDA jobs. Would you have any problem with implementing that policy?

**MR. JOHNSON:**

One of my activities since government was that I was a part owner in a construction company. During that time we found that prevailing rates and union rates were, of course, one of the difficult areas of meeting our lowest bid requirements in some cases. But recognizing the importance of organized labor to the fulfillment of many dreams for many workers, my company was a union contractor. When engaged in activity that had government subcontracting, we provided prevailing wages to all of our employees. And I certainly have not changed my view of

the necessity to abide by those rules.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you, sir.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yes, Legislator Foley.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I have several questions. Mr. Johnson, if you could, when we have other candidates for this position, most recently Ms. Giamo at our last committee meeting, could you give us some •• some ideas as to what you see the mission of the IDA and how your proposed tenure there would result in realizing what you believe the mission is of the IDA? And also how do you see the IDA in a larger context of being part of an approach in County Government where we're trying to revitalize downtown areas as well as to bring in a greater diversity of businesses and corporations into the County at large?

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Mr. Foley, and members of the committee, it's my view that an IDA with its broad authority and powers is critical to the further economic expansion of the economy. It's critical in that the functions of providing incentives to industry to locate here, to relocate to this area, to expand in development and projects is critical in the overall expansion of the economy. If we do not provide the necessary incentives, this business will go elsewhere.

The ability to provide tax incentives, to provide tax exemptions, to provide financing at low interest rates is essential to that function. I think •• I think that the opportunity to incentivize industry is also challenged by a necessity to be extremely prudent with the incentives and exemptions that are granted. I think the case in point in today's Newsday with the Hempstead resource recovery issue is one that could be cited. It's incumbent then, I think, on anyone looking at these projects with a responsibility to vote upon them to try as best possible to forecast long range impact of these decisions. To do less, is to invite the historical review that unfortunately in hindsight is somewhat critical of the decisions made by these boards in years past.

I think the history here in Suffolk County has been one of prudence and clear judgment. I wish that could be case going forward. I would hope that any decisions that I would be a part of would have the advantage of all the research and forecasting that can possibly be brought to bare to realize the full impact of those decisions and not just the immediate benefit.

I would hope that the background that I have in government and public service and some involvement in construction and building related activity would give me an insight that would be beneficial to the work of that board.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

A follow up, Madam Chair, if I may. One of the points that was raised during Ms. Giamo's

question and answer period at the last committee meeting, it was the point that she had raised when we asked the question about the need to have prevailing wage •• like to have prevailing wage payment, if you will, for IDA projects, and it's something that we hadn't thought of, quite frankly, until she had pointed out and I'd like to have your thoughts on it, that is would •• by having the Suffolk County IDA in essence requiring or placing incentives to have prevailing wage jobs through the IDA, does that put the County IDA at a competitive disadvantage with town IDAs that aren't making that requirement? And if so, how would you address that particular competitive issue vis a vis with local town IDAs?

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Were that to continue as a disparity between town and county IDAs, I suspect it would put you at somewhat of a disadvantage in the competitiveness of it, yes. But it would be my view that this should not continue to have a disparity. I should think the County would make every effort to coordinate with towns and to provide some leadership in terms of getting everyone on the same page with this so that there's not a vying and a competitiveness between entities of mutual interest.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

More directly I think the point would be that •• what would you do to speak directly to town IDAs about the issue? For instance, would you advocate to town IDAs that they should also include provisions regarding prevailing wage payment for those construction workers who receive town IDA funding? That's my point. Not just to have us as elected officials, but also have the members of the IDA when they speak with the towns or with others about the need •• although you can't pass a resolution per se on it, we can understand that. But certainly to use the position to try to persuade other IDAs take the same tack that the County is taking, which is to in essence encourage the use of prevailing wage provisions within the IDA contracts. Would you yourself •• how would you see yourself in trying to promote that at the more local IDA level is what I'm saying.

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Again, Mr. Foley, my view is certainly prevailing rates have been criticized as adding to the capital costs of most construction projects. Many people feel that if we can avoid doing so, we should because it would the necessity for increased costs to these projects. But I'm not writing the legislation that requires prevailing rate, and since we are a part of the government system that passes down the requirements of prevailing wage, I think we are incumbent •• it's incumbent us to continue to observe and to follow the law. With respect more directly to your question as to what I would do, as a member ••

**LEG. FOLEY:**

As a member. As a member, you interact, as you know, quite often with those in the Islip IDA, I am sure you do. I know that you probably interact with others throughout the County. See, part of what we're looking at here is to put our new membership on a whole broad range of commissions in the County to think of the box and not simply to look at it strictly within the terms of the strict definition of what a member is for a certain commission or certain agency.

And part of what we're trying to do here is to bring in new people and different commissions and boards and agencies that will take a fresh look at how those agencies not only act within their own particular mission statement, but how they will interact with comparable agencies and the like with other municipalities. And one of the concerns that we would have, and again, it's a point that we didn't think of, but rather one the candidates for this position brought up the excellent point of whether or not there's an issue of competitiveness vis a vis the differences between Town IDAs and County IDAs. And I think it's very important for perspective candidates to have not only a recognition of that issue, but also how one intends to go about addressing that issue so that the •• so that, let's say, the specter or the concern of being at a disadvantage competitively speaking will be blunted by trying to work with other town •• with Town IDAs to advocate for some symmetry among the different agencies and how they approach contract work

through their different IDA Boards.

It's a point I'm just simply raising. I think it's one that •• that needs further evaluation. If I may have one follow up point, Madam Chair, and it's to Mr. Johnson. There's been quite a bit of discussion over the years almost to the point of being a cliché about public•private partnerships. And the other candidate for this particular position went on great at length about some creative ways in which the IDA can utilize public•private partnerships to realize its mission. How do you see public•private partnerships as means of creating jobs or moving forward with a diverse economic development agenda that we're trying to pursue in the County?

**MR. JOHNSON:**

It's my view that with a number of years of direct service in the public service in government that the least amount of government direct action in terms of construction, etcetera, the better. I think it's generally conceded that it is better to leave to the private sector these major development programs and to assist the private industry of our region to carry forth these capital project. Certainly I would not change that view of government's role being one of assisting rather than being the initiator and developer.

I would think there should be considerable amount of effort put into seeking, developing and working with private as well local governments to become more creative in our approach to industrial development and economic development overall. I think there's something that is happening even as we speak, and that is in a really critical and vital area of our economy, every speaker that's been before you today has in one way or the other addressed the subject of housing. It's critical nature to all of what we are looking at. Housing and related construction affording the opportunities for families to both live and stay here, to work and produce and to contribute to our economy is something that I think cannot be overlooked or discredited.

I would if bear with me and allow a personal reference, my first responsibilities in government, in town government, were primarily concerned with just that subject and working with Lee Koppleman and professional planning firms such as \\_Candub and Fleisic\\_ and others at that time, we developed proposal related to community development and housing that I think have set a groundwork from the town level and carrying on through the County for providing these essential services through the use of innovative and creative employment of the private sector, I worked then in town government with private sector builders. I worked thus in the County and in state. It would be my view that that's an essential approach to effective government activity to maximize the assistance that we can give to the private sector to do what they do best.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

You said you worked with Mr. Koppleman on this particular •• how long •• how long was that, Mr. Johnson?

**MR. JOHNSON:**

I'm old. I'm going back to my beginnings in town government in 1965 and continuing through my County years of 1979 and continuing in friendship with him now.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Legislator Schneiderman, you have a quick question?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Sure. As I look at Suffolk County as a whole, I see ••

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Schneiderman, I just wanted to remind you we have an eleven o'clock.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I will be as quick as I can. I see a lot of challenges ahead for Suffolk County. I see •• you know, between building jails and other costs increasing costs, we have some difficult choices ahead. And I don't see increasing taxes as a viable options, because that only burdens a group of people who are leaving at historically high rates now because of the high cost of living. And I don't see cutting programs as an answer, because I think there's an increasing dependancy on many of the vital programs the County provides. So that leaves really one other option, which is to grow Suffolk County's economy, which is •• you know, the funds for providing these programs come largely out of sales tax revenues. So as we grow our economy, I think, we see a way through these challenges. And so economic development, industrial development, becomes particularly important.

Rather than have you go into that •• you know, my colleague was asking some very specific questions about prevailing wage. I'm not going to ask those questions. I feel that in terms of his questions about being qualified to try to resolve those issues with the towns, you have a tremendous municipal background as I listening. Look, I see we have two excellent candidates who are vying for this position, both very strong, both have good backgrounds, one has more of a background in the construction side of the things, one has more of a municipal background,

yourself. And, I think that, you know, these are things that the board will have to or the committee will have to look at. But I am thrilled to see that people want to be on that IDA and particularly people with very strong credentials.

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Thank you, Mr. Schneiderman.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you. Thank you very much, Legislator Schneiderman. Thank you very much.

**MR. JOHNSON:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Just to •• we are going to go on to the agenda, and I'm going to **1030, approving the appointment of Diana D. Schmidt as a member of the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission (COUNTY EXEC).**

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

On the motion, Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I just don't want my vote to be interpreted as an endorsement of something I heard for the first time just a few minutes ago, and that's to put the squeeze on union members. If there's some kind of a strategy that could make it less expensive and that could be arrived at through negotiation or whatever way, that's fine. She has a lot of credentials, and I don't want to see her penalized and not put on this board for that reason, but I don't endorse ••

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I don't believe that is at all what she was saying. She was saying trying to work with the unions is something that would be beneficial to the union.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

That's fine. I'm just clarifying my position if that's okay with the rest of the committee.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I have a motion and second by Legislator Schneiderman. All in favor? Opposed? **Approved.**

**(VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

The next one I'm going to take is **1291, appointing Kathleen Giamo as a member of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (LINDSAY).**

Kathleen Giamo was here during the last meeting and did make a presentation, so I'm going to take that first in fairness to her. I'm going to motion the motion to approve 1291.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm going to abstain.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Abstain.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm abstaining.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. We have a motion to table by Legislator Foley.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I just want to put on the record that when Kathleen Giamo was here at the last meeting, I thought the presentation was incredibly comprehensive. And I think •• yes, she here at the last meeting, she made a presentation, and I could not have been more impressed. And I just wanted to say that. We have a motion to table, seconded by ••

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Just on the motion, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We don't have a second yet.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second the motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You made the motion.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Yes, I did.

**LEG. COOPER:**

And I seconded it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Seconded by Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

On the motion. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank you for your comments. Of the 11, and now almost 11 and a half years that I've been now a member of the County Legislature, I cannot think of •• to echo the comments of the Chair, I cannot think of a more comprehensive and exceptional presentation made by a potential member of the IDA give at the last meeting by Ms. Giamo. She went to great detail, not only about the local ramifications, if you will, of the potential of the IDA, but also bringing her national and also international perspective and experience in this area, to put together not just a rhetorical presentation of how things should be better in the County, but actually a ten point plan of how to develop these public•private partnerships, how to reach to other areas of the country in order to try to tap potential businesses to move to this particular area as well as realizing that some homegrown businesses need to grow here locally.

I thought her presentation was excellent, not only from a general point of view, but also in the specifics. It's that kind of vitality of ideas and of experience that we need to bring do bare on the IDA. And I think she would be a great appointment. I think it is very unfortunate to have to be tabled. I had hoped that we could have approved this particular resolution, this particular nominee, at the last meeting. It was tabled in order for Mr. Mannix to be at the subsequent meeting. And now we see Mr. Mannix is no longer the •• let's say the other candidate, but there's now a new name to replace the original one. So, you know, it escapes me as to why there's, in essence, a search to find someone other than this particular nominee to be placed on the IDA Board. And I think that's most unfortunate.

I think she has proven herself over the years to be a leader, not only in the field of business, but also a leader in showing how particularly women professionals have made great strides in this particular county to be finally treated as they should be as equal partners in field of business. And she has been one of leaders in that particular battle. I'll call it a battle, because I'm sure it was over these many years. So she would be an exceptional members to that particular board.

I have to raise a red flag as to why there's now a second name put forward in place of the first name that was of another candidate as if they're trying to find someone in order to block Ms. Giamo from being on the IDA Board. And I think that's •• I think that's most unfortunate.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. I would have to say that I am in agreement with Legislator Foley up to a certain point, because I am supporting Kathleen Giamo.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

On the motion, Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I think it's just a sign of the times. And basically, we have had three great candidates. And Bill Mannix would have been a great candidate to consider, Kathleen Giamo certainly made a fantastic presentation, and somebody who, Cleveland Johnson, you can't question his credentials and •• as far as the amount that that man is going to contribute if he is appointed to that board. So I think we are in a good position in Suffolk County when you have three fantastic people whose names were put forward. I would like to have that problem with every board and every appointment that we try to make in Suffolk County.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We have a motion to table .

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

What is it?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

On the motion, Legislator Schneiderman.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I guess this would be for Counsel, but are there any other openings? I mean, it would be great to see both these candidates on the IDA. I hate having to pick between them.

**MS. KNAPP:**

The IDA Board is in large part governed by State Law. And I've been frantically trying to do a little computer research as we're sitting here anticipating that someone would ask that question. And we do not set the number in our •• it's not found in our County Code. However, I have a recollection of doing research about 12 years ago on this issue, and I'm trying to remember, I found something in the very old Proceedings of the Legislature going back to, I think, 1968.

I am going to do a little bit more State Law research to see whether or not we do set the number. The only comment I would make though is every IDA board member serves at the pleasure of this Legislature, so that there are no terms. The alternative that immediately presents itself without any further research is that you may want to look at the membership and see whether everyone is a fully attending, fully participating member. And I will try to come up with an answer about how we can expand.

**LEG. COOPER:**

How many members are there?

**MS. KNAPP:**

I believe six.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

It's an even number? That's interesting.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Jim, would you step forward for a moment?

**MS. KNAPP:**

Again, this is something that goes back a long way, the IDA has been in existence ••

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Does Commissioner Morgo have more information on this that would be helpful to us?

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

I just got here. You want me to come up?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Yes. I would make that request. You know that answer?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Just quickly. Do you know how many members are on the IDA?

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

Six.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

There are six members. Okay. Does that answer your question.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Do you know if it could be expanded?

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

I don't think so.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Well, I think Counsel just answered the question that she was going to look into that.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Are all of the members coming to the meetings?

**COMMISSIONER MORGO:**

Yes. I just got here, but I think you're talking about the fact that George Gatta resigned a couple of months ago and you're talking about his replacement, right? So there is one vacancy.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But we have excellent candidates.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Well, there actually, there were three candidates. One has been a constant candidate, the other one is a replacement for another one who dropped out.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You know what? Instead of going into that, we have a motion to table.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Reluctantly. On the record, reluctantly, reluctant tabling.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I certainly agree.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Only because there weren't enough votes for approval.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We have a motion to table 1291, seconded by Legislator Cooper.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Reluctantly.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All in favor? I'm in favor of tabling. Opposed?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Opposed.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Opposed.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Opposed, Legislator Schneiderman, Legislator Carpenter, Legislator Alden. Tabling motion **fails**.  
**(VOTE: 3•3•0•0).**

**1192, appointing Cleveland Johnson, Jr. as a member of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (CARPENTER).**

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Opposed.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Opposed •• no, abstain.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

1192 is **APPROVED**.

**(VOTE: 4•1•1•0) (Opposed; Legis. Foley) (Abstain; Legis. Cooper).**

**1360, a Local Law No •• 2005, a Charter Law to streamline County government by abolishing the Airport Lease Screening Committee (COUNTY EXEC).** This has to be tabled for public hearing, correct, Counsel?

**MS. KNAPP:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to table by Legislator Alden, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? **Tabled for a public hearing. (VOTE: 6•0•0•0)**

**1367, appropriating funds in connection with the HVACR Technology and Services**

**Building (COUNTY EXEC).** Motion by Legislator Schneiderman, seconded by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? **Approved. (VOTE: 6•0•0•0)**

**1368, amending the Suffolk County Temporary Classification and Salary Plan for temporary personnel at Suffolk County Community College (COUNTY EXEC).**

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed?  
**Approved. (VOTE: 6•0•0•0)**

**1376, accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Community Development Entitlement Block Grant and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements (COUNTY EXEC).**

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Motion to place on the Consent Calender.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to approve and put on the Consent Calender by Legislator Carpenter, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? **Approved** and placed on the **Consent Calender**.  
**(VOTE: 6•0•0•0)**

**1385, authorizing the Suffolk County Executive to execute an agreement to locate a modular building on the western campus of Suffolk County Community for use by the Police Department's Highway Patrol Division (COUNTY EXEC).**

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Motion.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator •• this, 1385, just for the record, Counsel, do we have questions as far as the contract or payment of this or that has been made clear?

**MS. KNAPP:**

I was asked the question as to whether or not there was a cost attached to this, and there was nothing at all in the backup that indicated whether we owned this modular. And I asked Budget Review, and they were able to come up with only half an answer.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

So we own half the modular.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

It's my understanding that it's a lease purchase agreement, and the actual cost of this would be dependant upon the actual bids that were received for this facility. So I checked with the County Executive's Office to see if they had an estimate as to what the price range would be, and they weren't able to give me a number today.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Then I'm going to make a motion to table, seconded by Legislator Foley.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Wait a second. We have somebody here that can address the motion.

**OFFICER MULLIGAN:**

Good morning. Deputy Inspector Henry Mulligan, I'm Commanding Officer of the Highway Patrol. I can't speak to the cost, I know we don't have a modular, that DPW is putting out RFPs as far as I know.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Alden, you have a question?

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Not a question, a comment. Basically when I was on the Space Management Committee, this is something that came up as, like, an emergency situation. We are in the Touro Law Center as a hold-over tenant. They want us out very desperately and actually could go to court and through us out if they wanted to. At Touro Law Center, the lease expired last December.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

It's not Touro Law Center.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm sorry, not the Law Center.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

It's the Health Center.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Touro Health Center.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I'm sorry.

**LEG. CARPENTER:**

That's okay.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

At the Health Center, we're hold•over tenants, we should have been out a long time ago. There really are a number of alternatives we looked at on Space Management. This seems to be the best and the least expensive. We did have a couple of presentations, and I'm sorry, just off the top of my head, I don't recall the price ranges they were looking at for a modular building. But it's •• it really is •• when you looked at the alternatives, it's right in line. And I don't think we

have the luxury of just hanging back and not doing this at this time.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All right. Since there is no cost attached to this, I have a motion to approve by, I believe, Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? **Approved. (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

**1387, authorizing use of property at Gabreski Airport by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Westhampton (COUNTY EXEC).** Motion by Legislator Schneiderman, second by myself. All in favor? Opposed? **Approved. (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

**1417, to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a renewable energy park on County property (COOPER).**

**LEG. COOPER:**

I will be revising this resolution, so I'd like to make a motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to table by Legislator Cooper, seconded by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? **Tabled. (VOTE: 6•0•0•0).**

1420, that's done. **Sense Resolution 25, Sense of the Legislature resolution in support**

**of restoration of funding to the community development program (FOLEY).**

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Motion, Madam Chair.

**LEG. COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion by Legislator Foley, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

On the motion, Legislator Alden.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

Brian, just explain.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

Absolutely. If the proposed federal budget cuts the •• the consortium of community development agencies on the villages and the townships of this County, literally millions of dollars would be lost. So what this is is a sense to urge the Federal Government and the Senate and the House of Representatives to at the very least restore the funding to prior levels. If this money is not restored •• and I know Mr. Sanseverino is here who could speak on it if we need him to. If it's not restored, there are a lot of particularly downtown and community initiatives that are just going to be greatly affected whether in Town of Brookhaven, Islip, all the townships and villages. It's really going to be a difficult, difficult situation if this funding is not restored.

**LEG. ALDEN:**

I support this. And, Legislator Foley, just correct my memory. I hope it wasn't changed since the last time I read it, but it's generic, it just tells the federal government, it doesn't single out individuals and things like that.

**LEG. FOLEY:**

You know, I don't have it in front of me, but it's all factual, it's not •• it's not rhetorical or partisan. It gets to the facts as to the proposed budget and how it needs to restore the millions of dollars that are proposed to be cut from our localities. So it's not taking a shot at anyone, it's just simply stating the facts as they're presented to us and the need to have our local governments collectively say to the federal government restore this funding otherwise there will be some real problems.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? **APPROVED.**  
**(VOTE: 6•0•0•0).** With that, this committee meeting is adjourned.

**(\* THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:16 A.M. \*)**

**\\_ \\_ DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY**