

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 August 2, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley • Chairman
Legislator Rick Montano • Vice•Chair
Legislator Tom Barraga
Legislator Jon Cooper
Legislator Lynne Nowick
P.O. William Lindsay • Acting Member

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan • Counsel to the Legislature
Joe Schroeder • Budget Review Office
Joe Muncey • Budget Review Office
Renee Ortiz • Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Ben Zwirn • County Executive's Office
Carolyn Fahey • Economic Development
Charles Stein • Suffolk Community College
George Gatta • Suffolk Community College
James Morgo • Commissioner • Economic Development
Dr. Shirley Pippins • President SCCC
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano • Court Stenographer

(* THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:44 A.M. *)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Can we all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And may we also stand for a moment of silence in respect for

our young men and women who are overseas protecting our freedoms.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Please be seated. All right. Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee Meeting of the August, 2nd, 2006, which will be two parts. I understand what we do is we hold the regular hearing at first and then we move •• all right. What we'll do is we're going to move to the agenda and the legislation with the understanding that what we'll do at the close of the •• at the end of the agenda, we will move and open up the hearings and issues relating to the budget of the Suffolk County Community College. All right. So if I may, may we turn to page two of the agenda involving the resolutions.

1163, (Establishing a Task Force to study the feasibility of increasing revenues and promoting Economic Development by establishing a horseracing track in Suffolk County).

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to table.

LEG. HORSLEY:

We have a motion to table by Legislator Nowick and seconded by Legislator Montano. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **Tabled. (VOTE:6•0•0•0 • P.O. Lindsay was present and voted).**

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. The second one. **1747, (A Local Law to establish the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Committee).**

I understand this motion is still not ready for prime time, so I'll make a motion to table, seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? **Tabled (VOTE:6•0•0•0 • P.O. Lindsay was present and voted).**

1748, (To appoint Director to the Suffolk County Local Development Corporation (Patricia M. McMahon)).

Mr. Morgo, have you heard from Ms. McMahon?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Only that she wants to serve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Why don't you come on up and put yourself on the record.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Good morning. I know, Mr. Chairman, that Patricia has been informed that she was being nominated. As you know the Local development Corporation was established by this Legislature and is, as we speak, being incorporated. And one of the things we have to do is speak to the Presiding Officer and others who have appointments. Ms. McMahon will be the first appointee.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'll make a motion to discharge without recommendation.

Maybe you can inform her to show up Tuesday.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You'd like to make that motion?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Is there a second on the motion?

LEG. MONTANO:

Sure.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Montano. All those in favor? What we're saying is that we're going to ask her •• and Jim, let's make sure that both of us make sure Pat is here. I hope she's in town, she's a very busy person.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Yes, she is.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

She is immensely qualified. I think everyone is going to enjoy the fact that she'd be working with Suffolk County. She is vice president of Grumman, and she was the first woman vice president of Hazelteen. So she has a long history in business. I think that she is a credit to this County. So anyway, we will ask her to be here on Tuesday. All in favor? Opposed? So moved.

**DISCHARGED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION (VOTE:6•0•0
•0 • P.O. Lindsay was present and voted).**

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

1809, (A Local Law to prohibit the construction and operation of liquefied natural gas (LNG) floating storage regasification units in the Long Island Sound).

I'll make a motion to approve 1809. Is there a second on the motion?

LEG. MONTANO:

I'll second.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Montano. Any discussion?

LEG. BARRAGA:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

On the motion, Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I think for the time being, I'm not going to support this motion. Not that I might not change my mind if it comes to the floor. It's just that you had the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission involved, you had the Coast Guard. I think there's a lot of data that's still being formulated. I mean, half the energy for power plants in this country, you know, comes from coal, a very dirty element. It just seems to me that, you know, when you're taking a look at liquid natural gas, maybe you need an

alternative or maybe take a look at alternatives.

We have the Northport facility. I don't represent that area, but certainly it's oil-fired, it throws off a lot of sulfur dioxide and carbons. Liquid natural gas has been around for quite some time. I know up in the Boston area, from what I recall, they have a facility up there. I understand from an environmental and a terrorist perspective •• I don't buy the terrorist argument, but maybe from an environmental perspective there are some problems. But the anchoring of the base is like four pillars. It would seem to me that if it was put out there and it was a mistake, it wouldn't be that difficult to take it out.

I just think that, you know, at this stage, I'd just like to see and hear a little more information before we take action on the resolution. So I'll be voting in the negative.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Montano first, then Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. MONTANO:

I just had a quick question really to Counsel. I'm looking at the resolution. It's very simple and straight forward. I'm just wondering whether or not this is something that might be preempted by existing either state or federal law. And I'm wondering whether or not this bill actually would be enforceable.

MR. NOLAN:

I've spoken to both the County Attorney and the outside counsel we have representing us relating to Broadwater, and there's no doubt that particularly the federal question is going to be there. The law •• the federal law was recently changed, which gave FERC broader powers in terms of siting these type of facilities,

but there's been no •• there's been no legal case that's arisen since the law was changed. So that's an open question. But ultimately, that would probably be a serious challenge to this law.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I had a question for Counsel and then just a comment as well. My question was this. The County Executive had an initiative where he was claiming under an old state statute that we would •• we claim, I guess, the development rights of the Sound bottom, is it something like that. George?

MR. NOLAN:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

How does this bill play into that initiative?

MR. NOLAN:

There was an old 1881 Law found that gave the County jurisdiction of the waters of the Long Island Sound from our borders north to Connecticut. In the interim, you know, there's been other state laws, which gives the state authority over navigable waters of the state. And I think one of the things the County Attorney has said is that the state has authority over all navigable waters except tide waters. That is accepted from the state authority over navigable waters. What is tide waters? Counsel •• the County Attorney seems to believe that would be the entire Long Island Sound. So that is what they are hanging their hat on. I don't think anybody is under any illusions about

the federal preemption challenge being a serious one down the road.

P.O. LINDSAY:

To vote that 1881 statute as well as if we passed this.

MR. NOLAN:

Right. That based on supremacy clause, the federal law would ultimately control. And if a court says it preempts, it preempts, and this law not override that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So it sounds like this is going to be an attorney's dream. I'm not done yet. I wanted to, you know, comment on Legislator Barraga's comments, and I share some of the of feelings of somewhere a long the line we have to develop an energy strategy in this country. We can't keep doing what we're doing, obviously, on all fronts in terms of the environment and in terms of our energy usage. We use more energy than any other nation in the world by far. And unless we're going to dramatically curtail our energy usage, you know, we have to come up with a better way. We can't use •• depend on oil, because it's something that holds us hostage to the whole world.

Having said that though, my biggest problem with this project in my research of it is that it would be in anchored in our waters, but yet most of the supply of the natural gas would go to New York City. And there's something about that that bothers me. If this energy source is needed so desperately for New York City, why don't they anchor it in the Hudson River, or, you know, somewhere in the mouth of the harbor? Why put it in our waters? And that's the thing that troubles me and gave me

cause to oppose the project.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Presiding Officer Lindsay. I also wanted to make a just a quick statement, then we'll go to Legislator Fisher and then Legislator Nowick. The comment •• and what we have to recognize while we look at this piece of legislation also is that this Legislature took a motion, am I correct on this, in former years? By Memorializing as well as •• and I would like to ask Counsel, that there is •• we are legally challenging the Broadwater construction. Are we not, by tabling it and not going along with this resolution, not in support of our own positions in the past? I get concerned when we start going in two different directions at once. Mr. Nolan, would you, please, you know, update on where we are at with our litigation against this proposal?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, this Legislature has gone on record, I think, by a Sense of the Legislature Resolution last year in opposition of Broadwater. We went a step further by hiring outside counsel to represent us in the federal proceedings, the licensing, of this particular facility, and that is ongoing.

In terms of whether or not, obviously, this law is consistent with the policy or the position this Legislature has taken in opposition to Broadwater, whether or not it will stand up legally, I think is an open question. People I respect have said they think we have a decent case if the law is challenged. That's what the County Attorney has told me, that's what outside counsel has indicated. But whether or not, you know, you choose to adopt this particular law is completely up to you. It's not a legal question. I don't know that it would undermine the legal case.

It's a policy judgment for the Legislature.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Legislator Fisher.

D. P.O. VILORIA • FISHER:

I agree with you, Mr. Chair, that we have stated our position here in this Legislature and that we have committed some of the taxpayers money in mounting a legal battle, and we're currently in litigation. I believe that we should support 1809. It's very interesting, just serendipitously, last night I was flipping channels, and there was a program on PBS looking at the L&G Plant in Boston. And it seems to me that we have to go very slowly, because there was scientific evidence that seemed to be very contradictory as to how far the affects of an explosion would affect the safety of the population surrounding the L&G Plant, the impacts on the environment.

I don't believe that the Federal Government is •• would take as close a look at the scientific evidence as I would like based on how little it has been affected by evidence in recent years. So I hope that we all support 1809 in light of the conflicting scientific information that's before us and in light of the possible danger to the population and the environment that this liquified natural gas storage facility could cause. And I just don't have that kind of faith in how this evidence is going to be viewed on the federal level. And, you know, we do have to have an energy policy. And I don't believe that this is just a NIMBY reaction. There is conflicting scientific data out there. We need to take a close look, and we need to be very judicious.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Legislator Fisher. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just quickly, again, I'm going to ask Counsel. If we pass Local Law 1809 to prohibit the construction of L&G Plants on the Sound, we can pass it as our Home Rule, but the state then can come and supercede us, is that what you said?

MR. NOLAN:

What's likely to happen, if the company wants to proceed with this facility, they would challenge the validity of the law, both on state preemption and federal preemption grounds.

LEG. NOWICK:

Would that be by a lawsuit? Would they ••

MR. NOLAN:

A lawsuit.

LEG. NOWICK:

Again, to a lawsuit.

MR. NOLAN:

They would challenge it on the preemption issue, no doubt.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's always a problem. You know, my problem with this is I know we need other means of energy, but the problem is putting this facility in this very small body of water called the Long Island Sound. We don't know enough, nor does •• I mean, I sat in on multiple meetings from FRES and from anybody else who had any knowledge, and nobody, nobody seems to know what would happen if there was a fire. They talk about a fire going out within a perimeter of maybe three miles around it, but

nobody knows what happens to that toxic material when and if it ever reaches the beaches that my constituents swim in. So we don't know enough about it. I would very much like to try to stop this project. Even if the state is going to come and supercede us, well, that we'll understand. But if we can stop it for now, you know, I want to stop it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Adding more to ••

LEG. NOWICK:

I just want to hold it off. And the other thing is, and I have no idea about this answer, but why put it •• I know where the pipeline comes in, and I know the Sound is a good area, but for safety, why wouldn't they put that out in the middle the ocean somewhere off of Montauk? That's not my constituency, I have to be careful.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's a rhetorical question.

LEG. NOWICK:

But the Long Island Sound is a small body of water. I am a going to have to try to fight it and vote yes for 1809.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Legislator Montano, then Legislator Cooper.

LEG. MONTANO:

You know, everybody is on the record in this Legislature with respect to our position on Broadwater and the liquified natural gas barge that's coming in. The problem that I see not only on this bill, but on other bills coming before this Legislature, is that

we seem to be going into area where we, in my opinion, and maybe it's the lawyer in me, we're confusing the policy and the politics with our role and our jurisdiction as Legislators.

And to present bills that sound good, that promote our position or reenforce the position we've taken on Broadwater and come out with legislation that, for lack of a better work, you know, is flaky, we're inviting lawsuits, we're inviting •• you know, we're tying up our County Attorney, resources. We're maybe having to go to outside counsel to defend, not in particular this law, but other laws that have come before the body. I think there was a remark, which, you know, was said earlier that •• you know, whether a bill •• whether we have jurisdiction or whether a bill is proper, seems to be of no relevance to this body.

I think we need to be a little more cautious in terms of the types of bills that we present, because it does make a statement about who we are as Legislators and what type of body we want to be known as. And to submit legislation that we know is going to invite challenges and is on shaky grounds is not where I want to go. We agree that we need to stop this project. There's no one that I know that supports this project in any shape, form, fashion. But to bring a little simply for the politics, I think is unfortunate. And I don't like these bills. They've come up numerous times, we're involved in numerous debates on these issues. And it just drags our •• you know drags us down, takes up our time and resources, and we don't need to be doing this. I don't like them.

I'll vote for it if you really have to have it. But, you know, we have to start looking internally to see whether or not this is really what we want to do. And I don't think we should go in that fashion. We have counsel, we have plenty of lawyers

working for the County, we have plenty of lawyers on this body, and we should sit down and look at what we're doing to make sure that we are going in the right direction.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Again, no one is twisting anyone's arm to vote for this.

LEG. MONTANO:

No, I understand that. It's not an arm twisting, but you put people in the position if they don't want to vote for something that they think is poorly drafted or going to invite lawsuits, then you put them in the position, ah, Montano's in favor of Broadwater, and that's not the case. I don't like being put in that position.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well put. Thank you very much. Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

A few points. First of all, for the record I vigorously would support Legislator Nowick's proposal to move the terminal to Legislator Schneiderman's district. Number two, I couldn't disagree more with Legislator Montano on this point. First of all, there's a •• I forget the term, George •• there's, what, a presumption of validity if we pass a resolution. Obviously, the County Executive and the attorneys advising the County Executive believe that there is a legal foundation for this.

I don't want to rehash all the arguments in opposition to Broadwater. I think everyone sitting here is opposed to Broadwater. I do want to say one thing that really wasn't discussed in the months that we debated the Memorializing Resolution, was the adverse impact on taxpayers, on Suffolk

taxpayers. And Broadwater never addressed this publically. Privately I discussed it with them, and they admitted there will be millions of dollars a year in cost to Suffolk taxpayers to contribute towards security for the Broadwater terminal, New York State taxpayers as well as Suffolk taxpayers, that's not going to be picked up by Broadwater, but we're going to be paying for it.

So there's •• in addition to my concern that it is a potential terrorist target, my concern over potential health and environmental risks, there's also someone who's concerned about not wanting to raise taxes for Suffolk residents, yet another argument. Is there any •• George, is there any negative fiscal impact if we were to pass this local law?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, that's not my area of expertise. But obviously, if the law is challenged, then you are going to have to •• in that case, you would have to either use attorney in the County Attorney's Office to defend it or hire outside counsel, and that would be the legal impact potentially, but the law itself, no.

LEG. COOPER:

So there's an if and a potentially. So passing this law, there's no adverse fiscal impact whatsoever. It's only if and when it some day may be challenged by the state or not. And then we'll decide whether to use in-house counsel or not. But I think it's very important to take the step. I applaud the County Executive for proposing this law.

And if this helps in any way to stop this project, which should not go in the middle of the Long Island Sound, this would be the first project of its type, not in the New York State or in the

country, but in the world. They're going to be experimenting on a nationally recognized estuary, the Long Island Sound, which has tremendous economic significance for Long Island. And it's a completely inappropriate location. And I think that we should all, not only support this, but hopefully I'm already listed as a cosponsor, but if not, I'd like to be listed as a cosponsor.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you, Legislator Cooper. And, again, be mindful that we are already accruing costs relating to the Broadwater issue. We have a meeting just this afternoon with outside counsel.

Legislator Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I don't mean to belabor this thing, but I'd be remiss if I didn't comment on Legislator Montano's comments. You know, the point you are making is this Legislature oversteps its jurisdiction and boundaries with this bill, but if we were to stay within our own jurisdiction, we'd reverse 30 years of history. We've always overstepped our boundaries. As the result of that, this body has been on the cutting edge of legislation that's been adopted statewide, nationally and whatever. So that's part of our •• of the history of this organization.

My question though about 1809, and I guess it's really to Counsel, and I don't know whether he can answer or not, but will this help in the effort? We have acquired outside counsel to be an intervener in the FERC process, the County Executive is already claiming by this 1881 Law that we •• you know, they can't go forward with this, would this new piece of legislation add to the effort, detract from the effort or we don't know?

MR. NOLAN:

It cannot hurt the effort.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. That's all.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just let me answer Bill.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Just because there's a retort, I think, to Bill, and then I'm going to shut this down.

LEG. MONTANO:

The Presiding Officer knows I have the utmost respect for him and the bills that come before this Legislature. I have supported a lot of them. But there are occasions where I think we do need •• in fact, the first bill that I introduced, there were comments that you can't propose this because it's illegal, it can't be enforced, etcetera, I've been down that road. That's not what I am saying. What I am saying is that particularly in a bill like this, if it can help, that's fine, we're already on record with this, we have a united effort. But there are some occasions where I've seen where we need to just look at it a little more cautiously and say, okay, maybe •• where do we draw the line.

And it's not only in reference to this bill, it's other bills that we talked about, some yesterday, some before. And that's where I'm going, I'm going a little bit ahead of where we are today. This bill, other than the costs that we will incur with the attorneys defending a lawsuit, if that happens, there really, as Legislator Cooper said, is probably no fiscal impact on this. My comments are prospective, but I don't want to get into the debate now. We'll deal with that in caucus and other venues.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Legislator Montano. Legislator Fisher for the last word.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, just very briefly, because I am the cosponsor of the bill, and I firmly believe the research done by the County Attorney's Office in researching this particular statute from 1881, which we rely on statutes and laws from the past all of time in establishing precedent, in establishing local •• local jurisdiction, jurisdictional matters. I don't see this as frivolous, I don't see this as outside of the realm of what the Legislature should be doing, which is certainly establishing our legal standing with regards this issue. I think this is an important piece of legislation, and I'm very proud to be a cosponsor on this. And I think it will help and strengthen our case in establishing our standing.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. That will •• unless anyone else would like to be heard? Good. Thank you. Okay. On the motion •• do I have any motions?

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve.

MS. ORTIZ:

You already had a motion to approve.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Cooper. Anyone seconding the motion? Legislator Montano seconded it. Okay. All in favor? Any opposed?

LEG. BARRAGA:

In the negative.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Barraga in the negative. **APPROVED (VOTE:5 • 1 • 0 • 0 • Opposed, Legis. Barraga • P.O. Lindsay was present and voted).**

M031, (Memorializing resolution in support of replacing LIPA's appointed Board of Trustees).

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to table by Legislator Cooper, second on the motion?

LEG. MONTANO:

Second.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Montano. All those in favor? The resolution is **tabled (VOTE:6 • 0 • 0 • 0 • P.O. Lindsay was present and voted).**

M057, (Memorializing resolution in support of payment in lieu of taxes from the State University at Stony Brook to the Three Village School District and the Smithtown School District).

Do I have a motion?

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion by Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **Approved (VOTE:6•0•0•0 • P.O. Lindsay was present and voted).**

M058, (Memorializing resolution in support of amending the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law, in relation to the service of alcoholic beverages at licensed wineries or farm wineries).

Do I have a motion?

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'll make the motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, seconded by ••

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

LEG. HORSLEY:

•• Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? **Approved**
(VOTE:6•0•0•0 • P.O. Lindsay was present and voted).

M059, (Memorializing resolution in support of amending the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law in relation to describing what items may be sold by a holder of a farm winery license).

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Do I have a motion?

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Cooper, is there a second on the motion?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed?
Approved (VOTE:6•0•0•0 • P.O. Lindsay was present and voted).

I believe that concludes the legislation agenda. At this point in time, we will move to the issue of the budget of the Suffolk County Community College, which I'm going to ask Dr. Pippins to address the committee.

LEG. COOPER:

Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I have some cards. Let me do the cards first.

LEG. COOPER:

I'd just like to be recorded with the majority on the votes that I missed, please.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'm sorry. I forgot the cards here. First of all, let me introduce Cheryl Felice, President of the AME who wants to talk on this budget issue.

MS. PASSANTINO:

Hi. I'm Josephine Passantino, I'm the Third Vice President of AME. I'm also a Suffolk County Community College employee for the computer center. I'm here representing AME in support of the budget for Suffolk Community College and hope that everyone would support that and approve the 4% that they are asking. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are they asking 4%?

MS. PASSANTINO:

Yes. We would hope you approve that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We understand. May I invite Kevin Peterman up from the Faculty Association, Suffolk County Community College.

MR. PETERMAN:

Good morning. I just want to take a minute to thank you for your continued support, and I just want to share with you some of the positive results that have happened with your past support. This is a true story. It actually happened last Monday when it was pretty warm out. I was in the Southampton Building on the Ammerman Campus, and a faculty member approached me and said, "I've been teaching here for 14 years and this is the first time that the classrooms have been air conditioned." He said, "My students now can concentrate on what I'm trying to teach them and not worry about the 98 degree heat."

And it's because of your past support that we've been able to put room air conditioners in two buildings that were never air conditioned. That's been a real positive thing, not only for the faculty, but for the students that come, not only in the summer, but in the first two weeks of the fall semester. As you all know, it can get pretty hot.

There's no doubt in my mind that with your continued support we can make the college even better, we can have a better infrastructure, more smart classrooms, and we can actually make the college the best place to learn on Long Island. I just want to thank Gail Vizzini and BRO for their outstanding review of the college budget as always. And we appreciate your support and look forward to a healthy budget. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Peterman. We appreciate your comments as always. I have one more card I just received. It was from Peter Quinn. Peter, since we're talking about the college budget at this point, I'm going to bring you up at the end of the meeting after I close out the college budget issue. I just

received your card. Okay. Because you obviously want to talk about energy issues. Come on up, Peter. Again, my apologies to the college. Legislator Montano just put on the clock.

MR. QUINN:

Thank you. Peter Quinn. I hope that the Legislature next week takes a stand on the 1809 issue, because for one thing, it will send a message to the state and the Federal Government, which is what this Legislature has often done in the past. But I heard Legislator Lindsay say we've got to have an energy policy. Well, I've attempted to present one when I proposed solar stations being •• dotting the landscape at parking lots everywhere to accommodate the electric car.

We should know that we have to convince Rick Wagner of General Motors and Bill Ford of Ford Motor Company to resurrect the electric car, which they buried, by leasing them for a period of years and then calling them all back and sending them to the scrap heap. Well, if we want to have an energy policy nationally, what we need to do is begin with Long Island, both counties accepting the idea of putting up solar stations, which are a series of solar panels where electric cars can plug in. It would accommodate your own fleet of gas•driven mileage by reducing the amount of gas use there, but it will also set the tone for businesses, for colleges, for hospitals to set up solar stations to plug in 30 to 40 electric cars and relieve us from having to pay high priced gasoline.

Yesterday, the Budget and Finance Committee waxed eloquently over which of three different political proposals you were going to enact to give tokens in change to the public with a tax reduction. I think those are miniscule proposals, just as your two proposals last year were on spending \$5 million over five

years for conservation and energy efficiency.

We have to do it on a more grand scale. And I'm hopeful that this Legislature will review and then enact legislation, as Maxine Postal did five years ago, but it died in the Department of Public Works. Let's get moving on the solar panel arrangement •• solar station arrangement and get the two major companies that are practically in bankruptcy to reopen some of their plants, rehire some of their workers and start building those electric cars again. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Montano comments that you spoke to three minutes on that. Let me just also add that if they're going to be talking to Ford and General Motors, I understand that Toyotas are now are the second leading car sales in the United States, for better, for worse. Just a comment that they should be outreached to as well. May I present Dr. Pippins who is going to be giving us a report on the college and her budget requests. Dr. Pippins.

DR. PIPPINS:

Good morning. As I begin what I'd like to think of as my annual report on the state of the college to this committee, I'd like to begin by thanking the Legislature for your support over the years, and in particular, during the three years of my presidency. I'm proud to share with you that your investments in the college are continuing to pay off and that an investment in Suffolk County Community College remains of strategic investment in the County.

We want you to know that with your support, we're continuing to address major County priorities, we're facing challenges, we're diversifying our funding base, and we're increasing our

effectiveness and efficiency. A major goal for the college continues to be creating and supporting a quality workforce that makes the County more economically competitive, less vulnerable to the outsourcing of jobs and capable of producing high quality employment opportunities for young people and working families.

For the first time in 2007, we will be accredited as one college with three campuses, and in fact, Middle States will be visiting us in March of 2007. Internally, we are focusing on quality, organizational efficiency and effectiveness, we're conducting assessments of our programs, providing professional development, we're reviewing program enrollment, monitoring section size, we're comparing ourselves to our peers, and we're offering adjustments as appropriate.

We have integrated all elements of our operation under our strategic plan, and all managers within the college are evaluated against their goals. We're continuing to implement cost saving strategies, practicing good stewardship, developing our human resources and diversifying our funding base. You are aware of our work in terms of addressing Suffolk County priorities in health care, economic development, revitalization, workforce development, and we're working to reverse the brain drain.

Externally, we are taking steps to increase the County's competitiveness as a region. From our research, you know that we stimulate the local economy, we generate a return on government investment and we reduce social costs. One of our economists suggested that you think of this as purchasing a house. And again, in just 8.4 years, our taxpayers have a high quality affordable transfer education for themselves, their children and their grandchildren. They have a skilled workforce

and a 100% return in their investment. You essentially own that investment.

From a regional perspective, we know that the jobs are going where the best educated and most productive workforces are located. Whereas in real estate it's location, location, location, we know in economic development it's actually workforce, workforce, workforce. As your Community College, we're seeking to provide access and opportunity to high paying career options for our workforce and our families. Our goal is to educate and train our residents so that Suffolk County is seen as having the highest skilled and most productive workers in the country. A skilled workforce will attract new businesses, it will enhance our competitiveness, and it will decrease our vulnerability to business relocation, downsizing and outsourcing.

With your support, we can address the needs of all skilled levels within our current and potential workforce. We are in a key position to do this, because the research shows that 94% of our graduates initially live and work on Long Island, and even those transferring, 66% of the transfers transfer right on Long Island. In terms of reversing the brain drain, we're doing this initially through our honors program. It has increased 15% over the highest graduating class of honor students in the history of the institution.

This year's graduates are going to prestigious institutions. And this year we have two students on full scholarships at Columbia. We are addressing the cost of higher education on Long Island. If a student starts at Suffolk, transfers to Stony Brook, they save \$6000. At CW Post, they would save \$37,000, at Hofstra, \$40,000, at NYU, \$56,000. And we do, by the way, have

several students there.

We know that the longer and earlier we connect to students, the more likely they are to return to Long Island after they graduate from college. So we're reaching out to our academic stars in our high schools. We have an early college program with Deer Park. Those students, if they participate in the program, when they graduate they have one full year of high school •• of college credits. With the support of our union, this year we will be moving forward with dual enrollment courses, and Legislator Horsley is very much involved in this initiative. This would allow high school students in general to earn college credits.

We're working with elements of the population. An example of working with the at risk population is our program with the Westhampton Public Schools. These students are encouraged to take college work and to succeed with tutoring and counseling. Our College Success Program addresses those students who come to us at the college with developmental needs, great success. I just got an e•mail a few days ago about a student who started in this program with your support, she actually graduated in two years •• having started with developmental work, graduated in honors and is going on to LIU on an Honors Scholarship.

We're also working with our growing immigrant population to make sure they have the skills they need to be successful. Our overall goal is to put in place a coordinated workforce development system both for individuals and businesses. And this is an example of our work here with the regional advanced manufacturing system. We're working as your college to Suffolk County on the state and national map in terms of academic excellence and in terms of workforce and economic

development. That status attracts students, faculty staff and administrators, it attracts funding, it tells the business community, both businesses already here and those we're seeking to attract, that we know how to attract a quality workforce, we can support a quality workforce, and we can provide assistance to businesses both large and small. And this is just an example of businesses that we're already supporting.

In terms of national recognition, you can see our students are accomplishing outstanding work. Carla Dyck received one of only 25 Jack Kent Cook Scholarships last year. One of our students was the New Century Scholar, the highest ranking Phi Beta Kappa graduate for New York State. We're fourth in online courses at SUNY. One of our faculty members was the Nursing Educator of the Year. Another faculty member served on the National Assessment Panel.

We appreciate the support you are giving us and we're working to leverage your investment in the college. In addition to working on being effective and efficient, we're diversifying our funding base. As you know, we received a three year \$2.4 Mechatronics Grant, the largest in the history of the college. Our grant awards are increasing over the years. The BRO report cites our work in terms of bringing revenue in to the college. We're not only outperforming the SUNY average, we're outperforming our peers in this area.

Our foundation has made strides recently. They've initiated their first annual campaign. They've secured approval for payroll deduction, you can sign up and give money to the college. They're validating our data base, and we've begun planning for major gift campaign.

Despite yourself, your support and our efforts, we still face major challenges. We have limited resources, varying levels of state support. We have aging facilities, and we need state-of-the-art technology and equipment. Growth and enrollment and technology require that we have learning resource centers, sports and health facilities, science labs and that we support our infrastructure. And I'd like to thank you for your support on these major initiatives.

In addition to facilities, we have outdated science labs, outdated technical equipment, poor space utilization, old classroom furniture, and we actually still have the original library fortunate. This is example of some of the outdated equipment that we've updated. This is original library fortunate. In addition to equipment and facilities, we also need positions to move the organization forward. We thank the BRO for its outstanding work. And they recommended two facility positions, but I believe a strong case can be made for the additional positions requested. They support initiatives in the Riverhead Downtown Center, the College Success Program and the improvement of our infrastructure. Those positions address safety and security, student success and stewardship, which will be a major issue as we move forward in our major gift campaign.

We are requesting two public safety officers, the counselor for the College Success Program, the facilities workers, three clerical position, including a clerical worker for the Riverhead facility and a PA or the Culinary Arts Center. Recently, the Governor and the State Legislature took steps to achieve our overall plan or one-third, one-third and one-third. This has been made necessary by the following data: Enrollment has grown over 22% in the last five years; state aide has only

increased by 4%; the County's contribution has actually going down 3.1%; full time tuition has increased by 28%; and the total budget per FTE has increased in that same time period by 12.99%. This is a graphic representation of the impact of those funding levels.

The BRO report presents this data in another format. You can see, since 1997, the state support has decreased by 1.2%, County support has decreased by 3.7%, student contribution has increased by 3.6%, and that student support has been mitigated by the outside revenue that the college has brought to the situation.

The good news is that with your support and our work, we've been able, even given the cost of living in Suffolk County, to keep our tuition competitive, especially in contrast to our peer institution. We are asking the Suffolk County Legislature to continue its current level of support and to provide a 4% increase, 2% in the County Executive's Budget and an incremental 2% from the County Legislature to support the college's efforts to address community priorities. And we're prepared to work with the Legislator's Community College's working group to develop budget amendments that will allow us to operate within the 4% cap.

In closing, I would add that we believe that the budget is fiscally prudent, it holds the line on mission crucial expenditures, it invests strategically, it reflects cost reduction and cost avoidance strategies, and it holds the tuition increase to the cost of living.

Working together we can expand access and opportunity, invest in the County, continue progress towards creating a state•of•the

•art learning environment, rebuild the infrastructure, provide a high quality education, hold the tuition increase to the cost of living. As a team, we can address and support what I believe to be the highest priority on Long Island, and that is maintaining our quality of life. And we do that through strengthening the quality of our workforce, supporting the economic health of our community and increasing our regional competitiveness. I thank you for your consideration and your support over time.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Dr. Pippins. As always, your presentation was very thorough and enjoyable, etcetera. And I see where the 4% now comes to play. So AME, you jumped the gun a little bit. But that's all right, we do appreciate your support. Okay. We have •• I'm going to ask •• I'm going to ask you couple a questions first, and then I'm going to turn it over to my colleagues. There may be some other questions. Some of these questions coming from the •• these questions are coming from the joint group, the Legislative group, bipartisan group of looking at the budget issue. First of all, maybe to Mr. Stein, maybe you might want to •• do you have an answer on the issue concerning the reserve fund?

MR. STEIN:

Yes. The question was the interest earnings that accrue to the reserve fund, how is that posted to the college. We got in touch with the Treasurer's Office, and the Treasurer states that it's included in the single transfer to the college's Operating Budget. So the amount that we show as interest earnings in this budget includes the interest earnings on the operating accounts as well as the interest earnings that are earned on the college's reserve fund money.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So are you saying that the interest reserve fund interest accrues in the reserve fund or it goes to your operating?

MR. STEIN:

It goes to the Operating Budget.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just to make it clear.

MR. STEIN:

It's already built into the revenue projections here.

LEG. NOWICK:

Once the Treasurer invests the reserve money, it makes a certain amount of interest, then that interest goes back, of course, to the Treasurer's account, does the Treasurer then send it over the college? Do they break it out? In other words, so say you put a million dollars there, when the interest comes back to you, does the Treasurer break it out so you know you had a million dollars, this year you collected \$30,000 in interest, do you know that? Do you get to know that? Do they tell you that?

MR. STEIN:

What the Treasurer informed is that 819 is the fund that holds the college reserve money. The interest earnings on Fund 819m so from that perspective it's segregated, the interest earnings on 819 are incorporated the total interest earnings that accrued to the college's Operating Budget, which is ••

LEG. NOWICK:

So it's not broken up? So you don't really know •• I'm just

trying to figure this out.

MR. STEIN:

We would have to go back out to the Treasurer's Office and do an accounting of the entire situation.

LEG. NOWICK:

I was just curious if you knew. But it does go back to the college?

MR. STEIN:

It goes back to the college Operating Budget.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So this is not a paper account at all, this is something that you are actually making monies on.

MR. STEIN:

It's accruing to the Operating Budget. It's included as part of the revenues.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's a good answer.

MR. STEIN:

I thank you for raising the question.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

So the reserve fund base stays the same?

MR. STEIN:

Exactly.

LEG. BARRAGA:

It never really changes.

MR. STEIN:

Exactly.

LEG. BARRAGA:

It's the interest going back to the Operating Budget of the college.

MR. STEIN:

Exactly.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Now, we had some questions concerning the requested positions that weren't include in the budget, initial budget. And you had them listed there, the assistant professors, the PA, the clerk typist, laborers, custodial workers, security guards, etcetera. And we wanted to go through them, because we had some questions that when we look at the budget and you're asking for these positions to be filled, we see that there are vacancies of the same titles already in your line items. So we are requesting new positions to be created when you're not filling vacancies. Case in point, the custodial line, you have two vacancies and you're asking for an additional custodial title; the assistant professor, you have three vacancies, you're asking for one

additional title; clerk typist, you have one vacancy, you're asking for three more additional titles; your grounds workers, you have two vacancies •• you have two vacancies and you're requesting •• you have two vacancies now, you're requesting three vacant •• three additional position beyond your titles.

So when we're looking at that •• that question, why •• why are you •• when you have these positions that could be filled, you have not filled them, then you're asking for new positions to be created. We are confused by that. Does that sum up our group's question? Could you answer that question?

DR. PIPPINS:

In an organization of our size, you probably will always have vacancies. And the fact that it's listed as a vacancy doesn't mean that we're not recruiting to fill it, nor that we don't need it.

MR. STEIN:

What you are looking at is a picture on a date. Positions are constantly being filled and others are becoming vacant. Unfortunately, God forbid, somebody dies or retires or leaves, but the positions then are in the process of being filled. As an example, in the BRO report, the number shown is 39. Well, at the end of the June, it was 27 vacancies. So there's a constant ••

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So this is a snapshot in time ••

MR. STEIN:

It's a snapshot you are looking at. For example, we're asking for security guards. Well, at the moment, right at this moment, there's one vacancy for a security position at the college, which

they are already interviewing. So that position is going to be filled. And that's the point I'm trying to make, it's a rolling situation.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So you've looked at your needs and what you are saying then is that you need not only the vacant positions, but these on top of it for future needs?

MR. STEIN:

Exactly. We're recruiting for those vacant positions and bringing people in.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And I have one further question, I think you already answered it, but the committee has asked me to ask. How long have many of these vacancies been on the books? I mean, we just wanted to see are you really filling them.

MR. STEIN:

Yeah. You know, it depends on the type of position. For example, the security position, public safety position, there are whole series of processes you have to go through to fill that position. There are physical exams, psychological exams, and all of the other things that go along with a public safety position, and it takes quite a while.

We've been working with the County, and the County has actually helped in terms of streamlining some of that, but it still takes time. And whereas a clerical position, you have to first notify Civil Service that you're looking to fill a clerical position, they have to go out canvas the list for however long it takes Civil Service to do that, then the list is sent over to the college

and then we have to send out certified letters, it takes time.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. I guess the answer is that these vacancies •• takes time could be a year, whatever it may be.

MR. STEIN:

Hopefully not a year. But probably the longest time it would take to fill would be •• and I'm not including faculty in the situation, because there's a whole ••

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So the assistant professor is the one title that would not be included.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

There are search committees that exist with respect to the academic side of the house. But what I'm talking about in terms of the Civil Service type positions, I would say probably the public safety take the longest because of the various tests, psychological test, the physical tests, etcetera, that they have to go through.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I think that answers the questions from our Budget Committee. Let me just ask, anybody on the Budget Committee have a question first relating to that •• everybody good?

DR. PIPPINS:

Legislator Horsley, could we speak to the vacant •• to the requested positions for the college?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sure. Absolutely. Those are of prime consideration for the committee.

MR. GATTA:

As you know, the Legislature has approved and we are moving forward with a new culinary facility in downtown Riverhead. The developer received his site plan approval on Tuesday from the town. And we're planning to break ground right after Labor Day. We anticipate, and our lease calls for us to occupy that facility for the purpose of outfitting it with all equipment, etcetera, beginning next June 1st. We have had requested a professional assistant, which is a programmatic faculty type position, it's within the Faculty Association Bargaining Unit, to assist with the program.

We will be expanding, obviously, our enrollment in that program, our offerings with that program to include not just culinary, but hospitality management, wine studies, etcetera, and a clerk typist. But we've requested those effective June 1st of next year, so we're not planning on filling them the first day of this budget, September 1, but rather we would start the recruiting some time in spring so that we would have those people on board when we enter the facility and begin setting it up. So that when we open in the Fall of '07, we are ready to go and we have the personnel in place to make that program functional. We've also requested, as I mentioned, a clerk typist out there.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Thank you very much. I think that's understandable. So we're talking about •• some of these positions are for future needs into next year. Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just quickly. The assistant professor, is that the one you were talking about?

MR. GATTA:

I was talking about the PA.

LEG. NOWICK:

PA, okay.

MR. GATTA:

The assistant professor, I believe, is for the College Success Program.

LEG. NOWICK:

Forty one thousand•three eighty three on the PA. So if that was not going to be in existence until June, that 41,000 figure is not exactly correct?

MR. GATTA:

We would only need 25% of those funds to fund that position for the three months at the end of the next academic year, the next fiscal year.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

George, how many students do you anticipate in enrolling in the Culinary Arts Program, what would the maximum be?

MR. GATTA:

Our long term goal, full time students, and that would take us several years to gear up towards, is about 200 full time students. In addition to that, we would have upwards of 500 part time students taking specific courses, whether it's in wine studies or pastry arts or a specific culinary class. We'll have a Young Chefs Program, where we'll be bringing in younger children and introducing them to culinary and hospitality. But that's the long term goal within that program.

We're currently at about 70 full students. We cannot grow beyond where we are. As you may recall, we share •• the Culinary Program shares the cafeteria at the Eastern Campus with the student body. The cafeteria kitchen was never set up to be a culinary training school, and the new facility will give us state•of•the•art facility, both in pastry arts and culinary, it will have a demonstration theater, it will have everything we need to make us a real state•of•the•art culinary and hospitality school that can service the growing hospitality and culinary industry here on Long Island, and specifically in Suffolk County and our East End, which we you know, the main stay of that economy is tourism.

LEG. COOPER:

And I have to say, for the record, the Legislature had the opportunity to taste some of the products produced by the students at a recent Legislative Meeting in Riverhead, and it was delicious. So you're doing something right.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So to add on to that, so when they do this demonstration at this ••

LEG. COOPER:

I hope we all get invited.

MR. GATTA:

Actually, we will have •• built into that facility will be a multi •• in addition to the demonstration theater, a 60 seat demonstration theater that has multiple uses including culinary demonstrations that can be broadcast, and we plan on providing that to our public televisions stations, visiting chefs, we will also have a multi•purpose room. It will be four classrooms where the walls will open, and it will turn into a facility that can accommodate about 100 to 120 people for special functions. Since we have the culinary kitchens adjacent to it and the demonstration theater, it's a venue that we think will be used by widely community groups, by business associations, by the Legislature for a special function, by the County. It's going to be really a showcase for downtown Riverhead and for the East End.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Excellent.

DR. PIPPINS:

Legislator Horsley, I'd just like to also take the opportunity to make a strong case for the counselor position. Taking you back to that College Success Program, about 40% of the students that come to us out of high school have developmental needs. This is a nationally recognized, state recognized pilot program where we're bringing students in three weeks early. And we've seen fantastic results from this program, and it's making an impression with the students and the community. And I would solicit your support for that position also.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

By the way, Dr. Pippins, I personally love that program. I think it's a good idea. I applaud you for that. We had another question as a group. The total cost for this was 337,000 in addition for these positions and change, we are •• how would you •• okay. Some of these are part time positions •• I mean, part year positions, so at the end year •• next year •• the year after, they're going to be full time •• full year positions, so there's going to be an increased cost to your overall budget in 2008. How do you anticipate that you'll up be covering down these dollars in the next •• the second year out, because it will more than 337 at that point? I'm talking about •• see, some of them •• they're not putting on for a full year next year, they're coming on halfway through 2007.

MR. STEIN:

We're going to phase these positions in. Number one, in terms for the culinary arts, they're not going to start until next June. So you're only talking about three months. Other positions we will be phasing in to align with the available funds that are in the budget. With respect to the following year, the following year as we prepare the budget for the following year, we will review our needs, we have other significant changes that are occurring it next year's budget that •• I mean in the following year's budget. For example, a large expense that we have in the '06 •'07 budget will start to diminish in cost in '07•'08, and that's the implementation of our banner system. So, you know, there are things that we look at when we prepare that budget.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So you're already anticipating your needs for 2008?

MR. STEIN:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

May I ask a question?

LEG. HORSLEY:

Yes. Legislator Barraga first.

LEG. BARRAGA:

The Budget Review Office seems to indicate that there's an expenditure of \$370,000 for furnishings and equipment. I think some of your slide presentation had to do with replacing furniture in the library if I recall correctly. That's a one•shot. And the question is when you take a look at all of these positions here, which comes to 337,000, can we approach this by, you know, telling you to spend the 370 or whatever it is for your equipment, but only hiring a few of these people this year? Next year when you do your calculations, that 370 is now available to you that in the sense that even though it was a one•shot, you know, there's some room or flexibility to get the rest of these positions included in next year's budget, because you don't have to incur this expense again next year for your equipment.

MR. STEIN:

I think you have to recognize that we're running three campuses, we have over a million and a half square feet of space, we are •• we have multi•year programs and plans in terms of replacement of equipment and supplies. The amounts that come into the needs of operating this three•campus facility, I think are vitally important to recognize that there are always continuing needs. Obviously, you examine your budget relative to the available resources. I think we're very proud of the fact that we are largest multi•campus community college in the

State of New York, where our closest neighbor, which has virtually the same enrollment, has a budget that's \$30 million a year more than us. I think we run an extremely efficient operation.

And when we go forward, while some of the this equipment may be purchasing in '06•'07, there will be other equipment that will be needed to be purchased in '07•'08. Obviously, when we sit down and we put the budget together, we have to make adjustments with respect to what we acquire based upon the available resources.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I guess what I'm saying •• what we do know is that 370,000 or so would be spent on equipment. That's a one•shot. In terms of what the future may bring, we don't know that. All I'm saying is that are you telling me that none of that money might be available if we appropriate it for these positions in the future for next year as opposed to putting everybody on board this year? I mean, it seems to me that some money would be available in next year's budget if you don't have to spend another 370,000 for equipment for these positions. And why do you have to have all the positions this year?

DR. PIPPINS:

Well, I think we have analyzed •• we have a number of positions that were proposed to us in our budget process from the campus. And what we've given you are our priorities. I think as Vice•President Stein said earlier, we anticipate some decreases in other areas that will support the moving forward cost of those positions. But if you look at the equipment needs of this campus in terms of this college really having state•of•the•art technology and equipment, we have an incredible •• we have incredible

needs. And this \$370,000 really will be a nice dent in the needs, but it will in no way address the challenges that we face in terms of really get our facility state-of-the-art.

LEG. BARRAGA:

What you're looking for, though, is the 370 for the equipment, plus another 337,000 or a portion of for all of these positions. You want to get approval on all of these positions, but there doesn't seem to be any flexibility. It's either both or none, it isn't one or the other. I mean, are you willing to give up on the equipment side, instead of 370, take 100,000 in equipment and put more people on this year in terms of positions?

DR. PIPPINS:

I think we're making compromises even in looking at these two elements. It's not like the 370 is all we need in equipment or like these are all the positions we need. So we are willing to compromise. And we are sensitive to your fiscal concerns, and that's why we're only asking for these positions and this equipment at this time. The need is much larger, and that would be a much longer conversation at some point, which I'm willing to have, but I would not want you to think that we're not being flexible.

LEG. BARRAGA:

So this proposal is the compromise?

MR. STEIN:

Yes.

DR. PIPPINS:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just to be clear, having asked George this question before, the PA•1 listed here for 41•three, and also, maybe because I misunderstood when I heard your question, is that actually •• you said 25% is all you need of that, you'll only need about 10,000 of that?

MR. GATTA:

Correct.

LEG. NOWICK:

That's what I thought. Just so you understood. And the other thing, you know, I just would like to put on the record in reference to the culinary institute, I would be willing to be a volunteer house for delivery of food if you the want to, maybe Legislator Viloría•Fisher would appreciate that as well, and we would test everyday. What do you think?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Sounds good to me.

LEG. NOWICK:

Okay. Just put us on the list.

DR. PIPPINS:

I think if there's a key point I would make in closing, and I'm sure you're aware of this, is that we're doing lots of outstanding

•• we have lots of outstanding initiatives at the college. And in order to really support those initiative, we do have needs in terms of staff, equipment and general operating costs. We're mindful of your fiscal concerns, so even in coming to you, we make decisions before we bring requests to you. We don't bring everything that's brought to us to you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, even in your presentation today, the 4% figure, is a change of request. So there is a level of negotiation, I can see, that's already occurred at the college level before even coming here today. We do appreciate that. Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

I have one question and it had to do with the filling of vacancies. Is that a decision that's done within the college, or do you need to go outside an get a SCIN form from the County Exec?

DR. PIPPINS:

We make those decisions.

LEG. MONTANO:

It's strictly internal?

DR. PIPPINS:

Yeah.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Thanks.

LEG. HORSLEY:

That was a question that came up. The SCIN forms, are they

signed by the County Executive?

DR. PIPPINS:

No.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We thought so. That was what we heard too. All right. Are there any further questions from the group? Thank you very much. We're going to change •• • don't leave. We have one more presentation to be made from the college, and this, I understand, is going to be relatively short. Both Mr. Morgo and Mr. Gatta are going to be discussing the program that we have been working with over the last month or two concerning the Grant Campus and some plans concerning •• we won't call it surplus plans, but we'll call it future growth plans. How's that?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Fine. And we are going to be brief, Mr. Chairman. Our motivation is here is to keep you in the loop. And we want to as much as we can be clear and dispel any misunderstandings. So that's what we're going to do. And again, as you know, Wayne, it was your idea that we come before you because you've been attending the meetings of the working group.

George is distributing a letter that got us start and a summary of everything we've done to date. As I say, this is to keep you informed. The working group is a proactive, proactive group. Ask let me just, as quickly as I can, read from the first three paragraphs. And this sets the scene. And then I want to talk to you a little more about we're we've been going, and then I am going to turn it over to George.

Numerous non profit organizations, business and community

groups have sought to use portions of the undeveloped property at Suffolk County Community College's Grant Campus for various development projects and activities. And the property that we're talking about •• was just behind me, now it's not anymore •• is this 44 acres that is on the northwest side of the college, this is still college property. This is Sagtikos here, Long Island Expressway, we're looking north, and this is Wicks Road here. So you got an idea, this is 40, almost 44 undeveloped acres of property. And as the letter begins, there's been numerous proposals.

In fact, in the 1990's, there was a proposal for a minor league baseball team to be located here. The New York Yankees was going to relocate one of their Upstate minor league teams, and fortunately, the New York Mets had the good sense to veto that deal. But there have been many other proposals as well. More recently we have received an inquiry from Charles Wang regarding the potential use of this property as an alternative site for the development of a home for the New York Islanders should the proposed redevelopment of the Nassau County site not receive the needed approvals.

So it's been an area of a lot of attention. Rather than to continue to place the college in a position that is reactive, we believe it would be in the best interest of the college and the County to jointly establish a working group that can review, number one, the college's short and long•term plans for the campus; number two, identify the types of public•private partnerships that could strengthen the mission, programs and resources of the college, while at the same time, at the same time support the economic vitality of Suffolk County.

So that's the purpose really, to look at the possibility that there

may be things that could go in there that would be synergistic with the goals and the purpose of our Community College and that would benefit the Community College and also benefit the economic development for all of Suffolk County, and indeed the region.

Finally, the last thing that the working group was charged with from the County Executive and the College President was to establish a process to competitively solicit, review and recommend projects for the site. That last goal has been significantly refined, and George is going to talk about that a bit. As I said, we have had two meetings. The next meeting in September is very important, and George will get into why. Let me just tell you who the members of this working group are, the Presiding Officer, as you know, Legislator Horsley, you're a member as Chair of this Economic Development Committee, the Legislators Barraga and Montano are both members. And we've had a full representation of the college, it's Vice•President Joanne Braxton, it's the Dean of the Western Campus. And we've had support help from everything from Planning and Public Works on the County side to Legal Affairs from the college.

So the meetings, as I think you'll know Wayne, have been informative and comprehensive. I'd to turn it over to George now and talk about where we are going and why the next meeting is so important.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, commissioner. Mr. Gatta.

MR. GATTA:

Thank you, Jim. Just a brief comment. There would not have

been such glee in Jim's voice when he mentioned the Yankees had the Boston Red Sox been trying to locate one of there farm teams at the campus in the mid 1990's. Included with the letter that we just gave you a copy of, the charge letter, you'll see the minutes for the meeting on June 19th and also the agenda for the meeting, which was held on July 12th, the minutes for that meeting are currently being compiled.

At the first meeting, I think one of biggest issues for the college was discussion of the long•term master plan for the campus. And that document, which is available on the college's website, shows that most of the development longer term •• when I say longer term, I mean anywhere from five to 20 years •• will take place within the loop road, the circular road which surrounds all of the existing buildings on the campus. Most of it will take place in the southeast corner.

There will be a number of permanent academic buildings on the campus eventually, and there will also be a dedicated learning resource center, library, also in that vicinity. It will make up an academic mall and that campus will become a college with all the amenities that it needs. It currently has many of sporting facilities with the Health, Sports and Education center. So the property that's been identified to the north with the exception of the fact that part of that undeveloped area is use as an outdoor classroom, and some of the faculty on the campus view that as a nature reserve, and we will need to address those issues as we move forward, much of that property is not slated for any long •term development by the college proper.

Just to the east of that piece, you'll see a green •• a green area. It's not wooded, it's mostly cleared and grassy areas. That's currently used by community groups for festivals and

other events. Some of that property longer term will be needed for athletic practice fields. And as we continue to make improvements to the existing athletic fields, and there has been some discussion over the past couple of months with respect to the Capital Program, and I'd be happy to report on that at some future meeting, as we make improvements to those fields, that will engender additional athletic activity at the campus. Right now we're forced to have some of our practices and many of our competitions at other facilities, because of the unsafe nature of those fields.

But in terms of that, just getting back to that piece, and I don't want to belabor it, there is nothing slated long term for that piece of property. So you have the minutes of the first meeting. Superimposed on what we're looking here, at that first meeting Carrie Meek•Gallagher from the Planning Department, the Deputy Director, went over many of the other development projects that are currently in the approval process or have been approved within the Sagtikos corridor.

Directly across parkway is the property that's owned by Wolkoff, the former Pilgrim Psychiatric Hospital property, which will •• it's been proposed for 9000 housing units, a million square feet of office and a couple of million square feet of retail, I believe. Additionally, you've got the new Tanger Mall proposal further to the west, off of Commack Road, which is another 800,000 square feet, there's a new Home Depot to the north, north on Commack Road •• off of Commack Road north of the expressway, PJ Ventures, and some other projects. So you'll find all that information within the minutes.

The second meeting, we had some input from the Islip Town Planner, Gene Murphy, and we also had planners from some of

the other towns in attendance, and we plan on continuing to receive their input. The next meeting is important because at that time, we need to begin identifying both from the County's perspective and from the college's perspective what might work on that property. Uses that will support the mission of the college, will allow us possibly enhance our programming, make us more responsive to community needs and become more a part of the economic development engine of the County.

So we're looking for input from the County and also input from the college community. Any ideas that the Legislative representatives from the area have, we would be pleased to consider and discuss. If there's any suggestions before that meeting in September, if you could forward them to Jim and myself, we could distribute them and be prepared to discuss them.

Just one final note. One the ideas that we've been talking about for about a year now is the possibility of having some workforce housing, faculty•staff housing on this campus, specifically on a strip of land on the east side the campus along Wicks Road, a residential development basically buffering the college property from the residential property to the east. And that's something that we think there's a fair amount of support for. That's one of the items that we will be discussing at the next meeting and how we can proceed.

I need to go back to Board of Trustees between now and our next meeting and update them and obviously keep them in the loop on our discussions so that anything that we propose going forward, they are comfortable with. When Jim talked about the minor league ballpark and some other project in the past, they did not move forward, because the Trustees at that time would

not support them. So their support and your support are vitally important to anything that could happen at this property. So with that, Jim said we'd try to be brief, and that's the extent of my comments this morning.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Gatta. Thank you very much, Commissioner Morgo. Would you want to wet our whistle here with any possible suggestions that have popped up, or do you want to leave until September?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Only that, Wayne, obviously what would be good for the future of the college is also going to be good for the future of County. In other words, they're not •• not anything proposed would compliment both the missions of the college and the County. They're not mutually exclusive obviously. And other than that, I don't want to get any more specific than that, because we want to •• again, as George said, he's going to speak to the College Trustees, we want to hear from you. As I said at the beginning, this is proactive. We want to set some parameters and talk to a lot of people before we move forward.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I do appreciate that, and I applaud the college as well as the County Executive's needs as far as what •• moving to head together on economic development issues. It's much appreciated, the process especially. I thought since Newsday was here, you might want to, you know, throw a couple •• bandy a couple about. But that being the case ••

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

That's a reason not to.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I certainly can understand why some of the Trustees in the past did not go along with certain projects, because I think the compatibility issue is a very important one, and, Jim, you eluded to that. As you develop this 44 acres, it has to be compatible with the college. You know, I mean, I take a look at it, and I'm sort of thinking, like, Touro Law School, which moved out of Huntington and went to Central Islip, right next door was Supreme Court, so there was a lot of compatibility there.

The question is, you know, as you move forward with your committee, and I'm surprised I'm on it, I don't think I'm supposed to be on it, but I know you mentioned my name. I usually have a rule with reference to what committees I'm on. The compatibility, you know, you may want to look at the feasibility at some point •• or a four•year university may want to establish an annex on that 44 acres. It's in a key location, it certainly would be compatible with a two•year school. I could see all sorts of positive possibilities between the Community College and a four•year institution.

You know, right now, especially in the Western End, you know, if you want to go to Stony Brook, it's quite a ride. I would think that a campus of that size, there would be some interest from a four•year university possibly going there. And you mentioned a portion is going to be used for athletic fields and possible affordable housing on the east side, so the whole package becomes very compatible in terms of an educational overall

institution in the one area, both two year and four year schools. I know Farmingdale originally was two years, now they're four years. They're putting different buildings on that campus. But I'd hate to see something put in there, which is so commercial, which is really an abomination compared to, you know, the two-year school right next to it. But, you know, committee is meeting, and obviously, George, you'll be back making suggestions and recommendations. But I think the compatibility is pretty important.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

One of things to respond to both you, Legislator and the Chairman, one of things that the college looked at and we spoke about, the enhancement of workforce development, and the variety of the areas that the college is •• we heard about the culinary arts. Also, they have a very active •• the college has a very active nursing program, and that kind of compatibility as well as your suggestion, Legislator, of getting the four-year college to be able to be there and also have the benefit of the two-year college absolutely.

MR. GATTA:

We certainly thank you for the suggestion, and I think it's right on target. At the last meeting of the Legislature, you approved a sublease of some of our property at our Eastern Campus. We had a building, a modular building, that we had just vacated, and it was slated to be removed by the leasing company. Long Island University approached us and wanted to maintain a presence and actually grow their presence on East End now that their campus •• their Southampton Campus has been sold to Stony Brook. And we are, in fact, subleasing a 10,000 square foot modular building to Long Island University for their Graduate Program. We're talking about •• with them about

linkages potentially in downtown Riverhead with our Culinary Center. So I thank Legislator Barraga for comments, I think they're right on target.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

By the way, I see they're advertising for the program. That's really neat, I like that. Any further questions from my colleagues. That being the case, gentlemen, anything else you want to add.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

See you in September.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

See you in September, okay. Thank you very much. That closes this meeting.

(* THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:14 A.M. *)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY