

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, April 18, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Tom Barraga
Legislator Ed Romaine
Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher

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
Jon DeMaio - Suffolk Community College
George Gatta - Suffolk Community College
James Morgo - Commissioner - Economic Development
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:20 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

May we all please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you. And may we also stand for a moment of silence for all those young men and women who recently passed in Virginia Tech as well as for our -- our beautiful men and women who are fighting for our freedoms over in other lands.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Good afternoon everybody welcome to the April 18th Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee Meeting, which looks to be a very interesting evening -- afternoon.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, God, don't say evening.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And I wanted to -- I think we will do the -- all right. We're going to do our presentation today first, because -- because we are, but secondly, we've invited a very special guest today to present to the committee in the person of our newly appointed Long Island Regional Planning Board Executive, Mr. Michael White, who I have known for a number of years. And certainly, he has shown his stripes as both a champion of economic development, but a champion of economic development who recognizes that the environment is critical and that -- that economic development and caring for our environment are not mutually exclusive.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I am being interrupted.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry, but you have a card, and usually the public gets a chance -- - I didn't know if you noticed that you had a card.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So how quickly we forget, Michael.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I'm sorry, Michael.

MR. WHITE:

I'm fine.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

But I just noticed there was a card for public -- the public portion, and that has to go first.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

This is what your -- your Deputy Chair keeps you straight, I guess.

MR. WHITE:

Let the public speak.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Michael, let me continue on just saying you're a heck of a guy. We are truly pleased to have you here, and we look forward to your presentation. May I now invite up Mr. Jon DeMaio, Suffolk County Community College, revision -- resolution on the Veterans Plaza. Jon, good afternoon.

MR. DEMAIO:

Thank you. Good afternoon. Sorry to interrupt the presentation. I wanted to take a moment to discuss the revised appropriating resolution as submitted by the County Executive for the additional funding for Veterans Plaza, the newly renovated plaza on the Ammerman Campus.

First, I'd like to thank the Executive for moving that along, as we're excited to complete the rest of the project and certainly thank this committee for approving the first version of the resolution by a unanimous vote. We truly appreciate the support. The Executive had some concerns on that first resolution, which aren't necessarily addressed in the new version, however, there was some language added that the College wanted an opportunity to comment on and set the record straight. I believe a copy of the resolution has been passed out.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yep.

MR. DEMAIO:

Okay. I've highlighted some of the language in the resolution that was added. Specifically, if you read over the highlighted portions, the language suggests that other capital projects were used to contribute to the plaza renovation without approval, which resulted in a shortfall to these capital projects. And then it goes on to say in some other Whereases that effect communication on total cost and the evolution of the project was not moved forward by the college.

Certainly other capital projects were used, and they were used because they clearly had overlapping scopes. To give an example, for anyone who's been at the Ammerman Campus, the Smithtown Science Building has a rather large terrace that leads down onto the plaza. So when the entire project was under construction, the portion of the cost to renovate that terrace were funded from the Smithtown Science Building since it was a part of that building. And most importantly, none of this funding scheduling from the other projects resulted in any shortfalls. All those capital projects are within budget and substantially complete. So no shortfalls resulted.

But to make sure this approach was acceptable, the College put together a rather detailed spread sheet to show where all the funding was coming and then reported a true total so everyone could see exactly what this project was going to cost beyond what was specifically laid out in Project 2087 for the plaza. We submitted that to the Executive's Budget Office, we had some discussions on it, no issues were raised. We then presented it to the Board of Trustees before they approved the contract to move forward with construction. The Executive's Budget Office were represented at that meeting, no issues were raised.

So really what we're trying to take this opportunity to present to you is the College was very transparent in the evolution of this project. If there were any changes with regards to funding, even the design details, we made sure we went to the County first to ensure everything was above board. We take those communications and our financial responsibilities with the Capital Program very seriously. That was the case with this project, and certainly we will continue to do that. And if there are any questions at all, I'd be happy to answer them.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes. Mr. Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yes. I'm looking at this resolution that was laid on the table, and one of the Whereases seem to imply that money is coming from other accounts which you said was appropriated, but then it adds the phrase, "without Legislative approval, thereby causing a shortfall in these accounts." And you are claiming that is not the case, this was done with Legislative approval?

MR. DEMAIO:

With regards to the -- certainly there were no shortfalls.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So let's deal with -- so there's no shortfalls. So what's stated in the Whereas Clause drafted by the County Executive is not exactly correct?

MR. DEMAIO:

Correct.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. This was done with or without Legislative approval?

MR. DEMAIO:

With regards to that particular part. If you're going to move money from one capital project to another that are unrelated, you need a transferring resolution approved by the Legislature.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Correct.

MR. DEMAIO:

That was not done here. Simply put, when you're undertaking a project of that scale that affects so many peripheral areas, you can let one contract, even though it might be funded from several capital projects. You're using the money as it was intended.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So if you're doing several improvement projects and you do it as one bid, but it would involve several capital appropriations -- okay.

MR. DEMAIO:

Correct. And that can be very financially prudent, because you save money rather than having to bid it multiple times.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So that statement that the Executive included in the Whereas, that clause is not -- not accurate, is the best way to put it.

MR. DEMAIO:

Yes.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. And it says -- another Whereas towards the bottom of page, "Whereas the true cost of this project," as if -- okay. "Whereas the true cost of this project is only now becoming known to the County." Was the true cost of this project known to the Executive and members of his Budget staff,

Budget Review Office prior to this particular moment, because he gives the impression that the true cost is only now becoming known to the County?

MR. DEMAIO:

Prior to awarding the contract, all of the details and the total costs were submitted to the Executive Budget Office for review.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. And then it goes on to state, "Whereas the College must be more forthcoming with details and plans for all capital projects so the County can make informed decisions on capital appropriations." I won't ask you to comment on that. I will simply assume what your response would be. I would trust that the College would always be forthcoming. I won't ask any question on that particular comment. Okay. Thank you. Unless, Mr. Chairman, maybe other members of the committee have questions regarding this.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, thank you very much, Legislator Romaine. Any other questions from the committee? All right. Jon, thank you very much for bringing this to our attention.

MR. DEMAIO:

Thank you.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Mr. Chairman, can I ask a point of information.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sure.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Point of information to Counsel. If we adopt a resolution which has statements that are less than accurate in the Whereas Clauses, does it affect the status of the resolution?

MR. NOLAN:

As I've said before, the Whereas Clauses don't have any real binding affect. It's the Resolved Clauses that count. The Community College will get the money.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Take the money and run. In other words, don't worry about the implication --

LEG. ROMAINE:

Don't worry about the verbiage.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Let it fly. Let it fly. Okay. Let me return back to our august guest. What more can be said? Let me introduce Michael White, Executive Director of the Regional Planning Board. Right up here. Have a seat.

MR. WHITE:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Thank you for that great introduction, and certainly for the opportunity to address the committee today. I know many of you and have had an opportunity to work with you. You know I've been before the Legislature a number of times in my role as an environmental activist representing the environmental community.

But today, I'm privileged to be here in my new capacity as Executive Director of the Long Island Regional Planning Board. I love this job. I will tell you with all its enormous challenges, you know, I liked practicing law and I liked being in the environmental community, but my passion is really for public services, and I do see an opportunity to get things done through this reinvigorated Long Island Regional Planning Board with the cooperation and help of this Legislature.

So I welcome this opportunity to try to get things done and talk a little bit about what we're looking to do. And getting things done is, I know, a trait that we all share. Now I spoke this morning -- to make some introductory remarks -- at an association meeting of the New York State Public Health Officials, and the subject was environmental threats to Long Island. And it sort of took me back to my first Earth Day, 1970, graduating high school in Smithtown High School. And it was my awareness, my first introduction to the environmental movement. And I've watched the progress of the environmental movement and learned to understand the connection between the environment and economic development, as the Chairman had stated before.

But here we are some 37 years later, and we're still talking about environmental threats and how we balance these two. So there's still some more work to be done. But what I'm encouraged about of late, there's so much chatter around the world and activity with respect to environmentalism and with respect to issues, and very important issues, such as global climate change, which we know will affect our entire society and our economics, and the fact that global climate change is becoming a topic that's discussed on Main Street, not just at environmental seminars.

So is it that we're just celebrating Earth Day this week? I don't think so. I think this issue is being addressed by government, it is being owned and understood by people on Main Street. You know, this past week we had this great article in the New York Times by Thomas Freedman, I will tell you, required reading. I told my class last night on Environmental Law, required reading. He really presents it. He talks about a new green deal, the importance of stewardship of the environment and what we need to be doing for the next generation. And to hear that the United Nation Security Council is going to have a session on global climate change, a body that certainly is more used to dealing with armed conflict than the environment and the global climate change. And so as we see how this topic of the environment, particularly such broad based as global climate change affect more than just the environmental community.

And we have New York City, our neighbors to the west of Nassau County, who are working so hard on a sustainability plan, who now are talking about a 30% reduction in greenhouse gasses by the Year 2030. And I say maybe that's a challenge that we need to lay down to Nassau and Suffolk County and all the municipalities on Long Island. But we see that more still does need to be done. So what's the role of the Long Island Regional Planning Board? And to develop that, I want to talk a little bit about the history, some of which, I think -- many of which you are aware of.

The actual operating ordinance for the present Long Island Regional Planning Board goes back to a 1965 ordinance that was passed by Nassau and Suffolk County. And, of course, the Long Island Regional Planning Board was extremely active, particularly in the '70s and through the mid '80s with enormous federal funding through the Clean Water Act, the renowned 208 Study was developed, and then the breakout 201 Studies, where they're actually funding to do these kinds of planning studies and funding with respect to specifically water resource and sewer and waste water infrastructure. And today, you know, the 208 Study remains still the foundation of our policy with respect to groundwater protection and waste water management here on Long Island.

Unfortunately, there was a lapse in that regional planning effort, as we all know. And unfortunately also, the lack of activities with respect to regional planning, I think, has hurt the efforts with respect to these issues, notwithstanding all the work the Legislature and the towns have tried to do and Nassau County Legislature have tried to done -- to do. I think it's very obvious that there is a clear role and an important effort to be undertaken by the Long Island Regional Planning Board.

So now we have a new board, a new Long Island Regional Planning Board, reinvigorated by

initiatives of County Executive Levy and County Executive Suozzi and supported by this Legislature. And with my coming in as Executive Director, our goal is to start to present plans and policy with an action oriented basis. We're not going to be just developing plans and writing plans and putting them on the shelf. Our first task in these initial weeks -- or now, I guess, it's been almost two months, I actually do have an office and a computer and an e-mail. I don't have any staff yet, but I'm working on that.

But the bottom line is we're going to take this effort going forward. I'm working on a priority plan with respect to issues, I'm working on a plan with respect to our budget. And I want to talk a little bit about the issues that we will be focusing on, and they're issues that will be no surprise to anyone sitting here today; housing, transportation, energy, economic development, and certainly the environment. And we will work on a regional basis. One of my prime charges and concerns and efforts will be to develop the symmetry of the Long Island Regional Planning Board from both a Nassau and -- Nassau County and Suffolk County perspective.

In addition to which, I've already established working relationships with New York City, because as we all know, we're not an Island of Nassau and Suffolk. We are part of New York City, and not much goes on out here that doesn't really is affected or not affected by New York City. So understanding regional planning and involving what do and efforts that we're making certainly involve at least a communication if not a collaboration with New York City.

We have also been working on a collaborative relationship with the RPA, the Regional Planning Association, who even beyond New York City, has had tremendous achievement in terms of regional planning throughout the Tri-State area. So one of the core objectives we have is to develop what we're going to call a 2030 Sustainability Plan for Long Island. And we will work with collaboration with Nassau-Suffolk Planning Departments, with the towns and villages of Nassau and Suffolk County, with the RPA, with some of the great universities that we have here on Long Island and with organizations on the ground; not-for-profits, builders, people who are stakeholders and affected and who know and have been working so hard on the -- in these efforts in the areas that we will be focusing on.

The bottom line is we need on Long Island to turn this talk or chatter into action. So what do I mean by a Sustainability Plan? It's a solution derived from an integrated decision making approach. We're not just going to talk about one issue at a time. We're talking about sustainability, and we're going to talk about several issues at a time. And we're going to base the Sustainability Plan on ecological integrity, economic stability and social equity. Those are three prime factors on how we reach the sustainability. You know, for some 50 years, we've seen Long Island develop and sprawl, we've seen an almost totally car-dependent society, isolated low-income communities, we've devoured our open space and farmland despite the many programs that still are happening, and we've had an impact on our drinking water, our groundwater and our coastal waters. It goes back to what I said, still more work needs to be done.

So the change is an action plan, an action sustainability plan. And when I talk about doing more than one thing or the relationship of these issues, we take housing, for example, there's no one in this room that would not say housing is a priority issue both for economic development, the environment and our sustainable survival on Long Island today. But when we talk about housing, and we talk about workforce housing, affordable housing, mixed-generation housing, it really doesn't matter what you call it, we know what it means. What it means is we need to have housing that the people who live here can afford to live it, and that's a significant problem.

But we also know that the prime importance of this is in order to maintain economic viability and sustainability, to have economic development, we need workers. To have workers, we need to have a place for them to live. Particularly in Suffolk County, though, when you talk about the housing issue, you must talk about the sewerage issue and waste water treatment facilities, because we have, pursuant to the foundation laid in the 208 Study, a program to protect groundwater, our drinking water, by limiting density. So when we look at the issue of providing this housing that is

affordable for the people on Long Island, we talk about potential subsidies not really likely in a big way, but we also must look toward greater density. And greater density, at least in Suffolk County, means sewerage.

So we need to look at where that expansion can take place, how we can get it done, technology, is it expansion of existing systems, is it new sewer systems. But we can never lose sight of the fact that the sewers, the premise of sewerage and waste water treatment is to protect our groundwater, which is our drinking water and to protect our coastal waters and bays. That's where it all started from. And unfortunately in Suffolk County -- in Suffolk County today, we have areas that probably should have been seweraged. We have areas in this County where there are surface waters already affected or impacted by the lack of sewerage where waste water constituents are coming into those surface waters.

So with respect to housing, we need a housing policy. There's talk about a distribution plan on how to do that. We need to create perhaps a better inventory. And working on housing policy is certainly one of our priorities. We're working with Jim Morgo as well as Pat Duggan in Nassau -- in Nassau County. And also, we'll be coordinating our efforts on a regional basis as well as with our towns and villages. And then we look at the sewer issue. And certainly the overriding issue with respect to sewers is funding; who is going to pay for these sewers. Because part of that problem is that if we have to have the sewers to develop the greater density to provide the affordable housing, well, then if you're going to pay for the sewers, it actually impacts or makes it less affordable.

I mean, years ago, in the days of the 208 Study, as I was Commissioner of Huntington Environmental Control at the time, we were building sewer plants and sewer systems with 75% federal funding, 12 and a half percent State funding and 12 and a half percent local funding. That simply doesn't exist anymore, but we need something that looks like that. What exists out there is some form of a skeleton revolving fund, but it's borrowing money or borrowing money cheaply. We need direct grants, and we need to find a funding source to do that.

Similarly with respect to energy, we need an energy plan and an infrastructure on Long Island that addresses global climate change, that reduces greenhouse gasses, that includes more renewables, but that's also affordable. But in addition to the housing issue, when I look at the priority issues, the other issue that clearly affects not only the environment but economic development and sustainability on Long Island is the lack of affordable energy and the dirty energy infrastructure that we have here today.

So the vision out of the box is the hallmark of an energy policy, it's conservation. You know, every watt that we save is a watt that we don't have to produce. And clearly, we need to see more conservation, we need to see more efforts with respect to green buildings and green power. You know, I had the opportunity not that long ago to actually speak with Larry Silverstein, who's built the 7 World Trade Tower and knows a little bit about building. And he says, "You know, I have 16 acres, I have \$16 billion, and I'm building all of these buildings to a gold level LEED standard." And I say, if that can be done at the site of the World Trade Tower by a Larry Silverstein, every building on Long Island can do it the same way. And so we need to be conscientious. And we see the towns starting to do that even by putting those requirements into their building codes.

So just to talk a little bit more about how the Regional Planning Board is already connecting with the Legislature, we are working with the recently established Solid Waste Commission. The Long Island Regional Planning Board will be taking a lead role with respect to preparing the report that the legislation requires. We will be working with the Institute of Solid Waste Management at Stony Brook to do that. Indeed, I would imagine fairly shortly the commission will come back, we'll probably be requesting some funding with respect to that report.

The reason why the Long Island Regional Planning Board is taking that on is through my initiative and the idea is that solid waste is clearly a regional issue. You know, it's not just about what the towns are doing. If you see what's going on right now, there are sort of market place regional

arrangements that have been made. What we really need to be looking at is what are the alternatives. You know, we have this tremendous amount of waste that gets trucked off of Long Island. So let's look at the carbon balance and the greenhouse balance with respect to all the trucks that go off of Long Island, all the methane that garbage generates when it gets to those landfills versus perhaps even more recycling or more resource recovery here on Long Island.

So the report that we're looking to do will not only provide an inventory to discuss some of the trends but also take a look at these alternatives in -- with some good science as well. We are also working and had the opportunity to attend the task force of Vivian Vilorio-Fisher's fertilizer task force on pesticides, we will be working on some of those efforts. That's clearly a priority issue in terms of one of our environmental issues. And I know that many have been struggling with this. And even the idea of mere public education, which is one of the main focuses of the task force is extremely important, and we'll be working on that with the Legislature.

The last thing I just want to talk about is the fact that we will also be proceeding with new Regional Planning Council legislation. A little bit of history on this, which you all probably recall, Suffolk County in 2005 did pass new legislation effectively establishing the Long Island Regional Planning Board as a Regional Planning Council. And, of course, the major part of that was, as I mentioned early on in my talk, we go back to a foundation from a 1965 ordinance. It's very clear that the statute has changed, and in fact, we need to renovate our statutory existence and have some of the powers and the obligations and really fit into what the new statute provides.

However, if you also recall, that legislation failed in Nassau. And in order to provide a Regional Planning Council, the counties involved in the Council must have mirroring legislation, they must be substantially similar. So being on the job for a while, it's extremely clear to me that that needs to go forward. We need to proceed with that Regional Planning Council legislation so we can conform to the State statute as it exists today.

I will envision that we will be soon -- be introducing legislation through the Nassau County Legislature, and we will likely -- more likely than not have to come back to this Legislature for some amendment to the previous legislation, because as I said, the legislation must mirror each other. And, of course, one of the things that at least has happened between the time the Legislature passed the Council legislation and where we are now is that there is a new board, there's a six member new board appointed, and in fact, there's an Executive Director. So it may be that we have to just conform and amend some of that legislation.

I will keep you further advised of that. I just wanted to give you an idea of some of the things that we are doing and -- where I will be back speaking with you. So I appreciate this opportunity and the time. Certainly I'll be here to answer questions, and most importantly, listen to some things you might have to say and comments about the Long Island Regional Planning Board.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Michael, thank you very much. And as always, a good job. It sounds like you mirror my philosophy of government, so I just love it. Let me -- let me start off by just a couple of quick questions. We talk about our relationship with Nassau. And I speak to my colleagues over in Nassau quite often. Do you -- do you feel that at this point in time that there is a consensus in Nassau to regional planning? Give me just a little bit of what you're thinking about how we can mesh together so that we can move forward.

MR. WHITE:

I believe there absolutely is. And I have not been on the job that long, but I've seen the need and I have had the communications. It's very clear that County Executive Suozzi is extremely supportive of this effort as is our County Executive here in Suffolk County. And the majority of the Legislature initially was even supportive of the first legislation. We have now seen that one of Legislators who had some issues and questions related to the previous legislation Liz Ann Altmann has now publically stated that she will be a sponsor of the legislation. So I see that as tremendous headway. And, I

guess, you know, the bottom line is I anticipate very broad bipartisan support for the legislation in Nassau County.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good. So from what I gather then, the legislation will be drafted by Nassau County, and then we would receive a copy. How does that work, Michael? Or do we facilitate together?

MR. WHITE:

I'm going to be really candid with you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Please.

MR. WHITE:

I'm drafting the legislation.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, that's a good start. Okay.

MR. WHITE:

The attorneys in Nassau County will --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So it's sort of like middle ground.

MR. WHITE:

The attorneys in Nassau County will look at it. And we will also devise and work with your Counsel and the Suffolk County Attorney as to what amendment needs to take place. So I can't say all of that right now, because I don't have all of it in front of me. But there will be a full piece of legislation in Nassau and then an amendment to your legislation.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Got it. Pretty much simultaneously?

MR. WHITE:

I think that is the best approach here.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Which works for me. That does make sense.

MR. WHITE:

Yeah. Everybody can see exactly what's going on and what the changes are that will be necessary. And we're looking to get this into, actually, the May cycle. So you will hear very shortly back from me.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Very good. And also in relationship, we talk of budget, when will you be proposing a budget, because, you know, we're going through -- into our budget cycle fairly shortly? Will you be addressing that to the County Executive? So we -- how do you want to do that?

MR. WHITE:

I will have a budget plan by the end of June. And as soon as I have it available, I'll present it to both the County Executive and to the Legislature as well.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Very good. Okay. Again, we talked briefly and we heard ongoing talking about the need for sewers, and I just love to hear you talk, as many of us, as Jim Morgo and others and Members of the Legislature, about the needs for sewers, particularly in Suffolk County. And I wanted to commit to you that when you look forward -- when you look to find that pot of gold to afford these, I want to be there by your side in that lobbying effort, because I think that there may be opportunities. I agree with you on that.

MR. WHITE:

Jim is with us on that too. We're going to go on the hunt.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Jim is going to be one of the guys that have already -- we've already -- we're starting a gang here. We're going to call it the Sewer Club. And lastly, I wanted to just mention to you that as a regional exercise and something I've been very excited about and Co-Chair of is the WiFi Program for -- between Nassau and Suffolk County to make Nassau County and Suffolk County WiFi.

We're moving along with it. As you know, the RFPs are in. We have some of the most -- the biggest players in the world, literally, the world that have -- have put in -- put in proposals. It's going to go through a process now. And like -- how do you -- how do you see as an economic development issue that will unfold for both counties? Do you have any feelings on the WiFi issue.

MR. WHITE:

I think its time has definitely come. I think it's extremely important to move forward as soon as possible. I truly think it will help.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good. Because we're -- you know, I think we are going to need your efforts to make sure that -- you know, we are two different counties -- that we mesh and kumby yah together.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Get a Babylon word in.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You know, it's not always easy. You know sounds easy, "Oh, WiFi, we'll string them from the poles, no problem." But you never know. And I think we're going to need your efforts to help massage the way for all of our parties to make sure this is a goal that can be accomplished.

MR. WHITE:

And you have my assurances that I will do everything I can. I recognize what you are saying. And by the way, you know, to be very candid as well, part of this is a diplomatic mission. We are two counties.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Absolutely.

MR. WHITE:

But I feel -- I feel very pleased about the manner in which both counties have supported me, not only as the new Executive Director, but this initiative on the Long Island Regional Planning Board, the Executive, the Legislators. And I think that's an extremely good sign, because exactly an issue like you're talking about, at the very least, it's a very -- it's a new avenue and a continued avenue for communications and facilitation.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Just think of the ramifications, the dollars involved and all those kinds of things that can cause tension. So I'm pleased to hear that you would be on board with the effort. Let me ask Vivian Viloría-Fisher, Legislator, for a question.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Congratulations, Michael. I'm happy to see you at the helm of the Long Island Regional Planning Board. And you have touched on many of the things that have been so very important to me during my tenure as a Legislator. And back in the Year 2000, when some of began the conversation of carbon capping here in Suffolk County, and there was a call to have an energy master plan, which LIPA was working on and there were some sustainable energy groups who were also working on that, And there never seemed to be a consensus. And I think that what I see with your leadership is that we can begin to work toward, as you say, an integrated approach to how we will -- how we can reach those goals of having a master plan, trying to have some plans going out, what types of energies we're looking at, what kind of conservation we can anticipate. With what's going on in the various towns, many of which are asking or requiring home star -- Energy Star homes with some type of concentrated and, I think, codified effort that might go throughout our County, both counties, we can achieve that.

But my question to you is vis a vis master plans. Something very new has been coming before us that I think can be a challenge. And that is -- as you know, as Chair of the Environment Committee, I'm kind of an integrated approach wrapped into one person, because I do serve on the Solid Waste Commission and I do serve on Aquaculture Task Force. And Aquaculture has some challenges on how we're dividing that bed that we have and that commercial use of our waters. And as a member of this committee, I heard a great deal of testimony regarding tidal turbines to use for -- I'm sorry, it's hard for me to concentrate -- tidal turbines.

And there seemed to be a gold rush when they came here to speak. They were all looking for their piece of the bottom. And I was wondering, do you envision the Long Island Regional Planning Board looking at some kind of regional planning of our waterways and how that -- the impact of those types of initiatives will -- will occur?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good question.

MR. WHITE:

You know, I think that's a very interesting idea. And, you know, since -- I've actually been involved with Marine Science for quite some time over -- over my past. And one of issues -- and by the way, it's come up in the Broadwater issue, it's come up in the agricultural leasing issue -- the idea of not only potential planning beyond what the restrictions and the regulations provide with respect to control of activities and conduct in wetlands and bays, but the idea of even the potential of a master plan or even to the extent of marine zoning. I think we need to look at that. I think it's going to be an extremely difficult task. I actually know -- and I've sat down with a graduate student at Stony Brook who has a -- is working on a paper on this. So I think it's something we're going to have to consider.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. I just have a second -- thank you. You know, I've looked at Larry Swanson's modeling, the pathometry that we're looking at with regards dredging, but dredging is a piece of this too, because we have to set up some kind of steady routine maintenance dredging so that we don't have a problem where we're hitting a wall on permitting being lost and has it been -- you know. All of that has to be done systematically, and that needs planning that goes to the out years.

MR. WHITE:

And part of is -- not to interrupt -- but part of it, as I said before, is even the coordination. You know, one of the things when we talk about the issues of the overlapping jurisdictions or the need for consolidation even as an affordability question, part of it also is just sort of the overlapping

jurisdictions and what you need to do. So at the very least maybe there seems to be a clearer path on what the path is to get something done. I've always been an advocate of that. And if a simple plan or outline could provide that in the first instance, I think that would be a tremendous tool.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I couldn't agree more. I have a question regarding the housing policy that you mentioned. And in looking at that, have you looked into the Westchester study? I think that there are some very -- I find that a very compelling piece to look at. I don't believe that we're that different. And so I think that's a good place to start or a good model for us to look at. So you are familiar with that?

MR. WHITE:

I am familiar. You know, I'm also very fortunate, because what I don't know about housing, I can just walk down the hall and speak to Jim Morgo about. But, you know, it's an issue -- by the way, just to let you know where the board is on this, at the last board meeting, I presented what I call basically a menu of strategies. The board, even before I came on as Executive Director, had a number of meetings where they listened and people submitted information. And what I did was sort go through those reports and that testimony and sort of set up a menu. And I set it up in two ways; one was still a further report -- a further need for information and report, okay, the real inventory of what's out there, what we need, and what it would look like if we did it.

The other issue that always comes up is the impact to school districts, you know, the school-aged children and what is the fiscal impact. And then what are the options to deal with that if it turns out that in some cases there is an impact. So I had a list of those items, and then I had a list of these -- a number of initiatives or strategies, many of which are being done, many of which could probably be expanded. But at the top of that list was this concept of a fair-share or equitable distribution similar to this Westchester plan. And part of the informational needs that I set up as well, we, the Regional Planning Board, inventories should be doing that inventory to get those numbers, what would that plan look like.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And last question, I promise. Because I did a lot of walking this Saturday with the Step It Up, different activities throughout the County, because as you know, I've been very committed to the global warming issue for a long time. And there were a number of numbers that were thrown out, even an 80% reduction by 2030, I believe, and you are talking about, you know, a different cap that we're looking at.

But do you think that it is feasible for us as a Long Island region to establish a carbon cap? And do you think that -- I know -- I've done a lot of studying on this looked and I've looked at cap and trade scenarios. How do you think that we could establish cap? Can we as a regional planning entity? And can we look at something like cap and trade if we're looking at that type of direction?

MR. WHITE:

Well, I certainly don't think we can say no. I think we have to look at that as a potential option. But when we look at energy, you know, it's not just going to be what the Legislature says, and it's certainly not going to be what the Long Island Regional Planning Board says, we've got to get our hands around our energy entities, which are LIPA and KeySpan. And, you know, once we get past that hurdle, then I think there are a lot of options that are open. And the hurdle is getting the focus where it should be, for instance, on conservation, as I said earlier. The hallmark should not be looking at building new plants, it should be looking at conservation, renewables, is it more solar, and then we can start to talk about, you know, how do we get to the finish line, the finish line being a reduction in greenhouse bad gases.

As I said, if New York City can do this -- and of course, sometimes people say, "Well it's sort of easier for New York City, because it's the City, they control everything. They have the transportation, they have the schools, they have the zoning and so forth and so on." But on the other hand, it's New York City, and nothing happens easy or quickly there. And so when I look at

the initiatives that are coming out, I have to believe we can -- we can get our act together and get that.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And you're right that transportation has to be a part of that too.

MR. WHITE:

Absolutely. Absolutely.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you, Michael.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Legislator Fisher. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike, hello. How are you?

MR. WHITE:

All right.

LEG. STERN:

With so many big projects just coming on line, going through their approval processes right now, so many big grand plans for so much development in so many hot spots, certainly throughout Suffolk County, but also in Nassau, regional planning, of course, is such a hot issue, so it must be an exciting time to take on this role right now in our history.

But one of the things that I found so frustrating, whether it's last year sitting on the Environment and Planning Committee or the Ways and Means Committee, and we would take a look at available properties and talk about affordable housing and whether these properties were appropriate or so many other issues that come up with land use, inevitably, the discussion turns to, well, what are the towns going to say, and what are the towns going to allow. And sitting here, you know, all of my colleagues can come up with wonderful grand-vision ideas, and then ultimately, with so many various layers of government, to get anything done in a meaningful way, in a concerted way, is so difficult.

So, I guess, my first question is I'd love to get your take from where you're sitting now on not just the interplay between Nassau and Suffolk Counties, but all the various levels of government, and perhaps the role that you can play and the role that we should be playing as a Legislature in trying to bring together all of these various levels of government together in dealing with the whole, you know, line of issues that are so important.

MR. WHITE:

I think it's an excellent point. And it's no easy tension to get your hands around. Tension meaning that there's this natural stress in that, you know, we have towns and villages -- New York State Law is very clear about this, it's home rule -- they have the zoning and planning powers, okay? But on the other hand, I have, since I've taken on this job, felt more and more of not only a need if not a thirst for some partnership in this planning effort.

And I think two things are extremely important. The one thing is that, quite frankly, it can't be just exercised or be seen as a top-down approach. You know, the County or the Regional Planning Board is not going to be telling these towns and villages what they have to do. There's some really bright people in these towns and villages. We are fortunate in most of Nassau and Suffolk County, we have towns and villages, certainly the towns, who have very talented planning staff, they have, in most cases, comprehensive plans.

What's missing in that is, I think, two things. One, there's not a regional vision, and we can clearly provide that. Okay. And I think also, there are times when the towns, quite frankly, need some help in moving something. Okay. Because they're dealing with a very small and local constituency. If they can look up or look forward and say, "Well, I hear what you are saying, but we really have to deal with housing," as an example. Look, here's this, you know, fair-share distribution plan. And instead of building 100 be units of workforce housing, we really need to be building 1000. So, you know, we have to get on with that.

So I think there's some room for leadership, there's some room for better information. And one of the most important things -- and I've used this word a couple times today, words, communication and the facilitation. You know, I worked for a town for awhile, so I'm familiar with the way the towns operate. And one of the things I've done in addition to all of the dialog I've had with stakeholders and organizations and the County Legislators and through the County Executive's Office, and certainly working with our County Planning Departments is have that communication with the towns and the Town Supervisors.

Example, we look in Suffolk County, County Planning Department has identified basically six growth areas throughout the County. Okay. Now on one hand, my idea is to have the Long Island Regional Planning Board do something it's never really done before, to actually get involved in particularized projects that are consistent with what we're looking for in terms of those growth areas. What are we looking for? We're looking for sustainable development, we're looking for mixed development, we're looking for development that fits with the infrastructure that exists; transportation, sewers and water and so forth. Okay.

So I think that will, again, not interfere with the towns, I think it will be received. And in my communication -- of course, it depends, you know, how you're presenting it and how that dialog gets established and what we can provide as additional information and additional work in terms of what the regional needs are to the towns. I think it should be very well received. I had recent conversations with Supervisor Cardinale, who is the present Chairperson of the Suffolk County Supervisors Association. I've been invited out to their meeting in May, and I am going. And we will foster this communication. So you are right, it's not going to be easy. And it's also part of the diplomatic mission. But I think we at the Long Island Regional Planning Board and what the County, including, you know, both Nassau and Suffolk County has done and the resources we have can be helpful in this -- in this planning effort.

LEG. STERN:

And as far as being helpful in an effort, our County Executive just recently made a formal request to NYMTEC for, among other things, \$100 million towards -- towards much needed infrastructure for -- throughout Suffolk County and certainly Western Suffolk County with so many developments going on, particularly in the Sagtikos region, Route 110. I was wondering if you had any involvement thus far, or what kind of role do you see that you in the organization can play in assisting our County Executive in that effort towards, you know, receiving this much needed funding?

MR. WHITE:

I have had dialog with the County Executive's Office. I've had some dialog in meetings with NYMTEC. Quite frankly, I think these transportation dollars are important, because as was said before by Legislator Fisher, a lot of what we're talking about, you know, we talk about the sewers and we're talking about various environmental priorities, but transportation is a huge issue, and you've identified one of those in terms of the growth area, that whole Sagtikos corridor. Okay. That requires some real transportation planning and some transportation infrastructure improvements.

So the short answer is, yeah, we're going look for some more money from NYMTEC to not only fund what the County Executive is talking about, but also fund some of even the planning and reporting that we need to be doing at the Long Island Regional Planning Board.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Legislator Stern. Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Good afternoon. Let me ask you a question. What is the position of the Long Island Regional Planning Board with reference to Broadwater?

MR. WHITE:

The board has not taken this matter up directly, so there is no position from the board with respect to Broadwater.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Can we anticipate the board taking -- taking a position?

MR. WHITE:

Well, we are going -- the board has scheduled on their agenda to -- they did some some -- they've received some presentations with respect to energy before I was on board. They focused a lot on housing. We will be revisiting the energy issue probably by the June meeting. So I would expect it will be part of the dialog and part of the discussion.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Because, you know, information on Broadwater has been out there in droves for the last two years. And it's a major, major project having a regional affect on Long Island as well as the City of New York. And I would hope that, you know, Long Island Regional Planning Board at some point, at some point would take a stand, because I think your decision would be influencing quite a few people as to which they want to go on this issue. What is the position of the Long Island Regional Planning Board with reference to wind power, turbines, South Shore on Long Island?

MR. WHITE:

Again, the same answer. The board at this point has not taken a position with respect to these individualized or separate projects. But let me offer in a further answer both the Broadwater question and the wind power question. The answer is it may not be a question of taking a position on these individual projects that makes the difference. What makes the difference is what are we doing with respect to the energy plan, what do we need. For instance, the Broadwater question. You know, is it just a question of being for or against Broadwater, or is it a question of do we need more gas, because the answer is yes, is this the best alternative for the gas. And when Broadwater tells us we're going to save money by buying their gas and it's a more reliable source of gas, is that true? Has anybody done the truth test?

So it's not really a question of perhaps taking a position for or against the project. What's lacking, the vacuum that exists, there's no plan to say that within the plan there is a natural gas need. And one of the ways to support that need, and maybe the top priority way is Broadwater or not.

LEG. BARRAGA:

See, I understand the concept of the plan.

MR. WHITE:

Right.

LEG. BARRAGA:

It's always the master plan. But as a Legislator, I am dealing with the specific issue. Now, I kind of look to groups like you for some guidance. I mean, you may come out and say, "You know, we're not supporting Broadwater." But I want to know the reasons, because I'm trying to make a judgment. But, you know, in past years when I've listened to individuals like yourself, it's always

about the plan, this big master plan on energy, on housing, but I don't deal with the plan. I deal with the specifics. That's why I'm asking at some point maybe your board should consider a specific stand, especially on a major issue like Broadwater or a major issue like wind power off the South Shore so some of us can get some guidance in terms of the decision we have to make as Legislators.

MR. WHITE:

I don't disagree, but I think you could reverse the question and say how do you take a position if you don't know -- have the facts.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Well, I think the facts on Broadwater on both sides have been out there for better than two years. And I'm sure your group has the ability to generate a lot more information from the people who are proponents of Broadwater and opponents of Broadwater at the State and the Federal level than I as an individual. That's why I'm a bit surprised that, you know, we haven't really taken it up. That's not really the answer I'm looking for as Legislator when a project like this has been out there and it's been a burning issue, especially for many people on the North Shore of Long Island for two years.

MR. WHITE:

Well, I think the other part of that is, and this goes back to the question I responded to Legislator Horsley, has LIPA or KeySpan taken a position with respect to Broadwater? Because our only relationship as citizens of Suffolk County to Broadwater can be through one of both of them.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I thought you were the Regional Planning Board that should be looking out so much -- not so much for KeySpan or LIPA if they take a position. Let them take a position one way or the other. What I'm saying is what is your obligation? Shouldn't you be taking a position?

MR. WHITE:

I think it will be up to the board, and I think it's an issue that the board will have to address.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are there any further questions from the Legislature.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Oh, yes. I'm sorry. Mr. Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

A few questions. I know you have been here a long time and we want to get on with the agenda, but very quickly. One of key things that the Long Island Regional Planning Board can do, can take a look at the infrastructure of this Island, and specifically road and rail. I'm just sharing some thoughts with you that you may want to share with your board.

I believe that rail is highly underutilized on this Island for moving freight. I remember that Caesar Trunzo had obtained funding for a truck-train depot that was supposed to be built north of the Deer Park Station, south of Pilgrim State. That has yet to come to fruition. We need to get a lot of our truck traffic off the Long Island Expressway and our other highways. This would accomplish that. I actually think that we need another one of these out at Calverton to service the East End. I think we need to improve our rail transportation tremendously in terms of moving freight. And I would strongly recommend that you take a look at that.

Above and beyond that -- I'm sorry to be postulating events, but I'm trying to go through a quick laundry list -- is the infrastructure needs. We're looking at population growth, we're people at where our live currently, where population may be moving, commerce and industry, so forth. And we're not doing any of the infrastructure that is requisite to that. For example. In my district, where there is a large area where they're looking and talking about building hundreds of thousands of square feet of both office and industrial. You know what it is, EPCAL. And yet, there is no discussions about how do you get people, trucks, cars, etcetera in and out of that facility. What are you going to use Wading River Road, a limited narrow two-lane highway with no shoulder that runs through the Pine Barrens? That's not going to work. I'm try to get a weight limit on that to prevent exactly that.

Are you going to use -- William Floyd os okay, but when you get to 25A, again, that narrows to two lanes. Some people have suggested maybe a direct access to Grumman through Exit 78 or something of that nature. But we're looking at building -- I mean, the town is considering all of these possibilities, and yet, they've given no thought to the infrastructure. And so often -- and this is what the Long Island Regional Planning Board can do -- so often so many projects come forward and there is no relevance to infrastructure. The Town of Riverhead had decided, for example, that their major commercial center should be County Road 58, Old Country Road where Tanger and the other Big Box stores are.

And yet, the infrastructure isn't there to support it. And the money has been in the Capital Budget, but it keeps getting pushed off to subsequent years. County Road 39 in Southampton is another excellent example, or the feeder to the Hamptons, County Road 111, Exit 70 from the Expressway, which everyone takes as a short cut to Sunrise Highway has more traffic accidents than most County roads.

But no planning has been done for the infrastructure to meet the needs. And I'm sure there's other anticipated growths that are going on, and the Regional Planning Board hasn't commented on them. One of them was the expansion of Wal-Mart in Riverhead. Without being opposed to that, being in favor of that, clearly something should have said or conditioned that type of construction on infrastructure development. And none of that is taking place.

I mean, if I had to cite a failure of the Long Island Regional Planning Board it's its failure to adequately speak up about infrastructure development to meet needs before the needs appear. We're always planning catch up. So I'll leave you with that thought. Thank you.

LEG. STERN:

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Let him respond.

MR. WHITE:

I have to agree with you, Legislator Romaine. That's clearly a huge issue for Long Island transportation and the lack of transportation infrastructure. And it's one of those issues that should be dealt with at the regional level, because when the towns and villages are looking at these developments, they're looking at it, you know, sort of like, almost with blinders, it's not going over the town border or the next County Road. You are absolutely correct about that. I also want to respond to --

LEG. ROMAINE:

I didn't want to mention Tanger too, because Legislator Stern is here, and I didn't want him to go, "Ouch."

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

He's already looking to ask a question. I have a feeling it has something to do with it.

MR. WHITE:

With respect to the rail freight -- and I have to be honest with you, people joked when I took this job, when you know, it's like Robert Moses and Lee Koppelman, what would you want really want. And I said, "I'd like a rail freight line. That would be top priority." And what's interesting about that, I'm going to tell you something, I've already been on this topic. New York City disagrees with us about this. So we have -- as much as I think we've got some working relationship with a lot of the issues that we've talked about before, we have got to get over this issue, because we need -- anything that comes on rails has got to come through New York City.

LEG. ROMAINE:

That's the whole point of the East Side access.

MR. WHITE:

So that's on the top of the list in terms of transportation infrastructure.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I could not agree more with Legislator Romaine on so many of the issues that he's just brought up. But I would say, certainly when it comes to a greater reliance on the use of rail for freight purposes, right now there is a tremendous plan in the works on the grounds of the Pilgrim State Property, New York State Department of Transportation project, the intermodal facility, which by definition really is supposed to be more freight brought in by rail, taking the truck traffic of the Long Island Expressway and then shipping it out perhaps on smaller trucks to local business.

A couple of concerns there, but I think that one of the most promising elements, not just the obvious, which is the greater use of freight, as a part of the design, the working design right now, there is supposed to be a private -- what they're calling -- an intermodal roadway, which will allow just for truck traffic, removing a lot of the truck traffic off of the surrounding town and County Roads. And so in theory, it can look real good. And if we can do anything to reduce by just some percentage of the truck traffic off of the Long Island Expressway and surrounding roads, I think we would make great progress.

But what I would ask the Long Island Regional Planning Board to do is as we consider, because such a project of regional significance and because it's in the Sagtikos region and so close to Nassau County, it is a project of regional significance, but what I would ask you, Michael, and your organizations to do is as New York State Department of Transportation continues with its planning process for this intermodal facility for our area to perhaps take a look at some of the other intermodal facilities that are already up and running, particularly, there's already one already in existence in the Bronx. I'm told that perhaps it hasn't had the kind of impact on truck traffic that New York State Department of Transportation originally had hoped for.

So I agree with Legislator Romaine in theory, but like Legislator Barraga, of course, it's not just in the theory, it's all in the details. And this is one project that I think we would all perhaps look forward to making a real impact, but perhaps the details might play out otherwise. So I would hope that you can perhaps study that's already in existence, maybe it works for our area, maybe it doesn't, but I would be interested to see what you have to say about that as we go forward.

MR. WHITE:

At this point I would say I think you are exactly on target in asking that question, because while we could say we'd have more rail freight and we bring it to one of these intermodal multimodal centers, we still have the traffic coming in and out of those. And so what does that do to the local roadways where that is? I think that's a key question.

At the same time though, an example being Tanger down in Babylon, you know, there's some really innovative thinking. I mean, they did the demolition at that Tanger site, and they hauled the waste off by rail. And you know, that innovative, that's good thinking. And I also think, you know, there's also a great relationship there, because you have the rail and the transportation there.

So those are the kinds of projects and those are the kinds of connections we should be looking at. You are right about the intermodal and the multimodal, and we will look at that.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

This is just a very quick question, because I know that we have funds that are drying up in so many different areas. And when we used to talk about intermodal, we would always -- the ISTEA grants were always not too far behind. What kind of monies are there available for intermodal projects such as these?

MR. WHITE:

I think it was one of the things that was discussed with respect to the potential NYMTEC funding. I think that's the most likely source. And we need to be fighting, as the County Executive is fighting, for those monies. That will be continuing -- a continuing target.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Anyone else? Mr. White, as always you do a wonderful job. And we want to wish you well, and we want to be partners with you both on many of these issues, as you can see, we have a range here. And again, thank you very much. Good luck and keep in touch.

MR. WHITE:

Thank you very much for the opportunity and your time. I will be back.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

There you go. Thanks, Mike. May I call up at this time Brian Beedenbender from the County Executive's Office. Is this a rebuttal?

MR. BEEDENBENDER:

It's not a so much a rebuttal, I just think there was some miscommunication or something. I apologize for not being able to come up here while the representative the College was here, but I was confirming with the Clerk that the resolution that Mr. DeMaio with the Whereas Clauses that he read, that's not the version that we filed with the Clerk. I don't know where that came from. The two Whereas Clauses that he referenced, and I got a copy from one of your aides, that the true total cost of the project is only becoming known, and the one alleging that the College had to be forthcoming are not contained in the version that we filed with the Clerk's Office. So I'm not sure where they get it. So I don't want any of the Legislators or the College for that matter to think the County Executive had any nefarious intent or was trying to blame for something, because I don't know where that came from.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I did feel it was inflammatory. I didn't get it either. I wasn't going to say anything.

MR. BEEDENBENDER:

I'm actually the one who physically brings this over, and I read it before it came, and it wasn't there. So when he started reading, I became concerned and I checked. And what I brought over was, in fact, what I think was just distributed to your committee. So I don't know where that language came from. It's not from us.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Sounds like somebody we know.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, we'll leave it at that.

MR. BEEDENBENDER:

What I brought over is what's in front of you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, thank you for the corrected copy. That's very strange. Okay. Commissioner Morgo. As we speak of diplomacy always, Mr. Morgo, you're first on my mind.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

As is only appropriate. Good afternoon, all. I first want to say that my department is just delighted to have Michael White on board, because there is a symmetry of interests, and we're just delighted that we were able to get -- the Regional Planning Board was able to retain someone of Michael's intelligence and experience.

I would like to add, however, that in my usual humble and self-facing way, that when the department did its presentation on having Canon USA come to Suffolk County, we allowed the agenda to go before us. But, of course, no one asked Michael to do that, so he wouldn't be expected to do that. I would like to -- I would like to go over some of the resolutions that are important to the -- to the Department of Economic Development and Workforce Housing.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You'll follow the line of thought here with the agenda --

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

And I will be joined by some of my colleagues in addition to Carolyn Fahey in a short time -- I hope a short time. The first one is 1171. It was tabled from the public hearing on March 20th, and I don't really think I have to say much about this one, I spoke about it at the public hearing. Some of you know that the Airport Conservation Advisory Panel is operating, they came before the CEQ, they commented on the application for Long Island Jet, and this resolution would be redundant.

The next four resolutions; 88, 89, 90 and 91, I would like to take some time, as little as you would me like to. But I want to give some background on the Empire Zone -- Empire Zone benefits. And, Brendan, would you just pass out the overview, they have it already. If you just look at this sheet -- first of all, I'm not going -- I'm not going to go through it. But you may be very well aware of much of what I'm going to share with you.

However, in one of the presentations here before this committee a while ago, there was some confusion between Empire Zones and the benefits they can offer and Industrial Development Agencies. Very different creations. If you look at the Empire Zones, three things really to remember now; number one, development zones. Development zones came about in 1994. They were called back then Economic Development Zone, EDZs. They were put into neighborhoods as the law said that exhibited persistent and pervasive poverty. I wanted to say that, because I like the alliteration. But it was also -- they only went into -- they only went into neighborhoods -- they went to places that were economically distressed.

And as you probably know, we had an Empire Zone, Development Zone in Central Islip in the Town of Islip, and the boundaries of that have expanded. We had one in the community of North Bellport in the Town of Brookhaven, and that has expanded to some degree as well. The type of zone that the Suffolk County Zone is is not a development zone, it's an investment zone. And that's the second paragraph here. And that came about in 1996 because of the loss of defense industry jobs and the closing of military bases, and the base that affected us was the Calverton Navy Base in the Town of Riverhead.

Since 1996, the zone has expanded into subzones. And if you look at the map that was given to you, these Suffolk County Zone now is still principally in Calverton. There's 1037 acres of zone at Calverton. Legislator Romaine was talking about some of the work being planned for that economic zone, that Empire Zone, it's now called Empire Zone. Also, there is a 48 acre subzone at Gabreski Airport, that's the Hampton Business and Technology Park. That's what we've all been waiting for the Town of Southampton to adopt their planned development district for that zone.

There's also 25 acres in the community of Wyandanch. Many people think that the Wyandanch zone was part of a development zone. It wasn't, it's part of an investment zone. In fact, one of you colleagues when we were before you on a regionally significant project said, "I thought it was supposed to be in a economically distressed area." Well, it is if it's a development zone, but these were investment zones. Downtown Riverhead has 68 acres and Flanders has just two acres left. So that is -- that, what I just described, is Suffolk County's Empire Zone. Are you with me so far? The next type of zone --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

No. No.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

No? You're not.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

No.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Okay.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

You know, Jim, I was confused when we did this a few years back, it included Wyandanch. Now, I'm a little bit more confused, because you just said it's when you have closed of military bases, but Wyandanch was never a military base. What we did was we broke it out and kind of a swap a few years back?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

The total Empire Zone any county can have or any municipality can have is 1280. What the Legislature did -- I think one of the people who was really behind it was Legislator Postal -- you broke it out into five subzone. There's still -- all that Empire Zone is still administered by the Suffolk County Town of Riverhead Zone Administrative Board. I'm Chairman of that board, there are labor representatives, utility representatives on that board. And if something is moving into that zone, and here's the important thing, it gets certified by the Zone Administration Board. You don't become involved in that. What you do become involved in is the kind of zone I'm going to talk about next, which is fairly recent. Did that help?

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah. Because I remember when we did it and seemed to be -- you know, to have merit because there was a need in Wyandanch to have this kind of zone. But just now when you defined it as based on a loss of military -- of a military base or a military, you know, established zone, that, you know, certainly Wyandanch would not be that.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

It was only done by that because it came out of our investment zone. And Wyandanch was added because of the need.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And you could break it up to equal that total number of 1000 --

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Two hundred and eighty, yeah.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Which was a good move by the way.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

We thought it was a good move at the time, but I didn't see how it fit into this definition right now.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Carolyn, would like to add something.

MS. FAHEY:

Just to clarify maybe to help put it in a clearer picture. The investment zones were designated because of the regional impact that that closing of the military site had. So it wasn't census track driven. So the regional impact was to the County as a whole. So that allowed us to move acreage to Wyandanch and other areas.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

But that's the County Zone. The next thing, and this is where we have four resolutions before the committee this afternoon, are regionally significant projects, and they came about in 2004. I've heard of them described everywhere as a floating zone. What it is in effect is that zone benefits can be give to an expanding company if it meets certain criteria. And what you vote on is the new boundaries that are specific to that particular business. You are changing the boundaries of the Suffolk County Investment Zone.

We would never vote on a register significant project, you would never vote on a regionally significant project in the Town of Islip or in the Town of Brookhaven, because they have their own, and they create their regionally significant projects in their own townships. So if you look at the sheet, you can see minimum criteria that a manufacturer, for example, has to create 50 or more net jobs within five years of destination. The other types of businesses are listed there. Everyone we're talking about today is a manufacturer.

If you go to the next page, you will see what the benefits are. Most of benefits you will notice are in the form of tax credits. And that's a corporate tax credit on the companies State corporate income tax. One is not, however. If you see the sales tax -- we'll two are not really. But if you look at the sales tax exemption, that's a straight 4%, the State's portion of the sales tax, that's a straight exemption on that sales tax for the portion of the sales tax at the point of purchase. It's not the entire sales tax, it's only the State portion of the sales tax.

The only time there's a local tax affect is when the company is building new, adding appraised value, adding rateables. The County portion of the property tax, just the County portion, if a school district, which we all know is the biggest portion of the property tax, if a school district is going to exempt their taxes, they have to opt in, they have to vote to opt in.

So under the regionally significant projects, most of the benefits come from New York State, it's a New York State Program. It's really an incentive created to keep businesses, all kinds of businesses here, businesses that fill the economic spectrum. The process is very different from the IDA benefits. And the benefits by and large are pretty different as well. What the resolution asks you to do, you have to pass local -- you are asked to pass a local law to change the boundaries to include these businesses, and that is not taken away from our overall Empire Zone. What we have then before you are four resolutions for four different companies. One of them --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Jim, could I ask you a question quickly.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Sure.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Why is it the Suffolk County Town and Fire Tax issues, sewers, etcetera, why aren't they included in the investment?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

They can opt in.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We have to opt in also?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Have we ever gave any thought to that? I mean, that's the first time I'm hearing that.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Well, that usually --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

When does that question come up, do you want to opt in?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

The local jurisdiction would ask them if they wanted to opt in.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Meaning us.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

The town.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

The local -- I see. The town would have to ask the County can the County opt in?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

No. We ask the local taxing jurisdictions; the school district, the --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I understand the school district part. Okay. Put that aside. I'm thinking about the County here. When did that question ever come up?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Well, it's come up in Riverhead with the Empire Zone as it is.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

But not the County. Why haven't I heard about this?

MS. FAHEY:

The County adopted a resolution opting into the 45-E Tax Abatement when it initiated the zone.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Oh, they did?

MS. FAHEY:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Right from the beginning? So anytime we approve an investment zone project, we are automatically opting in with the Suffolk dollars?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Wayne, only if there is an increase in the assessment, only if they build out or they add something. Nothing is taken off the tax rolls for us.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. So it's only add-ons.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

If there's improvement.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Improvements.

MS. FAHEY:

It's an as-of-right with increased assessment on the RSP, a benefit that comes with it.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

So just looking at the four --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So we're automatically in, that's what you are saying?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Yeah, but on these four, there's only one where there is increased square footage where there is an improvement.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Jim, I have another basic question before you get to specifics.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Sure.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

What if they don't hire those 50? What's our recourse if after five years they haven't --

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Every year there's an annual report, Vivian. And they're checked, and if they don't, they have to -- again, most of the benefits would go back to New York State, but there is what's called a claw-back provision where they can be recaptured.

Looking at the four, if there are no other questions, I would ask you to table 1188, which is the regionally significant project for Blue and White Foods, because the boundary lines on the resolution as it stands are inaccurate and we will get the correct boundary lines to you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. And the rest are -- you're okay?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Yeah. I'm going to turn it over to Carolyn now. She has some of the executives from the companies, and they can explain the next three; 89, 90 and 91.

MS. FAHEY:

IR 1189 is amending the Suffolk County Empire Zone boundaries to include CNN Packaging. At the Legislature's last full meeting in Riverhead, you heard from representatives from these four companies. They're here also again today. So I'd like to call up Chris Young, the president of CNN, to join us in case there's any questions from the committee.

We handed out a summary of the four companies looking for RSP designation. So hopefully that will answer some of your questions. This is Chris Young, president from CNN Packaging, which is located at 105 Wyandanch Avenue in Wyandanch. They're a manufacturer of specialized plastic injection molding with company locations in the USA and in Europe. They're adding 7000 square feet to their existing 31,000 square feet facility. They are retaining 89 jobs, adding 55 new jobs within the next five years, with a total investment of \$1,450,000 in both facility renovations, expansions and equipment.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And your name, sir, is?

MR. YOUNG:

Chris Young.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

May I just ask a quick question? As soon as I hear injection molding, I'm instantly thinking, oh, my God, problems with the issues relating to the high energy cost and we're losing injection molders left and right. How are you doing this, Chris?

MR. YOUNG:

One of the things is we produce very small parts. We're leaders in producing closures for the fragrance industry. Every perfume bottle has a cap. Believe it or not, probably 10% -- we have about probably a 10% market share of that business, because we specialize in a particular material. It's a Syrlin material. You may know it as the jacket of a golf ball, but in processing cosmetics, specifically fragrance, it's all these clear caps that you have seen. They're crystal clear, they look glass-like. We're probably one of six companies in the world that can do this right. And it's our specialty. They're small caps so it's not as energy intensive as some of the other injection molders that you and I are familiar with on Long Island who didn't belong here in the first instance with the LIPA rates.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We try to keep them anyway.

MR. YOUNG:

I know. They're so energy intensive. I have smaller machines. Energy is a component of my cost outside of labor. It's the next largest component. But it's a high value-added business. We're profitable. And it works for me. I happen to live on Long Island, so quite frankly, I'm not going anywhere. At this stage of my life, I've decided to rest my case.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's great. Do you have a little patent on this little --

MR. YOUNG:

We have other patents.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

-- stopper. Okay.

MR. YOUNG:

It's know-how. It's technology and know-how. We have other patents quite active for us. We actually -- it may not be the right subject at this point in time, but there's a product that is sold nationwide, it's a national brand. It's called Preen or Preen and Green, and it's used as a -- to prevent weeds in the garden. All of those closures are from CNN Packaging.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

He just makes the top.

MR. YOUNG:

And we have some other patents, one of which is in my pocket right now. I don't want to say anything other than one of the leading oral hygiene manufacturers in the world -- and there are only two of them essentially in the US -- perhaps will be using our patent. And it's early days yet, but if that should happen, you're talking about a substantial investment; jobs, equipment, and needless to say, revenue here on Long Island. But that's a little bit premature. We're in discussion at this time.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Chris, do I know -- how many employees do you have?

MR. YOUNG:

Right now I think it's about 106. I think at this filing we had 89, but right now, we're hovering around 105-106.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's great. Where are you in, the canoli factory, the old canoli factory?

MR. YOUNG:

Right next door.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Right next door. Okay. I gotcha. Excellent.

MR. YOUNG:

It's the old metal improvement building.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Say that again.

MR. YOUNG:

Metal improvement.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Oh, metal improvement, okay.

MR. YOUNG:

Again, downsizing of defense in '95, this was a nonperforming asset, and we opportunistically purchased the building.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Nice going. That's good news. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you. Good afternoon. Maybe I missed it, what year was the business established?

MR. YOUNG:

In 1990. We moved from Deer Park to Wyandanch in '95.

LEG. STERN:

And in the building you're in right now, is it the only business concern that's ongoing within the structure?

MR. YOUNG:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

There aren't any other businesses going within the same facility?

MR. YOUNG:

No.

LEG. STERN:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Any further questions from the Legislature?

MS. FAHEY:

Can I just clarify? All of the applicants that are going to come before you all have to add 50 employees in the next five years. But as we said before on the tax abatement program from the County's perspective, this is the one applicant that's going to be able to take advantage of it, because they're increasing the assessment on their building with the 7000 square foot addition.

So an estimate that we came up with was the County's portion of that sale -- of that tax, about \$8000 over the ten year period is what the County's cost would be. But on the flip side, the sales tax revenue we're getting out of the renovations that he's going to do automatically are over 40,000. So, you know, the County on the offset is --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

So they're going to take that 40,000 and buy stuff at Tanger, which is just around the corner, give or take.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

We don't exempt our portion of the sales tax.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That answered my question. That's where I got confused before about how did we opt in or not, whatever. Mr. Young, that's great news.

MR. YOUNG:

Thank you. We have good employees, and we pay attention to our business.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Do you hire locally?

MR. YOUNG:

Yes. Yes. As far as Brentwood.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You're in Wyandanch, though, right?

MR. YOUNG:

Wyandanch and Brentwood area, they go hand in hand. We have different groups that provide their own following, word of mouth.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I see what you're saying. Okay. Do you run a shuttle? Do you have a bus or something like that?

MR. YOUNG:

Not yet. We're looking at it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You're looking at that?

MR. YOUNG:

Particularly for the third shift, which is a problem for us in terms of hiring people.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Do the buses -- do the Suffolk County buses go down -- they go down Straight Path, right?

MR. YOUNG:

I'm not that familiar, to be honest with you. And you know, you have to be there certain hours. Those machines have to be attended.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Right. Got it. Okay. Thank you very much.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

MS. FAHEY:

Thank you.

MR. YOUNG:

Thank you.

MS. FAHEY:

IR 1191 is for Custom Woodworking. I'm going to ask the president of that company, {Catherine Lineary}, to join me. Custom is occupying 1718 through 817 on Pulaski Street in Riverhead. They're manufacturer of high-end flooring projects -- products, purchasing a new location to expand from the 14,000 square feet that they occupy now -- I'm sorry -- to 14,000 square feet from their 3500 square feet facility now. With 14 employees, she'll be adding another 66 with a 2.3 investment in the new project.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good afternoon and welcome.

MS. {LINEARY}:

Hi. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Does anyone have any questions? Tell me the number of employees one more time.

MS. {LINEARY}:

At the time we filed, we had 14. We're at 16 right now, and we plan to, obviously, expand a good deal over the next five years.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And this lady was kind enough to come to our public hearing. All of these were discussed at our public hearing at the last Legislative session.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Which I was not there. I'm sorry. That's probably why I -- this is all news and excitement to me guys. So thank you for -- and you're a constituent?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

There you go. Business is well, I gather.

MS. {LINEARY}:

Business is doing very well.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good. Congratulations.

MS. {LINEARY}:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Any questions? Sure. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

I have a question. Your business was established when?

MS. {LINEARY}:

2000.

LEG. STERN:

Okay. And you're moving into new space?

MS. {LINEARY}:

I just purchased property in Riverhead, three and a half acres. It's right in Polish Town, one block off of Main Street, which is part of the zone. It was a building -- it was an old Agway that had fallen into disrepair. So we've actually begun renovations on the property.

LEG. STERN:

And how long do you think approximately it's going to take from doing all of the renovations until you're in the new space?

MS. {LINEARY}:

Right now, we just started gutting our office and showroom. We hope to have that done by the end of the summer. The mill facility is up and running on the interior. The exterior needs some cosmetic work, the grounds need to be cleaned up. You know, we want to first improve what we have, and then coverage allows for us to build up to another 40,000 square feet on the property, which we'll be looking at probably in year three or four.

LEG. STERN:

And when the new square footage is done and the new space is done, will it just be your business

solely operating from the facility?

MS. {LINEARY}:

That's the plan right now, yes.

LEG. STERN:

Thanks.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Any further questions from the Legislature?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Good luck.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Absolutely.

MS. {LINEARY}:

Thank you. Come down and see us.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Absolutely. It's right around the corner from where my office is.

MS. {LINEARY}:

We will invite you down to our ribbon cutting ceremony this summer for our new office and showroom.

MS. FAHEY:

Just to clarify something. You know, we talked before about what happens if they don't create the jobs. They don't get the credit unless they create the job. It's not an after effect, it's -- you can't apply for the credit unless the job has already been created by that specific business at that specific site. So if a company were to lease part of their facility out, that company doesn't access the zone benefits at all. They can't access it. It is company-specific and only based upon the jobs that they create. Just to clarify.

The third company is Air Techniques. Jeff Goldstein, President and CEO is here. You also heard from Jeff at the public hearing in Riverhead. Air Techniques is a manufacturer and distributor of medical, veterinary and nondestructive testing equipment located on Walt Whitman Road in Melville. They have nearly 360 employees currently, and over the next five years, plan to add at least an additional 70. The total investment for this project for equipment and renovations is 5.7 million. This is Jeff Goldstein.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

Good afternoon and thank you. If I could just make a quick comment or two. First of all, I heard earlier about the sewer problems. This project literally came to a stop because of the lack of a sewer hookup. We were able to work around the problem to allow us to go forward, but it's a very real problem, certainly in Suffolk County.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

How did you go around it?

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

We were lucky enough to have bought a piece of property owned by UL. They had a preexisting hookup improvement, and the sewer district was able to, if you will, grandfather us into the program. Otherwise the square footage of our plant would not have allowed us to build. And we couldn't use a smaller plant.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Right. Which would have sent you out of the County or elsewhere.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

Out-of-state.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Out-of-state.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

And possibly you've got alternatives out of the country, and I'll explain that in a moment. The second thing that I heard discussed was energy. We, in building our facility, went through the LIPA programs, KeySpan to look at ways to conserve and to cut down on the energy costs, but obviously, here on Long Island, that's a very real operating cost for us.

We are a manufacturer. We have got 80,000 square feet of manufacturing area. We have powder coating facilities, gas consumption. It's a major overhead cost for us. And quite frankly, which leads me into the next piece, anything that the County and the State has been able to provide to us has clearly given us an incentive to stay on Long Island. We have had opportunities from just about every other state in the country. People talk about Mexico, China, it's a very real issue. We choose to stay on Long Island.

The company was founded in 1962. Our average employee is somewhere around 15 to 16 years with us. We didn't want to leave them. We didn't want to move. And I have to say that the State and now the County is doing quite a bit for us to give us the incentive. We manufacture products that we sell globally. In order to compete, we're constantly looking at our overhead costs and the cost of operations. You can't just raise prices. We compete with lots of other companies. We've got some brochures that give you an indication of the products.

On the dental side, if you've been to the dentist recently, most likely our equipment is in his office. If you've been to a doctor, we have equipment that's sold to physicians' offices. We also sell products to veterinarians that are utilized throughout the country, Canada, Australia, the Far East. And amongst our customer list are people like McDonalds, Coca-Cola, GE, and you don't win that business by raising prices. So whatever the County can do and whatever the State has done has been very helpful.

I did hear you before talk about the County's sales tax. And if I can ask you to opt in, it would be delightful. You know, we -- even though we are a manufacturer, we have that problem constantly. And we buy a lot locally, we buy quite a bit of materials, and some of it taxed. And anything that can happen, anything that can be done, would give us further incentive to keep expanding here on Long Island. I will also comment to you that one of the products we manufacture is used in security. And you shouldn't be surprised if come of your local County police forces do consider buying some of our equipment, and we will offer it at very attractive pricing.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are you on the bidders list?

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

I believe we are, and I will make sure. But we have recently brought out a particular device that is used if you found a package sitting in the hallway, you could bring one of our portable devices there, They X-ray it, and they get an instant look at somebody's hopefully dirty laundry as opposed to some other device. We have orders and are selling it to Chicago, Michigan, Canada, and it's an expanding part of our business. And everything that we sell is manufactured here, that's why we have all of the employees we have.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's interesting. So are you with the Homeland Security people?

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

Well, the FBI has been to some of our presentations and a few others, yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Excellent.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

And some of it, that's as much as I can tell you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Otherwise you'd have to shoot me, huh? There's some people that would like to.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

With that, if you have any questions for us, I'd be glad to answer.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's great. Anyone have any questions? But certainly the growth -- 70 people, that's -- do you hire locally? Where do most of your people come from? I heard they're there 15 years.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

You know, I heard you ask the people before if there was a shuttle. We used to be in Hicksville in two different facilities. We still run a daily shuttle, twice in the morning, twice in the afternoon to the Hicksville Train Station to bring employees to us. We have people from Brooklyn, Staten Island, other places, but also Nassau and Suffolk County. Rich {Povack} is with me. He's our Director of Operations. He really has the problem of, you know, most of the employees, but it's a diverse group.

If you'll allow me to just take two seconds. We happen to have a large Caribbean population, meaning that their heritage was Caribbean. When we put up our new facility in our cafeteria, we built a separate room that has a number of microwave ovens and special ventilating simply because many of them like to cook foods that not everybody else enjoys. And it's worked out well for us. Everybody seems to be pleased with it. So it's a very diverse population.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

How are you with the specialized meals? Are you getting into it?

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

I haven't really tried fish heads lately, but who knows? One of these days --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Nothing like a good eyeball.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

One of these days, you never know.

MR. {POVACK}:

We may be the only company on Long Island that at our Christmas Party offered curried goat.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I was going to ask about goat. It's a very popular item.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

You might be right about that.

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

I think in answer, seriously, we hire from all over. We've got 28 engineers on board, and yet, we have a lot of hourly factory employees.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's great. Are you having troubles reaching out to get 70 more people? I mean, are you having trouble getting employees?

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

Well, luckily, most of manufacturing has moved off of Long Island, so there's always a little bit of a good side to every problem.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's a heck of a thought.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Thank you, Jeff.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We'll leave it at that. Any other questions?

MR. GOLDSTEIN:

Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Good luck.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you, gentlemen.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

The department doesn't endorse the, "luckily, most of the manufacturing has moved off Long Island."

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

But I think it's an indication of what we have to do to retain our manufacturers. And Air Technique is a relatively high-tech company and good wages, but I think we need that whole spectrum of wages that -- from what we heard of today. If I could just move on very quickly. I know that it's been a long meeting. 1277 involves the department. It's a capital project to demolish the remaining buildings at the Gabreski Airport to get ready for the Hampton Business and Technology Park.

The next, 1295, 96, 97, all involve community development. It's accepting grants from the Federal Government. Joe Sansaverino, the Director of Community Development is here, if you'd like to hear from him. It's your pleasure. What do you want to do? I'm getting a great look from Legislator Barraga. My Italian grandfather used to look at me that way. He used to say, "Hey."

LEG. BARRAGA:

I'll give you anything you want, please wrap it up.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Joe, would you just go through the three different grants that we're accepting.

MR. SANSAVERINO:

I want it on the record, he wanted me to speak. I would have been perfectly happy --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Really. What are you doing, Joe?

MR. SANSAVERINO:

The three grants, the Community Development Block Grant is a grant that is primarily used for public improvements, public facilities in low and moderate income areas, home improvement program. The Home Investment Partnership Program is our affordable housing-workforce housing grant that we utilize for things like down payment assistance, the Employer Assisted Housing Program and for -- to help with new construction of affordable housing.

The Emergency Shelter Grant, which is the smallest grant there, that is primarily a grant that we get to help some of the shelters on the Island in Suffolk County with operational expense as well as some homeless prevention activities. And we have been getting these grants for a number of years now.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Quick question, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes.

LEG. ROMAINE:

The CDBG grant, you applied as a consortium.

MR. SANSAVERINO:

That's correct.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Are you executing any projects or are they all being executed by the villages and towns.

MR. SANSAVERINO:

In the Community Development Block Grant, they're all implemented by the towns and villages. We serve as the administrator of that.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And what is the administrative fee that you get for that, roughly, approximately?

MR. SANSAVERINO:

Approximately, it's about -- this year it will be about \$400,000 -- it's actually 375,000 from the grant.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Percentage wise.

MR. SANSAVERINO:

Percentage wise it's about ten to 12%.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And what is the consortium getting overall this year?

MR. SANSAVERINO:

As far as the total grant?

LEG. ROMAINE:
Right. Total grant.

MR. SANSAVERINO:
Almost \$3.8 million.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:
That's CDBG.

MR. SANSAVERINO:
CDBG, yeah, right.

LEG. ROMAINE:
Boy, that's really gone down.

MR. SANSAVERINO:
Yes, it has. In the last three years, it's gone down about 15%.

LEG. ROMAINE:
I know Greenport is a small cities, but Shelter Island, Southold, Riverhead and Brookhaven all apply under the consortium.

MR. SANSAVERINO:
That's correct.

LEG. ROMAINE:
Okay. So if you could forward me -- to me -- I assume they've given you a list of projects.

MR. SANSAVERINO:
Sure. We can send you the application.

LEG. ROMAINE:
I don't need the application. Just give me a list for Southold, river -- Shelter Island, Southold Riverhead and Brookhaven.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:
Mattituck.

LEG. ROMAINE:
Right. That's a different program. I'm just asking for CDBG. I don't want to blow Joe's mind. Just a list of what they're spending their money on would be greatly appreciated. Just so I know, not for any other purpose.

MR. SANSAVERINO:
I may have it here actually.

LEG. ROMAINE:
You can send it to my office. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:
Okay. I think it's as good as it's going to get, Jim. Thank you very much for your inclusion.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:
Okay. And if we have --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Do we have any further questions before I --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

No.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

We have one more. We have 1307. And Her Highness -- I mean, Michele Isabelle Stark came here.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

She sat through this meeting to address us, and we certainly want to hear from Ms. Stark.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

All kidding aside, if you guys don't want her to, that's fine.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

It's all listed.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

It's the cultural arts grants.

MS. STARK:

Hi. Good afternoon. I just want to recognize that we have the Chair of our Arts Advisory Board here, John {Carrarer}, who is the Director of Cultural Affairs for the Town of Huntington and also Alison {Cruise}, the Executive Director of the Smithtown Township Arts Council. I just want to make three quick points about the Cultural Arts Program.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sell away.

MS. STARK:

The Arts Board has seen an improvement in quality of funding applications due to an emphasis on programs that enhance cultural tourism and downtown revitalization. So we're seeing -- you know, we're trying to better align the Cultural Affairs Program with the mission, objectives of economic development.

Secondly, Smithtown Township Arts Council is launching a new Digital Long Island Festival in the November of 2007 in the Towns of Huntington and Smithtown collaborating with the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Long Island Software and Technology Network in order to reach new markets. And the funding that Suffolk County is applying to that is reflected in Resolution 1307.

We're also continuing our marketing efforts with Suffolk County Arts Programs through Long Island's only public radio station, WLIU. They have a daily morning program with Barney {Grise}. And we plan on expanding that program with a series of film reviews that will emphasize Long Island filmmakers.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Just one other thing, and thank you for your patience, but this is the department's committee. And I think it's extremely important that you know what we're doing, why it's important for economic development. So we do appreciate this time.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Michelle. We're sorry we're giving you a short trip here. We truly do appreciate you. Okay. Let's move on, though.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Agenda time.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

To the agenda. Tabled Prime.

1171. Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law to establish the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Committee.

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

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Second on the motion by Vivian Viloría-Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. Motion is **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1188. Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law amending the Suffolk County Empire Zone Boundaries to include Blue & White Foods, LLC (SCTM Nos. 0100-006.000-01.00-013.000; 0100-006.00-014.00; 0100-06.00-01.00-015.000).

Motion to table, seconded by Viloría-Fisher. All those in favor? So moved. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1189. Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law amending the Suffolk County Empire Zone Boundaries to include C&N Packaging Inc., (SCTM No. 0100-080.00-02.00-119.009).

Is there a motion the approve? Motion to approve by Legislator Barraga, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1190. Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law amending the Suffolk County Empire Zone Boundaries to include Air Techniques, Inc., (SCTM No. 0400-255.00-01.00-002.005).

Motion to approve by Legislator Stern, seconded by Viloría-Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? So moved **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1191. Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law amending the Suffolk County Empire Zone Boundaries to include Custom Woodwork Ltd., (SCTM No. 0600-124.00-02.00-024.000).

Motion to approve by Legislator Barraga, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1277. Amending the 2007 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the renovation and construction of facilities at Gabreski Airport (CP 5702).

Motion to approve by Legislator Barraga, I will second the motion. All in favor? The motion is **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1295. Accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements.

Legislator Stern, motion to approve. Seconded by Legislator Viloría-Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? So moved -- and to place on the Consent Calendar. May I add that, Legislator?

LEG. STERN:

Yes, that's the motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. We amended motion to put it -- and add it to the Consent Calendar. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Wayne, I'm sorry. I have to ask a question.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sure.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Budget Review, on 1277, can you just explain the amending budget resolution? It says amending on it.

MR. NOLAN:

That's what the agenda says.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

It looks like appropriating, but it says amending.

MR. NOLAN:

I think the agenda is wrong. The resolution itself says appropriating funds in connection with the renovation and construction of facilities. It doesn't say anything about amending the budget.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, okay. In my caption it says amending the 2007 Capital Budget.

MR. NOLAN:

Do you have an updated copy?

MR. MUNCEY:

The copy I have is dated 3/28/2007 says --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, I have 3/20.

MR. NOLAN:

This is the amended updated version.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

MR. MUNCEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are we all right with it? Do we have to -- is that a scrivener's error?

MR. NOLAN:

We corrected it already.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

It's already done. Excellent. Wonderful.

1296. Accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a Home Investment Partnerships Program and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

And to place on the Consent Calendar.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

By Legislator Stern, Viloría-Fisher. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1297. Accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for an Emergency Shelter Grants Program and authorizing the County Executive to execute an agreement.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Barraga and Stern seconding the motion, placed on the Consent Calendar and all that good stuff. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1307. Authorizing Cultural Affairs Agreement Funding for 2007.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Viloría-Fisher, I'll second the motion. Thank you very much, Michelle, for your inclusion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1308. Accepting and appropriating an amendment to the College Budget for grant award from the State University of New York for an Educational Opportunity Program 84% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk Community College.

Do I have a motion? Motion by Legislator Stern, seconded by Viloría-Fisher to approve. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1309. Accepting and appropriating a grant award amendment from the New York State Education Department for a Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program 100% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College.

LEG. STERN:

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1311. Accepting and appropriating a grant proposal to the New York State Education Department for a 2007 Teachers Summer School 74% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College.

Motion by Legislator Barraga, I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1310. Accepting and appropriating a grant award for a Health Workforce Retraining Initiative Grant Program from the New York State Department of Health, 100% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College.

Legislator Barraga, motion to approve, to put it on the Consent Calender, seconded by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1312. Accepting and appropriating a grant award amendment from the New York State Education Department for a Science and Technology Entry Program 100% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College.

Motion to approve by Legislator Viloría-Fisher, seconded by Legislator Stern to put it on the Consent Calendar. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1313. Accepting and appropriating an amendment to the College Budget for a grant award from the Suffolk County Community College Foundation, Inc., for a Raytheon/General Motors Service Technical College Training Program 100% reimbursed by private funds at Suffolk County Community College.

Moved by Legislator Barraga to place on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

That concludes the agenda. Motion to adjourn?

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

You got it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We're adjourned.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:17 P.M. *)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY