

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION & 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, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on December 12, 2007.

Members Present:

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Thomas Barraga
Legislator Edward Romaine
Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher

Also In Attendance:

William Lindsay - Presiding Officer/District #8
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Ian Barry - Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Brendan Stanton - Aide to Legislator Horsley
Justin Littel - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern
Michael Cavanaugh - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Leader Cooper
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Leader Losquadro
Joe Schroeder - Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn - Deputy County Executive
James Dahroug - County Executive Assistant
Carolyn Fahey - Department of Economic Development
Lisa Broughton - Member/Downtown Revitalization Committee
Jennifer Casey - Member/Downtown Revitalization Committee
Joff Sahin - Member/Downtown Revitalization Committee
Robert M. Kuri - Member/Downtown Revitalization Committee
Debra Alloncius - Legislative Director/AME
Peter Quinn - West Islip Resident
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 2:17 P.M. *)*

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee meeting of December 12th, and may we please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Salutation

And may we have a moment of silence for Legislator Montano's Dad who passed away this last week.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you very much. Please be seated. All right. Rumor has it that there are no cards; is that true, Mr. Quinn?

MR. QUINN:

Except mine. Is it time?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

It is time. Why don't you just saddle yourself up to that podium and tell us what you'd like to know, what we should know.

MR. QUINN:

Good afternoon, members of committee. My name is Peter Quinn.

MR. LITTEL:

Is that mike on?

MR. QUINN:

Oh. Erstwhile known as Gadfly, according to Mark Harrington.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

We've been called worse.

MR. QUINN:

I'm no longer affiliated with any group. At any rate, I came to talk about two issues, one education and the other energy. Let me talk about energy first.

I found out a short while ago, you know, that LIPA has a subsidiary known as LILCO doing business as LIPA, and that's bothersome to me because back in 1998 I thought LILCO was out of business, and now I discover -- well, I discovered it as a result of looking at some court cases, that sometimes the signatory for the defendant in those cases signed as LILCO doing business as LIPA, so I knew about it subliminally, but not actually. And when I went to the Budget meeting the other day, both Libby McCarthy and Kevin Law claim, "I'm surprised, Peter, that you didn't know that this subsidiary existed." So I just asked a few of the Legislators and it turns out that they were in the same boat that I was. What I don't know is who's filing taxes for that subsidiary, how are they doing it, what are their finances, what are their revenues and expenditures. I'll accept the fact that they filed, but with so much going on at LIPA -- especially their subterfuge with fuel cells, financing, etcetera -- it just seems to me that there may be some other imprudent matters going on at LIPA that perhaps you can answer -- ascertain by asking the appropriate questions of Kevin Law. And I would urge the Legislature to do so, because frankly, I don't believe many people across Long Island or our ratepayers even knew of the existence of this subsidiary, and I think that's been part and parcel of the subterfuge since the takeover of LILCO by LIPA in 1998.

The other issue concerns Wyandanch, and of course you're familiar with Roosevelt in Nassau County; two major minority school districts on Long Island which, in my view, I'm white, but I see a sore festering across Long Island by having those two school districts have so many problems for their children in schools without over the years having been given adequate State aid and with too imperfect a system to collect local aid. Businesses don't go there so they haven't been -- sewer districts haven't been connected there. It just seems to me -- and this County has had revenue hearings on public education and expenditure hearings on public education and how to correct it and I -- one recommendation I would make is that you obtain -- you seek to have Governor Spitzer provide as much money as he did for Roosevelt.

The Assembly has called for \$8 million in terms of a grant to upgrade that school district. The Senate Republicans say, "Well, we'll give six million, but we want it as a loan," and it just seems to be improper. We need both Legislative branches in Albany to get together and provide the same kind of money for Wyandanch that we're giving to Roosevelt, and then maximize class size to 15 where people are not performing effectively, that would be an enhancement to those two districts --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Please wrap it up, Peter

MR. QUINN:

-- and I think it's time that were remedied. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Quinn, for your comments today. Is that -- are there any other -- would anyone else like to be heard? Okay. We'll move to the agenda and we'll start with the Tabled Prime.

Tabled Prime Resolutions

2195-07 - Allocating funds in connection with downtown beautification and renewal (CP 6418) (County Executive). And I understand that there are some members of the Citizens Advisory Panel who would like to address the Legislature on 2195 and 2196. Ms. Fahey, would you like to introduce your group?

MS. FAHEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. At the last meeting I had asked you to table 2195 and 2196 so that we could make some technical corrections that were needed to be made; What you have in front of you are the amended versions.

Also at the last meeting, I briefly explained how these two resolutions are now the culmination of the successful actions of the Legislature's Downtown Citizens Advisory Panel. Resolution 2195 is the County Executive's Capital Program and Resolution 2196 is the Legislature's traditional Downtown Revitalization Program.

As you see in the one, two, three, four, oh, one of the resolutions in 2195, the County Executive has asked the Legislature's Downtown Advisory Panel to recommend to him how to use his \$500,000 for downtown beautification and renewal. That recommendation was asked because of the professionalism that this panel has brought to that program, the scoring system --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Not because of the good judgment of the Legislature?

MS. FAHEY:

-- and the concurring good judgement of the Legislature, you didn't let me finish.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

There you go.

MS. FAHEY:

The panel has really professionalized this grant process through a merit scoring system, you've heard from them in years past on what they've done. And because of that professionalization, the County Executive has asked them to recommend to him how to utilize his 500,000 for downtown beautification and renewal. The two resolutions you have in front of you are the result of those applications.

With us today are four -- three members of the panel, Robert Kuri representing Legislator Alden, Jennifer Casey representing Legislator D'Amaro and Joff Sahin representing Legislator Eddington, and they each have a brief statement to say and then are here to answer any questions you might have on how they went about their deliberations.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Great.

MS. CASEY:

Good afternoon. I just wanted to reiterate how important this program is and we were very lucky this year in order to get the additional monies from --

MS. MAHONEY:

Can you speak into the microphone, please?

MS. CASEY:

Sure, I'm sorry about that. I'm usually accused of speaking too loud. It's a great program and the other members on the panel have really done a great job. We worked very hard on this. We were there very late getting these applications gone through and getting the money allocated. And I think the grants really show the breath of the program, we have them all over the County and I think they make a big difference. I myself live in Huntington Station and the monies have really helped a lot with our Revitalization Program. I'm on the EDC Board in Huntington and we really sorely needed the monies and it's making a big difference, if anyone's driven through Huntington lately.

I just wanted to tell you all that this is such an important program and we're fortunate to have these monies and we're very lucky this year that we had the additional monies. But it's a very fair program, if there's ever any criticism as to how we do it, everybody spends a lot of time going through these applications very carefully in order to distribute the money. But it's a great program and I feel very fortunate to be a part of it and see what the monies can do for the communities in this County.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Ms. Casey.

MR. SAHIN:

Hi. My name is Joff Sahin. I represent --

MS. FAHEY:

Is that on, Joff? Just on top.

MR. SAHIN:

Hi. My name is Joff Sahin. As you can imagine, my name is a little strange because I'm a Turkish immigrant and this is my first year being on the panel. We have spent a great deal of time educating ourselves, thanks to Ms. Fahey and {Ms. Abratan}, and explaining out everything. During

the time that we were working together, the panel members, every day on the -- each first Mondays of each month we were there discussing what we were going to do and discussing all the applications. Toward the end, all the applications came in, we had discussed it unbiased, we were very much informed together. We went through all of them, made sure that this money is not just a grant, is going anywhere. Made sure that applications are not just a grant, they are earned grants. They don't just get money for anything, they put an application in, we look and we see if it makes -- if it makes any sense and then if it has any leverage. The point system is very good, it is because that we just don't look at one thing, we consider everything, especially the support of civic associations and also the leverage and sponsor -- other people who are coming out with extra money in it. I think this really is helping our communities in a great deal and I hope you will continue supporting us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Sahin.

MS. FAHEY:

Robert, before you go, just on Joff's point, so you know, the million dollars worth of grants will be leveraging over \$10 million of other money. Between Federal, State, town, local municipalities, Chamber of Commerce's bids, we're bringing in another \$10 million towards this project, so that one million leveraged \$10 million in projects.

MR. KURI:

Good afternoon, Chairman Horsley and members of the committee. It gives me distinct pleasure to join you at this wonderful occasion to discuss some of the accomplishments and the work that we have did (sic) throughout the years.

Despite the downfalls of some downtowns owing to the infrastructure, big shopping malls and such, right now in the 90's we -- they're transforming into a new urbanism, aesthetically pleasing and environmentally safe, economic sustainable communities. A place that's emerging into a partnership that connects people with accessible transportation, affordable next generation housing and open space and parks where people can work, live, play and invest.

Evidence can only suggest that a healthy, vibrant, diversified and well planned downtown increases the economic activity and strengthens consumer enthusiasm leading to job creation, capital formation and the reduction of urban sprawl. The integrity of investments incubates small businesses, stabilizes property values and provides an availability of goods and services. A healthy downtown is a symbol of pride and enjoys community spirit and attracts investment.

In fact, according to the National Trust Main Street Center, they have tracked the statistical data on economic activities in local Main Streets nationwide and has determined that close to \$26 for every one -- is reinvested for every one dollar, a participating community spends to support the operations for Main Street's programs.

I am delighted to report that under the direction and leadership of the current committee, the involvement and application procedures have been broadened. The proposals for fundings are sought -- that are sought are strictly for capital improvement projects that would impact long-term investments to downtowns and are evaluated by each member through our points rating system. The points rating system consists of determining the economic benefits, smart growth standards, leverage of additional funds, part of downtown -- making sure that they are part of a downtown improvement plan, community government support and the expectation of completion.

Under this current system, the Chamber of Commerces are challenged to seek other funding sources crucial to restoration programs and urban development by seeking grants and private donations through fund-raising efforts to develop and attract capital that is essential to stimulate economic activity and growth initiatives.

The committee also serves as a networking team that provides and develops new ideas. In fact, each year we reevaluate the application procedures and set criteria, if necessary. And we also ask County Executive Levy for input in which he concurs that the panel's recommendation be evaluated and be supported.

We discuss, analyze each proposal, we explore current issues affecting downtowns. We've also toured downtown communities, provide technical and tutorial services for communities whose proposals may not have been chosen.

It is, therefore, that I concur with my colleagues the recommendations with the current round seven application be reviewed and reevaluated with the same provisions and criteria and appeal to you for your consideration. I assure that we will continue to move forward in this.

In closing, I want to thank you all, including County Executive Levy, the County Legislature, the Economic Development for the past support and hope for continual funding. I would not be remiss to thank this administration for the outstanding vision that has created a new dynamic achievement for the {patches} for public funds and empowerment -- and empowering enthusiasm to the people of Suffolk County. Wishing you and your families a blessed holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Kuri. That's a -- that was quite a mouthful, we loved it. Just I wanted to thank you guys for your service and what you've -- how you've helped us. Just listening to some of the things you do, in fact, going out and visiting the sites and whatever -- it sounds like you've put in a great deal of time and this process has been very thoughtful and dynamic and we all appreciate that.

Quickly, just -- Ms. Fahey, the whole issue of bonding, I know that one of my colleagues will probably bring it up so I will ask you about it, if this is going to be bonded and what's -- give me a little history of what you're looking at here.

MS. FAHEY:

Well, a history on the bonding? As you remember from your last committee meeting and then during the Capital Budget process, the determination was made to take these projects a step further, to no longer be the small operating grants of a couple of thousand here. The committee had felt, and I'm sure they could speak on it if you wish, that they have done enough baskets and garbage pails and some of the smaller projects to do smaller beautification, but they wanted to see long-term effects to this program. We all talked about the need for public restrooms, they talked about the need for sewers and sidewalks and lighting; major constructive projects.

So in order to go forward with that, the decision was made that you can bond those projects and let's look at it from that perspective. And the bonding requirement required the applicants to focus on long-term plans for their area as opposed to just wanting --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Right.

MS. FAHEY:

-- the quick fixes. It forced them to work with their Planning Departments, their local jurisdiction, their local elected officials to ensure that what they wanted was a long range plan for everybody and it brought that consensus on and allowed us to move into that direction.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. I appreciate your comment. May I turn this over to Legislator Stern?

LEG. STERN:

Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course every -- hello, everyone. Thanks for being here. Almost everybody knows that affordable next generation housing continues to be such a tremendous issue and you spoke to that, you know, one of the things that's on the minds of everybody who serves so well on the committee.

I was just reading today the Long Island Economic Survey and Opinion Poll, this is done by the accounting firm AVZ, and affordable housing by far continues to be the most significant issue on the minds of business owners on Long Island and their impediment to growth in the future.

So I guess my question is what role, if any, does this continuing challenge of affordable housing play when you guys go through your deliberations? Is it part of the point system, is it not; is it part of the discussion and to what extent? You know, we know that we try to play what role we can in living up to our commitment for more affordable housing throughout Suffolk County, but ultimately it is the towns that control land use and zoning authority. And so I know colleagues are constantly looking at ways that we can put ourselves into the conversation and ensure that, you know, the towns go forward as best they can in promoting affordable housing; whether they do or not is another issue. But when you go through your deliberations in selecting towns and projects within those towns, to what extent, if any, does affordable housing play into the conversation?

MS. CASEY:

If I can address that. We did go to a visit to Patchogue which was very interesting and I think our monies have helped fund some projects in that area. And due to the monies that we've given them, they've gone forward with the Copper Beach Project, which we all got to visit which is just such a wonderful example. And I think the greatest thing is that the board members get to go to different towns and see what's going on and I could bring back to Huntington what a great project Copper Beach is, and now we're looking at Huntington in doing -- I'm on the EDC board there and initially our charge there was just to do redevelopment with commercial, but now we're looking into the housing, the affordable housing component and now we're looking at different designs. And I told my colleagues on that board, "Let's see what they did in Patchogue with Copper Beach."

And I think that what we do with our board, and especially now that it's bonded issues, it's more bricks and mortar that we can explore more issues that can help with the housing issue. Because before that, I mean, it was all different kinds of projects that we had to deal with, you know, smaller projects as was discussed with flower baskets and things like that, but now we're down to bricks and mortar since it has to be bondable. And I think what we do starts the conversation in the towns and that's what's important, that's where the work needs to be done. And it has to be done on a County level also, but I think we can generate that excitement and get the towns to really look at what projects are out there that can be funded.

And to comment on the bonding issue, it was a big challenge for us this year. I mean, it caused a lot of difficulty in conversation for us because we couldn't go as quickly as we wanted to because we had to wait until some things were ironed out and I think it was difficult for some of the applicants too, but I think it worked out very well.

MS. FAHEY:

One of the criteria in the application where points are awarded is for smart growth compatibility, And the Patchogue application that was submitted this year was a prime example of that being able to be weighted in. They asked for money to renovate an alley-way between a parking lot and Main Street that actually is right across the street from Copper Beach. So they were able to tie in the life-style, the workforce housing, the visibility, the walkability to the downtown, how this alley-way would assist with that in bringing all those components together. So this panel does grade it and use it as a criteria and it does weigh very heavily.

MR. KURI:

I would like to add to that as well. In fact, I'm the Affordable Housing Program Director for the Town of Islip Community Development Agency. On -- we have many affordable housing programs within the township and now one -- in fact, in Bay Shore there is one right by the train station in which for this funding period there has been a revitalization effort for the Union Boulevard community.

But basically, this downtown revitalization is for the revitalization of downtowns. As towns become revitalized, that's where capital formation and investment continues to -- you get a tendency to attract investment that is with a healthy and vibrant downtown. And once again, as we all know, this is all part of a smart growth initiative as well.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay, good. Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Again, thank you all for serving on the panel. I know how much work goes into it because I had worked very closely with my representative years ago, Michael Mart, who has since retired and we have somebody new there to represent my district.

But I'd like to go to 2195 because I agree with you, the Copper Beach project, which I was involved in from the beginning because I was a member of the Workforce Housing Commission and I saw it developed and I've gone to visit and it really is a model of good smart growth principles, and it certainly meets all the criteria as I look at the different uses.

What concerns me is that it was my understanding a few years ago, as Ms. Fahey explained earlier, that we were looking at larger projects, bricks and mortar types of projects. We also have the component where we're looking at seed money for larger ongoing projects and I'm looking at the purchase and installation of "Welcome to Northport" signs, and it seems to me that that's an incongruous line. It's only \$12,000, it's not the kind of -- you know, that looks just like the flower pots and street lights that we -- so can someone address that for me? And it certainly is way below our pay-as-you-go guidelines, way below.

MS. BROUGHTON:

I'm sorry, I missed the last part about pay-as-you-go.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, the guidelines that we follow regarding bonding here is that -- is the 5-25-5, you know, that you know how long it's going to -- the durability, the cost, over \$25,000 is usually -- you know, these are guidelines for us, and \$12,000 is way below that. Nothing against Northport, I think it's a nice downtown, but it's certainly not within the kind of description we've been hearing for the past few years.

MS. BROUGHTON:

These are fairly substantial signs that are taking up an entire corner on each of the village corners leading to. I guess for Northport, because they're not on 25A like maybe Setauket and some of your villages, they get lost, their visitors get lost finding it. So these are actually very substantial signs, 20 feet high and quite broad and we did check it with Counsel and they are going to qualify as bondable because they're on village property and they are going to last 15 to 20 years. That's the last round of --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

But they don't qualify with all of the criteria that we have in the Legislature, which is the \$25,000 criteria. It can qualify as bondable, but it doesn't mean that you will have the support of Legislators who have tried to say we should use some of the monies in pay-as-you-go rather than bonding

every small expenditure that we have. And is there a matching amount of money for this \$12,000 from somewhere?

MS. CASEY:

I believe there most likely is. That was a big component of the applications, that there was matching monies, and we would not have given them money just because that's all they needed for this project. That was a very important component to it. And I think it is an important thing because what our charge was was to help with the downtowns and this is a real thing to get people to Northport's downtowns. I don't believe that we knew that there was a monetary limit with the bondable issue, because we had a lot of discussions about the bondability of different projects, so I don't know if that was ever a discussion we had.

MS. FAHEY:

The County Attorney's Office had given us direction with regard to the bondable aspects of the program, and Lynne is here so maybe we can as Lynne. She had worked with Bond Counsel on these projects to ensure that we were --

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And I know that you're bundling these projects together so that it's a \$500,000. However, looking at the various components, this, you know, \$12,000 to bond to me seems to be a very small amount of money to go to bond on. And as I said and as you said, Carolyn, what we're looking at are projects that are larger projects and I don't think a \$12,000 project would constitute a larger project. You know, I think when I look at some of the others -- and we do have a few where there are sidewalks and sidewalks are usually the purview of the towns; are the towns partnering with us on these?

MS. FAHEY:

Yes, they are.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, because that has been a question that I think, Legislator Romaine, you brought up at another meeting regarding sidewalks and using the County monies for sidewalks. So those are just issues which I think we have -- we need to raise and look at how the monies are being expended and what the purview of the County is in our, you know, budgetary system and the responsibility of the towns and with regards -- the question that Legislator Stern asked regarding affordable housing and workforce housing, we are often at the mercy of the towns because we propose but they dispose with workforce housing. And the sidewalks, although they're very important, I would like to see the town step up more regarding those sidewalks in their downtowns.

MS. FAHEY:

There are no projects in front of you that are fully funded by this process. They all brought a significant amount of leveraging money from the local municipalities and the State and, you know, their local chambers and such, so what you see in front of you is a small portion of what these major projects are. Again, there's \$10 million that are being brought to the table by all those other entities to match where this one million is assisting with.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

What's the full cost of the signs in Northport?

MS. FAHEY:

I don't have that with me.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Lisa, do you know the full cost of the signs in Northport, after the cost sharing?

MS. BROUGHTON:

I don't remember the number, but the village is doing the installation and these need to be on a concrete installation, so they're bringing that to it, we're simply purchasing the signs. They also got the design of the sign to be donated by a local sign maker, and I can't remember if there's any lighting involved, but that all would be provided by the village, so the only part that we're bringing is the actual purchase of the signs. And I do believe, at least when we were doing it, we saw it as our whole project as bondable, we didn't actually take into consideration the minimum that you're bringing up.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, that just jumped out at me.

MS. BROUGHTON:

Yeah.

MS. FAHEY:

It just didn't seem like the way we were supposed to be going in recent years. Yes, sir?

MR. SAHIN:

Ms. Fisher, I understand your concern and I just want to tell you that during the discussion, these panel members, Northport signs did take our attention and we, at least for 15, 20 minutes, we had talked about it because to me personally, it looked like Northport is rich enough to get a sign, just -- I was against it. And I did talk to panel members, but when the village is helping them for a little bit of it and then other income is coming from different places, what we're contributing is just to help, that's how it appeared to us.

See, I just -- I could tell you also that these panel members, when we were there, we were unbiasedly making these applications get what they deserved. And some towns don't have the ability of other towns like Central Islip, like Brentwood, those people didn't have good civic associations, they didn't have a good Chamber of Commerce, they didn't even have anybody representing them, but they prepared some applications. We were there for them, we made sure that these people need lights. The lights in Central Islip and in Brentwood is very essential for everybody and, you know, I just want to say that I just want to assure you, we were taking everything into consideration that we spend money rightly with our consciences. Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you. And thank you for the time you spent on that.

MS. CASEY:

Just one thing. I think the problem in funding some larger projects is that we don't want to take the whole \$500,000 and give it to one town, which I think would be a problem and I think that's the problem.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

It would be.

MS. CASEY:

If you wanted seed money towards affordable housing or a big bricks and mortar project, we can only do a component. So they'll give us -- these towns will look at their projects and say, "What small component can we ask for the money?" And I know just, again, talking from Huntington, we have big, big projects we're doing, but we can't ask for every single dollar, so we ask for a small component because we know that there are so many other towns on Suffolk County that are also vying for that money. So, I mean, we would love to give money to a big, big project, but then no one else would get money and I'm sure we would then get criticism for just singling on one town and not kind of distributing the money to everybody.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

But we do have larger projects represented here.

MS. CASEY:

Yes, we do, we do.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

The \$100,000 project, the 80, you know, 75, 84, you know, which are more substantial.

MS. CASEY:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And then I'm looking at it, these are within the context of what I'm seeing before me.

MS. CASEY:

Okay.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And believe me, I truly appreciate the work that you've put in this and that you're following the guidelines. But this did jump out at me as being contrary to the description that we've been trying to follow for the past few years which is that we're looking at major projects and we're not looking at signs and flower pots, you know, that we had been seeing a lot of when we began this program.

*(*Presiding Officer Lindsay entered the meeting at 2:50 PM*)*

MS. FAHEY:

And just on that one project, the lifelong -- the life of the project also came into consideration. These are long-term signs; these are signs that will be up for 15 plus years.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, I don't want to keep beating this.

MS. FAHEY:

No, I appreciate that. Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I know there are other questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes, thank you very much, Legislator. Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Thank you for your service. I was listening carefully and my questions were answered through the other questions of the Legislature, but I appreciate your attendance.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, there you go. Thank you very much, Mister -- Legislator Romaine, that's always good. Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Hi. Good afternoon. Thank you very much for your service. I'm not too concerned about your projects, but I just want to make sure I understand what Ms. Fahey was saying. The \$1 million expenditure leverages about \$10 million?

MS. FAHEY:

Correct.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Now, the \$10 million being spent, those -- that ten million is spent to complete the projects you've picked, right? Or is it --

MS. FAHEY:

No, they are projects that were in the process of being funded and budgeted and were not funded and budgeted wholly at the local and State level, so they came to the County looking for the remaining funding for that project.

LEG. BARRAGA:

All right. So if you have a listing of projects here totaling \$500,000, some of those additional monies, some of that additional ten million will go to complete those projects.

MS. FAHEY:

Correct.

LEG. BARRAGA:

But you're saying there are other projects outside of those that will be funded by the ten million?

MS. CASEY:

Some of these are components of larger projects. What you see on these sheets are just a component of a bigger scheme, so this money pays for that component of the project. So those monies go to the bigger portions of the projects.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Now both bills, it's all bonded indebtedness. Okay, And that changed last year, didn't it?

MS. FAHEY:

Correct.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Okay. So in essence, the taxpayers are footing the bill for this and they're taking out a mortgage on the projects, right?

MS. FAHEY:

Bonding, yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All righty. Are there any other further questions from our Legislators? Thank you very much. And if I may, closing out this hearing on this is 2195. I'll make a motion to approve. Do I have a second to the motion?

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved.

LEG. BARRAGA:

In the negative.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

In the negative, Legislator Barraga. **Approved (VOTE: 4-1-0-0 - Opposed - Legislator Barraga).** Okay, we're good? All right.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Could the Clerk please list me as a cosponsor? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. **Legislation 2196-07 - Allocating Downtown Revitalization Funds (Phase VII) and appropriating the 2007 Downtown Revitalization Funds in connection with the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Program (CP 6412) (County Executive).** This is our share?

MS. FAHEY:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Stern.

LEG. BARRAGA:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

On the motion.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I'll be voting in the negative, but I'm only voting in the negative because of the methodology used to fund, bonded indebtedness. I much prefer pay-as-you-go as we've had up 'til last year.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

And may I just?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sure. On the motion.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I voted to approve so that it can go to the full Legislature, but as I look at this, I may be voting in the negative next Tuesday because I am concerned about bonding this money as well.

MS. FAHEY:

In the interim, if there's any questions that I can answer, please call.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BARRAGA:

In the negative.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

In the negative, Legislator Barraga. The motion has been *approved (VOTE: 4-1-0-0 - Opposed - Legislator Barraga)*.

MS. FAHEY:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you, and thank you very much for your hard work.

Okay, We're now moving onto Introductory Resolutions.

Introductory Resolutions

2234-07 - Accepting and appropriating a grant award from the New York State Education Department, the University of the State of New York, for the State Adult Literacy and Basic Adult Education Program, 100% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College (County Executive). Legislator Stern?

LEG. STERN:

Motion to approve and to place on the Consent Calendar.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Do I have a second on the motion? Seconded by Legislator Romaine.

All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. ***Approved and placed on the Consent Calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)***.

IR 2264-07 - Amending the 2007 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with redevelopment to create a Homeland Security Technology Park at Gabreski Airport (CP 5735) (County Executive). Do I have a motion on this?

LEG. STERN:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Stern, I'll second the motion.

All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. ***Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)***.

IR 2272-07 - Amending the 2007 Capital Budget and Program and accepting a grant award from the New York State Department of Transportation, Aviation Bureau and appropriating funds in the 2007 Capital Budget and Program in connection with the construction of the helicopter hangar for East End Operation, Gabreski Airport (CP 3167) (County Executive).

LEG. STERN:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Stern, I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. ***Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)***.

And that appears to conclude our agenda today. Do we have a motion to adjourn?

LEG. STERN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion by Legislator Stern. I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? We are adjourned.

Thank you, everybody.

*(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:55 P.M. *)*

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY