

**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, January 27, 2010.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman  
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Thomas Cilmi  
Legislator Ricardo Montano  
Legislator Lynne Nowick

**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  
Yves Michel - Commissioner - Economic Development  
Carolyn Fahey - Economic Development  
Linda Bay - Aide to Minority Caucus  
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Caucus  
Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano  
Ernest Mattace, Jr. - Board of Trustees - SCCC  
Evone Walters - Executive Dean - SCCC  
Dr. Beodeker - Suffolk Community College  
Tracy Oaks - Suffolk Community College  
Joann McKnight - Suffolk Community College  
Nick Anastasi - Economic Development  
Dot Kerrigan - AME  
Peter Quinn  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:13 P.M.\*)

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the Economic Development, higher Education and Energy Committee Meeting of January 27th. Now that we have all taken a seat, please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SALUTATION**

And please may we all stand for a moment of silence for the victims of Haiti as well as for the men and women protecting our freedoms throughout the world day in and day out.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you. Please be seated. All right. Again, good afternoon. And we have -- we have listed as one presentation, I believe we actually have two from Suffolk Community College and/or -- Suffolk Community College and the Trustees (sic) Ernie Mattace is here, which we're going to -- we'll have a talk to. But we might as well get right into the -- why don't we do the public portion first since we only have one card. I have a card from Peter Quinn. Peter, why don't you come on up and speak your peace.

**MR. QUINN:**

Thank you very much. Thank you. Good afternoon. Happy New Year. You have noted the Caithness situation from Newsday. And the recommendation today from Newsday in its editorial that you add a couple of individuals to have some oversight at LIPA. As a long time LILCO-LIPA critic, I offer my interest in doing that. But at the same time, I have argued over many years that LIPA should have sold off its Queens service territory. I'm reminded that National Grid, when it sold Ravens Wood generating plant, garnered \$4 billion for itself. So selling off 135,000 customers from Queens along with an upgraded T&D system seems to me that it could garner billions of dollars and thereby automatically reduce the debt. It would create a two-County utility, and therefore, match what Newsday is talking about.

But -- so that we need -- if that fails, then we need to bring in the rating agencies, which behind the scenes, control what LIPA does along with the bonding firms. For example, three months before, in March, 2007, they told Kevin Law that LIPA Trustees must pass a resolution in support of National Grid, which was a \$11.8 billion purchased from KeySpan. And it just seems to me that we need to have public officials stand up and take a stand and demand -- oh, I moved my thumb -- and demand that public authorities control board, the candidates for Governor, the Legislators from Long Island all meet in a public session and demand that the refinancing of LIPA take place and demand that the interest on the \$6.8 billion currently after 7.2 in '98, and now it's only \$400 million less, that they should demand, given the state of the current economy, a reduction in interest at 2%. Others are doing it.

I note that the State of Ohio has gone after the bonuses. I see that Cuomo is going after the bonuses. It's a way of clawing back and getting something for the benefit of Long Island and improving its economy and enabling it to create jobs. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Peter. And I know I will be watching you as well as I wind up for the big -- the big 2013 new maintenance agreement that will be coming up for -- for bidding in the process.

**MR. QUINN:**

We shouldn't wait till then.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I knew you'd feel that way.

**MR. QUINN:**

It should be done this year.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. All right. We have -- we actually have two presentations. The first one, I think I would defer to Ernie Mattace, the President -- Ernie, is your title President?

**MR. MATTACE:**

Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Chairman. Why don't you come on up and maybe just have -- you know, what I asked -- I asked Ernie to come down. I know it's not on the schedule. I didn't realize he was coming till yesterday. Ernie is the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Suffolk Community College.

And there was a lot of discussion and controversy over the choice of the President. And I asked him during the heat of it to come down, we didn't have a meeting until today, after, I believe, most of the issues have been settled. But I thought maybe it might be a good idea for us to just chat about, you know, how that process went; is there -- is there maybe something that the Legislature could do in the future to make sure those -- those issues work smoothly and the like. So, Ernie, why don't you just, you know, give us an update on where we're at and how the Board of Trustees is doing and particularly as it applies to the new President.

**MR. MATTACE:**

At this point, at our last meeting, the Trustees have authorized me to sit down and begin negotiations with the contract with Dr. Shaun McKay. There was no vote taken as such, but just an understanding authorizing me to move forward. There will be a resolution if all goes well at our next meeting on the 11th of February finalize our end of the process. And then from there, Dr. McKay would go up to SUNY to be approved through the SUNY Board.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Is that -- you know, I don't want to get into the details of the voting. Is that decision of the entire board? Are they unanimous in giving you this -- this go ahead?

**MR. MATTACE:**

Well, again, there's no vote, okay? It was basically a consensus to say, "Yeah, go ahead and start the negotiations. The vote will come up on the 11th."

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

And the vote will come up on the 11th. And the negotiations would involve salaries and other issues?

**MR. MATTACE:**

All benefits, yes.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Benefits?

**MR. MATTACE:**

Yes. Standard contract negotiations.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

From -- you know, from an aside, I was obviously -- we're not part of this -- the members of this board are not privy to the inner working of the trustees' decision making. It seemed to, in my mind,

be helter skelter as far as, you know, stop and go for a while where, you know, there were questions about whether or not Dr. McKay was once part of three, and then once the -- once the decision -- where two were eliminate, then we didn't go automatically to the third, then we were talking opening up the process again and then it wasn't -- then the process was closed, you know, we're going back to Dr. McKay. What transpired? Was there -- it seemed -- it seemed confused.

**MR. MATTACE:**

Well, I think it was confused by people reading into a lot and not being involved from the very beginning. You have to understand, we reached out to a group of individuals to set up the original search committee, Presidential Search Committee. We had over 30 candidates who came, submitted, and the committee went through those, and we literally went down to basically eight semifinalists, if you want to call them.

When that was done, we continued in your discussions, and then we wound up going down to three individuals. As everybody knows, one of our individuals had some personal issues. He came from California. And he called me at six o'clock on Monday morning our time, that's three o'clock his time, So there's a little concern, and kindly asked to be removed. We had two candidates left. We had one candidate from Rhode Island who was at that time President of Rhode Island Community College. Can we get a grant to get new microphones?

Okay. The Board had decided -- now this is the Board of Trustees -- had decided to offer it to this individual based on his qualifications. We knew we were going to have a problem because of his experience and his qualifications being a sitting President. Within two days, the Governor and the Legislature got together and decided to offer him just about everything including the kitchen sink. They gave him a substantial raise and basically made him Chancellor of Rhode Island. So it was a little difficult for us as a Board to top that.

At that point, we did not sit down and we did not offer directly to Dr. McKay. But it never stopped. The process continued. And we continued talking to Dr. McKay. We had to leave the committee in tact, because we didn't want to work at the end and find we don't have a candidate at all. So we had to continue. And we continued talking to Dr. McKay. All right.

The end result -- the end result was the Board felt that this was going to be the best choice for Suffolk Community College. What everybody assumed, and it has to be understood, this is part of the process. It's not a beauty pageant. You have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place, it doesn't work that way, all right? As Trustees, we have a grave responsibility. We are the largest community college in the State of New York, have some of the largest programs that are set out there. One of the program are nursing programs.

And I have to be honest, thanks to Legislator Lindsay, that's how we got it off the ground, by expanding it, because we do have a day-to-day working relationship with everyone at this table and the people who are not here as well. So again, even though your point of view was helter skelter, all right --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I just said it appeared to be.

**MR. MATTACE:**

It was not only you, believe me, all right? And part of my responsibility, number one, is confidentiality. What happens between us, the candidates, stays between us an the candidates. And that's the way it should be, all right, for their protection as well as the colleges. So again, if I have to, from the Board, apologize to everybody, all right, because of the feelings that they had, but I want you to understood, we take our responsibilities very seriously. We basically all love Suffolk Community College.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Absolutely. Did you feel that the confidentiality was maintained throughout the process? We certainly can't do it here at the Legislature. You know, I understand why that's a difficult task.

**MR. MATTACE:**

There were hiccups. And like anything else, you have to live with hiccups. You can't do that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Right. Do you feel at this point now that you have been asked by the Board to be in discussion with Dr. McKay that that process is now moving in a format which is positive towards finding the new President and securing the new President?

**MR. MATTACE:**

Definitely.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Are there any further questions from the board? I thought I would have further questions. Rick, you are good?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I'm good.

**MR. MATTACE:**

I think maybe if this meeting was held a little while ago, there would have been a lot more questions.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I think so too. When I did ask you, this was burning issues. And, you know, I am hopeful for a positive transition where everyone is discussing -- I saw Dr. McKay out at the State of the Town Address of Mark Lesko, and he looks very presidential. So it looks like things are moving along. And he was standing next to the acting-President and things looked good. So, you know, I think at the end of the day, this process is going to end in a positive conclusion. But we just -- we wanted to make sure -- and is there -- is there anything that you feel that the Legislature could have done to help you in this process? I mean, I know we had a board member, you know, someone representing the Legislature. Is there something that we could done to assist you? Because, you know, we all want to look good.

**MR. MATTACE:**

Just being there; again, being supportive of us while everything else was happening, there's not much else you can do. Again, based on the process that's laid out, you know, by SUNY and the search process itself. You had representatives that could represent every corner -- every corner of the County from business to education. So basically that's -- that's the right thing to do, all right, because it represented all the constituents out there.

You know, and again, all I can say is I thank you, you know, for everything that the Legislature does for us, all right, being part of us, helping us to continue to grow, okay is an important factor. We are growing.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I understand that your numbers are even over and above what they were the first semester.

**MR. MATTACE:**

Sixteen percent over last semester. We're getting to the point now where we need a master schedule. We do have them, but there's only so many seats.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Let me ask, is the President's Office going to be used for classrooms.

**MR. MATTACE:**

If it has to be.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay.

**MR. MATTACE:**

We have nice conference rooms.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Shaun, come on in, but by the way, you're sharing it with 126 History.

**MR. MATTACE:**

Right now the biggest concern is the State cuts. We do not want to have to say, "We're going to close the doors." Believe me, we don't want that to happen.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Shutting down of -- right.

**MR. MATTACE:**

We can only go so far. Okay? Like I said, if the State keeps cutting the way it is, we have a potential problem just like every other Higher Education Institution.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yeah. I think even Farmingdale didn't accept a thousand students.

**MR. MATTACE:**

We don't want to get there. We don't want to go there. Again, at this point, we're waiting to see what happens, you know, at the State level.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. We want to work cooperatively and closely with the Trustees as well as the Administration in solving the space issues and the like. We are in this together.

**MR. MATTACE:**

The only thing I do ask you, and I'm sure you're aware of it, we had our second trustee --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yes.

**MR. MATTACE:**

-- resign as of this Friday. Again, we ask you for individuals who understand the importance of Suffolk and its students that we serve. And we just want to move forward, all right, to have continuity. We've come a long way as a Board working together, all right. Again, we're working for a common goal.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I know we're interviewing one presently, because I know that she may be moving forward through the Legislature. Are both of those appointments, were they Legislative appointments?

**MR. MATTACE:**

They're both Legislative appointments. We have gubernatorial appointments due at the end of the school year, June 30th. So that will be four new trustees within less than six months.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Do you -- I don't know if any of the terms ran out, I don't think they did. They were resignations. Did they have anything to do with the presidential selection process?

**MR. MATTACE:**

I can't -- I can't speak for them.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay.

**MR. MATTACE:**

I cannot speak for them. It was their decision. One was a month ago, and one was just this Friday.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Again, any further questions? We are good? All right. Ernie, as always, it's a pleasure. And I do thank you for coming down. And good luck with your final negotiations and bring it in at best cost.

**MR. MATTACE:**

Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thanks. All right the second presentation is also from the college, Suffolk county Community College One Stop Student Call Center presented by Evone Walters, Executive Dean of Suffolk Community College.

**MR. WALTERS:**

I want to thank the Legislative body for this opportunity to highlight what the Eastern Campus believes was a very successful initiative. As you will hear in the presentation today, this initiative was able to effectively respond to the significant challenges associated with record student enrollment this past fall and spring semesters.

Our peak enrollment period traditionally occurs in the months of August and January. And during this time period, not unique to the campus or the College, we are challenged by the sheer volume of students who converge on our campuses to enroll. For example, based on the past four years, we typically in the fall enroll approximately 25% of our total student body during this one month period. For us that is on average under -- just under 800 students.

In addition to the sheer volume of students, challenges are reflected in space limitations and information exchange in terms of accuracy and efficiency. As a result of this initiative, based off data reviewed, we were able to enhance the quality and efficiency of service to our students via the phone and in person avenues. This was accomplished primarily with the realignment of existing part-time staff, effective cross training to expand on our knowledge capacity, maximization of technology and the ongoing use of data.

It is my pleasure to introduce some of the architects of this initiative; Dr. Beodeker is the Associate Dean of Student Affairs; Mr. Tracy Oaks is our part-time professional assistant; and Ms. Joann McKnight is a principle clerk who works in the Financial Aid Office. The presentation today will chronicle and summarize how the initiative was conceptualized, developed and implemented.

**DR. BEODEKER:**

We have been meeting as a campus community and staff for over a year and a half trying to look for ways to respond to growing number of students that we have on the Eastern Campus. Our enrollment is up significantly. We topped about 3800 this fall. Our current enrollment number which we just got today for the spring is at 3400 on the Eastern Campus alone. So we're seeing

double digit enrollment growth for the past four semesters. So trying to respond to that there and respond to both students coming in person, particularly in our enrollment services and student services offices as well as the phone calls and the having to choose; the phone ringing and ringing and ringing, and at the same time, you've got a line of 20-30 people trying to get serviced.

So looking at some other models, we went into a call center model and we opened a call center. Our goal was to have our new call center handle at least 40% of the phone calls coming in, thus pulling them out of the main offices so the staff in the offices could actually focus on the students there. Our hope was that people who did call in would get better information, that they weren't being rushed, that they could get their questions answered.

We wanted to eliminate the voicemail in the office. Our phone systems were advanced, and what was happening -- Joann could speak to this in a little while -- but come in the morning on a peak enrollment period and have 80-90 phone calls waiting for you on voicemail from people who had been calling. Then you've got people waiting in line, people currently calling. How do you respond to that? So to try to reduce the voicemail and to get better data on what people were needing, what information they need to get.

So, Joann, go ahead. We opened our call center, which is actually a physical location in one of our buildings on August 3rd. The offices involved in this initial project were Admissions Office, Financial Aid, our Student Success Counseling Center, the business office and Registrar. On August 3rd, all the phones for all of those offices were switched to the call center. So no more calls were coming direct to those lines. Everything was going to the call center, which was being staffed by our staff.

To make this work, we went through a series of meetings with our AME and college aid staff. They were a very big part of the planning process. We did cross training so staff attended things in all those areas so that they were up-to-date on what was going on in each department and unit. There was IT group training to teach them how to use the phone and the new phone systems and how to access the call center. We developed a "Frequently Asked Questions" manual, equipment was installed.

And all of this was done with no additional dollars or staffing. We simply reconfigured, retooled, took an empty office space that we were able to get on, moved staff into it, pulled some out of other offices and did it that way. So there were no additional financial resources or staffing hired to accomplish this goal. Tracy is going to lead you through a little bit of the results of what we found over this past four or five months as we've been doing this.

#### **MS. OAKS:**

Okay. So once we had everything set up, what do we do with all this information that we're getting? We want to analyze it. The State is going to help us grow and expand as we move forward. What we learned -- we handled over 6200 calls during that eight week enrollment period. That's 6200 calls that did not go to voicemail, that did not go unanswered. That's really big for the students at Suffolk Community College. During this four week spring enrollment, we answered over 3200 calls.

We have also learned through analyzing the data the average number of calls we get per day is 156. We also know the busiest time of day is 10:00 to 11:00 and 2:00 to 3:00. We're able to more effectively schedule the personnel that we do have so we can utilize our resources more effectively. We noted that during the calls, the majority of the calls given were for financial aid. And what this allowed was for enhanced customer service to our students. Go ahead, Joann.

Overall, this graph represents the calls that we just told you. We had actually 700 -- sorry -- 7000 calls come in. We handled 6200 during that eight week time period. And again, over 4000 and we handled 3200 during the four week period. Again, this is a data informed initiative; what can we get from the data that we are getting from this implementation? The bullets or the lines in red show the culmination of the calls categorized during the first week that we went live. So August -- August 3rd we went live. All of that data represents the number of calls. Knowing that we are analyzing the

data, we were actually able to categorize the calls and know where we need to pool our resources, where do we need to find some additional information and additional training.

This graph represents the daily call volume. This is how we identified that Tuesday is actually our busiest day of week. Average calls per hour, again, we were able to talk this from the data, better able to utilize all of our resources. Since we have been working on taking all of these calls, we also wanted to be proactive in our approach in reaching out to the different students. We have worked with other departments within the college, actually proactively outreached to some of the students who may have lost classes, there was academic probation. We actually scheduled over 500 appointments with various personnel on the college by reaching out, helping the students stay in contact, making the students number one. And that's really, really imperative here. Joann, you come up. Joann is going to give us what it felt like to be in the office now with the call center taking all the calls.

**MS. MCKNIGHT:**

The data itself is showing the totals of the three years; 2007 was 1800 walk-ins; 2008 was 2300 walk-ins with an 8% increase in enrollment; and in 2009, we had 2400 walk-ins with close to 11 to 15% enrollment. The shift of walk-ins compared to the 2008 was due to the earlier payment week that started on August -- it was August 7th. In comparison to the phone calls, for 2007, I had 50 to 60 on my unit per day for 2007 and eight. For 2009, I might had have a total of ten per week.

So what the call center has done for us, in giving my 17 year history with Suffolk Community College in the financial aid department, payment week with my coworker and myself serviced 800 students. The call center was instrumental in handling this volume with accuracy and professionalism, making sure that the student brought the proper documentation so we can expedite their financial aid.

For the staff, the call center gave us the ability to handle the volume of students with less stress on the office staff, invoked a more professional atmosphere, focused on the students' needs making them feel more like the valued customer. Operations were conducted with less operation and more accuracy, better utilization of the office staff. For the student, the call center answered questions in all areas of college operations, informed students of what documents would be needed for the financial aid, including downloaded printable financial aid forms, therefore reducing multiple trips to the financial aid office. With all the increase enrollment, the call center had a huge impact in the walk-in flow and the customer satisfaction.

**MS. OAKS:**

So did we meet our goals? Did we set realistic expectations? And how do we move on from here? We absolutely met and surpassed our goals with wanting to have or answer 40% of the incoming calls, we actually doubled that. We were over 85% of the calls answered during that first peak enrollment time. The in-person service has been enhanced. We eliminated the voicemails, the 50 and 60 and 70 voicemails that the personnel would have waiting for them before they even serviced a walk-in customer or answered a new phone call.

And again, we're using this data to shape our future; how can we better service our customers. We're continuing to cross-train, we are assessing trends in the data, maybe we're getting higher financial aid calls during one part of the year, maybe we'll get registrar or business office during other. We can actually determine what type of calls are going to come in which will enhance the cross -- training. We are Positive student outreach, enhancing in-person service, supporting our expanding capacity and assisting with all sorts of document processing.

**DR. BEODEKER:**

And in closing, I think I would share with you there was one other success that we've been able to achieve through the call center that was not anticipated, which is many of our students call in -- I think many of us know the college has expanded its computer systems. We have a very comprehensive student portal. Students can get in any time of day from their home computers and

get access to grades, to transcripts, to doing all kinds of business, but many of them get stuck. And what we have found is the call center is extremely effective because students call in and we're able to tell them where they can go on the portal to get the information. And so it's been a win-win for us in terms of helping students get into the portal. And we're seeing student access and student use of that portal increase. So it's serving both purposes, because it's helping them access information that they're already have availability to.

**MR. WALTERS:**

That ends our presentation. Thank you again for the opportunity. I think the initiative you just heard represents an innovative cost, operational efficient project that essentially really resulted in no additional cost to the college when President Gatta charged us with this a year ago. This is part of a larger initiative that actually we're working on connected with the relocation of our existing library facility and the centralization of enrollment services. So we are excited about it. And again, as you heard today, this is a data-driven initiative that has definitely enhanced the service to our students.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you. Thank you very much. We appreciate your innovativeness involving the student services. And it's also good to see a call center that is not outsourced to some other nation. That's always -- that's always a good thing in my mind. So are there any questions from the Legislature? Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I have three questions for you. First of all, who staffs the -- I'll just list the questions and you can respond. Who staffs the call center? What happens when calls in come in after hours, you eliminated voicemail completely, I imagine? And the third question is how do you envision and are you -- are both of you able to speak to the use of this as potential future use of this in other campuses?

**DR. BEODEKER:**

I'll take the first two and then I'll let Dr. Walters take the last one. We are staffing it with primarily our AME staff. We have what are called primary agents and secondary agents. So we have a number of college aides are part time staff who staff it typically from about 8:00 a.m. till about 4:00 p.m. during Monday through Thursday.

Because of the technology and the phone system at the college, all our full time clerical staff can also be linked in. All they have to do is sign in. So on those days where it's less or in the evenings where we have staff in other offices, the call center seeks out who is signed in, and the call gets transferred to one of them. So all of our clerical staff from plant operations to our academic departments to our culinary building are all linked in, so that overflow goes that way.

So the primary agents are handling, I'd say, 70% of the calls, and then there's the overflow. And in the evenings where we have evening staff, they are picking up so that we are doing it. We're answering calls from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. After 8:00 p.m., they get a message informing them that they can go to the student portal for information or they call back during these hours to speak to a person. So rather than leave a lengthy message where nobody called back, they're either directed to the portal or doing that. So that's -- that's the first -- first step. Your second question, I'm sorry, again was?

**LEG. CILMI:**

You answered it.

**DR. BEODEKER:**

Okay. Good.

**MR. WALTERS:**

The third question, essentially, there has been ongoing conversation. The intention is to have it expanded on the other two campuses. I know that the other two Executive Deans have engaged their respective administrative units, and they're looking into the feasibility of making that happen.

**DR. BEODEKER:**

And also, in the concept of the one college, one of things we've noticed in the spring is students are figuring out that we have got somebody answering the phones. So we are -- we are working collaboratively. We get calls from students from the other two campuses and we answer as much as we can or help and direct them to where they need to go. So the bottom line is while it's centered on the Eastern Campus and a predominant number of our students are doing it, there are other students calling from the other campuses. And when they do call, we give them exactly the same information, direct them the same way, link them into the other offices on the other campuses, whatever we can do to help them out.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It's good to hear that you're creating your own business. That's an interesting concept. And frankly, just from listening in, it does sound as something that cries out adversely throughout the system. I was wondering, do you have any -- is there any statistics on -- you know, when you know, the mother says, "Son, you better call colleges today, you know, get those applications and things like that," those calls that come in and the kid doesn't know anything from anything, how many of those actually from -- you know, from the initial phone call actually become students? Do you have any idea how that works?

**DR. BEODEKER:**

Right now, we're not tracking -- we don't take the information from the student like their ID number or anything else over the phone, so there's no way to link that. We do get a lot of calls from both parents and students, and we get a lot of parents, you know, trying to understand the process. So we're able to help.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

On the same line as the kid, you know, she is upstairs.

**DR. BEODEKER:**

Yep, we do have that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I bet. I can picture it. Well, it sounds like all good stuff, and we do appreciate you updating us. It's the kind of thing we wouldn't hear otherwise if you didn't come down and spend time with us. Are there any other questions from our Legislators. We are good? Good. All right. Thank you very much. We appreciate you being here.

All right. We're moving to the Introductory Resolutions. We've only got several.

**1036, To appoint Naomi Hogarty to the Suffolk County Motion Picture/Television Film Commission. (Co. Exec.)**

I understand she is here. Ah, there you are. Welcome. Naomi, why don't you -- first of all, thank you for offering your volunteer services to the County of Suffolk. That is -- that is always appreciated. Why don't you just tell us a little bit about yourself and why you belong on this -- this august group.

**MS. HOGARTY:**

Well, I grew up on Long Island. I was raised and graduated from Westhampton Beach High School and went off to college. And years later -- well, let's see, exactly 12 and a half years ago, I moved back. And I'm raising my family here. I opened a production company up on the Eastern End of Long Island in 2003. My clients are all over the country. Do a lot of work with Disney and ESPN and

ABC and VH1, Viacom. You name it, I've probably worked with them. Lots of cable. I'm based in Westhampton Beach. And this is my home. And I think that we should invite people from around the world to come and shoot their films and commercials out here. We have some of the most beautiful real estate in the world.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's very interesting. And you are -- you sound like the type of person that we've been looking for for this board. But let me just ask you quickly, we've -- you know, we've put -- I'm sure -- we've put -- we've put -- we've put interest in increasing our films and productions in Suffolk County. How are we doing? What else can we be doing to further production capability in Suffolk and particularly from a business point of view, you know, what should we be doing as a County?

**MS. HOGARTY:**

I think it's incentives. It all comes down to money. But it's also streamlining the process, so that the County and the local town and the villages all work together to help to expedite people's permitting. I think that's a big thing. Visibility; you know, attending different festivals, film festivals, meeting with the producers who are actually funding and, you know, choosing -- and the location scouts, the people that are looking for a place like out here to bring their films.

I think, you know, it benefits all of us. It benefits every business from the housing, lodging, food, you know, catering, you know, photography. I think that we have so many great resources. A lot of people are like myself, sort of have been out there and around the world working and then come back because this is where our roots are. And we have so many talents here, production might be able to bring their whole production out here or at least part of it, and then tap into some of our local talents for their non principal, you know, people.

I just worked on a production in Canada. And their deal is I think 60% have to be hired -- on the production have to be Canadian. And they have a lot of incentives, financial incentives as well. So I think looking into that sort of process would be very beneficial for all of us.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I have noticed that more and more things are being produced out of Canada. It seems to be -- Vancouver and places -- you know, go figure. But anyway. Are there any questions of our candidate?

**LEG. STERN:**

I don't have any questions, but I just wanted to say welcome. And I'm just talking a look at your impressive resume, so I just wanted to thank you for wanting to serve.

**MS. HOGARTY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All righty. Anything else you'd like to add.

**MS. HOGARTY:**

I'm looking forward to being a part of the group.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

There you go. And we're -- we're anxious to have you on. So if that being the case, would anyone like to make the motion to approve?

**LEG. STERN:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Motion to approve by Legislator Stern, seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Nowick).**

Now, you don't have to be here on Tuesday when you're -- when it becomes -- when it goes in front of the full Legislature, you're welcome to, but just so you understand. Once you have been here, you've been -- you've been to the heart of it.

**MS. HOGARTY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thanks.

**1038, Adopting Local Law No. -2010, A Local Law amending the Suffolk County Empire Zone Boundaries to include Bren-tronics, Inc. (SCTM No. 0400-22.000-0100-045.000).**

Carolyn Fahey, is she here? Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't see you, Yves.

**MR. QUINN:**

Do I have the opportunity to make a brief question regarding this? The way it's written, the Resolved doesn't say it's a waiver, and therefore, doesn't indicate that the company -- how far away from the Empire Zone the company is. Just curious.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Well, yeah, we'll have our esteemed attorney take that up, and we'll go from there. Okay?

I understand what the Empire Zone boundaries are about and the like, but maybe just -- we have some new members here. Can we just give like a briefing? And then tell me, I got -- at the beginning of this meeting, I got, "Well, they're going to come to this meeting. They're not going to go to that meeting." You know, Carolyn had a whole schedule for them. I don't remember what they were. All I know is they wouldn't be here today.

**MR. ANASTASI:**

Can you hear me?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

You have to push the button.

**MR. ANASTASI:**

I am pushing the button. Can you hear me? Regardless. You want a brief synopsis on the Empire Zone?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Is that necessary? Maybe we should make -- do that at some other point in time. I know we've got other members of this committee --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I'm going to have some questions.

**MR. ANASTASI:**

Okay. Just to give you an overview, a quick overview of what we have from the Suffolk County Town of Riverhead Empire Zone, which is the official nomenclature for the zone. We are a County-wide zone. We have acreage -- we have 1280 acres overall. The majority of which lies within the Enterprise Park at Calverton. There's also acreage in downtown Riverhead, a small portion in riverside, there's also 25 acres in Wyandanch and 48 acres at Gabreski as well as we are

working on and are very close to a completion of a boundary revision that will move 20 acres from EpCal to Melville for Canon. That is what is referred to as zone proper. That's where that 1280 acres has been allocated. That aside, there's also the regionally significant project aspect of the program which allows for Empire Zone designation for companies that can't explain why they cannot relocate to one of those blobs. In this instance, that would be Bren-tronics.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Tom that probably made no -- very little sense at this point.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I got it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

You got it. Okay. I didn't mean to make any judgement. I just know it's a complicated issue. Maybe what we'll do is we will have our Economic Development team come in and --

**MR. ANASTASI:**

Yeah. We can always come in and do -- give you guys a briefing on it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

New Year, new crew, and I want them to understand some of the issues. Bren-tronics, now tell me about -- what is their schedule? They're going to be coming in front of us. We have seen them before, right?

**MR. ANASTASI:**

No. No. At this point, I believe in my discussions with Carolyn, given that today was going to be somewhat informal and that it's going to be tabled obviously for public hearing, in the past few instances they've been tabled for public hearing, so we had explained to the owner of the company that you'll be there for the public hearing, the next committee meeting as well as for the final Leg meeting.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Got it. So I just wanted you guys to know that they're not skipping out on us or something like that. They're not dis'ing our --

**LEG. STERN:**

Mr. Chairman, I have to tell you, I don't know which way you wanted to proceed today, but I've always had that question; you know, we always do, I think, a pretty good job at the committee level of vetting the companies that are interested. And sometimes they come to public hearings, sometime they don't. But I've always felt that it was important for them to be at public hearing so that the committee as a whole can hear from the company themselves as to, you know, the kinds of services they provide, what their plans are for future hiring and all that.

**MR. ANASTASI:**

They'll be here.

**LEG. STERN:**

They'll be at the public hearing?

**MR. ANASTASI:**

Yes.

**LEG. STERN:**

Right, which is fine by me.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Right. That's correct.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Well, we don't have a motion yet. So we're making a motion to table for public hearing. All right. So could we put that on the table first?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Sure.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I make a motion to table for public hearing.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Second.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

And I have some questions. Just very quickly. You did a good job describe the boundaries. Regionally significant projects, what percentages of these approvals come from the regionally significant versus those in the locale? Would you know that answer more or less or could you give us that next time?

**MR. ANASTASI:**

I don't have the specific numbers. In recent approvals, most of the approvals have come from the applications for regionally significant project.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. The second question I have, it says in the resolution that where the project is located outside the existing boundaries, that it will create 50 or more new jobs. With respect to this particular company, do you know how many jobs they presently -- or how many people they presently employ?

**MR. ANASTASI:**

Yes. What was reported to us was they have 209 employees as we speak.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So they're going to go to at least 259.

**MR. ANASTASI:**

Actually, they told us on their application that they would add 75 jobs other the next five years -- no, three years. I stand corrected, three years.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

And the other question I had is that as a result of that, they're going to be -- in paragraph -- Section 5, they're going to be receiving an exemption from taxes and special ad valorem levies by the County of Suffolk, etcetera. Do you know how much these exemptions are going to total? And you don't have to give that to me know, but these are questions I'll ask when they --

**MR. ANASTASI:**

When they do their application, we have to put together what is referred to by the State as a cost benefit analysis. So for every dollar that they're going to in incentive, they're going to get -- they're investing I believe about \$26. And in terms of the RSP Program and the Empire Zone Program as a whole at this point, but specifically RSP, it's a credit-based program. So it's a matter of production. If you produce what you claim to produce, you get credits. If you don't, you don't. So from a -- from a perspective of how much they're going to get in incentive, it's not -- it's not an abatement. It's a credit program. So when they file their corporate tax returns, that's when they get the credits.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. That I'm going to need more explanation on later. But if the company over this ten year -- is it a ten year period?

**MR. ANASTASI:**

The benefits will -- some of the benefits will range out to ten years, yes.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

If the company, for some reason, isn't able to sustain the 50 employees during that period, are there penalties attached to this?

**MR. ANASTASI:**

Yes. The bottom line is with the RSP, there's almost no need for a clawback, because of the fact that you only your get credits upon the creation of the jobs. You don't get them ahead of time.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So if they don't produce, they're not getting anything; in other words, there's no exemption that applies to them.

**MR. ANASTASI:**

Right.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Got you. Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. Anything else from the committee? Okay. We have a motion to table. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. Nowick).**

And lastly, **1043, Authorizing the County Executive to enter into a lease with Eastern Long Island Solar Project to use County property in connection with the development of solar energy facilities (COUNTY EXEC).**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Carrie, you want to -- oh, Pete's back up --

**MR. QUINN:**

Another question.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I'm not sure this is proper, Peter.

**MR. QUINN:**

Well, since I talked on a different subject initially --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yeah, I know, but we had an open portion, Peter. We will be glad to -- we'll be glad to include you in any other conversations. But this is -- this is on a particular amendment -- a particular law that we're about to approve. It's out of order. That's what it boils down to.

Ok, Carrie, welcome. Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I know quite a bit about this, I don't know if everybody else did. You did a presentation back, I guess, it was a couple of months ago.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

We did another public official's briefing just last week.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Right. I'm not sure how many of the -- if the new committee availed themselves to it, so maybe what you might want to do is just give a brief overview of it. You know, if I may, brief.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Could I ask a question though?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Sure.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I was just wondering. I missed that meeting. And I don't know if I missed it because we missed the invite. How did the invite go out, and were we invited? Or was that a general invite to all public officials?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

No. We invited Suffolk County Legislators --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

All the Legislators?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Town Supervisors who were going to be affected by the project, village officials.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So it was an open meeting?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Yeah.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So it's on my part that I missed it is what I'm saying. I'll take responsibility for that.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Okay.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Maybe, you know, just tell us what this project is so people understand it.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Right. So essentially the goals will be LIPA issued an RFP for a 50 megawatt solar project. They selected -- after an extensive process, a review process, they selected two winning bidders, BP Solar, which is doing a 37 megawatt project out at BNL; and enXco, which is doing a 17 megawatt project on seven County sites, parking lots, where we will be building -- they will be building solar carports, so carport structures. The cars will be protected from both the sun and the snow and other adverse weather conditions at seven locations which are listed in the resolution here; in the North County Complex, across the way in the Dennison Building, at the Cohalan Court Complex, at the

Riverhead County Center and then at three Long Island Railroad Train Station parking lots where the County owns those parking lots; at Deer Park, at Ronkonkoma and at Brentwood.

And it will be -- the lease that you will be approving today and the utilities is for a 20 year project. Construction hopefully will commence in April of 2010, assuming that this goes -- gets out of committee today and gets approved next week. And then it would be operational by April of 2011. And we would then be starting to receive annual payments to the County. It's roughly -- as I think was discussed at the public briefing, it's roughly and \$8.75 million project over the, you know, 20 year life.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I'm sure you got that, right?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I got that, but I have some questions, but I'll wait.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you. I saw some of the schematics, the drawings of what they were going to like. Do you know, are these carports intended to cover the entire parking lot at these various facilities, or is it just a finite number or a certain segregated area?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

We do have Mike Monaghan from DPW here. But I believe that at most of the locations, it is intended to use up all available -- you know, they will be covering all available parking spaces except the North County Complex.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Do we lose parking spaces, Carrie, at all?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

No. Only -- there will only be a few lost temporarily during the construction phase. So they'll come in and they'll phase the construction so that they might take out, you know, 50 parking spaces or 25 parking spaces at a time in each location. But there will still be adequate parking in and around.

**MR. MONAGHAN:**

Good afternoon. I'm Mike Monaghan from the Public Works Department. I had worked closely with Commissioner Gallagher and Lisa Broughton from Economic Development on this. To answer your question about -- they are going to use as much parking as is available without limiting access for like fire apparatus and such. In addition, we thought of issues like snow removal. We talked with our snow removal people. So there will be areas set aside that won't be covered with carports, which is where they would stockpile snow should there be, you know, a foot or two-foot snow event. Things like that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Yeah. Thank you. I have a list, and it's probably better off done, you know, one on one maybe, but I'll go through a couple of them with you. And one of them you touched on is the snow removal. It seems to me looking in looking at the configuration of these ports that it's going to make snow removal much more difficult for the County and potentially much more expensive, because you have the potential for drifts to occur underneath the ports and you can't get, you know, huge plows and

what not in there. Have you -- have you thought about that? What's the plan for that.

**MR. MONAGHAN:**

We talked directly with our snow removal people in DPW Highway Maintenance who actually do the plowing. And we did set aside and limit certain areas in certain parking lots where they normally stockpile snow. So the carports will not extend, for example, at certain ends of certain rows, because that's where they normally push the snow to. We also spoke to the developer, enXco about a minimum clearance height of 11 foot or 11 foot 6 underneath which we should be able to get most of our typical snow plowing vehicles in the form of pickup trucks or slightly larger vehicles.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. Has enXco done any of these projects before anywhere else?

**MR. MONAGHAN:**

Yeah, they have done projects. The closest one is New Jersey. They've also done significant amount of work in California.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Was the New Jersey project or the California project, were they municipal projects as well?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

We'd have to check. I'm not sure that they've done any other municipal projects though. I believe -- I don't know -- Lisa. Okay. Sacramento, California, one municipal project that we know of.

**LEG. CILMI:**

If the panels themselves or the structures are damaged by vandalism; graffiti, what have you, who deals with that?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

EnXco is responsible for all of the maintenance of the panels.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. I guess the last and probably most significant question to me is at the presentation, which I appreciated listening to, we talked about the average -- there being an additional average cost to LIPA ratepayers of something like 80 cents per month. So my question is who is the average ratepayer in that calculation? And assume that the average ratepayer is Legislator Tom Cilmi, you know, in a 2000 square foot house, what does a company like NBTY or any number of other companies, Canon, for example, who's coming to Suffolk County, what do they end up paying for this -- for this project?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

We'd have to check with LIPA and get back to you on that or direct that question to LIPA. We don't have that information.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. I think for me that's significant. I want know what the extra cost is to our businesses in particular. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Montano.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Hi there. Just -- how were the sites designated? What was the process that went into designating these particular sites? Why are you smiling?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

It was a long process. We went through looking at, you know, all of the -- we had put out -- originally the County, when LIPA had first issued the RFP, we had offered up a whole host of potential County facilities; where there are parking lots, where there are roof tops, you know, other sites that might be available. So then when enXco got involved -- and, you know, Mike, could give you more specific details if you want the nitty gritty of the technical evaluation that went into it.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Well, the nitty gritty with respect to who or what body or what department selected these particular sites, that 's what I was asking.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Right. So it was -- this has been a collaborative project between the Department of Environment and energy, Department of Economic Development, the Department of Public Works, the County Attorney's Office. We, obviously, have been having conversations with enXco, with LIPA. So it was an ongoing process between those entities.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Right. But in that description I heard nothing about the Legislature. They were all -- you just named all County Executive Departments, LIPA and the company. Two of the projects -- two of the locations are in my district. I've heard really -- you know, and I did miss, through my fault obviously, I don't remember receiving the invite and getting the briefing, but I'm curious as to the selection of the particular sites.

And maybe the gentleman, you know, can elaborate more. Why these particular sites? What is attractive to you about these particular sites? And what I'm also getting at is where there -- you know, it sounds like a very good idea and a very good concept. But, you know, I just want to make sure I fully know what I'm getting into when we vote on this. So I'd like to know why these particular sites; is it size, is it traffic? I mean, what about these sites -- she's going -- Lisa's going --

**MS. BROUGHTON:**

-- they're flat.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

They're flat and open and that's the basis?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

And really the number -- I mean, and Mike can get into more details too, but really it was the number of parking spaces. So they want -- obviously enXco was looking to maximize the amount of power it could generate at each site, because logistically, when you want to interconnect them to the grid, you want to be able to generate as much power at one site as possible.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That sounds logical. Any community input at all; any public hearings, any notifications to the community members about this particular project in the process? Was any of that done?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Not directly by the County. EnXco did have some meetings with school districts and other local officials to let them know -- you know, Town Supervisor and other officials within the towns where the projects were going to be implemented.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

They never notified me though, did you, sir, your company? I mean, I happen to represent two of the sites. I don't mean that as a criticism, I'm just, you know, bringing that forward.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

On November 9th -- the EPA Committee Meeting on November 9th where we did the first briefing,

the first presentation, was the first time that we were discussing it kind of in a public forum. We had to get to a certain point in the negotiation process to know what was really going to happen before we wanted to start talking about it. And there was -- so that -- that was the first time that there really was kind of public outreach. EnXco had started I think in October actually speaking to some of the school districts and some of the other town officials to let them know. We were talking to Long Island Railroad, obviously, in the process as well. I forget to mention them before. But since we are looking at those sites, that would affect possibly commuters during this time period.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I still haven't heard in there anyone from the Legislature, particularly those Legislators who represent the districts that these sites are going in. But that's a separate issue. Let me ask you this, with respect to -- it sounds like a very good idea, very good concept, anything negatives to this that you can honestly say? I mean, you know, I got a big parking lot right on Suffolk Avenue, now it's going to be covered with solar panels. Does that rise -- raise the potential for maybe more vandalism? I mean, you know, talk about those aspects and also the aesthetics of it in terms of the community.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

We have looked into and enXco will be addressing when they build the carports the issue of, say, security in terms of any lighting that's needed, additional lighting or lighting that's, you know, in place so that that does not get displaced, because we did have, you know, the concern about security. And certainly in some areas more so than others that's of concern. The aesthetics, I think we are still going to be speaking with the County architect just to make sure that we're in agreement in terms of for permitting processes, but, no, we didn't -- there really wasn't -- because it's not a County project per se, it really was LIPA selecting enXco and then just choosing the County sites to -- as the host facility. It was a slightly different, you know, process than it normally it would go through.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

And the reason I ask is that it seems to me that -- you know, I don't have official statistics to back this up, but if you put that parking lot, which I'm very familiar with in Brentwood in particular -- not so much the Courts, because the Courts are surround by security -- but on Suffolk Avenue, if you put that kind of structure there, is there -- are there studies anywhere in any locales that would indicate that there's a potential for -- because you have more ability to be less seen from the street. And there have been issues of vandalism in that train -- you know, at that station and I'm sure others. So I'm just looking at it from that point. What do we do with -- is there a safety factor involved; people coming out at night, getting off the train, walking that long platform? By the way, are you familiar with the Brentwood Train Station there?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Yes.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. Because you've got the train station, you've got a small parking lot, and then you have a distance to travel, which is, you know, fenced off, and then you've got a tremendous distance if it's -- if it's fully parked, you have a long way to go between where you get out of the train -- excuse me? Oh, I'm sorry. You have a long way to go from where you get off the train to where you get the vehicle if you're the last car in there. And those are the kinds of issues that I would like to explore before making a final assessment. And I'm just wondering if that was -- was considered in your calculations and your determinations and is there a report that I can look at that addresses -- and I know you have a nice big thick booklet there, and I haven't seen it. I'd like to maybe, you know, at some point get a copy or be able to look at that. Not now. But can you address that?

**LEG. STERN:**

Carrie, before you do, just to piggyback on Legislator Montano's query, I think Legislator Montano is right on. And I think one of the things I was thinking about earlier when you mentioned the

Courthouse, sure the Courthouse is under security watch during the day, but it also serves as the parking lot for the Duck's games at night. So it's also a long walk from the stadium potentially late at night. So it is a similar concern.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Did you hear about the prisoner that got away that they couldn't find for like five hours? That's right. The dogs couldn't find him either. But that's another story. And I make a joke of it, but it is real. I mean, it does happen. And you're right, the Duck's Stadium -- actually, my office is right in front of the Duck's Stadium. And when you leave the Duck's Stadium at night, if you're parked in the County facility, there really is no security beyond, you know, the VIP parking; am I correct. Yeah. These are issues that I think we should look at and address and, you know, at least have a response on those.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

We are not aware of any studies that show that, because unlike a parking garage, the carports, what's nice is they are all open, they're 11 or 11 and a half feet high, the sides are all open, so really it's only the tops that are covered. So your normal, you know, street level view, is still -- it's still a relatively open view.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Are you going to have security cameras at any of these locations?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

I believe only where there are existing security cameras. Those will remain and enXco will have to pay for those to -- provide us with funds to relocate those as needed.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I don't think there are any at the Brentwood -- I don't think there are any at the Cohalan Court Complex either. I don't know offhand though. Do you know if there are any in yours?

**LEG. CILMI:**

No. You know, one of the interesting things that came out at the presentation was that each of these carports is actually going to have lights underneath them lighting the area beneath the carport itself. So it will provide some extra security at least for the people who are walking to their cars. They won't be walking in the dark.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

In the dark, right.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Under a completely sheltered dark structure.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

So it maybe that it might actually be more secure.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Well, exactly. Those are the questions I have. What are the -- what is the impact? What are the negative impacts and what are the positive impacts? And then we can weigh the two, balance them out, and, you know, as long as the -- because it sounds like very good, you know, concept, very good idea, but I do have some questions about it. You know, I'd like to know a little more. What are we doing today exactly with this bill? Let me ask that to Counsel? Counsel, will passing the -- passing it on to the Legislature to approve the contract?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Exactly. Authorizing the County Executive to enter into the lease, which is attached to the

resolution.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

And is time of the essence in this?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Well, there is a time factor in that enXco would like to start construction in April. So ideally it would get -- you know, that's why I wanted to get to it now so hopefully it would go through this month or at the very latest on March so they could get started in April which gives them one year to become operational. They're terms with LIPA are that they need to be fully operational by April 2011. And we as a County don't start getting those big payments until they are fully operational.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

If we put this through as -- without recommendation, could those questions be answered prior to -- prior to the -- next week's meeting?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Sure. We're happy to meet with anyone or have a phone call or you just send us an e-mail with your questions and we'll respond back with as much information as we have.

**LEG. STERN:**

Mr. Chairman, I would certainly support that. And I would just reiterate, I would share the same concerns in particular raised by Legislator Cilmi. So I think it would be important to get answers to those questions before we meet back as a full committee at the General Session with that information.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's a motion, right?

**LEG. CILMI:**

If you don't mind, I have a couple --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Sure.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Just suffer me just a couple more questions.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Suffer away.

**LEG. CILMI:**

The installation of any sort of -- I guess transmission is not the proper term, but the hookup to the grid, is that enXco's responsibility?

**MR. MONAGHAN:**

Both LIPA and enXco will share responsibility. So, no, it's not the County's responsibility. It will be completely independent of the County's electrical lines.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. Could you talk to us a little bit about the agreement to use local labor in the construction of these things?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Right now in the agreement, enXco's agreed to prevailing wage. Because the County did not RFP

this, we couldn't do local preference, so there is not necessarily -- that's not necessarily, you know, a contractual obligation. EnXco has indicated that they will try to use local labor as much as possible, but it's not -- you know, because again it wasn't -- it was an RFP by LIPA and we were selected as the host site.

**LEG. CILMI:**

The next question I would have and then a follow up to -- you brought up another one. What happens should enXco either during the construction of these carports or some time there after, after we've begun to receive lease payments, what happens if enXco goes bankrupt? And I guess the other question that you raised is when you did the -- or when LIPA did the RFP, do you know and can you tell us whether or not any of the respondents were from Suffolk County or Long Island or at least the New York region?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

We are not aware of who the other respondents are. I'm not sure if that was -- we could ask. I don't know if that was made public afterwards.

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

Legislator Cilmi, there were local respondents to the LIPA RFP. They were not selected. Only the two vendors were selected, they're both not from Long Island.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Do we have access to information as to why local vendors couldn't have been selected?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

I know one of the major concerns has in selecting it was the financial wherewithal for a company to be around for 20 years to see the project through to put all -- because the company that's selected is actually putting up all the money to build it. LIPA is not paying upfront for any of this. LIPA doesn't start paying them until the carports are operational, until they start generating power. So you needed a company that could upfront, you know, millions and millions of dollar to construct these, you know, carports and install the solar. So I think there was, you know, a concern about making sure the companies were selected that had that financial wherewithal, especially, you know, in this economic climate.

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

Just on your question relating to the -- whether or not the company goes bankrupt or otherwise disappears. It was a question that we raised as well. The agreement does provide for a surety bond not prior to nine years of the 20 year term. And we had some discussions this morning about ways to address the first nine years, and I believe that that's something that may be followed up on.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Essentially, the components, the panels and the other equipment have great value so we could just sell off those assets.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Could LIPA have used some sort of a bond -- a bond structure to sort of protect against the lack of longevity that any Long Island company may have had that was -- that was submitting a bid for this project? I'm just -- you know, we are doing our best to -- a performance bond. I'm just -- we are all doing our best to try and support local endeavor here and local business, and I guess choosing a company that's out-of-state, it becomes that much more important that we have agreements in terms of local labor being used. And I understand that it puts us in kind of a weird situation given that it's not a County project per se, it's a LIPA project, right?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

Whether or not LIPA could have done that to support local companies is beyond this effort. This is -- this opportunity is available because LIPA awarded this contract to this company and this company

selected Suffolk County facilities.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

And they also -- I know LIPA was also looking for companies that had had this experience, has already done this in other places such as enXco and BP Solar where they've constructed these types of facilities and had, you know, a record of having done these -- completed these successfully, which is of concern.

But we're hoping that one of benefits of this project is that we'll be growing this industry, you know, in Suffolk County, on Long Island. Maybe it will encourage the, you know, manufacturing of solar panels here or other components to the solar industry here as well as helping build the solar installer, you know, industry here. So we see -- we see it really as a benefit that way both from the temporary jobs it will be creating, the growth in the business overall, the model that it's creating; you know, Suffolk County leading the way again, hosting these facilities. It's obviously a benefit to the environment, it's reducing our dependence on fossil fuel. You know, collectively it's generating money for the County, which, you know, is always a good thing, helps offset costs to taxpayers of other things.

So all around we think that from the environmental perspective and economic perspective that it's really going to be a win-win. And they're also -- enXco is going to be providing to the school districts where the facilities are being built, they're going to be doing some educational programs for kids about renewable energy and the future of green energy, etcetera and so forth. So there's other opportunities out there with this project being in Suffolk County. Plus it puts us on a map in a whole different way.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That it does. Apparently the Commissioner of Economic Development, Yves Michel, would like to make a statement relating to this issue.

**COMMISSIONER MICHEL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to that, one of things that I would like to underscore is the opportunity to provide training to our workforce in this emerging industry which is quite key as we move forward in time.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Couple of questions again. This is to BRO. Were you involved in the process in terms of the selection concept? Were you part of the committee, and do you have -- the answer is no.

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

The answer is no.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

All right. Have you studied this particular proposal and does BRO have any opinion with respect to this from either fiscal, programmatic, you know, have you -- have you done any of that or were you asked to or not asked to? You know, what is your -- what is your story on this, Joe?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

We received a copy of the resolution, we were asked to comment, and have submitted a number to questions to County Executive staff, which we met and discussed the details.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

When was that done?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

We actually met this morning to discuss them.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

So you just submitted the questions?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

The questions were just submitted.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

All right. And do we have copies of those questions? Could we get copies of those questions.

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

I could provide you copies of those questions, and I could provide you some of the feedback that was offered. We were generally in agreement at the conclusion of our meeting this morning on some of the questions and concerns that we raised and some of the ways we might remedy those. I understand that --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Is this in a written format or is it a verbal format or is it a verbal format that going to be --

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

It's a mix. I can give you what we have writing.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Are you expecting more in writing or are you satisfied with what you've gotten so -- have you gotten everything you've asked for in writing or are you still waiting for more responses?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

Some of the issues that we discussed this morning were only verbally available. I know that there was a follow-up conversation subsequent to our with the developer on at least one or two of the issues, and the response I got was there was a favorable -- they were received favorably by the developer so that they will try to address them.

We are generally supportive of this project. We think this is a good idea. We have been recommending parking lot solar arrays for the County facilities for some time now and large projects be done by private sector developers so that we don't incur the capital cost ourselves. This is a logical project. There are some questions that we had relating to the specific agreement. Every one of these projects is going to present case-by-case issues, so this is --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Right. I got you. With respect to your comment earlier, sir, about the benefit to the school districts. I represent two of the school districts that these locations are in. Do you have formal -- are there any formal agreements -- Lisa, I'm sorry, go ahead. Did you want to add something?

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

Mike is with DPW, he's not the developer.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I'm sorry, Mike, I apologize. Who's with the company.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Well, no. We were told that we -- we weren't asked to give a presentation. We offered and asked so since we were just here with the company and also in November and at various other times, we didn't think it was necessary for them to come back from California again this week to be here at committee.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Well, let me ask you this. Do you know about the agreements with -- in other words, these agreements or these benefits to the school districts, are the tangible, are they contractual? You know, is it a monetary benefit? Is it in a written agreement? You know, explain that to me. Other than that -- you know, like we do; we go into a school district and we give a course for one day on, you know, how government works and -- or is this more concrete?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

I'm not privy to all of the details. My understanding is that it's a combination of different types of benefits; it's some educational programs, there may be some monetary outlays involved and some other aspects. But I'm not privy to the exact details.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Right. And I understand that. You know, it's -- but where would I be able to read or to get my hands on what it is that my school districts are going to get since these projects are located in two -- in two of the districts that I represent? That's what I'm looking for. Point to me the section or where I can go and read what it is that Brentwood can expect and what Central Islip can expect as a result of these things -- this project coming into our district.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

I think your best bet would be to work with -- you know, to reach out to the school district and the Superintendent, Board of Education, because they are the ones who have been negotiating that directly with enXco. So they could then obviously share that information with you.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I'm going to be calling them. You know, I'll follow up on that. All right. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Any other questions?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Not today.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I'm surprised how many we had already. Let me just -- I think maybe you might want to go over just some of the revenue to the County on this. That might be an important factor that we should all be considering.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Right. And I did just want to stress in my comments before about how the sites were selected. I really want to stress it was enXco. We had put out this list. It was to everyone who was potentially responding to the LIPA RFP. The only companies that contacted us with any interest were from California and Brooklyn. And it was really the companies themselves that said to us, "Hey, these look like the best sites with us." We were then able to give them feedback based on that and say, "Yes, we agree that would be good," or, "No, there may be some problems here," especially with regard to the issues that Mike had mentioned before in terms of making sure there was still egress and access for all types of activities.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Yeah. I remember Wyandanch and all those other issues.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Right. And Wyandanch in terms of -- obviously Wyandanch got eliminated because the town has a major project with funding already going on that's planning to take up the entire site in addition to some other sites. In terms of the payments to the County, we -- once it's operational, we will see

revenue -- a revenue stream of approximately \$437,000 a year from all the sites combined. Now, each site is a little bit different. There's different levels of megawatts produced, etcetera and so forth. If we wanted to get into that level of detail, I'm not sure that we can discuss that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It's based on a percentage of gross, is that what it is?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Yes. It's roughly six and a half percent of the revenue stream of LIPA to enXco that they're giving us.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

So is that auditable? I mean, Carrie do we -- Commissioner, do we know what will be the gross? Because I understand there's a lot of -- I don't think we have -- have we seen what LIPA is actually giving to.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

To enXco?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

To enXco. Have we gotten those figures? So it is auditable?

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. I wasn't sure. Okay. That's all I wanted to know. We have asked and they told us -- the question is about the parking lots and the plowing of the snow. We have asked -- we have asked that question.

**COMMISSIONER MEEK-GALLAGHER:**

Right. And so -- I'm just being told it's not based on the gross. Our payment is not -- the payments to the County are not dependant upon the output at each site or the capacity site. So we've been -- it's been determined that we're going to get a set dollar amount, and we will be paid regardless.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's different. That's something I didn't know. Interesting. How did they come up with that. I mean, that's interesting.

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

The, I guess, tentatively agreed to payment schedule works out to be approximately six and a half percent of the projected gross. That's not however based on the projected gross.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

So if we have a rainy spring, they could be losing some monies, but we won't. We won't.

**MR. SCHROEDER:**

We will not. The revenue to the County will be --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I got it. Okay. Are there any further questions from the Legislature? I'll make a motion to approve this without recommendation.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

There are still a lot of questions that out on the floor on this, and you're going to be getting back to the members on those individual issues. And it's good. We had a second from Legislator Montano. All those in favor of approving without recommendation? Fine. All those opposed? So moved. It has been **APPROVED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.**  
**(VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present; Legis. Nowick).**

**MS. LOLIS:**

Mr. Chairman, before you adjourn. The County Executive's Office asked that we advise on Tuesday there will be a CN. It's for the SEQRA resolution involving Legacy Village. There will be a positive declaration, and the County will be the lead agency. So they just wanted -- he just wanted the committee members to have a head's up on that.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much. All right. Anything else that we have to handle? Okay. Meeting adjourned.

(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:41 P.M.\*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY