

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, November 30, 2011.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Thomas Cilmi
Legislator Ricardo Montano
Legislator Lynne Nowick
Presiding Officer William Lindsay - Ex-Officio Member

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Joe Schroeder - Budget Review Office
Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Eric Kopp - County Executive's Office
Paul Perillie - Aide to Majority Caucus
Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano
JP DiMartino - Aide to Chairman Horsley
Joan Cergol - Town of Huntington
Dot Kerrigan - AME
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:00 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

May we all please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SALUTATION

May we please stand for a moment of silence for both the men and women who protect our freedoms both home and abroad.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

All right. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Energy Committee meeting of November 30th. I shouldn't say this, but it doesn't look like it's too long of an agenda. All right. We don't have a presentation today out of popular demand. We will move right into the agenda. Okay. Tabled Prime.

1703, Adopting Local Law No. -2011, A Local Law to establish the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Committee. (Schneiderman)

LEG. STERN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to table by Legislator Stern, I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? So moved.

TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

1898, Authorizing a lease agreement with Village Marine of Westhampton LTD. D/b/a South Shore Boats for use of property at Francis S. Gabreski Airport. (Co. Exec.)

Carolyn, did you want to -- what's the latest on this? Maybe you might want to give us a little update. I know this came up last time. There were some questions by Legislator Montano, I believe.

MS. FAHEY:

The Legislator had some concerns about approving the resolution at this time with the new administration coming in, and the committee tabled it for one cycle.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

For one cycle.

LEG. MONTANO:

Let me correct you on that. There's no such thing as tabling for one cycle. It's tabled or it's not tabled. That's a phrase that's misused. So we can table it again.

MS. FAHEY:

I stand corrected. My understanding was that the committee's intent was to table it for one cycle.

LEG. MONTANO:

No, but that doesn't exist, but I won't argue the point with you. I'm going to make a -- let me ask you this. Let me ask you this: I read the other day in Newsday that there was a request made by

the incoming County Executive's transition team to be apprised of all leases that are negotiated at the end of the year and that there was an understanding that there would be cooperation between the Exec side and the -- the outgoing Exec and the incoming Exec, can you comment on whether or not this was discussed in any manner, shape or form?

MS. FAHEY:

I have no knowledge of that conversation.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Does anyone in County Exec's Office? Okay. Well, then I'll renew my motion to table. And I believe this is a long-standing lease agreement, that -- the last time you said they've been ongoing for 28 years.

MS. FAHEY:

They've been there for 24 years, I believe, yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. There's no concern about anyone leaving -- is there any emergency to this at this point in time that you know of?

MS. FAHEY:

No, not at this time.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Any further comments on this? Any further motions? We need a second. Seconded by Legislator Nowick. Comments? Carolyn, I just have a quick question, and it's my same concern that I had last time; that we've got a 20-odd year tenant, does it look like we're less than anxious to have them sign an agreement? Does this give them the impression that we're, you know, stalling or something like that?

MS. FAHEY:

I don't think the tenant is going to have an issue if the committee decides to table.

LEG. NOWICK:

They know it's government.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Apparently, they know it's government. It came from one of ours, so. So we have a motion to table. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

1976, Appropriating funds in connection with security notification College Wide (CP 2140). (Co. Exec.)

This is for the college. Anyone here from the college want to tell us -- anything you want to mention to us.

AUDIENCE MEMBER:

If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

LEG. MONTANO:

This is simply appropriating what's already in the Capital Budget.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Correct.

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: 6-0-0-0)**.

1977, Authorizing Capital Project 6418.310 to close; amending the 2011 Capital Budget and Program, and reappropriating funds in connection with Downtown Beautification and Renewal of Huntington Station (CP 6418.317). (Co. Exec.)

Carolyn, you want to just tell us quickly what this is about? I assume it's old money that we're just --

MS. FAHEY:

Correct. Back in 2004, the County Executive created, through resolution adopted by this Legislature, the Suffolk County Downtown Beautification and Renewal Program. You might recall the first two rounds of that program, the County Executive designated which communities he had wanted the funding to go to, and then subsequently, joined forces with the downtown panel to do the awarding through the competitive process.

One of the first programs that was funded in 2004 was a \$50,000 grant to the Town of Huntington to use in Huntington Station. The County's 50,000 was to go and create a welcoming wall by the Huntington Station Railroad Station. And in addition to that, the bid was leveraging \$50,000 to create a \$100,000 project.

As with anything, there's procedures that need to go through with the LIRR and with New York State DOT. Those procedures were just very cumbersome, and the town was unable to do the project within the five years. This Legislature passed a resolution that any Capital Program that's appropriated and nothing is spent on ends up sunseting and you cannot expend any of the money after that. This resolution allows that program to move forward, and it allows the County to complete its contract with the town and to give the town the money. The project is complete. It's a question now we had the technicality of the sunset that this resolution is addressing.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay.

LEG. MONTANO:

Question.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just so I understand. This is already complete, the project is now completed?

MS. FAHEY:

Joan Cergol from the Town of Huntington is here too, so if there's a specific question --

LEG. MONTANO:

Joan, you want to just explain?

MS. FAHEY:

The project is completed?

MS. CERGOL:

Yes.

MS. FAHEY:

The project is completed. And just so you know, in the interim of the County giving the 50,000, they're leveraging their 50,000, the town went and took that money and leveraged it again and again with State and Federal levels, and we're now at a \$6 million project that started with the County's \$50,000.

LEG. MONTANO:

A wall, a welcoming wall cost us six million dollars?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I was stuck on a wall that was welcoming.

LEG. MONTANO:

If you come to my neighborhood, we can do that wall with -- never mind.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'm sorry. Your name, for the record, is?

MS. CERGOL:

My name is Joan Cergol. I'm the Economic Development Director for the Town of Huntington, Supervisor Petrone. Thank you for awarding the money in the first place. We did have many, many delays in getting our Huntington Station improvements rolled out, which actually occurred over the spring and summer, and they're continuing today.

So what Carolyn was trying to say to you was that this \$50,000 grant enabled the Town of Huntington to continue to go out grant-getting. And over the course of the years, we have had amassed a \$6 million budget in improvements, many of which are already completed at this point, including the wall that this grant funded. By the time we completed the project, of course, we vouchered for the money, and it had sunsetted, so here we are today.

LEG. MONTANO:

So we're simply just paying for work that we promised a while back, that's all we're doing here?

MS. CERGOL:

That's all you are doing.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. Gottcha. Thank you. I make a motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion by Legislator Montano, I'll second. Legislator Stern, this is your district.

LEG. STERN:

I'll make the motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Seconded by Legislator Stern. Just on the motion, you guys over in Budget Review, everything is okay with this? All the money is there?

MR. MUNCEY:

Right. Technically, it's all correct.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

It's all correct. Good. That's all we need to know. Technically, that's a loaded -- that's like a welcoming wall. Okay. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

I think that's it.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I just want to make a comment.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Please.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'd love to find out how they took 50,000 and leveraged it up to six million. That's pretty good.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Those Huntington people are very special.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:10 P.M.*)