

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**and**

**ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**of the**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Economic Development and 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, February 1, 2011.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Wayne Horsley - Chairman  
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair  
Legislator Thomas Cilmi  
Legislator DuWayne Gregory  
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  
Carolyn Fahey - Economic Development  
Paul Perillie - Aide to Legislator Gregory  
JP DiMartino - Aide to Chairman Horsley  
Dot Kerrigan - AME  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:01 P.M.\*)

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

May we please all stand for the Pledge.

### **SALUTATION**

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

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

All right. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the February 1st Economic Development and Energy Committee. And I echo my fellow colleagues who have chaired meetings in the last couple of days, I thank the Presiding Officer for reinstating myself as Chair to this committee. It's something I enjoy. I think we do good things.

I wanted to just quickly emphasize the point that this -- the name of the committee has changed. It is now Economic Development and Energy Committee. As you can see, we have lost one of our E's. Our E is Education, and that has been parted from the EEE Committee. And what that is now is a combination of Education and IT, which is Chaired by Legislator Anker. And I'm very happy for her. I think it's a good -- good appointment and it makes a lot of sense.

All righty. With that in mind, I don't have a presentation today. Last week, we all went to -- or many of us went to the Brookhaven Lab to take a look at the solar array at the lab. And I'd like to thank Brookhaven Lab for hosting the Legislature. I thought it was a very worthwhile program, and it really gave us a little idea of really what's out there. You know, some of those things that we talk about behind a desk, you know, it's always good to see the really thing. That was important. And also that Brookhaven Labs is really kind of on the cutting edge for so many of our issues relating not only to energy but economic development as well.

Where was I going with that? Anyway, let's move to agenda. I have -- I did want to mention before -- now I've got my thought back -- I spoke to Mr. Zwirn a few minutes ago. The County Executive is going to put forward a plan on Tuesday to -- on economic development issues and stuff like that. So they are still readying their plan, and we're going to hear more about this in the General Meeting. Ben, did you want to just, you know, give us the broad view that this is -- you know, this is what's happening and, you know, what we can expect.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Tuesday, we will -- we are preparing resolutions to be submitted as a CN to restore the Economic Development Department and to put the Planning Department as a division of that. And right now, they're working on the titles, and we will do a budget amendment. The office is still there because of the nature of -- former County Executive Levy vetoed the budget amendment that the Legislature put forth, and that hasn't been overturned yet. So technically, there's still an Economic Development Department until you deal with it on Tuesday. But we're going to put it back in. They're putting the titles together, the amount of money that they need in the budget. So we'll have a pretty detailed presentation on Tuesday. I can't do it for you now. I know they're working with Civil Service --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

You'll be the one doing the presentation?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I will be there or Eric Kopp as well, and we'll have people here from the Budget Office to make that presentation. There will be a bunch of CNs, I will tell you in advance, because there's some budget amendments that some of the Legislators and the Presiding Officer have requested. We have also found some grant money to save a few jobs in the Labor Department and the Community Development Agency. So we have a grant from the District Attorney's Office.

I think the majority of the debate, I think, on Tuesday will be over the CNs. We probably have about ten to a dozen CNs, which is a lot. We don't like to do that, especially this early, but we will get them to you early so that you will be able to review them. Legislator Cilmi, I have reached out to some of the Republican members, so when they have a caucus, we would like the opportunity to come in and just show them to you so at least you have a chance to review them, and they don't surprise you. I know it's a little bit different than what was done in the past, but hopefully, we can do that going forward so at least everybody, whether they support them or not, at least they know what they have in front of them.

I know we have a CN request from the Legislature on fixing some of the warrants, I think, with respect to Riverhead or Brookhaven. Counsel Nolan will explain at the meeting. So we're going to have a whole host of things, but I think the debate -- there will be concern and a lot of questions, I'm sure, about Economic Development. So we will be ready at that time.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much. Legislator Cilmi, you wanted to comment on that?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Just a quick remark. Having seen the Newsday story about the County Executive's intentions -- and, of course, the devil is in the details -- but I wanted to just offer my applause to him for recognizing that economic development is a priority and should be a priority and should really be at the foundation of everything we do here in the County in these times especially. So I look forward to seeing those CNs and working with the County Executive in whatever way we can as a committee and certainly me as an individual Legislator with the interest of improving economic development in Suffolk County. So thanks, Ben.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I appreciate those comments. I know Chairman Horsley has been a strong advocate. We pressure it. We know this committee has done a lot of work and has been a real strong advocate for economic development in the County. We look forward to working with you especially in trying to move this initiative forward.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Any further questions of Ben at this point in time? We are good? All right. Thank you, Ben. I appreciate your comments. It's good to see you here. It's like old times.

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**1006, To reappoint Lynda A. Moran as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Cilmi)**

This is a reappointment, I'm sorry, reappointment. So Lynda does not have to be here today. Have you reached out to her? She's okay and everything is good, Legislator?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Yep. She's looking forward to continuing. She enjoys the job there and looks forward to continuing to contribute. So motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I'll second that motion. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1024, To extend the deadline for the Long Island Power Authority Legislative Oversight Committee. (Romaine)**

**LEG. CILMI:**

I'll make a motion to approve.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. I think -- I think that they have certainly -- I'll second the motion. There's been question, because they have actually taken such a leadership role in this. You see their names and comments in the papers all the time. Sometimes I feel, "Boy, we have let it go." But the reality is I'm waiting upon their final report. Their work is not done.

I think that they've done -- gone a long way to push the issue, which is an issue that as I know has been almost all of ours, I believe all of ours, the issue of having further -- further and greater LIPA oversight, which we can now see the State has addressed and is on the Governor's desk for signature. So I feel like we have done something, whether it was the oversight board or us or so many that have been saying the same thing, Legislator Sweeney -- Assemblyman Sweeney, etcetera. So there's a second on the motion. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

Any further business? I didn't get any cards. I assume there was none. We're all good? Okay. Motion to adjourn.

**(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:09 P.M.\*)**