

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, March 21, 2012.

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 1:56 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

For all us here, may we stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SALUTATION

And may we all stand for a moment of silence for the men and women who protect our freedoms both home and abroad.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

It's probably my last words here, this looks like a light agenda, but we will see how that works out. Welcome to the Economic Development and Energy Committee Meeting of March 21st. We do not have a presentation today. I know that is a disappointment to all. And we have several resolutions we have to enact or whatever. Let us move right to them.

TABLED PRIME

1069, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to establish the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Committee. (Schneiderman)

LEG. STERN:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to table, I'll second the motion. Any discussion? Yes, on the discussion, Mr. Zwirn.

MR. ZWIRN:

Originally, the administration was in favor of tabling this bill, but the sponsor has made some amendments to it. So that the amendments now really will not be an obstacle for development at the airport for leases and things. Carolyn Fahey is here from Economic Development, she can speak to it. But the sponsor worked with the administration and came up with a number of amendments that Counsel has put forth. And right now, we wouldn't have -- the committee does what it wants to do, but we just want to go on record, the administration now has withdrawn its opposition.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Counsel, would you like to address that issue?

MR. NOLAN:

I believe that the big change, maybe the only change that was made recently excludes short-term uses of airport property from the review of this committee. So if the County wants to let a group use for a week or two weeks, that use does not have to go to the review committee. I think that was requested by the department, and Legislator Schneiderman made the change. So it was my understanding this bill was good to go.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

One of the questions I would have it on then, what came up, there was concern that their role is either advisory or that we have to have approval from them to make changes at the airport.

MR. NOLAN:

It's still an advisory committee just the way it always was. It's really -- the law was really based on the setup that was created under an Executive Order by the County Executive several years

ago. Legislator Schneiderman was looking to codify that into law. But it does remain an advisory group.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

I think the sponsor had asked for a tabling, if I am correct, for whatever reason? I'm not sure.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Mr. Zwirn, do you know one way or the other? I didn't get any phone calls on this.

MR. ZWIRN:

No. I think we were concerned -- I think that once the changes were made, I was advised today that the changes were filed and that we would have no objection to it. We just wanted to make sure that it wouldn't stand in the way of, you know, work at the airport on everything.

LEG. GREGORY:

Ah, right. The 43 year old brain is starting to work. There was some objections because this committee would have veto power over the --

MR. ZWIRN:

Ostensibly, they would have de facto veto power by just not doing anything, they could hold everything up. We wanted to make sure that we could at least short-term projects done.

LEG. GREGORY:

So that's been corrected?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes. As far as we're concerned, we're okay with the bill. I know we spoke earlier, we had asked -- we had asked for a little more consideration, but that has been done by the sponsor, so the administration is okay.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'm glad the 43 year old brain was listening, because we just asked that question. So that being the case, do you have any objection to this if we move it forward? We are good? Tom, you are okay? All right. I will make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Let's withdraw the tabling motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. The motion to table has been withdrawn. We have a motion and a second to approve this. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

1112, Appointing Peter Fox Cohalan to the position of County Historian for the County of Suffolk. (Pres. Off.)

I will make a motion to table. Mr. Cohalan, Judge Cohalan, is going to be here for the first the meeting in May. So he asked that we table it. But he is very excited about the appointment. Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

1175, Appointing Kevin M. Harvey as a member of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (IDA).

We are going to make a motion to table. Apparently he is scheduled to be here next committee meeting. Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

All righty. I think that's it. Anything else before us? Anyone like to be hears? I have no cards. We are adjourned.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:03 P.M.*)