

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**OF THE**

**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Economic Development & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on April 20, 2012.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Wayne R. Horsley, Chairman  
Legislator Steven H. Stern, Vice Chair  
Legislator Thomas Cilmi  
Legislator DuWayne Gregory  
Legislator Lynne C. Nowick

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel  
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office  
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Kevin M. Harvey, Appointee to SC Industrial Development Agency  
Joanne Minieri, Appointee as SC Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning  
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office  
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Legislator Gregory  
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Legislator Cilmi  
Greg Moran, Aide to Legislator Nowick  
Debbie Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern  
Gail Lolis, County Attorney's Office  
Ali Nazir, Aide to Legislator Kennedy  
Frank Castelli, Economic Development and Planning  
Michelle Isabelle Stark, Economic Development and Planning  
All Other Interested Parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

**(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:03 P.M.)**

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the Economic Development and Energy Committee meeting of Friday, April 20th, 2012. May we all please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**(Salutation)**

May we stand for a moment of silence for those men and women who protect our freedom both at home and abroad.

**(MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED)**

Thank you. Please be seated. Alrighty. I see we have list as presentations. I like that. Are you guys ready to give presentations? Just relax. Okay. We have two -- two personnel to review and ask questions of and we might -- we should do that right up front so we can let them go on their way realizing it is Friday. Let us -- should we -- yes, why don't we do Kevin first. Maybe that might be a little shorter.

I'll make a motion to take **1175, Appointing Kevin M. Harvey as a member of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). (Pres. Off.)**, out of order. I'll make the motion. Seconded by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

Kevin, why don't you come on up? You can either sit or stand at the podium, whichever one you like.

**MR. HARVEY:**

I'll sit. It's more comfortable.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Alrighty. Kevin is an applicant for the IDA Board, which I attend and I believe is a very critical board, particularly in light that County Executive Bellone is making economic development as a major thrust of his Administration and Kevin is, in my mind, a welcome person to the Board. And maybe the best thing to do, Kevin, is just -- why don't you start, talk about yourself, a little bit about your history, and so this way we can get an idea of who you are.

**MR. HARVEY:**

Okay. My name is Kevin Harvey, I'm a member of Local 25, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. I am currently the Business Manager, which I guess would be considered the Chief Operating Officer of the local union. I spent over 40 years in the construction business. I came in as a summer helper in 1970. I have lived in Suffolk County for almost 38 years. I'm very familiar with the County's demographics and its need for economic development. I hope that I would be able to bring something to the table with some of the experience that I have garnered over the last 40 years.

When I came into the business office for the Local in 2004 I was a Suffolk business agent and I had the privilege of working on some fairly big projects. One of the them was Tanger Mall in the Town of Babylon, which we helped get through with the help of the officials in the Town of Babylon. Another one was the Caithness Energy project, which is a foundation for new energy plants on Long Island. It is currently out of Brookhaven. We worked with Brookhaven Town Board extensively in petitioning that, and eventually were able to bring it to fruition. And more recently before I became Business Manager, we were able to work closely with members of Legislature regarding the enXco project, the carport project. And it's been a big boom.

Local 25, out of all the IBEW locals in New York State, I think Local 25 leads, and Long Island as a result leads the State in renewable energy construction over the last four to five years. I think we have over 55 megawatts of solar power. We have a meeting next week with LIPA to talk about their new Fit Program. So, you know, we're pretty much on the cutting edge, I believe, in trying to move to the next level with regard to energy. So I just hope that I could be an asset to the IDA in that regard.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Kevin. Let me just ask you, just as a background to this meeting here today. We just, myself and Legislator Gregory just met with PSE&G as well as with Michael Hervey from LIPA to introduce us to the new players. How does -- this has nothing do with the IDA yet, but how does the -- how do you feel about your new working partners to be, whether or not the contract has been approved or not. I think they've got a couple more days on that, but what do you guys think about them?

**MR. HARVEY:**

I think PSE&G has a pretty good record in the facilities that they have been operating in, so not being so familiar with the utility side I can only go on what I hear from word of mouth, and I believe the people over at 1049 are approaching it in a positive light, so I would think that it should be good for Long Island.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

That's pretty much what they told us as far as, you know, that they're in love with our workforce here, the quality of it, and that they -- at least this is what they're saying. So we're intrigued and we're anxious for, you know, for some new blood, new management over on the energy side.

Kevin, the IDA is a critical board. It's a board that I know that you can do a lot with. Have you ever had any thoughts about the IDA, do you how IDA's function, and certainly, and I don't think it's critical that you would know but you'll certainly learn about how IDA's function. Do you have any thoughts about what you could add to the IDA itself?

**MR. HARVEY:**

Well, I'd like to think that I could bring some experience regarding some of the past projects I've worked on like I said. There will be a learning curve definitely on my end, but it's almost -- I akin it to being similar to the fact that when you become an officer of a local union and you achieve a trustee status, that the trustee process has to play out. You have -- you know, you go down, you go to school, you get familiar, you take home notes on meetings. You try to familiarize yourself, you talk to Counsel. So really try to get a lay of the land. There will be a learning curve but I think the fact that I have had many learning curves over the last, especially the last ten years, with regard to change of positions going from the field into the office and now to the top position. I'm up for the challenge. I think I can handle it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Great, and frankly, I coming from originally from the Babylon IDA, I was with them for a while and over to the County, I'm hopeful that with the new County Executive he'll be pushing for much more aggressive posture and positioning how our benefits are structured to bring in new companies and new business to Suffolk County. But I appreciate your coming. Are there any questions from the board?

**LEG. CILMI:**

I have some questions.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Good. Mr. Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Welcome.

**MR. HARVEY:**

Hi, Tom.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I'm not sure if these are questions for you or maybe for the Chair, before he walks out, sorry, having sat on the IDA Board for a while -- I'll wait until our Chairman is done.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I'm sorry, Tom.

**LEG. CILMI:**

That's quite all right. So I'm curious to know what the makeup of the IDA Board is now. You know, where do people come from, what's their background, how many members are there on the Board. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Do you recollect? I can pretty well -- I can go through in my mind.

**MR. NOLAN:**

I think it is a seven member board.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Right.

**MR. NOLAN:**

It's set forth in State Law. I don't think there's any specific qualifications to be on the Board. What the exact makeup of the Board is right now I don't know offhand, but we could get you a copy of the current membership if you like after the meeting.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It's Chaired by Jim Morgo. The Executive Director is Bruce Ferguson, has been around many years. There are two union members that are part of the Board. Dave Rosenfeld, who is an attorney, is the Vice Chair. Steve Rossetti, there is a banker, who I'm failing to remember her name, but she's fairly new to the board. They're appointed by the Legislature. That's how it works. And by the way, the Board is responsible to the Comptroller, I believe, to the State of New York. It's not -- the oversight and where their agreements go and oversight all go back to the State of New York. It's a public benefit cooperation, that's the reason why they would be going to the State of New York.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right. And so as you said, the IDA Board does have some power to, you know --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Oh, absolutely. It's a great economic development tool. I mean, and can go on about it but I'm not for now.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right. You know, maybe you and I will talk offline about it because I do have some other questions specifically about the Board itself.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Maybe what we could do is we could ask Mr. Ferguson, who is an employee of the IDA, Tony

Catapano who also is, and have them give a lecture on how they basically do their work. I mean, because it is a very select and unusual board that they have their own rules and regulations and stuff like that, report to the State of New York rather than to the County. We just appoint.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I think that's a good idea. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

There's a lot of interesting stuff. By the way, Islip has one of the most aggressive, and so you if want to -- Mr. Mannix over in Islip, and I know you're a friend of his.

**MR. HARVEY:**

I know him very well.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Bill is the head of the IDA over in Islip.

**LEG. CILMI:**

When the IDA looks at projects in deciding which ones to approve or disapprove or whatever, what criteria are used in coming to those conclusions? I guess what I'm getting at is I want to make sure that there's a diversity of representation on the Board.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Right.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So that projects aren't specifically, you know, going one way or another.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. I'm not sure what one way or the other is, but I'll -- what I'll do is I'll invite them and --

**LEG. CILMI:**

An old Blondie song.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. I don't know what this has to do with you, Kevin, but I will address that, though.

**MR. HARVEY:**

Well, if I can interject just as a point of information. As a trustee for the local union, we have trustee funds, trust funds, that are mentioned in my resume. And as a trust fund, you know, there are fiduciary responsibilities that are held with regard to the trust, and our trust funds are normally made up of four employer trustees and four union trustees. And what every trustee has to remember is when they sit at that table and they perform the work of the trust, they do exactly that. No different. The contractor or the management person can't say, "Well, I'm going to vote this way because it's beneficial for my side". The union trustee cannot say, "Well, I'm going to vote in this particular direction because it's for the benefit of my side". Because then if you do that, you're violating your fiduciary responsibilities.

And I have served as a trustee since 2002, and when I went back -- when I left as a principal officer in 2004 and I became a business rep I was no longer a trustee, but since 2011 with my election or my appointment to the position of business manager I am the senior trustee for the union side. However, I think and I can say with all one-hundred percent certainty that all the members of our trust fund know and respect their duties and responsibilities, and hopefully that might answer some of your concerns.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

And if I may add to that, Kevin, is that all of them have, once they're appointed to the Board, have to go through a training that is in the Authorities Law of several years ago provided by the State of New York on how IDAs work. But we'll give you one here locally. Okay.

**MR. HARVEY:**

And just one other comment on that regard. And the benefit -- the trustees always have to act in behalf the trust. That is their primary obligation.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Miss Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Just a question to follow-up with Legislator Cilmi, and first of all, nice to see you again.

**MR. HARVEY:**

Good to see you, Lynne.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And I can't imagine how you have time to do all the things you do, but you do them well, so thank you. The IDA, to make it clear, it's a public benefit cooperation so how -- and just quickly, because I know we have other people to talk to, how does that work? Say a Tanger Mall is going to go up. How does the IDA -- how would they if they did get involved? How would that happen? What is -- how do they interact?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

They -- what you do is the business, well, first of all, Mr. Ferguson or Mr. Catapano would outreach to the developer or whoever was -- the new business that was coming in. They originally were designed for -- to improve the number of manufacturers coming into the State. It gives us -- what they provide is tools for companies to look at our state versus other states.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

For example, they would tell people how to get loans and how to build on their business or?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Well, they don't actually physically loan monies. But what they would do is they would give tax relief in the form of sales tax, in the form of say -- not so much the Suffolk IDA, but say the Islip and Babylon IDAs will actually give you tax -- property tax relief. They would create a pilot and -- you want me to get -- this is going to get very complicated.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Don't get crazy.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I can go into the whole pilots and --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I get it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

They can give benefits to a corporation so that they would make a decision, am I going to stay in New York or am I going to grow in New York versus going to South Carolina.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

You do that very well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you. Are there any further questions of Mr. Harvey? Okay. Anything else you'd like to add?

**MR. HARVEY:**

No. I thank you for your time and your consideration.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

We're honored and I'm honored to make the motion to approve Mr. Harvey for the IDA, second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

So now once you've gone through the committee process you'll be moved on to the full Legislature which will take place next Tuesday. You don't have to be there. The fact that you came here today is all that the Legislature requires. If you'd like to be there for the -- out there, it should be a long meeting. You are welcome to, but you don't have to be there on Tuesday.

**MR. HARVEY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It is interesting theatre, though, and it will be particularly so on Tuesday.

**MR. HARVEY:**

I think I can fit it in my schedule. I'll try to make it out there.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Bring your pajamas.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Thank you very much.

**MR. HARVEY:**

Thank you, everybody. Appreciate it.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much. Good luck and thank you for your service. Okay.

I would like to make the motion to take **1353, Confirming the appointment of the Suffolk County Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning (Joanne Minieri). (Co. Exec.)** Seconded by Legislator Stern to take it out of order. All those in favor? Opposed? **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**. So moved. We now have 1353 in front of us. I'll ask Joanne Minieri to come on up and say hello. Miss Minieri, welcome.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Hello.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

It's a pleasure. Why don't you start, just talk about yourself, why you would be a great

Commissioner of Economic Development, the newly enlarged and with greater responsibilities, Commissioner of Economic Development of Suffolk.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Okay. Good afternoon and it's a pleasure to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

**MS. ORTIZ:**

If you could just pull it a little closer. I'm sorry.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Is that better? All right. It's a pleasure to have this opportunity to induce myself. I want to start off by saying I'm a Hofstra University graduate. I graduated Hofstra University and through their recruitment office I got my first job as an accountant in a real estate company that primarily focused on valuation and audits of real estate.

I'm a CPA and I worked in -- I've been in the business now close to 30 years. I worked my way up through, believe or it not, a certified public accounting firm which is difficult. It's a consulting firm and you get exposure to a wide variety of services. Audits and valuations and, you know, forensic accounting. And into my career there I was given an opportunity to move into a private development company named Forest City Ratner Company. The CEO was Bruce Ratner. Forest City Ratner Company is a real estate developer, primarily located in Downtown Brooklyn. I joined them in 1994 as their CFO, and from 1994 into 2011 I worked my way up to the President and Chief Operating Officer of the company.

During my time there we did some really incredible projects, and one of the things we did was we entered communities, we built communities, we created jobs. We enhanced the quality of life of the residents. Primarily where we developed were in the outer boroughs, so we went into areas that needed things, whether it was quality discount retail, movie theatres at some point. So I had exposure to development in different products lines. We started out as office developers. When the office market dried out we did some studies and researched and found that discount retail was nowhere in the outer boroughs, so we found sites where we could go in and develop and bring to the community discount retail. From there, you know, you continue to look to see what the needs are, what the, you know, what the demand is of the community that you are going in to develop, and we did a lot of that and we did a lot of different products because of that.

So I have a lot of experience in different types of development, whether it be residential, hotels. My recent opportunity I think everyone is aware of is the site assemblage that we did in Downtown Brooklyn Called Atlantic Yards. We assembled a 22 acre site right over the third largest transportation hub in New York City. And it happened to be our core market and right across the street we had done several developments, including big box retail as well as office.

But the experience that I had at Forest City allowed me to really learn how to lead and build consensus. A number, if not almost all of the projects we did, were partnerships. They were public/private partnerships, they involved the City, the State, the MTA in some instances, lenders, third party partners, and recently the NBA because we had purchased a basketball team to bring them into the new arena, the Barclays Center.

When I was given this opportunity to consider this position here in Suffolk County under County Executive Bellone, and I met with him, and he was describing his vision and what he was looking to achieve here out in Suffolk County, and everything that he was mentioning, you know, obviously first and foremost creating jobs, building communities, the importance of transportation, the importance of infrastructure, the importance of housing. I sat there I was almost -- I was getting like a deja vu a little bit. I said you know, gosh, that's exactly what we did at Forest City. So I really was very, very excited about the chance to join his team and to really help and work closely

with the team to build Suffolk County.

Suffolk County has been a part of my life since I was a child. Although I was born and raised in Brooklyn we would come out here for our vacation. I had family out here. I have family out in Suffolk County today. I myself have a house out in Suffolk County. So it really -- I really was intrigued by it and actually it really sparked my interest and I got quite excited. So I really look forward to whatever experience I had in the public sector to bring it here and to help create Suffolk County into what I believe it could be, which is a very, very dynamic and exciting County. It's fabulous. It's got tremendous institutions, whether it's universities, financial institutions, the businesses here, large and small. I mean -- and the natural assets, the beaches, the golf courses, the fishing, the farmland. I don't know. Within a very short period of time I sort of re-fell in love with Suffolk County and I really honestly feel quite excited about being a part of this team and moving into the new Suffolk County regional future. So with that, I'd be more than happy to answer any questions you have.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Miss Minieri. That was a very good presentation. I guess the first thing that I would like to at least talk about, whether or not this is a question or not, is Suffolk County has, with all its wonderful assets, we have some disadvantages as far as business. One of them is that 70 percent of Suffolk County is not sewered. We have no -- we are a County of 1.5 million folks and we do not have the infrastructure to bring in types of business that require sewers. And it's -- it's a major ticket item. It's, you know, it's a lot of money. It used to be that the Federal government used to provide -- I used to hear the County Executive, "86 percent they used to provide, now they provide none". Well, they don't. So I'm wondering how -- what your feelings are on this and is this something, is this a hurdle that we can overcome? Is it something that we can roll up our sleeves and work together on and see how we can do this, or is it something that we can just work around. I was kind of wondering where you felt on this.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Oh, no, no, no, no. I think that it's definitely something that can be worked on. I think that sewers and other infrastructure is critical to, you know, honestly to invite new businesses, to have the land ready so that development can occur, whether it's the development of a new community, the enhancement of the transportation. The sewers are important. They are the basis for a number of other things. So we most definitely have to be able to work together to come up with a plan to have more sewers in Suffolk County. Thirty percent is not really adequate clearly, and a more -- I think a more regional look at the sewer situation is something that I think I would definitely like to do, yes.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Good. Thank you. And I appreciate that because this body is already working on that. We are in the process of a master plan. We have contractors out there, consultants out there, that are putting that together, the GIS Program, and trying to figure out where our pipes are, at least in the areas that we do have, and coming up with our priorities so that we can do it intelligently. So I would love to have a partner with the Legislature in seeking this out.

I know the County Executive is -- I'm speaking to the choir here on this issue, because he recognizes that as well because in his -- the Wyandanch Rising Project one of the first things he has to do, he had to put the sewer line down for Straight Path into the Bergen Point Plant where the 30 percent is. So I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

Do you have any thoughts on where we should go with our economic development? I mean, as far as, you know, do we look for the big projects, do we just scattershot all across the board or how do you see your job and how would you handle it.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Well, I will tell you, you know, that's a difficult question. Setting priorities obviously is quite important. You know, I would try my best to look at it, you know, over the region. I think that a lot is going on here, a lot of wonderful things are happening, and I think in a more comprehensive, strategic plan that would lay out how everything is in different stages of development, the type and the timetable, and I would try my best to prioritize and facilitate each of the towns specific needs and desires.

I think that it's always good to have a department that you can come to that's a little bit less decentralized and that could be able to be responsive and facilitate if there's a holdup or a delay and have the opportunity to communicate with each of the different constituents and have everyone like a little bit more of a transparent environment so everyone knows what's going on and why this is happening here or this is happening there. That's really, I think, the beginning of what I'm -- this is my fifth day here and from what I can tell, a lot of wonderful things are happening in different stages, in different places, for different reasons. Whether it's, you know, transportation related, housing related, actually, you know, cultural arts related. There's so many wonderful things going on and I hope to bring a little bit of comprehensive, cohesive look at that so that we move forward and we achieve all of the missions and the goals.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Well, thank you and I look forward to having a full partner in a lot of work that needs to be done in Suffolk County, and that all sounds great and I applaud the County Executive. You, by the way, I think are his premier appointee. No offense, Ben.

*(Laughter)*

The number one appointment, because he has made -- the new, of new appointments, right, because he has emphasized that, you know, in the budget, the Capital Budget and everything else, that this is where the emphasis is going to be. So I am so pleased that we have you here before us today. Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and welcome. It's good to see you. It was good meeting you up on the 12th floor the day the County Executive announced your appointment, and so I'm looking forward to supporting your nomination.

You had started to talk about it, in broad terms perhaps, difficulty on day five of having already set priorities, but I'll ask. Coming in, have you had the opportunity to set at least a short list of priorities? What would you say are the very first things out of the gate that you're already thinking about, that you already see a path to being able to complete.

I'm sure my colleagues would agree that one of our hopes, particularly with a professional from the private sector coming in and taking what is hopefully going to be a very fresh look at government operations here in Suffolk County, that particularly when it comes to economic development we need to operate at the speed of business and not at the speed of government.

So I'm wondering what your thoughts are, because you don't necessarily have the unilateral authority to green light projects or to push them through. You'll need to work with our Department of Public Works, with our Department of Health and our permitting process. So I'm wondering if you've had the opportunity to set a couple of high priorities that you can see accomplishing right out of the gate.

**MS. MINIERI:**

You know, my first -- honestly, my first priority with this whole restructure and how these

departments are all being put together, my first priority is to, which I've been doing, is to really understand how the department will function, because efficiency is one of my top priorities.

I honestly have not at this point focused on anything past that right now because I'm still collecting -- I'm in the information collection stage, but I do know that, you know, proceeding quite efficiently and effectively on some of the programs that County Executive Bellone has focused on, like Innovate Suffolk, looking at those parcels of land and getting them back on the tax lots, looking at the tools that the County has to invite businesses and developers to come into Suffolk County to begin to create jobs, so that we could retain some of the youth and the intelligence that's leaving Suffolk County. That I know is a big item on the agenda, and some of the other types of programs. I think transportation oriented projects are important and the revitalization of downtowns, so I've been sort of little bit on getting quickly educated on that and looking at the projects that are underway there. So I will, you know, Steve, I would like a little bit more time. I think I --

**LEG. STERN:**

Five more days.

**MS. MINIERI:**

I think I'm -- I have a general understanding of the priorities and I just -- I'd like to take a little bit more time to really give you a more defined answer.

**LEG. STERN:**

May I suggest then another one to please take a look at. I'm sure my colleagues have heard the stories like I have with very aggressive Directors of economic development from other jurisdictions, from outside of Suffolk County, from outside of New York State, that have made it their business to come here and to offer everything short of the moon to take our companies, our successful companies that are real drivers of our local economy, elsewhere. So I was wondering what you feel your role, if any, might be in insuring that not only do we make it so that our companies are given every opportunity to make the decision to stay, and at the same time perhaps look elsewhere to bring in other successful companies here to become a part of our local economy.

**MS. MINIERI:**

You know, I will tell you that I think it's critically important not only to create jobs, but to retain jobs. We are coming out of a very difficult economic cycle. A lot of companies will have big decisions to make going forward, and in the business that I was in -- and I'll give you a little simple example. When a tenant wants to leave, versus us trying to get a new tenant, it was always, always more economical to make sure that that tenant stayed then to take the chance that that space would go unleased for a period of time until you got a new tenant in. So I liken that to the jobs. I mean, creating new jobs is critical, no question about it, but the retention of jobs will be just as critical as we move forward out of a difficult economic cycle and we look at businesses.

And as you say, yes, there are many other areas in the tri-state area that will look to take businesses out of Suffolk County by offering, you know, excessive economic benefits. I think that we have to remain competitive but -- and keep in the forefront of our minds the importance of every job that is here, because the retaining of those jobs and those businesses hopefully will ultimately be job creators because those businesses will grow and new jobs will come. So we will have to -- believe me, high on the radar screen is to pay attention so that they are not dipping into our business community.

**LEG. STERN:**

Well, I think that's the important point, is not just paying attention, but being perhaps a lot more proactive than we may have been in the past because, again, I'm sure my colleagues have plenty of examples as I do where we will hear from companies when they have one foot out the door, and then we all look to say what could we or should we have done to be a lot more proactive to make

sure that they were never in that position in the first place. So paying attention, I think, and being lot more proactive is a critically important part to make sure that your eyes and that your ears are on the ground to make sure that if there are companies that are even thinking about having that conversation about picking up and leaving that you know that first so that you can be proactive with you and your team to make sure that that does not happen.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Absolutely.

**LEG. STERN:**

At least not without a good fight.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Right, exactly.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Legislator Stern. Legislator Nowick.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you for taking on probably what's going to be one of the most difficult jobs here in Suffolk County at a critical time and time of the worst economy. And I might say your representation, I don't know you, but your reputation does proceed you, so thank you.

I wanted to ask you, I always thought, and I don't know how you could parlay this into something but I think you could. I always thought that the Islip Airport could be a catalyst for economic development, and I always thought it was underutilized. Do you see a way that that could be used? I mean, even with companies coming in, telling them, look, wherever you are you're half an hour from an airport that, by the way, I think is the best airport in the tri-state area.

**MS. MINIERI:**

I agree. I think that -- I would just generally say that all transportation hubs are important, airports critical, trains critical, buses critical, but yes, I will be looking at the airports and because they are a key to bringing in businesses and development. No question. No question.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And --

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

By the way, Ms. Nowick, did you know -- both of you know that MacArthur Airport is not sewered.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

What do they do?

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Cesspools.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

I just wanted to clear up something. You were the President of an organization in Brooklyn or

Manhattan or what did you --

**MS. MINIERI:**

Okay. We were located in MetroTech Center, Downtown Brooklyn, Forest City Ratner. We built MetroTech so that's where our offices were. And we did development throughout the City of New York and we actually did some in Westchester. But my office was located in Downtown Brooklyn. Our address is Downtown Brooklyn. But were a New York develop --

**LEG. NOWICK:**

So you are not a part of that anymore? You left to come --

**MS. MINIERI:**

No, no. I'm here now.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

And you're living here now in Suffolk County?

**MS. MINIERI:**

Well, I live in New York City now, but my primary address will be East Hampton. I actually live -- I used to live part of the year in East Hampton, I would come in the summer, but now I'll be residing there as my permanent address.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Which is important because I'll have somebody to carpool with.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Right.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

You have to take that into consideration.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

If they can put up with you, yes.

**MS. MINIERI:**

You know, when my sister transferred out here, she lives in Hampton Bays and she works in Southampton we said, you know, how that's a dream come true. So my dream has come true, I'm going to live in East Hampton.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Legislator Gregory.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Miss Minieri, for coming here today. We had a previous lovely conversation the other day when you called my office. I just -- and I agree with most, if not all, of what we had discussed the other day, all I should say. I just wanted to -- in Suffolk County we have -- we're, you know, we're unusual in the sense that generally during economic recessions we're usually the last in -- or last affected, and then when the economy returns we are usually the last to return. Currently our unemployment is below State average and it's below the national average. But certainly it is an uncomfortable number, in the seven percent, I forget exactly which.

My particular concern is, I know there are a few major projects that are on the books that are being -- Wyandanch Rising, which is actually in my district, part of my district, but there are others like the Ronkonkoma Hub and others that are being discussed and moved forward with. My concern is that we not forget, although the unemployment rate in general in Suffolk County is in mid to low seven percent area, whatever it is, there are pockets in Suffolk County where unemployment is in double digit numbers, and Wyandanch being one of them. But there are communities throughout Suffolk County that I think that deserve attention and possibly the support of your office. I'm sure the support of the -- I'm sure will have the support of the County Executive. I just wanted to put it on the record that, you know, there are communities that are really suffering. Although the overall picture looks good, but there are some that are lagging behind within Suffolk County and I think can draw some attention. I think support from your office will go a long way when projects, potential projects, come up that may alleviate those conditions in those communities so that we can alleviate generational poverty. And I would, you know, ask for you to support that.

Other than that, I have no issues. I'm fully 100% on board in supporting your nomination. You have a tremendous background. I think you're a tremendous asset to Suffolk County. And I look forward to working with you.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Thank you very much. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Thank you very much, Legislator Gregory. Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Yes, thank you. It's a pleasure meeting you and I certainly look forward to working with you. Could you -- you talked a little bit about the importance of job creation specifically and job retention in what's probably the worst economy that we've seen in many, many years and in an ever changing market, competitively as well as technologically. So can you tell us specifically as the Commissioner of Economic Development, what specific things can you do to create jobs and to retain jobs.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Okay. I think we talked a little bit about the tools that we have here in Suffolk County to help create and retain jobs. Whether it's the tools that the IDA has, the land that we bring back on to the Suffolk County tax lots, the enhanced transportation opportunities, which will create jobs and help us build communities. You know, jobs are important obviously for the fiscal health of the County, but they're also important for the individual. Somebody who has a job is happy. They are not looking to do -- you know, this is a view I have that's very personal because what I've learned over my lifetime here is when you have a job, you have something to do, you feel committed to doing it, no matter what it is, okay. The situation with drug abuse could be less, crime most certainly is less, people are in better moods. There's a lot less road rage. And I know that sounds very simple, but jobs are a huge part of a person's level of confidence and a desire to do good in life. And I think on a personal level, job creation is probably the most critical for a healthy -- a healthy group of people, a healthy community, a healthy school, you know, situations in schools. So besides the financial importance of jobs I just think that in just the scheme of life somebody always wants to do something to make themselves feel like they are contributing, so.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So what do you see that we have within our control in a state that's known to be particularly business unfriendly, what do you see that we have within our control. We already have an IDA. You know, we have a terrific Police Department working on law enforcement, and I agree with you that that's the foundation of any successful community. We already have a very good affordable housing program. You mentioned the great parks that we have and the golf courses and beaches and all the natural resources and the educational institutions etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Great

public schools for the most part. What can we do differently than what we're doing now at the County level that would enable job creation or that would create jobs or retain jobs.

**MS. MINIERI:**

I think that, and again, being new to this, but I think building consensus in a more dynamic way would allow things to develop quicker. I think that there are opportunities that are being lost because of delay or because of long processes that sort of never come to fruition. So I think that one of the things I'd like to try to achieve is to build consensus whether it's among the villages, the towns, you know, with the County Executive's Office, so that there is a place to go to say I need to move this forward, help me do it and to facilitate that growth so that you don't end up not achieving the maximum potential. I think there are a lot of untapped opportunities in Suffolk County.

You know, the population has pretty much been about one and a half million people, it should continue to grow. The jobs, the young people between 25 and 35 are getting educated here, they are growing up here, but they're leaving here because there aren't high paying jobs. I think that needs to really be turned around. They need to be given that opportunity. There is a lot of talent here that should stay here and that should build Suffolk County. And I think that providing them -- and a place to live, a community, a downtown, so that when they come out of school, you know, they don't have to buy a single family house, you know, where they have to get in their car every day and drive an hour-and-a-half into New York City to have a nice dinner or some fun. It would be great to have those kind of opportunities here, and I think there's a lot of untapped assets that would provide that to Suffolk County.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So if I may make just a suggestion or two, the County Executive has made the efficiency of our government a priority. And in many respects the inefficiency that's existed in some cases, in my opinion, has prevented jobs from being created by, you know, bureaucracy and red tape. And I think -- I think, you know, some of the things that County Executive Bellone is talking about and some of the things that he's recently done will go a long way towards eliminating some of that bureaucracy.

But in addition to the bureaucracy is a regulatory structure, I think, that is complicated and cumbersome and also gets in the way of job creation. So I would suggest that you speak with the County Executive specifically about sort of putting your hands in that pot of sauce that is, you know, the County's regulatory structure as well as the County's bureaucracy in terms of how we get through permit processes and all of that because I think in many ways other departments within the County have a much greater impact on economic development than in the past our Economic Development Department had. So, I think to the extent that you can work in those -- with those other departments I think you could be very successful in improving economic development in that way in addition to the things that you can do in your department specifically. So you have a terrific background and it's very nice to talk with you and I look forward to working with you. Those would be some of my ideas.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Legislator Gregory.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

I would be remiss if I didn't say that you have some wonderful staff that's behind you, that's there to support you. I know being a department head myself in the past that, you know, you come in to a new situation and you're not sure who's with you, who's against you, and all the personalities and stuff, but, you know, you have some really true professionals behind you to support you and they'll

help you be successful.

**MS. MINIERI:**

That is true. I'm very fortunate to have Vanessa Pugh as my Deputy. She's invaluable. She's been terrific. I think we are going to make a dynamic duo actually.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. Any further questions? All right. That being the case I will certainly make the motion to approve Ms. Minieri. Seconded by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved.  
**(VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

You are on to the Legislature, the full Legislature. Just the opposite -- unlike Mr. Harvey who didn't have to come, you have to come. It is something that I think would be wise and a good move, so we'll see you on Tuesday in Riverhead.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Is that closer to home?

**MS. MINIERI:**

Yes, actually it is.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

There you go. Well, we have breakfast and stuff like that. It is a regular daytime meeting, right?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Yes. Maybe what we can do, Mr. Chair, is to make sure we call the resolution out of order so that we can have Joanne on her way quickly rather than sit through on Tuesday.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. We did take the vote, didn't we? We're all good. Okay. So congratulations and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

**MS. MINIERI:**

Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Beautiful downtown Riverhead. We're ready. All right. Moving along.

**Tabled Prime**

***1112, Appointing Peter Fox Cohalan to the position of County Historian for the County of Suffolk. (Pres. Off.)*** I believe the date he is getting back into town is May -- he'll be here for the May 2nd meeting, so I believe he'll be able to be here for the -- our next committee meeting. So I'll make a motion to table. Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved.  
**(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**Introductory Resolutions**

***Introductory resolution 1314, Authorizing Film Promotion funding for 2012. (Co. Exec.)***  
Carolyn, do you want to -- maybe that's the best way to handle it.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Good afternoon. This resolution funds four film seminars through the Hotel/Motel Tax. It was a competitive program. There were five applicants. One was disqualified because they didn't have a deficit in their budget and we are funding the other four. The Hamptons Take 2 Film Festival, the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts, Finest in the World Cinema, the Plaza Cinema Media Arts Center, and the Greater Port Jeff Arts Council. So there are four film festivals that are being funding through this.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Stern.

**LEG. CILMI:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Hi, Carolyn. How much is this in the aggregate, the total amount of funding that we're talking about here, thirty thousand?

**MS. FAHEY:**

Twenty-three thousand.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Twenty-three thousand, okay. And what happens -- with this hotel/motel money that we collect, what happens to it if it doesn't get spent?

**MS. FAHEY:**

It ends up getting reappropriated back into the specific category for which it should have been spent in the following year or maybe two years later after the audit is done. So for argument's sake in the film budget we have 23,000. If one of the entities doesn't spend their money, in the next year or so as we reconcile the account from year to year it will go back into the film account.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. So really, what I really meant was what happens if we don't -- if this resolution wasn't approved and this 23,000 wasn't allocated, what happens to the full amount of the 23,000?

**MS. FAHEY:**

It will stay in the account. And it has to by law be --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Specifically in the film account?

**MS. FAHEY:**

By law it has to be spent for the film promotion.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Got you. Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Are there any further questions? We're good. All right. We have a motion to approve. We do -- holding up. We have a question by Legislator Gregory.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Just on the amount. There is some confusion. Is it 30,000 or 23,000?

**MS. FAHEY:**

I'm sorry. There is 30,000. There is 7,000 for the next exposure program. There was 23 for the programs that I mentioned.

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Okay. All right. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

All right. We have a motion to approve. You guys ready? All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1344, To reappoint Ronan Mulvey as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Muratore)** It's a reappointment. I'll take a motion to -- by Legislator Stern to approve, second by Legislator Gregory. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1351, Authorizing cultural funding for 2012. (Co. Exec.)** Maybe that's something, Carolyn, you might want to go through.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Again, this is funded through the Hotel/Motel Tax. This is a competitive program that's overseen by the Citizens Arts Advisory Board. They review the applications and make recommendations to the Legislature. In the 2012 budget the Legislature adopted \$263,660 for this program. The exhibit to the resolution you have outlines the programs that are being funded in that total.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve. Is there a second on the motion?

**LEG. GREGORY:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:**

Second by Legislator Gregory. Any questions on the motion? All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

All right. I think that concludes our business for the Economic Development and Energy Committee. I'll take a motion to recess.

**(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:02 P.M.)**