

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 August 1, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature
Joanne Minieri, Commissioner, SC Department of Economic Development
Carolyn Fahey, SC Department of Economic Development
Ben Zwirn, County Executive's Office
Marie Berkoski, County Executive's Office
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
Ali Nazir, Aide to Legislator Kennedy
JP DiMartino, Aide to Legislator Horsley

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Kim Castiglione, Legislative Secretary

(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:05 P.M.)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the Economic Development and Energy Committee meeting of Wednesday, August 1st. May we please all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(*Salutation*)

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

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

(*Moment of Silence*)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Again, good afternoon and welcome. We have a presentation today and I'm pleased that she is here. Commissioner Minieri of our Economic Development Department, our newly expanded Economic Development Department. And maybe Joanne might -- you want to come up here and sit, and Vanessa, whoever you want to have with you. Okay? You're on your own.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

I'm on my own.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Oh, heavy....wears the crown. Okay. Joanne, just quickly, a few catch up items. In the -- I don't know if anyone ever, you know, discussed with you that in usual times that the Commissioner does come to the -- comes to the Legislative hearings. And if are there any questions about what's going on in the Economic Development Department, and things like that, issues, you know, that oftentimes it's good to be here. I think it's the right thing to do. I just -- I don't know if we've ever discussed that before, but I just wanted to mention it to you. Okay?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Again, Joanne, comes from outside of -- outside of public service, comes from the private sector, as we all know, and frankly, she's been involved with so many different issues through -- with the new Administration that has come up. And I know that some of the members here today expressed that you be here and to give a presentation on, you know, what's been happening, you know, where it's been six months now, where are we going, what's on the table, and an update to the Economic Development Committee.

So, with that, I'm pleased to have you here. And why don't you do a presentation. I understand we have a handout that we just did. J.P. is that here, been handed out?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Yes.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Okay, good. Excellent.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

I thought it would be nice to --

MS. ORTIZ:

Pull the mic closer. I'm sorry. Just pull it closer.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Is that better? Okay. Well, good afternoon, Chairman Horsley, and the members of the Economic Development and Energy Committee. Thank you for having me. When I was thinking about how I would organize my update, it became quite obvious to me that the first thing I would like to address is, in fact, the new consolidated Department of Economic Development and Planning.

As everyone knows, County Executive Bellone consolidated a number of different divisions in the Economic Development Department to focus on efficiencies and responsiveness. And after three-and-a-half months here, I wanted to let you know that we continue to look for more efficiency and consolidation. And recently we consolidated the Division of Real Property with Workforce Housing and Community Development under the leadership of Jill Rosen-Nikoloff Thompson. Jill was named the Director of Real Property, and she will oversee to the day-to-day operations of the Real Property Division, as well as Workforce Housing and Community Development. We feel that Jill's leadership and background and experience was terrific, and the synergies of those divisions really complement each other. She now oversees the land sales, the property acquisitions and the inventory management.

In addition, we have Director Lansdale, who is our Director of Planning; has also expanded her role. She's doing a series of sewer projects and plans, which I'll mention a little bit later on, but is also involved in our agricultural business growth, and has been instrumental in the leadership group that we've developed here.

Also done some reorganization administratively, bringing together some of the administrative functions that were divided up into different divisions. And, really, what I really have to report here is that we have a terrific group of motivated and talented people who come to work every day with great ideas and really work on behalf of the people of Suffolk County. So I'm very fortunate to have a terrific group to fulfill the mission, which is, and which we feel very strongly, is to really facilitate, provide the resources, and build consensus and commitment to complete projects, so that jobs can be created, and that we can build a long sustainable economy for Suffolk County. And one of the ways we're going to do this is we're going to take an interdisciplinary approach. We're going to begin to work closely with the Department, and have begun, I should say, to work closely with the Department of Public Works and DOT, as well as the Department of Labor and the Department of Health.

We're forming project teams so that each of our departments aren't in silos. So, if the Department of Public Works is working on a project, we're going to be involved, we're going to understand it. This really becomes a more coordinated and effective effort. And it's really beginning to unfold quite nicely, and I think it will really enhance our ability to move projects forward and to deal with issues that sometimes linger because they get lost in sort of the middle of nowhere.

And we're also excited to work closely with the IDA and the new Executive Director, Anthony Manetta. Now I sit on the Board of the IDA, and I will tell you that over the last two meetings, the agenda for the IDA request and incentive packages has been nothing short of impressive. What is happening in Suffolk County is really a very diverse group of people who want to build businesses, consolidate their existing businesses here in Suffolk County, and the industries range from instrument manufacturing to health care to defense manufacturing to a brewery, who is buying a parcel of land so they can grow their own hops; I mean, just really incredible. And it's nice to see that things are happening and that we could be here at the Suffolk County level to help them get to the next level and make the move, and create jobs and build our economy.

Anthony just announced a new program called Boost, which will be available to smaller companies that aren't necessarily property owners, and they'll have reduced fees and an opportunity to build their company in here, in Suffolk County.

And we also, you know, continue to have a commitment to make it easier to do business in Suffolk County, to reduce delays. Delay is money, okay? We're using what I like to call a more personal approach. We're in touch with people, we follow up. They may not be happy about the timetable under which we could resolve their issue, but we're letting them know that we are on it and we are looking into it and we are dealing with it.

As you all know, there's a portal now where builders can go online to file their permits and to monitor their permits realtime. That portal is continuously being updated and will be a key tool to avoiding a lot of complaints and delays.

And in connection with building relationships, we've been meeting with the important agencies and organizations here on Long Island, whether it's the Long Island Association, the Hauppauge Industrial Association, the Association for a Better Long Island, the Stony Brook Small Business Development Council. I've been in an opportunity to build relationships with businesses that are expanding, like Amneal Pharmaceuticals, who's doing a terrific expansion in Brookhaven, the opportunity to work with Broadridge, together with the State, LIPA, NYPA, the IDA. We all came together to let Broadridge know we want them to stay and continue to grow their business here in Suffolk County. FESCO Cooperation, another terrific company here that we've been working with together to let them know their importance, and they want to stay here in Suffolk County. The Community Development Corp of Long Island for housing and the Long Island Housing Partnership, just another few groups that I've been meeting with and creating relationships.

I had the opportunity to tour Stony Brook University and Brookhaven Lab, two incredible resources here in Suffolk County that are available to businesses, resources that are quite unique, and frankly, state-of-the-art. What a terrific asset when we're looking to maintain large businesses here and even invite new ones. They're willing to work with us, they want to be part of the growth of the economic economy here in Suffolk County.

And, you know, since I started here three and a half months ago I think I put more miles on my car than I have probably in the last five to seven years of my life. It's been incredible. I visited with different town representatives in Greenport, Port Jefferson, the Town of Babylon, Brookhaven, Patchogue. I had the opportunity to meet the Smithtown Chamber of Commerce in that beautiful, historic theatre that we must look to save in some way, shape or form.

All of this with the State working closely with the utilities, LIPA and NYPA, are critical for us to really fulfill our mission, to really help facilitate and move these -- move projects and businesses forward to, again, create jobs in Suffolk County.

Now, at the end of June, I think it was June 26th, and I have the map here, I went to great lengths to get the actual map that County Executive Bellone prepared during his presentation of his strategic regional plan for Suffolk County called Connect Long Island. And I brought it here and everyone can have a copy of it, a hard copy with the keys, but I want to discuss that because it really is a strategic mission for Suffolk County and builds on the momentum already under way here in the County. It really is the first time where we're looking at land use patterns and planning differently. People no longer just live on Long Island, as you know, and commute to New York City. They live and work here.

What we have today is Suffolk County Executive Bellone's vision to make it easier to move around Suffolk County, and what's critical and what I'd like to highlight is it really -- while it seems very obvious, when you see it on a map like this, it's a must. It has to happen. The north/south

connections, which are the green lines, which I will discuss with you right now, are important to really close the loop. We have three lines for the Long Island Railroad going east/west, but the north/south pretty much doesn't really exist in a public way. And one of our missions is really to further this transportation opportunity and to go north/south.

Way on the left map, on the west side, you'll see the Route 110, which is already underway to put some bus rail -- rapid transit there; 135,000 jobs on that route. The middle one is the Sagtikos Parkway, again, opening up areas in Kings Park for potential opportunities for innovation hubs or the ability for people to enjoy that wonderful parkland, Nissequogue Park. I wasn't going to say it because I wasn't sure I would say it right, but I hope I did. And then the one furthest to the east, which is Nicolls Road, which will connect Stony Brook all the way down possibly to Patchogue.

These are important connections because you want people to enjoy efficient transportation, not constantly be caught up in traffic, which is a big number one criticism out here in Suffolk County. So we are working -- now, Nicolls Road is a County road, and so we are working to hopefully facilitate and move forward the opportunity to open that up for rapid transit. The Sagtikos, again, that is a State road and we will do our best at the County to work closely with the State to add a hiking and biking and widen the Sagtikos.

These north/south connections, as simple as they sound, open up the corridors that are right now in the middle really not doing anything, not creating any economic development. Some of the black circles, which I want to highlight, right off of Nicolls Road is the Selden Campus. It's a piece of property that the County owns, not on the tax rolls. Could be an opportunity there to create economic development with the type of transit infrastructure that we're looking to hopefully propose and make happen here.

The Sagtikos is a similar situation. The black square. That's the -- a piece of property owned by the County on the Brentwood Campus of Suffolk Community College. Again, a possible opportunity to create an innovation zone, which the County Executive discussed. These north/south connections are really the next stage for the growth and the long-term sustainability of Suffolk County. And we at the County level are working diligently to further those opportunities.

And I mentioned -- I mentioned the Innovation Zone. That is a program that we are currently working on and first and foremost we're trying to refine the land parcels that the County -- that the County owns right now that are really sitting there doing nothing, and putting together an incentive package that would include the land, that would include an IDA incentive program on taxes and -- on property taxes and sales taxes. That would include possibly some, you know, working with the Department of Labor some possible Workforce Housing training. Those are -- right now we are in the planning stages of that and we're refining those and we're excited to start to develop those opportunities.

The other assets that are circled there, which I think everyone knows, which are the things we are looking to capitalize, are the incredible -- the incredible research and development institutions and the universities, whether it's Cold Spring Harbor, Brookhaven National Lab, Stony Brook. They are -- they have opportunities to take their research and development and create these incubator companies and working together with Accelerate Long Island we here at the County in the Department of Economic Development want to be a big part of making that happen. And, you know, connecting the research and development opportunities with the capital necessary to incubate and hopefully grow a business that will stay and develop here out in Suffolk County.

I also would like to talk a little bit about the workforce housing, because part of the plan here for Suffolk County are the transit oriented developments, building communities, multifamily housing, quality of life opportunities with open space and restaurants. We at the Economic Development and Planning Department have been very instrumental in a number of workforce housing opportunities,

and I was lucky enough to come in with a few ribbon cuttings that -- New Village in Patchogue, Courtland Square in Bay Shore. And we already have over 400 units that we potentially will be assisting with some incentive at Wyandanch Rising, Wincoram Commons, which is a terrific development in the old Coram movie site, some senior residential housing units out in Amagansett, and 60 rental housing units for the veterans in Concern Amityville. So we have a terrific Workforce Housing Program that will help us to incentivize and continue to further the development of these multiuse communities.

We're also working on, as I mentioned earlier, the Director of Planning, Sarah Lansdale, working on a handful of sewer infrastructure projects. The one that we're all excited and will be rolled out soon is the mapping of all the sewer treatment plants. She is also working on a feasibility study for a sewer infrastructure bank. The preliminary findings, which will be coming out shortly, which will be interesting to discuss and evaluate. Also, assessing the Sewer Stabilization Fund and finalizing some forms and ratings so that we could consider possibly using some excess funds there to do some upgrade and treatment projects.

So a lot going on in the short three and a half months. But I think that we all are focused on a mission, the mission to develop the economy for Suffolk County, create jobs, make it a great place to live. I also had the opportunity in connection with the agricultural business to visit a structure up in Riverhead where J. Kings put together a facility now where our farmers could actually use their refrigeration and process differently and actually distribute their produce to different places where's they otherwise would not have that opportunity.

So, other assets that we're looking to enhance is Gabreski Airport, terrific airport, traffic industrial park there, working with the Rechlers and closely with them to proceed with their site plan and their development.

At this point I would like to open the floor up for questions or thoughts and comments, but I hope that I gave you a little bit of an insight as to all the things that are going on in our department.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, thank you very much, Commissioner, and thank you for your comments. First of all, I just want to comment that I have, you know, in my travels around economic development circles I know that you've visited people like Ted Weiss and stuff like. I bumped into him, "Oh, I met your Commissioner the other day, very nice and she seems to be really on point" and stuff like that so, you know, I know you're out there. That's a good thing and this committee respects that level of activity.

I have a couple of questions. I'll just ask one at this point and then I'll, you know, spread it around then we'll bounce back and forth. But the one that I wanted to start with for me is this morning we had a conversation in Ways and Means about the Yaphank, the sale of the Yaphank properties, the former Levy land property, and that is going to go to the Brookhaven Rail Terminal folks. What is the name for it? But it doesn't matter. They -- we're selling that, it's coming up, it's going to be on -- it was laid on the table. It now will be in this cycle to look at that property, etcetera.

Now, the Brookhaven Railroad Terminal folks have an exciting agenda for economic development taking trucks off the road, to housing and warehousing goods that are coming off our rails, etcetera. You know, it's really going to be -- it's -- we like to say transformative ideas. This may be one of them. I believe it to be. But I wanted to, one of the things that came up this morning that I thought was really an interesting concept, because I remembered hearing this with Supervisor Lesko and others, the idea that we could move farm goods from the East End of Long Island, those grown in Suffolk County, and move them by rail to other locations across the United States in an economical and environmentally good way, and, you know, I just wanted to, you know, get your idea of -- and there are so many other assets about this particular project, your idea about the sale

of the land, you know, the importance not only to our financial condition but, you know, to the growth of our economy. Could you respond to that?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Oh, sure. Honestly, the sale of the Yaphank land is exactly what we need to be doing, to take land that's otherwise sitting there idle and convert it into a revenue producing, economic development engine. Honestly, you know, the ability for us to take out produce outside of Suffolk County is incredible. I don't know if anyone read The Post today, but Andre Balazs, who's this big, fancy guy who has hotels, he bought a farm up in Hudson County, I believe, so that he could grow produce to send over to his hotels and his restaurants in New York City.

I think that Suffolk County most certainly needs to invest in those opportunities to expand the distribution of our, frankly, our natural assets, and I think Yaphank is a perfect example. And I hope to do -- I hope to take other land, as I mentioned earlier, and convert them into revenue producing, economic growing engines for Suffolk County, create jobs and I think that is exactly the mission.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Legislator Hahn.

LEG. HAHN:

Hi, there.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Hi, Kara.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you for being here. We really are very fortunate, your reputation precedes you. We really are very fortunate to have you here in Suffolk County. And thank you for being part of the meeting in Port Jefferson on the transit oriented development that we hope to see happen there, and I really hope that the County can help to make that possible.

There are a couple of things, from all over the place, that I want to ask. First, and I don't think I heard you say this, but I'm so glad that there's a black line around Suffolk Community College. We have heard a lot of discussions over the years, Innovate Long Island, Accelerate Suffolk, or it's the other way around, whatever, Accelerate Long Island, Innovate Suffolk. And, you know, there's talk about Stony Brook and Hofstra and, you know, BNL and Cold Spring Harbor, but our own college, Suffolk Community College. I hope that you're meeting with them and we really need to make sure that that college is flexible and nimble enough to respond to the needs of these new industries that are going to be growing thanks to all this great attention on, you know, creating this research triangle here on the Island and high tech and, you know, all these things that are getting thrown around. We need to make sure and, you know, there's plenty of training going on at the Bachelor's level and higher, and we just need to make sure that our community college is flexible enough and knows early enough when we have the needs for retraining workers and training those that are getting, you know, a two year degree.

And so have you, you know, have you begun conversations with the community college, is that in your plan and, you know, I think this committee really wants to make sure that that's a central part of all, you know, all that we're doing in terms of trying to create this workforce that can really grow new industries here.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

It is in my plan. I haven't met them yet. But as you can see, we've identified three locations next to their three campuses, Brentwood, Selden and Riverhead. So -- no, it is my intention to meet

with them and they will be a critical partner to us, no doubt, in a different way because they are very much a part of the parcels that the County owns that we really want to begin to stimulate activity.

LEG. HAHN:

And they really -- the community colleges need to be part from the beginning in understanding to retrain workers and then to, you know, train our youngsters, our youth. What is it, 26,000 students going through Suffolk Community College. And, you know, given how the recession has hit more and more people are choosing to have their children, you know, their first two years to be at Suffolk and so they have got to be part of that equation from the very early stages and we have to make sure that they're able to, you know, turn on a dime to do new training, whatever is needed from the industry. That's point one.

Transfer of development rights. I know that Director Lansdale is working on kind of pulling together a whole report on that.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

But I think if we learn from other regions around the country, they are using a transfer of development rights in ways that we're not to really encourage growth where we want it and discourage it where we don't. And so I just want to make sure that's on your radar screen and, you know, I don't want to like pull the County into the Carmen's River debate, but if we can learn from that, what happened in the Town of Brookhaven, but really figure out a way to make transfer of development rights happen in an effective way here in Suffolk County so that we can have transit oriented developments that work and we can protect other spaces that we want to protect near rivers and such.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Yes, and thank you for that because, yes, we are working with Director Lansdale on that study. And it is on, again, it is on my radar. It's very important and it's very important to understand those programs that failed and why they failed. And what I'm learning is that there are transfer of development rights, there are purchase development rights, there are many different types of rights, so that study is in draft form. We are working together to refine it and it is on my radar and I apologize for not including it and I apologize for Sarah, because I know she's working very hard on that. Thank you.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you. And then we don't really have, and correct me if I'm wrong, I don't think we have, a real significant tourist center, you know, for the East End of the Island, for Suffolk County, for Long Island, the way there is the Maryland House on 95 as you're heading south and other kinds of tourist centers. I'm wondering if there's -- we got this great presentation from Cornell Cooperative Extension about their plans for a visitors center at the Suffolk County Farm, and I kind of, you know, was asking Vito, you know, that vision could be bigger. And I'd love to see something significant that really helps people who are coming from the City, coming from out of Suffolk County, you know, where can they go, and I don't know if that's something you've talked about. I know we work with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and there's all kinds of, you know, but a way to really push our tourism up to another level in trying to encourage and spreading people around to different areas of the County.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

I'll look into that a little further. I actually did have some conversations with the Farm Bureau about some ideas, big ideas that they have with respect to creating a tourist opportunity with the

farm stands and the wineries, and I know that Michele and Carolyn are doing a terrific job. We just, I believe, just won some award for the Winterfest: Jazz which combines music and I also happened to have enjoyed it prior to my appointment here. So thank you for bringing that to my attention. We'll continue to further the tourism.

LEG. HAHN:

Take a look at the plans for the -- we didn't fund it, the capital project for the farm, the County Farm. We didn't fund it for this year. We might have put it in out years, I think. But I think that if it -- right now it was just going to be visitor center for the farm itself, but if we could, you know, really build upon the vision and make it -- it's in a perfect location right off the L.I.E., and it could be so much more. And I think you should be, you know, breaking down those silos and talking to -- you know, thinking about how maybe that could be just more than a visitor center for the farm, but really a visitor center for all of farming on the East End for, you know, including agricultural, etcetera, and then maybe even beyond that just a generalized tourist site. It's a good location.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Well, I actually visited the farm recently and it's terrific. I visited with the people -- with Vito and the woman who runs the farm there. We are having some discussions now on getting a little bit more involved in what's going on there and look at opportunities with economic development as, you know, as we open up discussions with the co-op. So it's on -- again, the visit was extraordinary for me. I never realized what was happening there at the farm. It is pretty incredible and to develop that, and you are spot on with respect to the location and the accessibility of it. And they have wonderful programs. So thank you and there will be follow up on that.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you. Now, back to the map. This my last thing. North/south routes. Are these -- are you envisioning adding, and I'm sorry if it was in the paper and I just don't recall, are you envisioning adding new routes to our bus system as it exists? I remember something and Legislator Stern reminded me maybe some sort of rapid bus system? Do you know exactly what it's going to be at this time?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

We're studying it now, but on Nicolls Road in particular we are envisioning a rapid bus transfer where it will have stops and -- but really we have to study. We have to really understand what the needs are and what the activity will be. But that's what we're envisioning, rapid transit bus. On the Sagtikos we are hoping to widening it up with a maybe biking and hiking trail in addition. So, again, we are thrilled to say that we, you know, we're securing the funds to do the plan and the study so that we could further the projects.

LEG. HAHN:

Excellent. And I would just -- you know, our bus system is so critical to businesses operating well. So many workers actually, you know, actually do take the bus and we don't even sell tickets. I mean, people have to have cash. I mean, we really need -- we don't operate on Sunday. We really need to have -- give that a new look. It's just not a support, you know, for -- it's seen as a subsidy for low income individuals who can't afford a car, but really the businesses need those workers to get to work. So, you know, we have to think our bus system, you know, we have to find new ways to help that and expand it where, like you said, were studied and shown to be needed for business purposes. That's -- I'm sorry I went on so long, but thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's quite all right. It's an important topic. Legislator Stern.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hello, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Hello.

LEG. STERN:

On the -- maybe some of the vision for the Sagtikos corridor and rapid transit along that way and hiking and biking trails, New York State was considering putting study money for the Sagtikos corridor into out years. The County Executive was successful in bringing that back in. So in developing this vision for the Sagtikos corridor, is that a process that you and your office are going to be going through as to the County portion of what we would like to see there or is that part of the wider New York State study that's going to go on for the corridor and if not, how is that going to be coordinated?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Right now I'm envisioning, honestly, to work closely with the State of New York regarding the development of the Sagtikos study. We most certainly will be representing the County, but I really would plan on working closely with the State on the plans.

LEG. STERN:

So as to that aspect it really is going to be your and your team's participation in what New York State is going to be doing as a part of their study for the region.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

As to that aspect of it.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Yes, we'll be working closely with the State, right.

LEG. STERN:

All right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

May I add that of interest and relating to this conversation is that I see in the paper today that there's been a tentative agreement with the Heartland folks, Mr. Walkoff and one of the unions over the project labor agreement, which was one of the big sticking points to the whole Heartland project. Maybe we might see some activity there very shortly. That's a good sign, and which could relate to the Sagtikos Parkway because that's the reason why some of the things are going to go on there, is that there's going to be increased traffic because of the Heartland project. So I thought that was very interesting and, you know, these are good times. Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner, welcome, thanks for being here. I have a number of questions. I will start with, very briefly, with the map with respect to the bus routes, which are, you know, certainly a nice vision to have. We have been talking about the 110 bus route, the north/south bus route for some time now. It's a shame that that hasn't gotten done yet. It's great that we'll have the opportunity to work on Nicolls Road, although, you know, there's not a heck of a lot going on along Nicolls Road. And Sagtikos, you know, there are, there is the north/south connection is important and certainly if the Walkoff project starts to get off the ground it will be important in some way to connect that. That being said, it's a parkway, and I'm wondering are you suggesting that in addition to bicycle routes and walking paths, are you suggesting that we're going to have buses along the parkway?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

We are going to study it and understand what we possibly can do at the Sagtikos to open up the transportation on the north/south. So we'll study it before we'll make any conclusions as to what will actually be there.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

But we would hope to have public transportation included, but the study will tell us.

LEG. CILMI:

And that's something that the State is working on.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Well, it is a State highway, a parkway. It's a State parkway. Again, I'm hoping that I can work closely with the State in discussing what we're looking for with respect to the north/south connection there at the Sagtikos. Also, please don't lose sight of the fact that right next to the Heartland location is an opportunity for the Brentwood Campus at Suffolk Community College --

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

-- to be utilized -- okay.

LEG. CILMI:

Absolutely.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

And possibly some other locations that, you know, we haven't identified or located at this point.

LEG. CILMI:

I agree that we can't emphasize enough the connection with our higher education system with all of this.

I want to talk about some of your ideas in terms of working with the private sector in job creation and economic development, and let me start with the portal, which I was very involved with prior to County Executive Bellone getting involved, and to his credit he's really followed that through and it's turning into a great resource I think. Is your department following at this point the activity on that portal? Not so much as the development of, you know, the different options that are available that we provide, but the actual applications that are, you know, that exist in our system, which are now apparent to us through the portal. Are you following those applications?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

No, I'm not following -

LEG. CILMI:

I don't mean you personally.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

No, no. The Economic Development and Planning, no. We work closely with the Executive level and the Department of DPW and the Department of Health. But we are not, no, I am not -- our department is not monitoring at this point.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. The -- talk to me a little bit about -- a little bit more in depth about the Innovation Zones.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Really I think what we would like to create is we really would like to convert land that's not utilized, which I said earlier, and really couple it with incentives so that the incubator companies could be enticed and incentivized to go there and begin their businesses. It's really an opportunity to, you know, really streamline for a business their ability to open up and start operating. That's really, I think, ultimately the goal. And as I said, we are really working to refine what would be in there, to refine what the process would be, what the criteria of those companies might require and, you know, exactly what is available vis-a-vis actual land, and what types of incentive is really going to really be effective for these companies.

Actually, I have been asking a number of different institutions and I recently had a conversation with someone at Stony Brook to ask what do these incubators look for, what should we be targeting as part of the incentive package to make -- to get this program up and running. So again, it's a work in progress right now.

LEG. CILMI:

So do you envision at some point producing some sort of a plan, you know, that we can all look at and understand and we can sink our teeth into that talks about exactly how these Innovation Zones will work, who will be included and what the, you know, criteria for inclusion is, who will make the decision as to who gets included, who doesn't get included, where they are, who owns the land, who owns the buildings, what incentives there are, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera. Do you envision something that -- when would that be?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

I don't want to put a timeline on it, we are doing it as soon as we can. But I envision working together with this committee, honestly, to sort of put the, you know, put the package together. I mean, we have to do something that's going to be effective. So it's going to really be important that we identify the appropriate locations and the appropriate incentives, because we really would like to come out of the box with something that will be important and dynamic.

LEG. CILMI:

Recently I was asked about the possibility of putting a cell phone tower on -- at Timber Point Country Club. And, you know, my response was it sounds like a terrific idea, it's out the way, you know, the local residents won't take too much of offense and it will improve the service in that particular area tremendously. And then I realized, or I was told that because Timber Point is considered parkland that you can't do that. There is no development that's allowed on parkland at all. And even so much as a cell phone tower or even in some cases so much as drilling a well to access drinking water is considered development. And, therefore, you'd have to go through an alienation process to utilize the land at those facilities, at any park, any parkland.

So, now that alienation process, I'm not sure if you're familiar with it, but my understanding is that you have to get the State Legislature, two consecutive State Legislatures, to authorize the alienation or segregation of that land, whatever land you want to use, and then there has to be -- as part of that there has to be some land that you sub in, you know, so that you're not getting rid of parkland, you know, absolutely. So there has got to be a swap.

So my question for you is, you know, we continue to purchase an awful lot of land, and when we purchase it through the Open Space Program, it automatically becomes parkland. What are your thoughts about addressing the difficulty of using any of that property for any reasons whatsoever, because it seems to me if you're buying hundreds of thousands of acres of land, you may be able to pick off small pieces of some of that property, you know, in a controlled, measured way and utilize it

for economic benefits of some sort, be it Innovation Zones, you know, incubators, cell phone towers, whatever it is. But now the process is so cumbersome to do that, that becomes nearly, and we've done it, but it becomes nearly impossible and certainly very time consuming. What are your thoughts about that?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Well, you know, I know that, you know, open space is an important issue here and anywhere actually, so one of the things we are doing here in Economic Development and Planning is we're getting a better understanding of the open space that's been purchased and the open space that's in the pipeline to be purchased, and try to understand what, if anything, should be done. And if something should be determined to be done, how the best way to go forward with it.

I don't -- you know, I will tell you that I did learn that, you know, purchasing open space with those specific dollars, you know, do in fact put, you know, criteria on that land as it was planned to with the program. But, you know, like all programs, they could be refined and they could be improved. But, you know, honestly I really first want to get my arms around the whole open space program. It's a wonderful program. It most certainly is important for the natural assets here in Suffolk County, no doubt about it. But as I just said, any program should be looked at and reviewed again. And so that is something that I'm working actually with Jill in Real Property to do along with Sarah.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. And what do you know about the casino? What's happening with casinos.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

You know, I don't -- I wish I could engage with you on that. I don't really know that anything is really going on.

LEG. CILMI:

Fair enough. Let me just get back now to the portal and private sector. I would suggest and request that you assign somebody from your department to be intimately familiar with the permit applications that exist not only on the portal, but in both the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works. And the reason I make that suggestion is that while all these plans are very good and necessary, we need economic development and jobs now, today. And because of delays and what I'll call a bureaucratic ignorance and in some, you know, some cases of regulatory arrogance, we're actually preventing jobs from being created today. We are costing business owners hundreds of thousands of dollars, not only in wasted time, but in investments, in properties, that ultimately they're unable to develop because of, you know, rules and regulations and, you know, requirements that the Health Department and the Department of Public Works, you know, come up with based on some future vision of how successful, you know, a business might be.

So, and I don't want to go and waste the committee's time and talk about specific examples, although there are many, but if you -- if you could assign somebody to look at those things. I think what you'll find if you really dig into them, I think what you'll find is that we're doing a very good job of preventing jobs from being created here in Suffolk County. And if it's the number one goal of the Economic Development Department to enable jobs to be created, I would say not create jobs of your own because private sector creates jobs, government shouldn't be creating jobs. But if you want to facilitate, as you say, job creation, which I think is a good goal, then a great place to start would be to look at those two departments and make sure that they're operating as efficiently and effectively and as transparently and less heavy handedly than they are currently operating.

I have introduced a couple of pieces of legislation that will be laid on the table at this month's meeting, and we can talk about those going forward. But it's incredibly important that we figure out how to allow private businesses to do what they do best and we stop holding them hostage and punishing them for some level of success.

With that I'll yield, and I really appreciate you being here and I hear wonderful things about you, and certainly as you said, you've been here a short period of time and the department has grown in its scope subsequent to your taking over. And you have a lot of pieces to put together and my understanding is that you're doing a very good job of that. So God bless you and we look forward to seeing you at future meetings. Thanks.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Thank you very much. I appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Legislator. I just have a couple of quick ones that I'd like to refer back to you. Sewers. This committee would not be the Economic Development Committee if we weren't talking at some level about sewers and our need for sewers in Suffolk County. Now, first of all, your comment on the stabilization funds for sewers as excess sewer money, I'm not sure that was correct. But what we're looking to do is we're looking to grow sewers in Suffolk, as you know.

Now we have the first, to my recollection, new sewer project in the -- at the Ronkonkoma Hub. I want to -- you know, we've been talking about the GIS system as you said. We're talking about putting -- we met last night to put sewers in the town of -- to square off the Town of Babylon and the Southwest Sewer District to include the rest of the Town of Babylon. We're talking about a master plan for sewers in Suffolk County. We've -- the list goes on and on about how we have started the ball in motion to make sure that Suffolk County becomes sewered because we need it. And we need it not only for environment, but for economic development of course, as you know.

How do you see us getting over some of those hurdles of going out and exploring new funds to -- for instance, to square off the Town of Babylon last night the Public Works Department made a comment to the people there which I knew would have the reaction it did, that it would cost approximately two billion dollars to put the pipes in the ground in the -- to square off the rest of the Town of Babylon. It already has an existing plant. So how do you see, and I'm not sure you have the answer for this, I'm not looking for you really to do that, but I want it to be on your radar of how will we put together a growth plan for sewers for Suffolk County.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

I will tell you that you start from what's happening right now, which is what do you have? So the mapping process is critical. You have to know what you have, what is its capacity, what does it service, what can it service? So right now I think the plan that's unfolding to look at sewers on a regional basis is obviously, and I say this with all due respect and humbleness, it's exactly what it should be. Get the facts right, okay, and understand the facts and then move from there.

You know, I'm not as involved yet with respect to the sewers and the plan, and I know that there's a whole -- a blue ribbon panel and I know we're looking at the feasibility of an infrastructure bank, but I haven't really met yet and I intend to, it's on my calendar for the next week, to go over the map that was put together by the Department of Planning. And honestly, to begin to even come close to putting together a strategy for the region, the facts have to be understood and known. I mean, I encountered a very simple -- as I said, I'm doing a very hands on approach in some respects to move businesses forward, to try to, you know, break open the delay, to have an interdisciplinary approach. It's important. It's, in fact, in my view it's critical. You have to work together. That's what a project is. It's all the different functions.

I had a little bit of a situation that I found myself in with respect to even information and understanding about a particular sewer pump, and I kind of -- I think probably for the first time in three and a half months I got a little -- I got a little aggravated honestly, and it was like, you know, we need to know the information and it needs to be the right information.

So with respect to sewers I think that getting the right information and then building off of that is really the direction that we should be going and we are going. And, you know, I need to learn a little bit more and continue to investigate and refine and I'm excited to be a part of the process.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you. I appreciate those comments. I didn't really expect you, you know, to have a map on how to finance the billions of dollars that we're going to need for it, but there are some concepts out there and ideas. We're talking about, you know, are there synergies between the Suffolk County Water Authority and Suffolk sewer issues, you know, and the list goes on and on.

One of the things I found out this morning, just for an instance, in the sale of the property at Yaphank, part of the deal is that BRT will upgrade the sewer plant at Yaphank, which that's not a bad thing to happen. It may be that it will be 500,000 gallons per day, but there's a little bit of growth capacity in there that they're not going to use all that, so that's something right there. And if we piecemeal a lot of small things into a big way of solving this problem, I just want us -- to you to know that we are here to work with you to make sure that this happens because to me there's no greater economic development issue than the infrastructure. You can't start without the infrastructure, and as you know, I'm preaching to the choir. I just wanted to let you know.

Lastly, on my part, I just wanted to quickly mention something that this committee and many others have worked on over the years is to make sure that when the State is ready to place a plan forward to put casinos throughout the State that Suffolk has an opportunity to get a Shinnecock casino in Suffolk County, because this is the best marketplace and it would be good for our economic development and I thought -- do you have any thoughts on that?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

We stand ready to work with the State on that, on any plans like that, yes.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And the Shinnecoaks.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

And the Shinnecoaks, absolutely.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

There you go. Are there any further questions from the Legislature? We're good? Thank you very much for being here and we're always -- we're here for you and we hope that we'll see more of you in the future. Legislator Cilmi, sure.

LEG. CILMI:

Just really quickly. I pardon and beg your indulgence. Commissioner, could you share with us any significant plans that are currently under way with businesses in Suffolk County, either coming to or leaving Suffolk County?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

You know -- I don't have anything off the top of my head to discuss, but we are really trying to take a very proactive approach and working closely with the State, because they're very much a part of this. To hear about businesses that are considering relocating, you know, I mentioned a couple of companies that we work closely with. I am planning to touch base with the brokers. They are really -- you want to get to the people that are on the frontline with the companies, the people that represent those companies, and that's really part of a plan that I'm, you know, I consider and I'm looking forward to implementing. I want to create those relationships so that if there is a consideration we get the call or the State will get the call and, you know, we can work together to create incentive packages you know, again, with the Suffolk County IDA to put the information

together so that company will stay. If we are not contacted, you know, we can't do anything.

That's why again, you know, promoting the opportunities and the incentives that exist in Suffolk County is critical. Companies need to know that so that they could incorporate that in their analysis. And the benefits that exist here that you don't realize you have them when you leave, and then you suddenly -- you know, I will tell you a personal discussion I had with a company. Basically they had a headquarters -- or a company here on Long Island and a company in another state. And even though the facility in the other state was so much cheaper, the quality of the workforce just didn't come close to what was available here in Suffolk County. And, you know, that is a critical area that we need to stay ahead, and it's a difficult area to stay ahead of, as you know. There are people, not people, that are states and cities throughout the country that would look to take away these -- they are striving for the same thing, create jobs, build economies. So we are, you know, we in front of that and I'm thrilled to be working very closely with the State on that because sometimes they hear about it before we do, and we want to be out there in front helping.

LEG. CILMI:

So probably the biggest business development that's ongoing right now is the Canon project?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Do you know how that's going?

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

I don't. I don't know. And in my world no news is always -- is good news.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much we appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Thank you.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

All right. With that, we'll move on to the agenda.

Introductory Resolutions

Okay. Introductory Resolution *1680, Approving the appointment of Robert S. DeLuca to the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Panel (Co. Exec.)*. Is Mr. DeLuca here? Oh, I didn't realize you were here today. I'm sorry. Come on up. Carolyn, do you want to introduce Mr. DeLuca?

MS. FAHEY:

If I could just put it in perspective for the committee. Resolution 214 adopted Local Law 24 of 2012, which created the Airport Conservation and Assessment Committee. Basically what it did is it codified the airport panel that the former County Executive had created by Executive Order. So the resolution created a six member panel and of those six members the County Executive has three appointments which require concurrence by the Legislature.

One of those members is to represent, and I just want to get the verbiage correct, one member to represent an environmental group serving the East End towns of Suffolk County to be appointed by the County Executive and subject to the approval of the Legislature. The County Executive puts forth Mr. Bob DeLuca who, so you know, actually served as an ex officio member on the previous formation of the panel.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Mr. DeLuca, good to see you. I didn't realize you were back there before. Welcome, and why don't you just give a few details about your relationship to the airport and why you'd like to serve on this board as such.

MR. DELUCA:

Sure. Just briefly, years ago when I worked here for the County one of my first responsibilities with the dreaded Suffolk County Health Department was to work on inventory work --

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I can see you're an ex-employee.

MR. DELUCA:

Yeah. It wasn't dreaded back in those days, people actually liked it. But in any case, I started working on the airport back then in terms of the last fully completed master plan, both as a biologist and senior analyst with the County at that time. In the more recent history we got involved during the Levy Administration as part of the Community Advisory Board, which was an effort to try to create a communication link between the surrounding community at the airport and Suffolk County. One of the critical roles that had been missing for a long time was the ability to have local community input on leases that were being considered at the airport. Out of the Community Advisory Board we came up with the concept, which is now before you as a piece of legislation, of this airport Conservation Advisory Panel, which is now being codified through this resolution.

That panel has worked, I think, fairly well in terms of giving local community members an opportunity to let their voices be heard and their concerns be articulated prior to the point where the Legislature, you know, gets a lease in front of them for the airport. So I think it's been a good process. I've been involved primarily in that process since the outset, both in terms of designing it originally and then sitting as an ex officio member largely to comment on issues related to SEQRA environmental review process and so forth. Those comments are thrown in and considered by the, up til now, the appointed committee and those recommendations then are forward up to you.

So I think, you know, from my standpoint as a community advocate working on environmental issues on the East End it's been very important for us for many, many years to be able to give the surrounding community a voice in terms of letting the Legislature know what its concerns are. We worked very constructively on the plan development district that was approved there in very much the same way, by getting people in early, getting the stakeholders at the table, getting everybody's issues up early and allowing those issues to get resolved as best as they could be. I think that this panel serves the same purpose and I'm happy to continue in that, you know, in that way as a member of this new panel.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That was very well put. Are there any questions? Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Hi, Mr. DeLuca. How are you?

MR. DELUCA:

Good. How are you doing?

LEG. CILMI:

I'm fine, thanks. I'm just am curious as to what you meant by the dreaded Health Department.

MR. DELUCA:

Well, in the past -- I'd say in the past maybe five or six years the -- you know, back when I worked at the Health Department we were coming off the heels of the 208 Study and maybe for better or worse the Health Department could do no wrong. There was an awful lot of good activity going on there, groundwater work, monitoring work, environmental protection work. You know, from the standpoint of those guys who do the work everyday, they would argue that part of the problem people now feel with respect to permit and application processes being slowed, is because there's nobody there. I mean, they have been whacked pretty hard over many years. So they're missing a lot of people and the word on the street is that they're now, you know, like the County Health Department, yeah, those guys, you know, and you hear it here all the time, so. It was just a joke.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. That's quite all right. We appreciate the levity. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Are there any questions? Okay. Mr. DeLuca, obviously your resume is extensive and you're certainly involved in the community around the Gabreski and we appreciate you giving service to your community and to Suffolk County. I'll make a motion to approve the appointment of Robert DeLuca to the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Program. Seconded by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**. So now you don't have to come to the meeting on Tuesday.

MR. DELUCA:

Bless you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

It's a night meeting, too, so you're really lucky.

MR. DELUCA:

Bless you twice. Thanks very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you.

LEG. CILMI:

The Legislature is even more dreaded than the Health Department.

MR. DELUCA:

That may be true.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Except the Chairman, of course. **1681, Approving the appointment of Herman J. Beck to the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Panel (Co. Exec.)**. Carolyn?

MS. FAHEY:

Once again, the County Executive puts forth Hank Beck, who is representing the local business communities surrounding the airport. Mr. Beck was also an original member of the Airport Conservation and Assessment Panel that the previous County Executive had put together. He is also a member of the Community Advisory Board.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Alrighty. Mr. Beck, welcome. And I see she -- Carolyn calls you Hank is it?

MR. BECK:

Yes. The only people who call me Herman, which is my real name, are bill collectors or people looking to subpoena.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, we certainly don't want to do that. Welcome, and I guess the same question, you know, what brings you to looking to serve on the Gabreski Airport Commission and maybe a little bit about your background, why it makes sense to appoint you.

MR. BECK:

Sure. Well, I was President of the Chamber of Commerce in Greater Westhampton for five years and we had a substantial period of growth during that time. I left it with a very nice bank balance and substantial improvement in the business community. Since then I also founded GRIP, the Gabreski Rescue Initiative Partnership, which is the group that put together the panel and the lobbying to save the 106 from the dreaded BRAC Program. I use that worded dreaded advisedly, the Base Realignment and Closure Program, and we were very successful. Now on the board of the Friends of the 106th.

I'm also Chairman of the Hamptons Visitors Council, which is a consortium of East End chambers of commerce whose sole purpose is to promote shoulder season tourism. This is the idea that, you know, the East End, most of our money is made during the tourist season in the four or five months of the summer. So we have a lot of facility that goes unused in October, in March and April. And our goal is to promote tourism during these shoulder seasons. You don't see our work directly because our work goes to tourism groups outside the area. It goes a lot to the web, a lot to overseas to attract overseas tourists. So you won't see our work, for example, on the newsstands or in the racks in front of real estate agents. Our work goes directly to consumers. We are primarily funded by a small tax from each chamber of commerce who is a member and by a stipend from the Town of Southampton. I'm also a member of the Pine Barrens Advisory Commission and have been involved with several other civic organizations over the years.

So this is my interest and I'm very interested in the business community, very interested in what the Commissioner had to say about the technology park at Gabreski Airport, because that's been a big issue, and of course that's what we serve on in terms of this assessment panel. And the idea that we could put together a plan that satisfied all the stakeholders was an amazing thing. And Bob's right, it took great patience and it took six months before the lightning bolts stopped being thrown across the tables, before we actually realized we had a common goal. We had some creative solutions and some real solutions. And right now we're waiting -- and unfortunately just when everything was finalized was when with the economic recession hit and, you know, we are waiting for commitments from everybody now to build. The infrastructure is in. The County has installed that.

We flew in from England on Monday night and low enough that we could watch the entire south shore. I watched everything from Montauk, Amagansett, I saw Shinnecock Inlet, Mecox, and then there is big Gabreski right there in the middle. I said what a wonderful resource that we have. But we are looking to develop this not just as a place for jobs, but as a place for technology to be part of what Steve Bellone called in his campaign the technology quadrangle, you know, Brookhaven National Labs, Cold Spring Harbor, Stony Brook University Research and the Technology Park at Gabreski. And that's something we hope will come true.

I think that's about it. I can go on for a long time about the need, what we need out there. The East End is a different animal. No density for sewers unfortunately, a great problem, and that's an

issue for us right now. If I can pass a moment on the work that we've done with Dr. Chris Gobler at Stony Brook University and his presentation recently about the effects of groundwater are having now that were -- of systems that were put in 40 and 50 years ago. And without that clean water, without things to attract tourism, our whole East End economy will sink. So we've got to work on protecting that. So economic development for me includes a lot more than attracting a business to a community. It includes protecting the environment that attracts those people as well.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Well, that sounds like sound advice and, you know, that's like the committee itself. It took you six months to realize that you had similar goals. Well, we also feel the same way about economic development, that economic development and good environmental practices are -- can be very compatible.

MR. BECK:

They go hand in hand, they must. Absolutely must. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

There you go. Are there any questions of Mr. Beck? We're good? Thank you very much. And, again, we'll vote on this but you don't have to come to the Tuesday meeting as well.

MR. BECK:

Thank you again.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'll make a motion to approve Mr. Beck for the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Panel. Second by Legislator Stern. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**. It moves to the full Legislature.

1682, Approving the appointment of Jason McMunn to the Gabreski Airport Conservation and Assessment Panel (Co. Exec.).

MS. FAHEY:

Mr. McMunn couldn't make it today so we respectfully request you table and he'll be at the next committee meeting.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. I'll make a motion to table. Second by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

1688, Accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Emergency Solutions Grant Program and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements (Co. Exec.). Legislator Stern, you want to make that motion? Motion and also to be sent to the consent calendar. I'll second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

1689, Accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Community Development Block Grant Program and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, as well as sending to the consent calendar. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

And lastly, ***1690, Accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Home Investment Partnerships Program and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements (Co. Exec.).*** Same

motion, same second. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. It has been approved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**. And I believe that concludes our agenda for the day.

LEG. CILMI:

Mr. Chair?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

I just have one question for Ms. Fahey.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Sure. Carolyn?

LEG. CILMI:

Just very quickly.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

One question.

LEG. CILMI:

I just wanted a quick update on the re-siting of the Ronkonkoma train station solar carports. Do you have any update on that?

MS. FAHEY:

I couldn't answer that for you, no. I will ask the Commissioner to get back to you.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. Thanks very much.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Anyone else? Okay. I haven't heard anything either. Okay. Meeting adjourned.

(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:21 P.M.)