

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Economic Development 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 September 3, 2014.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. William Lindsay III, Chairperson
Leg. Steven H. Stern, Vice Chair
Leg. John M. Kennedy, Jr.
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman

NOT PRESENT:

Leg. Kara Hahn - Excused Absence

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Lora Gellerstein, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
Tom Vaughn, County Executive's Office
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern
Eva Greguski, Aide to Leg. Calarco
Carolyn Fahey, Department of Economic Development
Gregory T. Casamento, Appointee/IDA
Gil Anderson, Commissioner/Department of Public Works
Mike Monaghan, DPW
Darnell Tyson, DPW
Representatives from SunEdison
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

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(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:06 PM)

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Will all Legislators come to the horseshoe for the Economic Development Committee meeting. Good afternoon. Welcome to the Suffolk County Legislature Economic Development hearing. One of our members, Legislator Kara Hahn, has an excused absence.

If we could all please rise and we'll have Legislator McCaffrey lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SALUTATION

We'll start the hearing with the Public Portion. We don't have any yellow cards for speakers. Anybody in the audience interested in speaking in the public portion? Not seeing anyone, we'll move onto the Tabled Resolutions as we have no presentations.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

The first Tabled Resolution is **1329, Establishing a new policy for appointments to the Board of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency. (Kennedy)**

LEG. KENNEDY:

I make a motion to table.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Seconded by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion's carried. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEG. HAHN NOT PRESENT)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Moving onto the Introductory Resolutions. We'll start with **1656, Reappointing member to the Suffolk County Landbank Corporation Board of Directors. (Calarco)** This is for our Presiding Officer, Legislator DuWayne Gregory.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman; second by myself. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEG. HAHN NOT PRESENT)**

Introductory Resolution 1738, Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Sunedison, LLC for use of property at Francis S. Gabreski Airport. (Co. Exec.)

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Schneiderman. I'll second it.

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D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Bring Carolyn up.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Carolyn, if you wouldn't mind coming to the microphone.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

She doesn't mind.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

It wasn't an option. Legislator Schneiderman.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And, again, I should ask are representatives from SunEdison here as well?

MS. FAHEY:

Yes, they are; as well Commissioner Gil Anderson from DPW.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think I'm probably more familiar with this than my colleagues. But maybe you want to just explain a little bit about the process we took to arrive at this firm, the decision to allow solar generation at Gabreski; and how we went about finding a vendor to provide it and whatever questions people might have about FAA and interference, glare, you know, those types of issues.

MS. FAHEY:

Sure. In a very brief overview, back in October of '13, LIPA issued a feed-in tariff for 100 megawatts of solar projects and that same month Suffolk County RFP to host all the projects on County property. And then in December we received 13 applicants through that RFP. And through the RFP Committee, which you are all quite familiar with, we selected SunEdison as the best overall project and revenue proposal.

In January of '14, SunEdison proposed a project to LIPA in conjunction with the Suffolk County property in that in March that project was selected by LIPA as one of their -- what they call a FIT II proposal. What it is in generalities is property at Gabreski Airport. And I did bring a map so you can see the location of the property on airport property. Thank you, sir.

MR. VAUGHN:

(Distributed map)

MS. FAHEY:

There's approximately 27 acres of property at Gabreski Airport that is located in between the apex of the two major runways. It's that property that the County will be leasing to SunEdison in order to develop this solar project. The project will be subject to FAA approval. The FAA needs to approve various aspects: One, the overall project; two, a Glint and Glare Study, which the consultants are in the process of preparing; and the lease term. Right now the Airport's only allowed to lease property on short term basis for non-aviation uses, so we would require FAA approval for the 20-year lease. So the intent of this lease is to get it to the point where we're ready to go once FAA -- and if FAA gives their approval.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

This project also was before the Airport Conservation Assessment Panel and --

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MS. FAHEY:

Yes, it did. And that should be attached to your resolution.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I believe it was unanimous support for it.

MS. FAHEY:

Yes. It was quite a dialogue and they were very intrigued and very interested and involved. And there was a unanimous recommendation moving forward.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

This is -- just some obvious questions. So the land that -- what is it, 35 or so acres?

MS. FAHEY:

About 27 or so.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm sorry, 27 acres; is not usable for general aviation type of purposes.

MS. FAHEY:

Exactly. If you see where it is, around the perimeter of the -- those parcels, you'll see our taxiway infrastructure. So if we were to develop anything else in that property, anybody that was in that area would have to cross over the taxiways and that's not really the best and safest environment. So we didn't have any plans to develop this internal property for aviation development.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Mostly they would have been just grasslands.

MS. FAHEY:

Correct.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And the rate schedule in terms of how the County gets revenue from this, what was the proposal? Do you have that, Carolyn?

MS. FAHEY:

The big picture about is \$315 a year in revenue to the County.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

That's an estimation.

MS. FAHEY:

That's 6.2, 6.3 over the 20 years.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. And the two concerns that I remember, one had to do with glare. That's something. So they have to do a study on glare, get the FAA to sign off on that. There was concern about grassland type of species. CEQ reviewed this, didn't they; right?

MS. FAHEY:

Yes, they did. And actually CEQ addressed that issue in their resolution, which then is in front of, I believe, the EPA Committee. And if you recall, there was some concern about there being endangered species --

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D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Or migratory birds that --

MS. FAHEY:

-- by the consultant. So -- and CEO's resolution, which is IR 1752 in front of EPA, notes that the project's sponsor will confirm that there are no endangered species located in the proposed construction area and that the project is in conformance with New York State DEC's Endangered and Threatened Species Regulations; the same issue that the Community Advisory Board brought up, CEO put in theirs also. And they've agreed to do that.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. Okay. Maybe if other -- many members have questions, but that's pretty much the dialogue, I think, at ACAP surrounded those issues primarily.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Carolyn, my only question is if we -- since this is such a significant amount of money for relatively little amount of land, have we explored this option at other County-owned land?

MS. FAHEY:

I believe we have. And I can turn it over to maybe Gil Anderson to talk about if we're looking at other lands. But I think this was the one that the County owned. We do look at other properties we have. We have looked at other rooftops and so on, yeah.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yeah, I'm not saying in place of this; I'm saying in addition to if we can --

MS. FAHEY:

I think there's ongoing review of County property for potential projects.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yeah, I think all of us would agree if we could continue that exploration and -- anywhere that's available as a viable option --

MS. FAHEY:

Sure.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

-- please let us know.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can I just say this, because maybe not the whole Committee is aware of this. So revenue from this portion of the Airport stays within the Airport. So it can't go to the General Fund of the County. So if the Airport is self-sustaining, or has more revenues, it means that the General Fund does not need to support the Airport with as much money. So it ultimately does help our budget. But because of the assurances that are provided whenever the County obtains grants from the FAA to build structures, whatever it might be, and we have a number of them, there is a -- we guarantee basically that all revenues from the Airport will stay within the Airport.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Yeah, thank you. Carolyn, do you anticipate -- I understand that it needs to go through FAA. Do

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you anticipate any questions, any issues coming up as they go through that process of getting approved from FAA?

MS. FAHEY:

I don't think anything that's unique to their review of solar panels at airports. They've done solar panels at airports before, but every airport's unique and different: Its location, its, you know, exposure, so they're going to give it their thorough review.

LEG. STERN:

There might be some specifics, but overall --

MS. FAHEY:

Oh, yeah.

LEG. STERN:

-- FAA shouldn't have a problem with it.

MS. FAHEY:

Not that we've heard.

LEG. STERN:

Is that the case, Carolyn, do you know, or maybe Legislator Schneiderman, revenue that is generated has to be used for airport purposes. Is that true just in this specific example or is that true across the board of any example that you might see, whether it's a town or other level of municipality that owns the airport? Is it always the case that any revenue derived has to be used for and has to be limited to airport purposes?

MS. FAHEY:

I don't want to say for sure, but I'm pretty sure it's a grant assurance that you receive when -- that's a condition of receiving the airport from the municipality.

LEG. STERN:

Yeah.

MS. FAHEY:

The intent is to make sure that the Airport isn't used to supplement the General Fund where it's lacking maintenance and support and upgrades.

LEG. STERN:

Right.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So there's -- it's kind of boilerplate. Typically there's a 20-year grant assurance and there's like 19 provisions that go with every one of those grants. And I've always seen this provision that all revenues stay. There may be some cases where there -- where they don't but, you know, in East Hampton, you may have seen in the news where they're talking about no longer taking grant money from the FAA because they're trying to get around those very restrictions so they can put curfews in place and things like that.

MS. FAHEY:

Yeah, most of the airports on Long Island are owned by local municipalities: Islip, Republic is owned by the State; East Hampton so we've seen it in all of those grant assurances. I'm not -- just not sure --

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D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And these are typically large grants.

MS. FAHEY:

Yeah.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Like 95%, 90%; they're not -- they're not small grants. They're most of the cost of the infrastructure.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Any other questions? Thank you, Carolyn.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Carolyn, I forget the answer to this. We're going to bury all the -- all the cables that connect us to the grid are all going to be buried, or at least in the vicinity?

MS. FAHEY:

I believe we are, correct, yep. I'm getting a nod of yeses. All the cables will be buried.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. And are there transformers and things like that that are associated -- this is a very sensitive area groundwater-wise and, you know, transformers are some things that might be susceptible to fires that could lead to groundwater pollution. Has that been looked at? I'm sure that everything's on concrete slabs and things like that.

MR. MONAGHAN:

Good afternoon. This is Mike Monaghan from Public Works. Yes, as part of the design process, once the approvals go through the designer, SunEdison and their designers, are going to tell us exactly where the transformers, which will be aboveground, will be located along with the inverters transferring the DC to AC power.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. And then obviously they have to meet, what is it, Article 12 standards. Is that --

MR. MONAHAN:

Right. They'll meet all the various electrical code and LIPA, Long Island Power Authority, PSEGLI standards --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

MR. MONAHAN:

-- as well as national electric codes standards.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Lora, do we have a motion on that?

MS. GELLERSTEIN:

Yes.

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CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I'll call the vote, then. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries unanimously.
(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEG. HAHN NOT PRESENT)

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Carolyn, will you be at the Legislature if there's questions from others?

MS. FAHEY:

Sure.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

IR 1747, Approving and authorizing a contract for a Nicolls Road Alternatives Analysis Study. (Co. Exec.) Any comment on the motion? Legislator Kennedy?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, just to Counsel, George, I don't have the resolution in front of me. Is this --

MR. NOLAN:

The one response to an RFP. Those are the ones that come to us, when only one vendor responds to an RFP and then it requires Legislative approval.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Local money or is this State funding? Is this grant money?

MR. NOLAN:

I don't think this resolution indicates how it's being paid.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Does anybody know? Is it grant funds, Gil?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Federal funds.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, fine. All right.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Do we know -- maybe, Gil -- I mean, I don't have enough information on this. Alternatives on Nicolls Road, is this part of that bus rapid transit? Is it connected to that or is this completely different?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yes, this is connected to -- the intent is to do an Alternatives Analysis to study the corridor for the BRT.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

This is BRT.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct.

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D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And it's fully Federally funded?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Is it fully or is it -- 80 Fed, 20% match.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is that 20% match, is that your employees basically or is there grant money? I mean, is there County money? Are we matching in-kind services?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I'll let Darnell answer the question

MR. TYSON:

Good afternoon. This is Darnell Tyson. I work with Gil at the Department of Public Works. The 20% would be in-kind labor.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It would be in-kind. Okay.

MR. TYSON:

Yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And this -- currently this is the only road we're looking at? Or are we looking at the 110 Corridor?

MR. TYSON:

So, this is the only road the County is looking at, but the Town of Babylon also has an Alternatives Analysis underway for Route 110.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

110?

MR. TYSON:

Yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I only have one question for Gil. Parsons Brinckerhoff, have we used them before as a vendor?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I don't know that we've used them as a prime. I believe they've been included in teams. They're a very well known and reputable firm. They're also in joint venture or partnership with Greenman Pedersen, which is a local firm in here.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Do you have any idea why they were the only responder? Is this a unique study that they have the only expertise in this area?

MR. TYSON:

We have actually reached out to some of the other firms, because there were over 30 firms that

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actually responded to the RFP and sort of read it. And Parsons and EPI was the lone, you know, respondent that actually prepared something. So we're inquiring. Information from firms like AECOM was that they basically had -- all of their workforce was sort of busy on other things, you know, they had a very tight timeframe. And we think that's the reason why maybe some of them bowed out.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

So was it -- are there bidders coming in or once it's approved they win the bid and --

MR. TYSON:

No, there are no other bidders. I think that whole process is completed, but --

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Do we disclose the bid amount at this point?

MR. TYSON:

The bid was approximately, I want to say 350 K, give or take a thousand. I think it's 349.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

We'll just take it out of your check. *(Laughter)* Okay. All right. Any other questions? All right. Thank you. I'll make a motion to approve.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Opposed. **(VOTE: 4-1-0-1. LEG. KENNEDY OPPOSED. LEG. HAHN NOT PRESENT)**

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. **1749, Appointing Gregory T. Casamento as a member of the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency (IDA). (Pres. Off.)** Mr. Casamento, if you could please approach the microphones here in the center. I'll open up to my colleagues for questions.

MR. CASAMENTO:

Hi, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Mr. Casamento, if you wouldn't mind just giving us a brief introduction. We all have a copy of your resume. Just maybe the highlights of your resume as well and then we can go into questions. Thank you for being here as a start.

MR. CASAMENTO:

Sure. Thank you and good afternoon. I've been a resident of Suffolk County since 2003. What you won't find in my resume is I'm married, I have two children who up until last year attended the Forest Park Elementary School in Dix Hills; now will attend the Vanderbilt Elementary School in Dix Hills. My daughter, Madeline, is in -- going into the fifth grade and my son, Jake, is going into first grade. Like Legislator Stern, I also do some coaching in the Half Hollow Hills Little League.

And other than that I think my resume pretty much speaks for itself. I'm a partner at Lockelord. Prior to that -- prior to being in private practice, I served three and a half years as a Judge Advocate

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in the United States Navy. Prior to that I went to law school and college. So I think that's it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you. Thank you again for your interest in serving on this board. We had an opportunity to meet and discuss your experience and what you see in the market place in terms of new business and startups. And, my opinion, I think you'd be an excellent asset to the IDA. And I think you'd be an excellent asset to the County as well.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Tell us why you're interested in this position.

MR. CASAMENTO:

I'm sorry, I didn't --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Just tell us why you're interested in the position.

MR. CASAMENTO:

Well, having lived in the County now for 11 years and working at a law firm that has a national practice, I see things that people are doing in other places that I think we need to do here. The reasons for that being is that there's a large volume of our folks, you know, residents of the County who are leaving for other places. And the end result of that is a reduction in the number of kids who are in our schools. And I've seen that firsthand with my own children having had their school closed. I think the creation of economic opportunities is in everyone's interest; residents, homeowners, business folks. So I think I could, you know, be a significant value add to the agency. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered. And if appointed, I would certainly do my utmost to further the objectives and the goals of the agency.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Greg, maybe you can speak a little bit to your practice. You have a specific niche that you practice in in terms of a certain industry.

MR. CASAMENTO:

Yes. I'm the co-section leader of our business technology group. So I assist a number of technology companies in different areas. One focus is creating systems that utilize electronic signatures for business processes there are otherwise completed on paper to increase both business efficiencies as well as consumer satisfaction and increase in competitiveness.

Some of the other things that I help clients with, some of our other clients engage in different types of acquisitions or different types of opportunities that I think I could hopefully shed some light on why they should consider Suffolk County as a place to do their business instead of Brooklyn or Manhattan or some of the other places where we do business.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you. Legislator Kennedy, you have a question?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And thank you, sir, for stepping forward. Having had the opportunity to work with some of the members on the IDA, it is an important body. It does good work. And there have been a number of what I think are pretty successful initiatives, not only in retaining business but attracting business to come in, too.

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There's been a bit of a change with the IDA in recent times where new businesses are looking for accommodations, and typically it's the waiver on property tax or waiver on some of the sales tax for acquisition. But most recently there's been some willingness on the part of the IDA to forgive existing business tax bases. And I just wondered, you know, when you look at the bundle of tools that the IDA has with inducements and you do a little bit of the compare and contrast about what happens when -- tax revenues and tax streams are set aside, just, you know, what's your general thinking there?

MR. CASAMENTO:

My initial thinking is that with existing businesses, you have to be careful. You have to ask a lot of questions, because you don't want to go down the slippery slope of giving existing businesses who would otherwise stay in the County --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right.

MR. CASAMENTO:

-- tax and revenue breaks, because that's not going to help you in the long run. I think you really need to look at those businesses who would otherwise leave and then consider and weigh the reduction in the tax base with the reduction in the other bases. So individual tax base spending, other -- other forms of economic growth that you give up by losing that company. So at the end of the day you measure that balance, and if the balance falls such that the economic benefit you otherwise derive from what you're giving up is greater, then there's a reason to act to keep that business. And if it isn't, then maybe there's a reason not to act. So not every situation would call for action certainly. And I think the first step would be to ask the right questions.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good. I'm glad to hear that. Just one other quick segue, if you will. The IDA actually is a separate entity when it comes to employees. We have staff members that are there now. We have some staff that may be starting shortly. I've had resolutions in, and as have some other members, about some of the hiring preferences we as Legislators would have in that we would look to have people that are Suffolk County residents who would become the employees there; and also that those employees not be principals in political organizations, political leaders, things of that nature. And, again, any thoughts that you have on that?

MR. CASAMENTO:

Well, certainly being a County resident and having -- being a homeowner in the County, having children in the County school system and having, you know, other than my work -- my work life, which sometimes is still within the County, other than having that, everything that I have is in the County. So I think that having people who are residents of the County be working within the IDA seems to make sense to me. I think that there are enough people within the County who are otherwise qualified, that you wouldn't need to go outside the County necessarily to hire someone unless there was a specific purpose in mind. I could see if you were trying to attract business from a certain geographic area, you might hire a consultant or a company or someone within that area.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure.

MR. CASAMENTO:

Say, all right, well, tell me -- tell me what I need to do to track businesses and well just use Texas as an example because they always beat up on New York, right?

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LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes, they do.

MR. CASAMENTO:

If you were going to look at Texas, I don't know necessarily the best people for that would only be the residents of Suffolk County to do that. I think you would need some people who have feet on the ground --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right.

MR. CASAMENTO:

-- in Texas. That would make sense to me. As far as political appointees or people who are otherwise affiliated with political organizations --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, let me make sure that I -- and I apologize if I misspoke. Actually the resolution -- the first resolution we had before us, which wound up being tabled, would be to encourage IDA board members to not hire individuals who are party leaders. In other words, the Town or a County Democratic, Republican, Independence, what have you, Green Party, any party; and again, for the purpose of basically keeping the work of the IDA kind of a generic type of an entity and not have it be swayed one way or the other towards any particular persuasion.

MR. CASAMENTO:

I think when you hire, you hire the best man or woman for the job.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. CASAMENTO:

And sometimes -- we deal with this all the time with clients. Who do I need to hire to get this approved? Who do I need to hire to get this done? So sometimes there's merit in hiring someone with a certain connection, and sometimes it doesn't matter. So I think you have to look at it, and, again, balance out or at least determine who the best person is for that particular position.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. CASAMENTO:

And hire accordingly.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Greg, welcome. It's good to see you.

MR. CASAMENTO:

Thank you.

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LEG. STERN:

Thank you for your willingness to serve. I don't have any specific questions, and I know, Mr. Chairman, something that you had alluded to, Greg's experience with a tremendous legal background, particularly in the areas of business and technology, and many of the issues that we deal with and hope to deal with here in Suffolk County are really, you know, right within his ballpark and will bring a unique perspective, I think, one that we will all benefit from here in Suffolk County; so it would be a pleasure to support your nomination. Thank you.

MR. CASAMENTO:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I'll also second those comments. And we tend to play mostly defense on the IDA. And, you know, I think we have a great story to tell here in Suffolk County as to why it's a good place to do business, and we just need the right people to tell that story. And I think you're in the area of your expertise being technology, those are -- that is one of the fields that we are obviously looking to grow because of the high-paying jobs that come out of it. And it matches up very well with our population, which is highly educated.

One of the things you mentioned briefly in your comments was we spend so much money educating our children for them to only move away from Suffolk County and some other municipality gets the benefit of that investment that we put in them and the cost to educate them all. So we would like to create an environment that's better able to retain them and incentivize them to stay here. I think it's in everybody's best interest that they do. And I appreciate you coming forward. I think you'll be an excellent addition to the IDA. And at this point I would had like to make a motion to approve. Oh, Legislator McCaffrey, sorry.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Greg, I just want to echo the Chairman's comments on your qualifications and look forward to you serving. I just had a follow-up question concerning some of the other aspects of the IDA besides just the tax breaks, and that is the money we give towards construction projects, etcetera, and low interest loans to help people build buildings here. And one of the questions and complaints we get from different people on Long Island is the fact that when the IDA gives us money for the construction of these projects, that quite often that the people that are coming in to do the work in these projects are from out of town. And so my question to you is would you be supportive of some sort of directive or guidance from the Legislature which would make it easier for the -- for more local people to be doing the work as opposed to encouraging people from out of town to do the work. Would you be supportive of those efforts?

MR. CASAMENTO:

Well, again, I think it comes back to hiring the best company for the job. Given the number of construction-related companies we have in the County it would be surprising not to find a local business that could do the work. So I think, again, in the instance where you got two competing firms, one's local and one's not, I think it's a no-brainer that you go with the local organization, the local company. I think if you've got two and one has a special expertise, especially if you're dealing in the technology sector where, you know, somebody who does a particular -- or handles a particular type of technology may only be on the West Coast; or they may only be in New York City. And people that we have here, because we're trying to grow those types of businesses, they may not have that experience. So there may be times when you've got to go with somebody who's out of state. But I agree with you that on the whole, in evenly matched situations, the default should be the local company because you're trying to develop the local industry.

DATE

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Very good. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

If there are no other comments, I'd like to make a motion to approve; seconded by --

LEG. STERN:

Yeah, I'm going to second, Mr. Chairman. And, Madam Clerk, please list me as a cosponsor. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1. LEG. HAHN NOT PRESENT)**

Congratulations, Greg. This will go before the full Legislature on Tuesday. You're not required to be there but you're more than welcome to be there. And once -- if you're not there, we will inform you how the vote turns out. But thank you again.

MR. CASAMENTO:

All right. Thank you everyone.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Seeing no Procedural Motions, I will adjourn the meeting. Thank you.

(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:37 PM)