

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, IT & HOUSING COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**MINUTES**

A special joint meeting of the Economic Development Committee and the Government Operations, Personnel, Information Technology & Housing 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 October 19, 2016 to discuss the Operating Budget.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. William J. Lindsay, Chair Economic Development Committee/Vice Chair Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee  
Leg. Robert Calarco, Chair/Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee  
Leg. Steve Stern, Vice Chair/Economic Development Committee  
Leg. Kara Hahn, member Economic Development Committee/member Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee  
Leg. Kevin McCarthy, member Economic Development Committee/member Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee  
Leg. Robert Trotta, member/Economic Development Committee  
Leg. Leslie Kennedy, member/Government Operations, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Leg. Thomas Muratore, 4th Legislative District  
Leg. Al Krupski, 1st Legislative District  
Robert Lipp, Director/Budget Review Office  
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office  
Amy Ellis, Chief Deputy Clerk/Legislature  
Theresa Ward, Acting Commissioner/Economic Development  
Lou Bekofsky, Deputy Commissioner/Economic Development  
Scott Mastellon, Commissioner/IT  
Tony Ciglio, Gabreski Airport  
Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Krupski  
Regina Zara, Economic Development  
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office  
John Marafino, County Executive's Office  
Debbie Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern  
Brian Sapp, Aide to Leg. Lindsay  
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**(GOVERNMENT OPS, PERSONNEL, IT & HOUSING COMMITTEE OPERATING BUDGET)**

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Okay, welcome everyone to the combination public hearing for the Government Operations Committee as well as Economic Development. If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator McCaffrey.

**SALUTATION**

Thank you. We have one card for a speaker this afternoon. BJ Intini?

**MS. INTINI:**

I may have jumped the gun. I think I'm supposed to be speaking at the next session.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

For Parks?

**MS. INTINI:**

Can I wait?

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Okay, sure. You can speak now or we could hold your card for the next committee.

**MS. INTINI:**

I'll just wait.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Okay, no problem. The next committee -- the next public hearing starts at 2:30, ma'am, just so you know.

Okay. Given that I have no cards, does anybody from the public want to address the committee at this hearing at this time? Seeing none, I know there are some members of our department here. They're here to answer questions. We'll start with Commissioner for IT. I think I saw him here, Scott Mastellon. Scott, if you want to come forward. Good afternoon. Do you have anything that you want to start with, tell us; or are you just here to answer questions?

**COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

I mean, at this point I'm here to answer any questions that you might have.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Okay. Does anybody have any questions for our IT Commissioner? Seeing none, Scott, you're off the hook. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

Thank you. I appreciate it.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Okay. With that, the Government Operations portion is done. And I will pass the mike off to my Co-Chair for this afternoon. Legislator Lindsay will take over with the Economic Development portion of the public hearing.

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**(ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OPERATING BUDGET)**

**CO-CHAIR LINDSAY:**

Good afternoon. Welcome to the Economic Development Committee meeting, sorry, I'm getting confused between that and Parks. I see that we have Theresa and Lou are here from Economic Development. If you guys wouldn't mind, just coming forward. We don't have any public comment cards obviously. So anyone from the public that would wish to speak, come forward. I don't see anybody, so.

Lou, Theresa, welcome. Thanks for coming in today. I know we've spoken at great length about some of the initiatives that are going on in Economic Development so I'll open it up to my colleagues here to see if they have any questions for you in regards to the Economic Development Department. I don't see any. Do you guys have anything you'd like to add or any comments or things you'd like to highlight or point out?

**ACTING COMMISSIONER WARD:**

No, I don't think so. We're, you know, supportive of what's been submitted and that's all we have.

**CO-CHAIR LINDSAY:**

Okay. Sure, Legislator McCaffrey.

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Thank you. A couple of questions have come up concerning the amount of employees that are in the Economic Development Department. I can't seem to get an answer. I would assume that maybe you know how many people work there.

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Yes, we do.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER WARD:**

There's currently 81 filled positions in Economic Development and Planning.

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Okay. And we also had some -- I know the Legislature -- the majority of the Legislature voted to approve funding other positions, like Urban Planners. Have they been filled yet? Are they considered unfilled positions?

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Yeah, there was two that -- there were two that were created, Community Development and Planning Specialists. One has been filled and one is still vacant, which I think is recommended to be defunded for this.

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Okay, so we have 81 filled. And how many unfilled are budgeted in the upcoming budget?

**MR. BEKOFSKY:**

Well, there's about 12 to 14 vacancies that will not be funded in the Recommended Budget. I think it's about \$800,000 or so in salaries that have been cut. And just to point out the 81 filled positions are across not only Economic Development division, which has 29 including Gabreski Airport and other things, but also the entire Planning division and also Real Estate.

**CO-CHAIR LINDSAY:**

Lou, maybe to be helpful here, just to jump in, excuse me, Legislator McCaffrey, do you have an

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organizational chart that would show the different units that fall under Economic Development? Because I know there have been a lot of questions in the past as far as what is Economic Development and where does that -- what does it consume? So -- and I know -- I have a very good familiarity with it but maybe just for the help of my colleagues, you can give them some additional information that will help explain some of that.

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

That would be great.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER WARD:**

Sure.

**CO-CHAIR LINDSAY:**

Okay, any other questions? Thank you very much for coming in today.

**LEG. McCAFFREY:**

Thank you.

**ACTING COMMISSIONER WARD:**

Thank you.

**CO-CHAIR LINDSAY:**

Yeah, Tony, if you wouldn't mind coming forward just to see if anyone -- and, Regina, just to see if anyone has any questions in regards to Gabreski and some of the other things that we're doing out there. Good afternoon. Thanks for coming in today.

**MR. CEGLIO:**

Good afternoon.

**CO-CHAIR LINDSAY:**

So, again, I'll open it up to my colleagues, see if they have any questions for Regina or for Tony. Any comments that you folks would like to make in regards to the budget for 2017?

**MR. CEGLIO:**

Not really. I'm here to answer questions.

**CO-CHAIR LINDSAY:**

Okay. Well, not seeing any questions, Kara, you okay? Okay, thank you for coming in today. And that concludes our Economic Development hearing.

**MS. ZARA:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I was going to ask is that statue still there, but I didn't want to bring this up.

**MR. CEGLIO:**

Yes, it's still there unfortunately.

**MS. ZARA:**

Everybody knows where it is.

(LAUGHTER)

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**MS. HORST:**

I think the stenographer was looking for a closing of the meeting.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

I thought we did that already. We are adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:46 PM**