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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 May 17, 2017 to discuss the Capital Budget.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Leg. William J. Lindsay, III, Chair of Economic Development/Vice Chair of Government Ops, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee
- Leg. Robert Calarco, Chair of Government Ops, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee
- Leg. Robert Trotta, member of Economic Development Committee
- Leg. Leslie Kennedy, member of Government Ops, Personnel, IT & Housing Committee

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

- Leg. DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer
- Leg. Kate Browning, 3rd Legislative District
- Leg. Monica Martinez, 9th Legislative District
- Leg. Al Krupski, 1st Legislative District
- Jason Richberg, Clerk/Legislature
- John Kennedy, Suffolk County Comptroller
- Rosalind Gazes, Budget Review Office
- Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
- Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
- Scott Mastellon, Commissioner/IT
- Elizabeth Alexander, Aide to Leg. Spencer
- Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern
- Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Krupski
- Alyssa Turano, Aide to Leg. Hahn
- Chris DeLuca, Aide to Leg. Cilmi
- Brian Sapp, Aide to Leg. Lindsay
- Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
- Theresa Ward, Commissioner/Economic Development
- Louis Bekofsky, Deputy Commissioner/Economic Development
- Jason Smagin, Director/Real Estate
- Regina Zara, Economic Development
- John Marafino, County Executive's Office

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

- Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, IT & HOUSING

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4 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

5 Okay, good afternoon everyone. Welcome to the public hearing for
6 the joint committee of Government Operations, Personnel, Housing
7 and Information Technology as well as Economic Development. If we
8 could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by
9 Legislator Martinez.

10
11 **SALUTATION**

12
13 Thank you. Okay. I have no cards before me for this public
14 hearing. Is there anyone from the public who'd like to address us
15 before we go into the Commissioners and Comptroller and everyone
16 else? Seeing none, Mr. Kennedy, please come on forward. You been
17 waiting patiently.

18
19 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

01:02PM 20 Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to be here in front of
21 the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear. And I'm
22 coming to you today to go ahead and request that the Committee
23 advance 550,000 that we have in the IFMS capital project.
24 Currently it is identified in 2019. I'm pleased to be here today
25 to advise you that the project has kicked off. We are well
26 underway. We are making tremendous progress.

27
28 As a matter of fact, we have a training schedule that will commence
29 next Monday for training our staff. The conversion of the social
01:03PM 30 security number is well underway. We have the test database that
31 has been developed. It is being worked on offsite. And candidly
32 for once we are ahead of schedule on a project.

33
34 The 550,000 that we're requesting would be to add a brand new
35 module. I have spoken to you about this before. It is called
36 Vendor Self-Service. Vendor Self-Service would take the current
37 vouchering paper base process, 226,000 paper vouchers and convert
38 it to electronic submission.

01:03PM 39
40 We have met with DPW. And as a matter of fact, it appears that we
41 may be even to automate the RFP process so that the bidding will be
42 electronic; the solicitation will be electronic; the submission
43 will be electronic; the award will be electronic; the vouchering
44 will be electronic and the payment will be electronic. When you
45 think of --

46
47 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

48 I'm going to do it question and answers as we go through this
49 because I think it might be more efficient that way. So Legislator
01:04PM 50 Lindsay --

51
52 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

53 We all have a short time --

54
55 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

56 I'm going to let Bill pop in and ask you a question on what you

1 were just talking about.

2

3 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

4 Good afternoon, Mr. Comptroller.

5

6 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

7 Yes, hi.

8

9 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

01:04PM 10 The program that you're talking about, the software base RFP
11 program, is that the same or similar to what they use in Nassau
12 County?

13

14 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

15 No, it is not, as a matter of fact. And if you will recall when we
16 began the dialogue about this initiative, what is it? It's
17 probably 18 months ago, we originally interviewed and took a look
18 at Nassau's project, that is People Soft, I believe, is the name of
19 it. That project is about a \$30 million project which has yet to
01:05PM 20 go live at this point.

21

22 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

23 I think we're talking about different projects. They have a
24 current system where the vendors -- you sign up and have to pay a
25 fee to be on their vendor list and then you are automatically
26 notified of every RFP that comes out that would apply to
27 your particular --

28

29 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

01:05PM 30 The CGI, I do not think CGI is in Nassau. I know that they're up
31 in Westchester. We've spoken to West Virginia; we've spoken to a
32 number of other counties where it's operational. And as a matter
33 of fact, our Director of IT, Scott Mastellon, is here who's done a
34 lot of the vetting for us as well. So it maybe be a similar tool,
35 but CGI is not -- I don't think --

36

37 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

38 Scott, you might as well take a seat at the table. You're going to
39 be up next anyways.

01:06PM 40

41 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

42 Yeah, sit down.

43

44 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

45 So, yes, Nassau County does have a system that is actually separate
46 and apart from the People Soft as it relates to the bid selection.
47 We have spoken with them and to understand what capabilities their
48 products have. And that was basically the extent. So we did
49 evaluate their information. And in conjunction with that, we
01:06PM 50 realized that as part the vendor self-serve module that this
51 offering, this bid solicitation, electronic nature is available as
52 part of the product. So there are a number of other municipalities
53 throughout the country that are utilizing Vendor Self-Service, both
54 from a vendor management standpoint as well as a bid solicitation
55 management standpoint. So we have looked at it.

56

1 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

2 But same concept; regardless of what the name is on the product,
3 it's the same concept.

4
5 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

6 Yes, as a matter of fact, it is. Although, Legislator Lindsay, let
7 me be very clear about this point. And I would ask you to, you
8 know, possibly consider it going forward, we have no cost component
9 built in with enabling a vendor to go ahead and utilize the
01:07PM 10 electronic process. We're looking at it in order to standardize
11 operation from the cost efficiencies that we'll gain on our side of
12 the operation from submission, evaluation, processing and things
13 like that. As it is framed right now, there's no fee for a vendor
14 to elect to participate on the electronic side.

15
16 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

17 You know, we might have differing opinion on that. I don't see the
18 fee as being such a negative. I know we're in this environment
19 where the fees are getting such bad press, but the vendors that
01:07PM 20 I've spoken to that participate in this are happy to pay this fee
21 because it makes their jobs easier. They're getting more
22 opportunities than they've ever had before because of the nature of
23 the way the system works.

24
25 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

26 I think we're candidly actually probably saying the same thing.
27 The only thing that I'm suggesting to you is if, in fact, it's
28 the will of the policymaking body to attach a participatory charge
29 component or whatever, I offer it to you. That's not in my purview
01:08PM 30 to go ahead and to make a decision that in order for a particular
31 vendor to participate on that side, that there's going to be some
32 cost component.

33
34 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

35 Yeah. To me it's just an easier sell internally within the body
36 that if we have a cost offset to make it a cost neutral, that it
37 becomes --

38
39 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

01:08PM 40 I would be more than happy to consider it as we're developing. I
41 would simply ask you to give me some guidance since we actually are
42 at the ground level now with development. And one of the
43 advantages -- one of the many advantages with Vendor Self-Service
44 is that it will sit on the financial backbone. It's not a separate
45 piece of software that has to speak to our primary financial
46 backbone. It's actually one in the same.

47
48 Another important piece I have to advise the Committee on is after
49 a lot of dialogue with the County Executive's Office and bringing
01:09PM 50 them up to speed on a tremendous amount of the intense work that
51 we've done recently, they now -- the County Executive's Office now
52 from the Budget Director is in support of advancing the funding
53 into 2018.

54
55 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

56 And my last question in regards to this issue, if we were to go to

1 that type of system, does that eliminate the need for us to
2 advertise and pay to advertise all these future RFPs under that
3 environment?

4
5 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

6 I think we would probably have to take a look at the statutory
7 requirements, not unlike what we have now with public notice for
8 all of our activities here in the Legislature vis a vis the print
9 media and the electronic. But, you know, as long as it would
01:10PM 10 harmonize with the statutes with General Municipal 103 and 104, if
11 that fulfilled the publication requirement, I think, that'd be
12 fine.

13
14 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

15 And if there's -- might not be a fair question. At this point any
16 idea what that cost is on an annual basis; how much we pay to
17 advertise all the RFPs that we go through?

18
19 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

01:10PM 20 I could get that for you. I don't have that at my fingertips.

21
22 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

23 Okay.

24
25 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

26 You know, when it comes to the RFP publications. But ultimately, I
27 mean, it gets paid through our shop so I can find it.

28
29 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

01:10PM 30 Okay. Thank you.

31
32 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

33 Okay.

34
35 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

36 John, the program has -- or this system once it's up and running
37 has an ongoing operational cost?

38
39 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

01:10PM 40 There is a maintenance cost. As a matter of fact, and that is yet
41 another piece that we are actually negotiating with CGI right now.

42
43 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

44 So, what Legislator Lindsay's talking about in term of connecting
45 some sort of a participatory fee for vendors, that's going to help
46 -- that would offset that maintenance cost.

47
48 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

01:10PM 49 No doubt about it. As a matter of fact, any piece of software that
50 we use, you know, we have an ongoing maintenance component. But
51 Scott can speak to the fact that we are engaged in some deep
52 dialogue with them right now about what they have previously
53 charged us, what they've given us in shaping the package as it goes
54 forward.

55
56

1 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

2 Yeah, so as we kind of talked about it a few times here, is we've
3 taken an opportunity to review the maintenance agreement that's
4 currently in place and has been in place for a number of years and
5 identified items that we're not necessarily leveraging; therefore,
6 we remove them from the ongoing maintenance contract moving
7 forward, which has netted us at this point in time a reduction in
8 approximately 17 or \$18,000 in 2017. We currently have a contract
9 that dates us through 2018. And as part of this renegotiation from
10 a pricing standpoint, we'll look to, again, expand upon some
11 additional savings as it relates to that particular contract.

01:11PM

12
13 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

14 Okay. John, anything else?

15
16 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

17 Where do you want me to go with it? I think that the gains are
18 self-evident. We have the team all engaged and on-site. And, as a
19 matter of fact, they are willing to give us the piece of software
20 at a discount if we make the commitment to purchase now to
21 effectuate in '18. We get about \$150,000 discount by making the
22 commitment to go forward. That commitment is manifested by
23 bringing the 550 into '18 as opposed to '19. Were we have to wait
24 to do this in '19, we would incur an additional \$150,000 cost.

01:12PM

25
26 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

27 Okay. Thank you, John.

28
29 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

30 That that enough?

31
32 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

33 Does anybody else have any questions for the Comptroller regarding
34 the IFMS system? No? John, do you have anything else you wanted?
35 Thank you very much. We appreciate it.

36
37 **COMPTROLLER KENNEDY:**

38 Good luck and happy hunting.

39
40 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

41 Right. Scott, before you step away, is there anything else in the
42 IT realm that you wanted to comment on? I don't think BRO has
43 suggested making any alterations to any of your projects; you're
44 happy with what the County Executive offered up and what you're
45 getting?

46
47 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

48 Yes, I'm comfortable with --

49
50 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

51 Benny's looking furiously as if I misspoke there.

52
53 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**

54 No, I can confirm that. In fact, BRO did recommend exactly what
55 the --

56

1 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**
2 BRO recommended just staying with what the County Executive put in
3 the budget.

4
5 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**
6 That's correct.

7
8 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**
9 And you feel that meets the needs of the department.

01:13PM 10
11 **COMMISSIONER MASTELLON:**
12 That's correct.

13
14 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**
15 Okay. I think that covers most of my folks. I guess if the folks
16 from Economic Development want to come up, I know that we usually
17 have some component for workforce housing. Maybe Jason wants to
18 speak to that. But I guess the whole -- everyone from the
19 department can come up and you can -- I'm going to try to get to my
20 portion of it before I hand off Economic Development specifics off
21 to my cochair.

22
23 As far as the workforce housing programs, I think, there are --
24 there's been a -- the County Executive recommended zeros in 2018
25 for the two workforce housing programs. You feel you have
26 sufficient monies in the bank to cover the projects that are in the
27 pipeline at this point in time?

28
29 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**
30 Yes, we --

31
32 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**
33 Yeah, go ahead. Yeah, please, go ahead, Theresa.

34
35 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**
36 Theresa Ward. I'm the Commissioner and Deputy County Executive of
37 Suffolk County Economic and Planning.

38
39 Yeah, we looked very hard at all the projects in our pipeline and
40 determined that based on the existing funding as recommended in the
41 County Executive and the BRO report, that we had enough funding to
42 handle the projects currently in the pipeline. It's important to
43 maintain the subsequent years, though, so that's one of the
44 other --

45
46 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**
47 But you can take 2018 off because you have enough --

48
49 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**
50 Yes.

01:14PM 51
52 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**
53 -- already appropriated funds to cover what you have that it's
54 realistic to get done in that timeframe.

1 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

2 Yes. We -- if you recall, it's a reimbursement funding for
3 construction so we're looking at sort of the construction
4 schedules, that's how we can -- you know, determine that.

5
6 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

7 Okay. I guess that's all that comes under my purview. I'm going
8 to hand it off now to Legislator Lindsay to take his portion.

9

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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11
12 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

13 Good afternoon. Thanks for coming in. If you guys have any
14 opening remarks that you want to start with and then we can go into
15 our questions.

16
17 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

18 Yes, thank you. I appreciate that. So I'm, you know, here today
19 to discuss the department's 2018 to '20 capital budget requests.
01:15PM 20 The department's request reflects the resources needed to carry out
21 the critical goals and objectives of the unanimously adopted
22 Suffolk County Comprehensive Plan, the County's first master plan
23 in 44 years.

24
25 Implementation of the Comprehensive Plan requires County
26 investments in key areas across numerous departments that are
27 critical to our economic success including affordable housing,
28 downtown revitalization, transit-oriented development,
29 transportation, water quality, open space and farmland. These all
01:16PM 30 enhance the diversity of the County that makes it attractive to
31 residents and visitors alike.

32
33 BRO reports that this year's proposed capital project has shifted
34 to a greater recognition of the serious fiscal problems facing the
35 County and that this emphasis can be seen by a decrease of \$20.5
36 million in proposed serial bond financing for 2018 compared to the
37 prior capital program.

38
39 The Department of Economic Development and Planning is not immune
01:16PM 40 to the current fiscal climate and we looked very hard at our
41 capital budget and spending and wanted to ensure we committed only
42 those funds we absolutely needed to keep projects moving forward
43 and provide assurance to projects in the planning stage that
44 funding will be available when those are ready for construction.

45
46 Therefore, the department fully supports the County Executive's
47 proposed capital budget.

48
49 In addition the Department respectfully requests that the
01:17PM 50 Legislature reject additional cuts proposed by the BRO report to
51 Jump Start Suffolk for fiscal years '19, '20 and subsequent years;
52 and to the popular Downtown Revitalization Program for fiscal years
53 '18, '19 and '20, a program that benefits all legislative districts
54 and is used by local jurisdictions to leverage other sources of
55 funds to create scaled quality projects in our downtowns.

1 Now, there's no silver bullet for economic development, but these
2 programs all work together to ensure Suffolk County remains a great
3 place to live, work, play and visit. The County has historically
4 under-delivered on rental housing and instead focused decades on
5 unsustainable, single family developments that created the tax
6 structural deficit and water quality issues facing us now. The
7 programs in Economic Development and Planning are all the
8 investments that are turning that tide.

01:18PM 9
10 The Department's committed to continue doing more with less and
11 working within the budgetary constraints set forth by the County
12 Executive and the Legislature. And we're here to answer any
13 questions you may have regarding the budget.

14
15 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

16 Thank you. I appreciate your comments and I'll start off by just
17 saying although I'm advocating strongly for making some serious
18 cuts and some deep cuts, there are some programs that we have that,
19 I think, are revenue-generating, that they're investments and that
01:18PM 20 we get a return on those investments; Jump Start being one of them.
21 Could you just using our past performance as a future predictor or
22 indicator, based on some of the grants that we've given in the
23 past, can you speak to the amount of private investment that has
24 accompanied them or resulted as those grants being given?

25
26 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

27 Yes, definitely. Last year, for example, we awarded 3.5 million in
28 funding to support projects in Patchogue and Port Jefferson,
29 Ronkonkoma and Wyandanch. And just those investments themselves
01:19PM 30 result in an economic impact of three times that investment. And
31 that's not factoring in all the additional private investments to
32 make larger projects happen.

33
34 And really since the beginning of the program, in 2013 a total of
35 11.3 million has been awarded and that's across five communities
36 and that's resulted in 180 jobs as a direct result of those
37 investments; and over just 30 million in economic impact on those
38 investments. And those are creating the groundwork for these
39 larger projects to happen.

01:19PM 40
41 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

42 Yeah. And I think your numbers might actually be a little bit on
43 the conservative side. Because we've, you know, again using the
44 Hub and even Patchogue as examples, I think it's almost ten to one
45 for what we put in and what ends up coming in from the private
46 sector along with it.

47
48 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

49 Yes. The total private investment is much bigger than that. It's
01:20PM 50 in the hundreds of millions, for example --

51
52 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

53 Right.

54
55 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

56 -- in Ronkonkoma Hub just on phase one.

1 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

2 And when you factor in the multiplying effect of that money and
3 what it does to our local economy, it's almost an immediate return
4 once we put that money into a project and that private funding
5 comes through, it's -- we recapture those funds through sales tax
6 and other economic activity that it generates.

7
8 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

01:20PM

9 Yeah, and the construction jobs that happen and the, you know,
10 construction workers buy lunch, and, you know, there's other kinds
11 of immediate economic impacts.

12
13 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

14 Okay. I'll yield for the moment but -- we're talking about Jump
15 Start.

16
17 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

01:20PM

18 Oh, yeah. No, no, it's just we have to be cautious when we don't
19 have the money and we borrow money to try to promote economic
20 development. It's really kind of a leap of faith. And it's hard
21 to quantify the benefits of that versus letting private economy
22 drive itself.

23
24 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

01:21PM

25 Well, we -- we just actually did quantify it while you were out of
26 the room. In 2016 we put up three-and-a-half million in Jump Start
27 money and as a direct result three times that amount came through
28 in private sector investment accompanying those projects. And that
29 was the point I was just making --

30
31 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

32 No, no, no, that's the point I'm making. If you didn't put the
33 three-and-a-half million up -- which that's not the real cost
34 because we had to finance that, it would have all been private
35 sector money.

36
37 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

01:21PM

38 I don't necessarily agree with that. The infrastructure and things
39 that are needed in order for that investment -- in order for the
40 private sector companies to make that investment, I think, are
41 necessary in order to make that happen. The best analogy I can use
42 is if you own a company and your company is -- your sales are down
43 and you're looking to cut costs, you don't eliminate the marketing
44 department thinking that that's gonna turn your company around.
45 You need to keep investing in your future.

46
47 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

01:22PM

48 I think if they're going to make money and invest in projects,
49 they're going to do it regardless of whether -- now if you were in
50 private industry and you'd said, hey, I can get subsidized with tax
51 dollars, of course you're going to say this is really important for
52 everyone involved and I should be heavily subsidized. So that's
53 the other side of it.

54
55 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

56 I think you have to be -- think about what the projects are. I

1 mean, the money that we used for Patchogue was not to subsidize any
2 private business, it was to build additional municipal parking,
3 which is at a premium in Patchogue Village right now as well as
4 doing a much needed road project that had been planned years ago
5 and cut short because of financial needs at the time.

6
7 So it's an investment into public infrastructure that then helps
8 the rest of the investment go. I mean, anybody who's looking at
9 doing a downtown and having a real sufficient downtown, you need a
10 sufficient municipal parking that's off street that's accessible
11 and gets you to the shops; otherwise, you're not going to be able
12 to get that development.

13
14 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

15 Yes, two different viewpoints.

16
17 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

18 In addition to that, too, I think, the misnomer is that we're just
19 handing a check over to these developers to subsidize their costs.
01:23PM 20 You know, part of it shows a commitment on behalf of the
21 municipality to partner with these developers, and especially in
22 projects that are in the beginning stages and are very long-term
23 that before someone puts their money up on the private sector, they
24 want to make sure the municipality has a vested interest in the
25 project actually happening. When you're talking about investing
26 hundreds of millions of dollars, you don't want to have -- you
27 don't want to have to battle local government throughout the
28 process; otherwise you're just going to take that money and put it
29 somewhere else.

01:23PM 30
31 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

32 That could happen, but that doesn't mean it should be subsidized.

33
34 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

35 Honestly, I think it has happened for the last 30 years. And
36 that's the situation we're in now. I think government has become a
37 -- had become a road block and an obstacle to all this private
38 sector investment and that's why we hadn't seen that kind of
39 redevelopment in our downtowns and in a lot of different parts of
01:24PM 40 the County because of that resistance from within local government
41 to allow it to happen.

42
43 **LEG. KRUPSKI:**

44 But that's in the purview of local government. That's land use and
45 zoning. That's their business. And if they -- that's what they
46 do. So they should have the final say in that --

47
48 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

49 And I don't disagree. I think -- but, again, it's to incentivize
01:24PM 50 them to be part of the process rather than being left out of the
51 process. And we've been trying to partner with local government,
52 with towns and villages in order to make that happen.

53
54 Any questions? Legislator Trotta.

1 **LEG. TROTТА:**

2 You made a comment before about the lack of rental housing and
3 clearly I'm not in favor of the Selden thing that you have going
4 on. And I'd like for you to explain to me how this is beneficial.

5
6 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

7 How -- I'm sorry, what exactly --

8
9 **LEG. TROTТА:**

01:25PM 10 You know, you're giving a \$7 million subsidy to 126 unit apartment
11 complex, two and three bedrooms where clearly there's going to be
12 kids in it. They're going to be \$156,000 a year in taxes. So
13 that's equal to 15 houses, seven houses on each side of the street
14 on one block in that whole community, that entire 126 unit complex
15 will be paying the same as that one little short block. How is
16 that helping the economy?

17
18 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

01:25PM 19 It's delivering needed rental housing and workforce housing that is
20 what companies tell us why they're leaving and graduates of our
21 universities are telling us why they're leaving.

22
23 **LEG. TROTТА:**

24 Companies are leaving because the taxes are too high. So what
25 you've done is you've raised the taxes in the community around
26 there. So now there's 201 pending foreclosures in that zip code.
27 So now what you've done is any more than five kids in that complex,
28 there's going to be a cost of \$20,000 per student that's going to
29 have to be disbursed on the community. So I don't see how that is
01:26PM 30 helping, you know, with the economy. It's hurting the economy.

31
32 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

33 If I can just chime in, I can tell you firsthand there may be some
34 companies that are leaving because of the tax situation, but I can
35 tell you from the large employers, some of the largest in the
36 county that I've met with, most of them, their biggest fear, their
37 biggest want is access to a population that they can use for
38 employment. When you see them moving to Manhattan, Brooklyn, Long
39 Island City, Jersey City, those are more expensive areas to operate
01:26PM 40 a business in terms of taxes and costs. Rents are --

41
42 **LEG. TROTТА:**

43 I didn't ask you. I asked her.

44
45 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

46 But I'm Chairman of the Committee and I want to add my two cents
47 here. The other piece of this as well is when we look at some of
48 these development projects on the rental side, it's not one or two
49 children for every unit. When you look at Patchogue village, what
01:27PM 50 is there, two kids in the school district in that whole complex?

51
52 **COCHAIR CALARCO:**

53 Yeah, I think something like that.

54
55 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

56 So it's not the typical density that we have. And in the area

1 where this is going in is Sachem School District, I believe, in
2 Selden, we actually have three buildings closing.

3

4 **LEG. TROTТА:**
5 Middle Country.

6

7 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**
8 It's Middle Country, okay.

9

10 **LEG. TROTТА:**
11 But they're all -- that's part of the problem. Because now what
12 you have is you have people in the community moving into this.
13 Now, people are going to move into those houses with children. So
14 what you're going to do is you're going to increase the taxes
15 making it harder for everyone else to live there. And these
16 apartments are not cheap. I mean, you can buy a house essentially
17 for the same price and pay for the house than you can rent one of
18 these apartments.

19

20 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**
21 But that's what the market's demanding, the desire to --

22

23 **LEG. TROTТА:**
24 But I'm not against -- I'm not against the project at all. I'm
25 against giving them a \$7 million tax deferment which is going to
26 raise the taxes of everybody in the community.

27

28 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**
29 If we can clarify, too, with -- just that specific project, just
30 for the record, was that an IDA incentive that was given?

01:28PM

31

32 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**
33 Yes, Suffolk County IDA. At the request of the Town of Brookhaven
34 IDA, we're processing that application.

35

36 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**
37 Okay. If we can get back to the capital budget. Did you have any
38 other questions regarding --

39

40 **LEG. TROTТА:**
41 I want to know why we're wasting our money on the IDA doing this
42 kind of job? So I consider it a waste of money for even doing
43 that.

44

45 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**
46 I would suggest -- I know Theresa serves on the IDA board as well
47 but I suggest you bring that question up there because we don't
48 have jurisdiction over it here.

49

50 **LEG. TROTТА:**
51 I will.

52

53 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**
54 Any other questions here for the Committee? Do you have any other
55 comments? My only -- my last comment was just in regards to the
56 Long Island Maritime Museum. We've been trying to restore the

1 marina that is there. It could be a focal point for the Village of
2 Sayville. And it's a beautiful space. It's just in complete
3 disrepair. We would like to get that arena rebuilt even if we have
4 to look at some different options of maybe even going to the
5 private sector through a private sector project. So it's something
6 I would like to meet with you guys offline and discuss.

7
8 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

9 Sure. Is it town, county-owned or --

01:29PM 10

11 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

12 It's county-owned. So right now in the capital budget we have --
13 there was 250,000 that was recommended for 2018, but that's been
14 zeroed out; and 2 million for 2019 that BRO reduced down to
15 250,000. So looks like they pushed everything back a year. But
16 that's -- I think that's a topic for some discussion offline.

17
18 **MR. BEKOFSKY:**

19 The end of West Avenue?

01:29PM 20

21 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

22 Yes. So it's adjacent to the Maritime Museum. And they're
23 actually building a new Navy Seal Museum right there but that's
24 being built with private investment on the County's lands.

25
26 Well, thank you for coming in. We appreciate your comments.

27
28 **COMMISSIONER WARD:**

29 Thank you.

01:30PM 30

31 **COCHAIR LINDSAY:**

32 And I will turn it over to EPA. Oh, it's not until two o'clock,
33 all right, so we're on a break.

34
35 **THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:30 PM**
36 **{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**

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