

**EDUCATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Education & Information Technology 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 July 31, 2012.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Sarah S. Anker, Chairwoman  
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Vice Chair (absent)  
Leg. Thomas Cilmi  
Leg. Jay H. Schneiderman  
Leg. Thomas Muratore

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel  
Barbary LoMoriello, Chief Deputy Clerk  
William Shilling, Aide to Leg. Anker  
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Leg. Cilmi  
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office  
Kevin LaValle, Aide to Leg. Muratore  
Maria Barbara, Aide to Leg. Cilmi  
Donna Cumella, Department of Information Technology  
Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:11 PM**

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Welcome to the Education and Information Technology Committee meeting. We're going to start. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Schneiderman.

**SALUTATION**

Please remain standing for a moment of silent prayer and meditation for all those who are need of our prayer, guidance, especially our military men and women.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED**

Thank you. Public portion, I don't see any cards so we will not have speakers here today. We don't have a presentation.

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

We are going to move to Introductory Resolutions. Okay, first is **Introductory Resolution 1663, Appropriating funds in connection with the acquisition of a Disaster Recovery Project (CP 1729) (Co. Exec.)** Make a motion to approve.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Second. Opposed? Abstention? All in favor? Comments? Passes.

**(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

We have **resolution 1679, Authorizing execution of an Intermunicipal Agreement pursuant to §§ 119-O with the Town of Southampton. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. CILMI:**

Motion to approve.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Motion to approve. Second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes. **(VOTE:**

**4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

Okay, our next **resolution 1683, Amending Resolution No. 495-2011, accepting and appropriating a grant award from the National Science Foundation for an NSF Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Scholarships Program (NSF STEMS II) 100% reimbursed by Federal funds at Suffolk County Community College. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Legislator Schneiderman makes the motion, second. On the Consent Calendar, please. All in

favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

Okay, the last **Introductory Resolution 1692, Authorizing Sponsorship of the County Website (Cilmi)**

**LEG. CILMI:**

Motion to approve.

**LEG. MURATORE:**

Second.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So, I made a motion to approve and Legislator Muratore seconded it. And if I -- on the motion --

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

On the motion, go ahead.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I switched this from an advertising-based program to a sponsorship-based program. And what this bill does is it directs our Department of Information Technology to basically come up with a plan on how to offer sponsorships of our web pages. The County has, you know, obviously an extensive web presence, not only through dot.gov domains, but also, in some cases, through dot.org domains and dot.com domains.

Now, there is some question as to whether or not it's legal as per the GSA to have sponsorships on dot.gov domains, but that doesn't apply to dot.org or dot.com domains. So effectively what would happen here is that IT would look at it, they would determine the legality of doing this and where we can do it, where we can't do it. And they'd, you know, implement it.

So -- and although the GSA may say, and Paul is going to get me the language, I'm going to have a look at it, they may maintain that it's illegal for the government to have sponsorship or advertising. The fact of the matter is that we do it now, as you know, throughout ballparks for example, through Adopt-A-Highway Programs. You know, we basically have, you know, private businesses listed on these signs who sponsor this government activity.

So that's basically the -- what this resolution does. And, you know, it's my conclusion, and Budget Review has actually said in their Fiscal Impact Statement that there is some money to be generated here, some revenue to be generated in very difficult times obviously. So, you know, hopefully IT will -- this will pass and hopefully IT will have an opportunity to put something together and, you know, we can help our budgetary problems at the same time.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm reading the amended copy of the bill. Is there anyone from IT here to speak on this? No? Because I actually have a little bit of a concern of delegating too much of this actually to IT without it coming back, so.

**LEG. CILMI:**

We actually received a phone call, Legislator Schneiderman, from the County Executive's Office indicating that they would be supportive of this.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

We have a County --

**LEG. CILMI:**

I don't know if Mr. Zwirn has that same information.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

We have a County Executive representative here. Would you like to speak on that?

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And then if George can chime in on the legalities, if he knows, of this --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah, I apologize. I'm not familiar with the amended copy, but I'm sure if Legislator Cilmi had a conversation someone with the Administration's Office, I'd certainly take him at his word. We did have some concerns with the dot.gov portion of it, because we -- we thought there was a legality issue. It's been amended so that it -- IT can look at other options aside from the dot.gov. I --

**LEG. CILMI:**

The resolution doesn't really specify.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah.

**LEG. CILMI:**

It leaves it up to IT to come with a plan, so.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah. As long as the dot.gov situation is understood, if it can bring in additional revenue, I don't -- I don't see what the harm would be.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

The bill itself refers strictly to the County websites -- county websites. It's in the title. It's also in the Resolve Clauses. And the County website is the dot.gov, no?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

That's the one I'm familiar with. I don't know. Legislator Cilmi says there's a dot.org, there's something other --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Yeah, there are other --

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

The only concerns I would have on something like this is, you know, I don't want the County website, which isn't really a portal for the public, to suddenly be inundated with all these flashy advertisements like so many other sites are. I really think we got to keep that out. And I understand our fiscal concern and, you know.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Well, that would be something that IT would be cognizant of in putting together the plan, you know, they could -- they could --

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Suddenly things are blocking your access.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right. No, I get it. I understand.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Like they do on Yahoo, other websites.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And you wouldn't want that to happen. You wouldn't want pop ups, for example. And that would be all something for IT when they put their plan together to outline the parameters of what this sponsorship would entail.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And then there's the whole process of who gets to be those sponsors, who knows about it, how long of a time do they get to purchase and what kind of products do we want even affiliated? Can we reject if we don't want a particular company because, you know, they're selling too much soda to kids or whatever it is. Or maybe something that was controversial here, like the energy drinks. If suddenly those companies are trying to advertise on our website, do we have any kind of review, any kind of discretion as to who can advertise and who can't?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Those are all great points. And that's exactly why rather than say the County shall establish a -- this system, and actually go through and detail the system in the bill, I left it to IT to come up with those plans so that we could answer those questions through IT's expertise.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I just wouldn't mind hearing from IT before we actually hand this over to them. But, Mr. Zwirn?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah, Commissioner Rogers is in route but -- he was in Westhampton when he called him. He was going to try to make it here because we were going to talk about the first bill that was on. He wanted to get that to the floor in some capacity so he'll speak to it on the recovery system. So he was on his way back for that. Donna Cumella's here from IT but she is not prepared to speak on this.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

We meet again in two weeks. If you don't mind, so we can have that before we proceed; otherwise I guess I could do it without a recommendation. But I'd prefer to have testimony from IT saying how they're -- you know, giving us some indication how they're going to approach this before -- suddenly I start seeing pop up adds on the County website.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Why don't we have some remarks from the IT person, Ben?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

I wouldn't put Donna in that position because I don't think she can speak --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

We can wait a little bit.

**LEG. CILMI:**

That's fine. I'll wait until our next meeting, then.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah. I mean we'll work with the Legislators. I mean, look, if it can bring in revenue, I think

everybody's in favor of it. But I think, Legislator Schneiderman, you raised some concerns that IT has to -- be addressed. And I'm most concerned now because of the reduction in personnel. I want to make sure that they got the capacity to do whatever they're asked to do.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

In some ways, you know, when you think of like national public radio and how they have sponsorships, I get it, it helps. But, you know, they put them in a place where it doesn't really interfere with their ability to get the news -- and that's all. I just want to see how they're going to approach the problem.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The main website the County has is dot.gov so it wouldn't apply to that. I just don't know what other ones we have. And maybe we do or -- I don't know.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. And give George some time to look at any legal questions.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Yeah, it is a short turnaround so hopefully we can get this done in the next week or so.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

My main concern is the fact that according to the government service administration, the budgeting or legal entity of federal government, it is not accepted that a known non-government advertisements on the government internet with dot.gov, you know, could be redirected like you had said to dot.com or dot.org. Also, like the other type of sponsorships, if we can try to find out these parameters just to make people more comfortable, because the government -- we have government as a means of balance. And, you know, like Jay -- you brought great points up as far as like energy drinks, certain items may not be appropriate for the County. And we should specify that within this legislation. Maybe think about that, you know, the next couple of weeks.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Well, what I'd be willing to do is amend the bill to require the IT's plan to come back before us for authorization prior to, you know, prior to moving forward. And if we want to do that, we can do that today. We can allow IT to go about the business officially of looking at it, putting a plan in place, and then coming back to us. And we can either authorize or not authorize the plan or amend the plan or whatever is it at that time.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm -- I'd be just comfortable even without a plan, just having IT say how they're going to approach the issue.

**LEG. CILMI:**

That's fine.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Then once I'll hear that, I'll feel better about it. And, you know, and this idea of dot.com versus dot.gov, it's so easy to have one website bounce to another that it can get very confusing if you go to -- or essentially a County website that may not have a dot.gov, but it still is a, you know, a governmental website and they're all interconnected on the web. And, you know. Let's make sure that we're not skirting a law there with, you know, sponsoring a governmental -- you know, non-governmental entity sponsoring governmental entities. I think it's worth taking the time to make sure we're following appropriate procedures.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Absolutely. That's fine.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Since Donna's here, we'll contact your office and try to lay out some of the parameters that you're looking to do. And I think Don Rogers is, you know, he thinks out of the box as well so he might have some suggestions. And maybe we can work on an amendment.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Very good. I'll withdraw my motion to approve then.

**LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Motion to table.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And I'll make a motion to table.

**CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:**

Motion to table, second. And approved? All in favor? Abstentions? Opposed? Motion passes. Okay. Excuse me. Motion's tabled. **(VOTE: 4-0-0-1. LEG. HORSLEY ABSENT)**

Okay, it looks like there's nothing on our agenda at this point. We are adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:25 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**