

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING and AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Environment, Planning and Agriculture 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 March 30, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Vivian Vilorio•Fisher, Chairperson
Leg. Lou D'Amaro, Vice•Chairman
Leg. Daniel P. Losquadro
Leg. Edward P. Romaine
Leg. Steven H. Stern
Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk
Kevin Rooney, Oil Head Institute of Long Island
Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Executive
Thomas Isles, Director of Department of Planning
Jim Bagg, Chief Environmental Analyst/Department of Planning
Patricia Zielinski, Department of Real Estate
Lauretta Fischer, Department of Planning
Janet Longo, Department of Real Estate

Joe Gergela
Johan McConnell, South Yaphank
Lauren Hill, LI Association
John Caracciolo, Suffolk County Planning
Linda Holmes, Suffolk County Planning
Michael E. White, NY League of Conservative Voters
Glen Bohn, Suffolk County Water Authority
Paul Gonley, SCWA
Louis Infantino, SCWA
Rose Tullo, SCWA
Bob McGrath, SCWA
Mike Fogarty, SCWA
Steve Canino, SCWA
Joe Romano, SCWA
Michael Deering, Commissioner of the Suffolk County Department of
Environment and Energy

CONTINUED: ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

James L. Larocca
Patrick G. Halpin, Suffolk County Water Authority
Paul Tonna, LI Regional Planning Council
Dr. Basile
Kevin Rooney, Chief Executive Officer of Oil Heat Institute of Long Island
Becking Weisman, Cornell Cooperative
Tom Williams, Director of Cornell Cooperative
Tom Lyon, Cornell Cooperative
Pat Hubbard, Cornell Cooperative
George Proios, Suffolk County Soil and Water District
Thomas McMahon, Suffolk County Soil and Water District
Deborah Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

(THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 3:28 PM)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to be led by Legislator Stern.

(SALUTATION)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you. The first card Kevin Rooney. The person who's on deck is Dr. Carmine Basile. If you could just be ready to come as soon as Mr. Rooney is finished. We have 19 cards. We have a number of appointees that we will be interviewing. So, we do want to get through this. I know that you have been patiently waiting out in the lobby. But we have a lot of business to attend to.

Mr. Rooney, go ahead. I haven't started the clock yet.

MR. ROONEY:

Madam Chair, members of the Committee, my name is Kevin Rooney. I'm the Chief Executive Officer of the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island. It is both a personal and professional pleasure to speak in support of the nomination of my good friend Michael Deering to be the first Commissioner of the New Suffolk County Department of Environment and Energy, the creation of which the Oil Heat Institute strongly supported.

I have been fortunate to have worked closely with Mike in his previous capacities in Albany and in his current position in the Office of the County Executive. We have worked together on issues ranging from clean air and water standards, water front barge terminals, fuel quality and emission standards, energy infrastructure issues and alternative technologies.

And while at times we may have advocated different solutions to these

complex problems, we have always operated on the understanding that reasonable people can agree to disagree without the disagreement becoming personal and thus precluding the possibility of a reasonable compromise.

In all of my dealings with him over the course of many years, Mike Deering has always been fair, impartial, objective and decidedly nonpartisan. In two words, he is a consummate professional who in my opinion will serve the people of Suffolk County with great distinction in his new position. We, therefore, strongly urge your positive vote in favor of his nomination.

I also have some additional comments on introductory resolution 1171. In our opinion this is a program to expand and modify the tank replacement incentive program. In our opinion the current incentive level of a hundred dollars is too modest to generate a sizeable number of tank closures and should be increased to something on the order of 200 to \$250. The Towns of Southampton and East Hampton both offer \$500 incentives, the same level as the state program which was in effect from 2001 to 2004. Notwithstanding the modest county incentive, this is a good worthwhile and successful program to protect our environment.

And further while not of the same magnitude or environmental impact of underground tank failures, above ground or basement tanks do occasionally fail and thus in our opinion should be included in this incentive program as they were in the expired state program. We, therefore, urge your support for IR 1171 and its enactment by the Legislature. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Rooney. Dr. Basile. Okay. We don't have a quorum yet.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

We have a quorum right now.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

We do. Okay. Right after Dr. Basile speaks, since I did call him up, we will go to some items of the agenda because we have a member of our

committee who does have to leave to catch a plane. So, Dr. Basile, after you've spoken, I'm just asking everyone's indulgence to wait until we get through those agenda items. And we will be dealing with the appointments to the various boards at that point.

Go ahead, Dr. Basile.

DR. BASILE:

I'm here as a concerned scientist. I appeared before the Brookhaven Town Board on this Caithness issue. And this is my presentation. And I have it on a CD ROM that I can leave with you.

The problem we have with this Caithness environmental impact study is that it's fraudulent. They make this statement here, in fact, air cooled condensing would be employed to eliminate cooling tower plume impacts. Now first off they don't talk about what the normal impacts are with air cooled power plants. And they don't discuss what's eliminated.

Now, as far as I can tell the only thing that's eliminated are the vapors when you use direct pluming •• cooling where you inject water into the hot air. But you have 233 megawatts leaving this power plant. And it's going to create a low pressure above a toxic landfill. There's toxic vents within 2000 feet of the air intakes to Caithness. The toxins are going to be drawn up. There's been recent studies. There's an article in New York Times making Brownfields green again. And DiNapoli is introducing legislation to make the controls much tighter. There's over 6,000 Brownfields on Long Island plus the super fund sites.

Now, what they did in the EIS, and this is part of the handout, is they used 1998 maps. And they failed to consider toxic sites within a mile of the radius. Now, the place that this power plant should be built, everything they say about Caithness is true as far as the efficiency and cleanliness and what not. It should be in Northport to get rid of that old fallow plant that's there. But instead they put it near a dump. Why, I don't know. But you guys have to step in. And you have to •• I would really appreciate if you refer this to the District Attorney.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

And you are leaving us some materials for us to look at?

DR. BASILE:

Yes. I'll leave you this material and I'll leave you the CD•ROM and, I guess, that's enough.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Dr. Basile. Thank you for coming down.

I'm going to make a motion to take 1339 out of order. I need a second.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

All in favor? Opposed? 1339 is before us. **(Appointing James L. Larocca as a member of the Long Island Regional Planning Council a/k/a the Nassau • Suffolk Regional Planning Board)** I would like to ask Mr. Larocca to come forward, please. Wherever you're comfortable, sir. That's fine. Just make sure that the microphone is on.

MR. LAROCCA:

I'll stand if I may?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

That's fine.

MR. LAROCCA:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Go ahead.

MR. LAROCCA:

I don't have a prepared statement.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay.

MR. LAROCCA:

I'm here upon the nomination of the County Executive for a position on the Regional Planning Board. It represents for me a return to public service. Most of my career was in public service in one form or another. And having been a resident both part and full-time of Suffolk County most of my life, it's an opportunity to serve the people of Suffolk County again. And as I look at the issues that come before the Regional Planning Board, I just finished a tour of four or five years standing as the Chairman the Long Island Nature Conservancy. And as we described our future there, the generation in power now in •• on Long Island is really determining the final allocation of the landscape of Long Island as we fill up with population and development and so forth. So, the issues that are before us in all of their ramifications are very, very important ones. I hope as a member of the Regional Planning Board to be able to play an important role and a voice in addressing those issues.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I have to agree with you that we are at a critical juncture right now. And there are some very important decisions we have to make. There are questions from the Committee. Legislator Lindsay.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Really not a question, just an understanding. First of all, thank you for coming here. Thank you for again volunteering your time to serve the Long Island community. We all are very familiar with your long and distinguished career of service to our community. The only thing I want to mention to you, I'll mention to you as well as the other nominees, upon ratification of your nomination Suffolk will complete their half of the bargain in re •establishing this. Nassau has not acted on this yet. I just want you to be aware of that. But we want to be in a position where we're ready to go as soon as they act on this.

MR. LAROCCA:

We understand that. And I think certainly in Nassau the County Executive is

committed to a revitalized Regional Planning Board as well. And I think that will happen.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Vivian.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Another comment. Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. You took the words out of my mouth. You know how much time I put into the resolution for the Long Island Regional Planning Board. The Presiding Officer basically put everything on the record that I wanted to. And I appreciated your comments before also. I certainly hope that we can get the Nassau County Legislature to move in a direction that this body saw fit in a bipartisan fashion. So, thank you for your time.

MR. LAROCCA:

Thank you, sir.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you very much for your patience and waiting here. And thank you for your continued service to the people of Suffolk County.

MR. LAROCCA:

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I'll make a motion to approve?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Second by Legislator D'Amaro. It's been a long afternoon.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It has.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

All in favor? Opposed? **1339 is approved.** Thank you. And as you know we will be voting on this at the general meeting on Tuesday. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Romaine not present)**

I would like to take out of order IR 1340.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. All in favor? Opposed? **1340 is before us. (Appointing Theresa E. Sanders as a member of the Long Island Regional Planning Council a/ka/ the Nassau • Suffolk Regional Planning Board)** I would like to ask Theresa Sanders to please come to the podium. Is there a problem, Ben?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes. Madam Chair, I would ask if possible •• she is unavailable to be here today but she will be available at the general meeting. And she would like to have the opportunity to be able •• because there's a meeting coming up before the next general meeting at the Legislature. So if it's possible this could be discharged without recommendation then she could appear before the full Legislature on Tuesday.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

That's not a problem.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Second.

MR. ZWIRN:

If that's okay, we appreciate that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I'll make the motion to discharge without a recommendation, seconded by the Presiding Officer. All in favor? Opposed? **1340 is discharged without recommendation. (Vote: 6•0)**

Motion to take out of order 1341.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. Legislator D'Amaro, I'm sorry. All in favor? Opposed? Sorry, I'm rushing myself so much. I can't seem to get through this agenda. **1341 is before us. (Appointing Paul J. Tonna as a member of the Long Island Regional Planning Council. A/k/a the Nassau•Suffolk Regional Planing Board)** Legislator Tonna, can you please come before us?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Hello.

MR. TONNA:

Hello. I'm here to answer any of your questions.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

I think you can keep the title, can't you? Always call him •• you know.

MR. TONNA:

I've been called many things. Thank you. That's one of honor. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

I like your hairstyle, Paul.

MR. TONNA:

I haven't prepared a statement either. But just to say that first of all I wanted to thank the County Executive Levy for appointing me •• or at least to putting my name in nomination. As you all know, that regional planning

has been something that's a huge concern for somebody like myself. And after 12 years of serving on the Legislature, you say •• you get a good sense of the big picture. And you say now what are you going to do with all of the things that you have learned? You know, you learned about sewer districts, you learned about social services and health. You've learned about the environment. And you say now what can these skill sets that you've learned, what can you do with them? And so I'm looking very forward to serving on the Long Island Regional Planning Board. And I would have to tell you that •• and I think everybody knows that, with my passion definitely the poor will have a voice. And it's great group from the Nassau and the Suffolk Legislature. But my passion will be for the have nots, to make sure that whatever goes forward, that those people who don't have a voice, who don't have natural born advocates, aren't well organized will have a voice. So, that will be probably something that I'll focus on.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Paul, thank you very much for those comments. When I saw your name here, I said Paul was never really that crazy about some of the things we did in this Committee. But I do know how committed you were to the issues that we addressed in the Social Services committee. And so you've defined for me and clarified for me what you will be bringing to that committee. And I'm very happy to make a motion to approve.

MR. TONNA:

Thank you.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I just need a second.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator D'Amaro is seconding that. On the motion, Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I was just going to echo those comments and say for someone without a prepared statement, you did a pretty good job defining your vision.

MR. TONNA:

You learn how to bob and weave as time goes on.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

We'll all take something away from that. Thank you for the comments. And like I said I think you did a very good job of spelling out what your passions are and where you •• the direction that you see your membership on the board going. So, thank you.

MR. TONNA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator D'Amaro would like to speak.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I would just like to also confirm everything that I've heard here. I've known Mr. Tonna probably for a shorter length of time than most people here on the Legislature and in this committee, but I'm confident and comfortable that he is going to take the same passion that I see that he has for the issues that he believes in and is going to apply those for the good of everyone when it comes to planning in Suffolk so I applaud your nomination here as well.

MR. TONNA:

Thank you, Lou. And, you know, for two years you still have my vote.

LEG. D'AMARO:

He does live in the district.

MR. TONNA:

That's right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. We had a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. Romaine not present)** Congratulations, Legislator Tonna.

MR. TONNA:

Thank you very much. Thank you, committee. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I'm making motion to take out of order 1323. That was on the previous page. I thought it had been a higher number. Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **1323 is before us. (Appointing member to the Suffolk County Water Authority Patrick G. Halpin)**

County Executive Pat Halpin can you come forward, please? Former. We're keeping everyone's titles today.

MR. HALPIN:

I used to be a Suffolk County Legislator as well.

First of all, thank you very much for inviting me to this meeting of this Committee. You know the Suffolk County Water Authority has had a great history. It's been in existence for more than fifty years. And back then the members of the State Legislature and the Board of Supervisors that got together to create this public benefit cooperation had the wisdom to create an agency that would have the ability and the capacity to assure that one of the most essential items for any region's well being and for our well being as human beings delivery of safe potable drinking water could be done in an efficient and effective and economical way. And they created the Water Authority.

And unlike the Nassau County which of course developed more intensely before Suffolk County did, there you have numerous, very small water districts that provide public water to their citizens at a cost that is fare in

excess of what Suffolk County provides. To put it in some context, the typical bill for a Suffolk County resident is less than half than what residents in Great Neck pay.

So as a member of the Board of Directors, I see its mission today as clearly as it was when it was formulated, which was to be sure that the Suffolk County Water Authority provides the highest quality drinking water to over 1.2 million residents, which depend on it. And do it in the most cost effective way possible. And that means that we not only have to be thinking about today, but we have to be thinking about the future.

We need to continue to build upon the good work that's been done over the years to assure that investments are made in infrastructure like upgrading mains in the areas of Suffolk County that were developed early on like Babylon and Huntington and parts of Islip. And then making sure that we continue to expand to those areas of Suffolk County that are growing.

In addition to that we have a very important job which is to make sure that the water meets the highest standards. And whatever has to be done in terms of treatment that those investments are made to assure that we have high quality drinking water for our people.

And then finally I think the Water Authority needs to continue to build upon its work it's done to manage the water supply and assure that we don't squander it. I mean we're blessed in that we come from a region that has a lot of rain fall. And we have plenty of water, but that doesn't mean that we can afford to waste it. So, we need to look to do a better job of making sure that people who are watering their lawns and driving demand during those peak periods are doing it in a way that meets their needs obviously but also doesn't waste water.

And finally we need to continue to be working closely with the County to use the data that the Water Authority collects through the outstanding laboratory that they have; to share that data as part of the overall management plans of our watersheds. This county has again had the wisdom to literally spend hundreds of millions of dollars to acquire watershed areas in the Pine Barrens. We need to make sure that not only

are those preserved but that the water quality in those areas is of the highest •• the highest it can possibly be. And things like storm water runoff, nitrates, heavy metals and other things that are threats to our water supply, we address on a proactive basis.

So, my job as a Director, if you appoint me, is to assure that we fulfill our mission; that we as Directors set very clear accountabilities for the people that work at the Suffolk County Water Authority; that we run this authority in an exemplary way; that we meet the highest standards as fiduciaries to assure in this post-Enron world that the Water Authority has the best financial practices both in terms of operating and capital planning so that we continue to be the asset that this agency has been for the last fifty years for the next fifty.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you very much, Mr. Halpin.

MR. HALPIN:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Any comments, questions from the Committee?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'll offer a motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator D'Amaro, second by myself.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Also on the motion?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I just want to very briefly state that I had the opportunity to sit on one of

the committees screening candidates for the Water Authority. And what we're seeing here today is just the tip of iceberg in the knowledge and the experience that County Executive Halpin brings to this board and I commend that. Thank you.

MR. HALPIN:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

All in favor? Opposed? **Approved. (Vote: 6•0)** And thank you very much for being here. And clearly I'd like to echo the comments of Legislator D'Amaro. It's clear in your comments that you bring the kind of breathe and depth of experience that we need on the board. And we appreciate your continued public service.

MR. HALPIN:

Thank you very much. Thank you for the opportunity.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

We will now go back to the public portion. I notice there are two reappointments here. I'm sorry. There's one more appointment who's straight ahead of me. And the number is 1381. I'd like to take 1381 out of order. Motion to take it out of order, seconded by ••

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **1381 is before us. (Confirming appointment of County Commissioner of Environment and Energy Michael J. Deering)** We're going to need your vote, Legislator Stern. I hope you're not walking out the door. We're going to be voting shortly. Okay. He's between committees. The other committee that he's on is in executive session right now.

1381 is before us confirming appointment of County Commission of Energy and Environment Michael Deering. Thank you, Michael.

MR. DEERING:

Thank you. It's certainly is a challenge to follow three distinguished Suffolk County residents that you have before you when you •• in your wisdom approved for their respective positions. I think they do bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the issues both for the region and for the County.

I want to thank you. I've had the opportunity to work with all of you, some for a shorter period of time, but many of you over the last two plus years in my current role; and look forward to hoping to work •• continue that work as the Commissioner of the new department of the Environment. And I want to commend the Legislators for approving that and moving that forward.

I believe it's an evolution in the progressive nature of Suffolk County and the commitment that Suffolk County elected officials have demonstrated over the years for protecting the environment. By institutionalizing that department, it will continue beyond any particular administration, any particular individual and will continue to keep the environment at the forefront as one of the pillars of important policies for the County.

It is a diverse commission; department having dealings with Real Estate, having dealings with trying to bring some of the linkages and potential linkages of environment to some of the illnesses that we see here on the Island, to trying to address some of the Brownfields issues and to move that forward and get redevelopment of those properties; to work on the water quality program that has been very successful over the last years. And as some of the previous speakers have said, we are at a critical junction. We're at a critical juncture in terms of our energy policy and we're where going to go in the future. As you've heard fro Kevin Rooney, Bob Catell, Richie Kessel over the past few weeks. We're at a critical juncture in trying to purchase and preserve those open spaces that are remaining. We're at a challenge and crossroads in trying to redevelop our downtowns and

revitalize the communities, provide affordable housing. These are all components of how, I believe, a Department of Environment can actually assist in moving some of those things forward while we continue the programs that we have.

So, I was honored to be appointed or recommended by County Executive Levy and hope you will agree; and I'd be willing to take any questions that you might have.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Are there any questions? Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yes. At the State of the County message, besides talking about the great fiscal shape the County was in back in February, the County Executive also mentioned that he was instituting a \$50 million bond issue of public money to be matched with \$50 million of private money. Could you tell me the status of that program and when we would expect a resolution forthcoming on that matter?

MR. DEERING:

I believe that that's going to be part of the budget process.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So not 'til the fall, then?

MR. DEERING:

Well, I think it's being worked on now. I believe it's being looked at in the context of the budget. It will be forthcoming. The County Executive has been committed to it. And I know we've had some supportive comments from the Legislators. We want to continue that program. And we will bringing a resolution, you know, to the Legislature to effectuate that.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Now, will your new department handle waste water permits?

MR. DEERING:

No.

LEG. ROMAINE:

No. Okay. Will your new department be handling clean green purchasing program in the pesticide phase-out law?

MR. DEERING:

Yes.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Can you tell me how many waivers or exemptions have been approved under this program to date?

MR. DEERING:

There is an annual report that comes out. I don't know the numbers exactly. I can get those for you at the next meeting. I did attend the meeting yesterday. But I've been to a few of those meetings. The exemptions have been limited in what this entity has approved over the years. They've been very specific as to what they can. We anticipate continuing that. We'd like to see that group, in fact, take on some additional •• to take a look at how they can actually move forward in helping the County do an even better job of in terms of reducing our use of pesticides and herbicides and fertilizers.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Good. Not to waste the Committee's time, if you could correspondent with me as to the number of waivers through 2005. And by the time you correspond through March 31st of 2006.

MR. DEERING:

Certainly.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Will you have the Office of Pollution and Control under your department?

MR. DEERING:

No.

LEG. ROMAINE:

No. Thank you very much.

MR. DEERING:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Any other questions?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you. Just for my clarification for members of the Committee, I know we've heard a lot of discussion of changes and what this department will be doing in terms of as you mentioned earlier looking at potential environmental related causes of illnesses. Could you just clarify for the Committee and for myself how exactly you'll be going about that and what you'll be doing to coordinate with the Health Department.

MR. DEERING:

Sure. I think that the advantage that this department has, and we do have one person who's coming over who is a toxicologist, who's a •• does risk assessment for a living, who can help actually push some of the medical community in terms of trying to identify that. We can push the state in terms of releasing that information that they have on the cancer mapping data. I think we can utilize this office to do a better job in terms of communicating with the constituencies that are out there, with the scientists that are out there, with the universities that are out there in terms of not only looking at the medical side, but looking at some of the environmental side.

This is •• this is an opportunity to expand what the medical community is doing. We don't intend •• it's not anticipated we're going to replace them. It's not anticipated that we are going to find a cure for it tomorrow. It's an opportunity to have someone and some entity looking at and trying to identify with and working with researchers and academics and scientists who are trying to actually identify if there are such links and how we might be able to address those.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Very good. That's sort of along the lines what I was hoping you would say because you know that a large portion of that cancer cluster and that cancer mapping project lies within my district. And some of the most recent research that I've looked suggests that upwards of 70% of the risk of cancer is borne by the individual based on their life•style choices. So, I really feel the Health Department has a significant role in this because we need to educate people about diet and life•style and habits. So, I appreciate your comments. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes, thank you. Just very quickly. You know, I believe that this County took a huge leap forward in the right direction by creating this Department in the first place so that we can have the experts all cooperating now and working together. And I think today should this committee move this nomination to the floor and then ultimately approve, I think we take the second huge leap forward. And I would suggest, Mr. Deering, also you've followed Mr. Tonna, Mr. Halpin and Mr. Larocca, I think you stand on your own two feet as well. Thank you.

MR. DEERING:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

I just want to recount something very briefly. When I was a freshman Legislator in 1999, I dared to try to create a prohibition, a ban on MTVE here

in Suffolk County. And I was told I probably would not be successful. And the go-to person at that time was Tom DiNapoli. I was told to go to him for information. I went to Great Neck on a couple of occasions. And the person who was there who gave me a tremendous amount of help was Michael Deering. Since then I have learned a great deal more about how much there is to do in the area of environment and energy. I put together an energy task force to look at energy needs and requirements and knowledge in Suffolk County. And I realized there was no place •• there was no clearinghouse for all of the information that we're getting on energy needs. And we weren't really dealing with environmental issues in a holistic way. And so I congratulate the County Executive for putting this department together. But I think especially for choosing someone of your caliber to head it up. Motion?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion to approved by Legislator D'Amaro, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Motion passes. **(Vote: 6•0)** Thank you very much. Congratulations.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

We will go back to the public portion. Glen Bohn, to be followed by Louis Infantino. Each person will have three minutes. We have several people at once. Terrific. Let me see. I have Glen Bohn, Louis Infantino. Who is Glen? Mr. Bohn? Louis Infantino? And Nick Caracappa, I know. And Steve Canino.

I'm sorry gentlemen. Can you just wait a moment because we don't have a quorum. They might have all gone back to the Executive Session? Is that still going on, Legislator Romaine?

LEG. ROMAINE:

No. That was cancelled. That was adjourned.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator D'Amaro did have to leave as I mentioned earlier. But we don't want you to speak to an empty dais. So, if you don't mind just waiting a second until we get more of the Legislators back at the horseshoe. Thank you very much. I know that Legislator Stern hasn't had a break since 9:30 this morning. It's been long day.

(PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY RETURNED TO THE AUDITORIUM)

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Go ahead.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you. I'm sorry, before Mr. D'Amaro leaves, we have to vote on one more appointment. And it'll really be three minutes. I'm sorry. Legislator D'Amaro? Okay. We need to take 1402 out of order. I'm making a motion to take that out of order, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor?

Opposed? **1402 is out of order and it is before us. (Approving the reappointment of John Caracciolo as a member of the Suffolk County Planning Commission)** Mr. John Caracciolo, can you please come to the podium? I apologize, Mr. Caracciolo. It was at the bottom of the page. I didn't see that we had another appointment who was here.

MR. CARACCIOLO:

I appreciate you taking it out of order. Thank you.

I probably served on the Suffolk County Planning Commission for three years. I'm up for re•appointment and I will be honored and delighted if I can continue that term and serve at the pleasure of this board, the Legislature and the County Executive.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Caracciolo. Because you're a reappointment, you didn't have to be here but I appreciate very much that you are here.

MR. CARACCIOLO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Are there any questions for Mr. Caracciolo? I will make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed?

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion carries. **(Vote: 5 • 1 • 0 • 0. Leg. Stern opposed)**

MR. CARACCIOLO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you very much, Mr. Caracciolo.

MR. CARACCIOLO:

I appreciate it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I understand 1358 •• is there another ••

LEG. ROMAINE:

There's another appointment for Ms. Holmes who came all the way from Shelter Island.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you. I asked about that earlier and I didn't know that she was here. Thank you. Thank you very much. I apologize, Ms. Holmes. I thought I had done all the appointments.

MS. HOLMES:

Thank you. I was so afraid you were going to overlook it. We don't call us Long Island for nothing.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I just have to ask that be taken out of order.

MS. HOLMES:

Yes. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I make a motion to take 1358 out of order. The motion is seconded by Legislator Romaine. May I? All in favor? Opposed. **1358 is before us, to reappoint a member of the County Planning Commission Linda G. Holmes.** And I do apologize. I thought as a reappointment that you were not in attendance today.

MS. HOLMES:

Oh, goodness. No, I've been here almost as long as you have. Thank you very much. I appreciate that County Executive Levy has been willing to reappointment me. And I thank Legislator Romaine for supporting that. I, like John Caracciolo, I've been serving almost three years on the Planning Commission. And I was happy to fill out the unexpired term of one of my fellow Shelter Islanders.

And I must say I was so impressed at our last session last month when •• or earlier this month actually •• when I was sitting right next to Ms. Esposito, our newest appointment. And then I picked up the Sunday New York Times Long Island section and there was Adrienne down in Washington advocating for a very important regional issue on the natural gas platform. And I thought how very prudent and nice that the Legislature has recently broadened the membership for this Commission. And I was very pleased at our last meeting that Tom Isles, our Director of Planning, was outlining for us some of the new measures and some of the new studies that will encourage towns to think regionally and not just locally about projects they're considering which affect their neighboring communities, too. So, I would very much like to continue this work and I thank you for giving me the time.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, thank you very much for taking the trip for being here and for those comments; because we have been working hard on professionalizing that body. Is there a motion to approve? I don't want to make the motion. Does somebody else want to make the motion?

LEG. STERN:

Motion to approve.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Romaine. All in favor? Opposed? Thank you again. **Motion carries. (Vote: 6•0)** Thank you, again. Motion carries.

Did I miss any appointees? Thank you.

Gentlemen, thank you again for your indulgence and I suppose you'll speak in order of your cards. Mr. Bohn.

MR. BOHN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Did I say that correctly by the way?

MR. BOHN:

Yes, you did. Very good. Not too many people can.

Anyway, good afternoon. My name is Glen Bohn. I have been a resident for Suffolk County for 39 years. I also worked for the Suffolk County Water Authority 21 of those 39 years. I contacted the Water Authority Board last week about if I could talk in their open meeting about the morale problem throughout the Suffolk County Water Authority. I was denied. The reason? I'm not going to answer for them. I'm only going to state how they treated me.

I also did attend their board meeting. And they still in that meeting also said you will be denied to speak at this meeting. That was the second attempt I had made with the Water Authority. Once before I made an attempt with Mr. Jones to discuss the manner of morale in our company and how we're being treated like second class citizens in that Authority.

A few minutes ago I just heard a statement from Mr. Halpin about how good it is for the Water Authority. Yes, it is. It's a great place to work. We do make water safe. We work very hard for that company. And not once did I hear him acknowledge the employees of that company. Let's not forget that.

And the second half, I don't like to be treated like second class citizens from a company that is so big and so powerful. And I think it's a crime that I was denied to speak about morale. There's problems in that company in management when every time there's a problem, okay, if they don't like what you have to say, they hit you with some letter and then you get suspended for your actions. They don't hear reason. They're not open for reasons at all. They're shutting us down. Any problem we have, they turn their backs on us. We used to have an open door policy way back when Mr. _Hasit_ was in charge. For some reason we got away from that. And it makes my sick to have that feeling going to work every morning knowing I

got to work under that stress and make sure people's drinking water is safe. And that's all I have to say about morale in that company. I hope you guys intervene and do something to help us. If you have any questions, I'm open.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

If it's all right with the other members of the Committee, Mr. Bohn is not here alone. And so I thought perhaps we could listen to all of the gentlemen who are sitting here. And at the end of all of their comments, we would then ask questions. Okay. Mr. Infantino.

MR. INFANTINO:

Hello and good afternoon to all. My name is Louis Infantino. I've been an employee for Suffolk County Water Authority for 21 years. I chose to work for Suffolk Water because of the pay and the benefits. I have 13-year old quadruplets and I want the best for them.

My mortgage has almost doubled since 1989 when I purchased my home. Gas prices are soaring to almost three dollars a gallon. My monthly gas and electric bills have tripled. Grocery bills are around \$200 a week. I could go on but I think you get the point.

The last five years or so have been a struggle to survive. I lived in Suffolk County my whole life. I would love to remain here for the rest of my life. It is truly a great place to live.

Since the year 2000 I am only making \$2.63 more per hour. In six years my salary has not kept up with the cost of living. I am asking for your help. Our contract negotiations have broke down with no hope in sight. All we are asking for is a fair contract without giving up any of our invaluable benefits. We deserve it.

The Suffolk County Water Authority is non-for-profit company with a large surplus. Their 400 or so union members service over 1.2 million customers with pride. We have not been treated fairly. And lately it seems like we are not even wanted.

Contractors are taking all of our work away. I would love to see a day when management and union could get along. The Water Authority hopefully will be able to become an employee•friendly place. Please, anything you can do to help us get a fair contract would be greatly appreciated by me and my family. I thank you for your time.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Thank you very much, Mr. Infantino. Nick Caracappa.

MR. CARACAPPA:

Thank you, Madam Chairperson and the Committee. Before I read my statement, I just want to express my disappointment that the nominee Mr. Halpin was allowed and conveniently appointed and allowed to leave this auditorium before he and this Committee were able to hear our concerns and respond. Maybe then some questions would have been generated toward Mr. Halpin.

This Committee should take very seriously the situation presently going on in Suffolk County Water Authority being it is your responsibility to nominate and appoint board members to that institution.

I thank you for the time for coming up here and please have patience with some of my colleagues here for this is their first time of public speaking. And I give them a great deal of credit for coming up and doing so. If you had any idea of what kind of retribution is being put forth to the employees of this company when they stand up and try to defend themselves against doing any kind of work outside the contract lines, they are dubbed trouble makers. And like Mr. Bohn said, retribution is put upon them with letters in their files and suspensions. Unjust.

As you know, my name is Nick Caracappa. I'm here today to address this board; this committee. Thank you. And the nominee considered for the position for the Board of Trustees. I'd like to make you aware of who we are

and ask you to respond to some of the critical issues concerning the bargaining unit employees of the Suffolk County Water Authority. We are Local 393. We live, work and raise our families here in Suffolk County. We have over 400 members and reside county-wide. We are currently without a contract and have been so for almost two years.

We have been informed recently that negotiations have broken down once again; an impasse declared. This is a position that leaves us completely vulnerable and with virtually no recourse. Since our next steps, fact-finding and arbitration are not only very lengthy processes, but are non-binding. That leaves us to a Legislative hearing comprised of the board members of the Suffolk County Water Authority and chaired by the very person obstructing its leadership not to budge in its position. This, it would seem, is a severe conflict of interest.

They also know that we are under the Taylor Law deeming us a non threat and having no leverage. In fact, it has been relayed to our union representatives to inform us that it's either ratify or we shall receive a worse offer next time. The fact that we respect and honor the Taylor Law should not be held over our heads and used as a tool against us; rather it should be a key element in expecting and receiving good faith negotiations on their part as is required by law. We have the right to earn a good living. We are in the trenches, pump stations and roadways every day, not only generating the revenue, but also producing the safest and finest quality product this company can offer, the water that we use every single day.

To expect a raise comparable to the cost of living increases, which we all know have been very difficult lately, should not be met with bully tactics employees. It has become common practice to drag out negotiations for well over a year; then no longer offer a base raise, rather a lump sum pay out for that year. Taking away base raises is a direct and diverse impact on our retirements and our futures.

This will be the third straight contract this happened. As a father of four in making \$2.65 more now than I did six years ago with no relief in sight, I am deeply concerned with the everyday struggles my family faces. Perhaps our administration has lost touch for these concerns. With their base salaries

and raises they have received every year without fail along with the luxury of having vehicles to use with unlimited mileage, maintenance and fuel. A benefit by the way that extends to its board members may be the reason.

This is not meant to be a personal attack. I fully understand these gentlemen are educated and bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the company. I just want it known we too are assets to this company and have valuable education through dedication. We are united here today to seek help try to resolve these issues so that we may provide for our families and protect our futures with freedom of expression without fear of retribution or retaliation. We are hopeful in doing just that.

I thank you for the time and consideration to these matters.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Nick. And just to respond to what you requested earlier, and this isn't a question, I just want to let you know that we'll be certain that Mr. Halpin does get a copy of the minutes.

MR. CARACAPPA:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Because it was just for expedience that we did try to get through it because Legislator D'Amaro had to leave and we wanted to vote on those. Thank you.

MR. CARACAPPA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Mr. Canino.

MR. CANINO:

Hi. My name is Steven Canino. I'm a Suffolk County employee 15 years. A year and a half of that without a contract. The cost of living going up on Long Island and the gas and electric bills, it's very hard to live here.

It seems that the problem with the work and the compensation problems with the Authority, they should lead by example and maybe cap their compensation and cap their medical bills which they are asking us •• which is a threat to pay into our medical. And I feel that on Long Island it's very important to have quality and dependable water that we rely on day in and day out. We all take showers, drink coffee. This is very important on Long Island. It's a necessity. And it needs to be addressed what's going on with this company that they take for granted that we're out in the winter in the snow when the mains are breaking and the ice is on the road, we're out there in danger. Yes, we have cones and they give us all the safety things we need. But it's still a hazard. And they want to attack our compensation. I feel that's very wrong. And we're out there doing the work day in and day out. I'm asking this Committee to look into this because this is a catastrophe. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Canino.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Now, I know, I'll bet that you're not Rose Tullo.

MR. CARACAPPA:

No.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

But her card is the next card I have.

MR. CARACAPPA:

Madam Chairperson, if I may, we have quite an extensive group here today so the next few cards may or may not be in order. I'm not really sure how they signed up.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay.

MR. CARACAPPA:

But if you want to get through the rest ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Is Rose Tullo ••

MS. TULLO:

I'm right here.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

On the same issue; right?

MS. TULLO:

Yes.

MR. CARACAPPA:

Yes, this whole side is on the same issue (indicating).

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I have Rose Tullo, Michael Fogarty, Robert McGrath.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Can we comment to these people before they leave?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Could we ask questions of them?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, they were just making room for the rest of the people in their group so

we thought when the group finished, we would ask the questions.

MR. CARACAPPA:

That would be appreciated very much.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, Ed, I did want to stay with what I had originally said as Chair, that I wanted to wait for everybody from 393 to speak. And then we would ask questions for whoever wanted to be the spokes people. Aren't you all together?

MR. CARACAPPA:

Yes, Madam Chairperson. I wish to receive the same courtesy as Legislator D'Amaro. I do have an engagement.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

If you have to leave and you want to answer questions then that's fine because you were one of the first cards we had. I just wanted to make it expedient for everyone who was here from 393.

MR. CARACAPPA:

It might be best right now because you do have the board members up here from Local 393.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Then we'll ask the questions of the board members. That's fine. We're trying to work with you.

MR. CARACAPPA:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator Romaine. And can we keep the questions, please, as questions because it is now 4:15 ••

LEG. ROMAINE:

These will not be statements.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Thank you.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I have received anecdotal information that some of the things that you have said are absolutely true and I want to ask you about them. If you have an objection to management policies, does management find a way to put a letter in your file that's negative?

MR. BOHN:

Absolutely.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And what types of things would they try to cite in these letters; for example, not in your case but just as a general example?

MR. BOHN:

Mr. Romaine, I'm the Vice President of the local union 393.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Right.

MR. BOHN:

I handle grievances at this point. My name is •• I'm sorry. My name is Glen Bohn. I'm a union rep. I handle grievances for the authority so I deal with these issues day in and day out. So, if you would just recite your question, I'll be glad to follow up.

LEG. ROMAINE:

My question is, you know, I've heard that when people have made complaints or have asked to speak up about things, that many times they find a letter in their file about some supposed negative activity. Could you comment on that and what type of things would you •• would they put a letter in your file about? Not you, but just general?

MR. BOHN:

I understand that and I'm going to answer.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Right.

MR. BOHN:

Yes, we have many situations today that when you get called into the office you get •• you used to get spoken to and three warnings and then the letter, then suspensions.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Right.

MR. CARACAPPA:

Well, now time has gone by, there's literally hardly any letters written and you get suspended right away immediately without even hearing your defense. And by the time you get to an arbitration which could take over a year, you've already lost that time and that money for your family.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And how common place is this amongst union workers?

MR. BOHN:

Lately it seems like it's every other day. It's like a constant thing that they're doing.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And have you •• do you have a supposition as to why they're following the strategy of labor relations?

MR. BOHN:

To be quite honest with you, yeah. They don't want to hear from us. Shut up, here's your letter of suspension, go home, deal with it later.

Nick would like to touch on that, too.

MR. CARACAPPA:

If I may?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Sure.

MR. CARACAPPA:

I'm Nick Caracappa. As shop steward to many departments in Suffolk County Water Authority, I've sat in on some of these meetings. It seems as if it's more now •• forget about the contract and what it states in the guidelines and bylaws. It's do as we say or else. I've tried speaking to them. And I'm quite good at that because I know the contract in and out. And usually I have great success in resolving these issues in the first step. It's to the point now their mind is made up before they even call us over. And that is •• it's supposed to be protocol the first step is trying to find the verbal way out before anything permanent is put in the file; and then suspensions. It has now gone to immediate suspension and we'll grieve it and worry about it later. It is really •• that's also against public policy.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So, in your opinion the Suffolk County Water Authority, the CEO Steve Jones says, Mr. Stevenson, who I think is in charge of personnel •• those people are engaging in your opinion in unfair labor practices?

MR. CARACAPPA:

In my opinion and in the opinion of many, Mr. Romaine, absolutely.

MR. BOHN:

Exactly.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And your •• I'm sorry, by the way, because of time the Chair lady permitted Mr. Halpin to be approved. I wish he was here and we were dealing with that so I could ask him questions as a new member of the board how he would approach this because obviously the Water Authority is governed by a

board that is appointed by this body. Would you be asking this Committee specifically to look into any of the allegations that you have raised about unfair labor practices at the Water Authority?

MR. CARACAPPA:

I would absolutely appreciate that. And to answer the second part of that one question, it is easy to prepare yourself if you were to go to them and ask why is this going on? They open up all these folders, look at the letters to the employees that we have and the files are getting thick every day. Look at the dates on those letters, Mr. Romaine, and you'll see that there are quite •• they're lumped together within the last few months. They're all dated and documented. They're trying to build a case that we are trouble makers and we're not. We're committed and dedicated employees. And most of us have over 20 years in and probably another 20 to go.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Mr. Caracappa •• may I interject?

LEG. ROMAINE:

If I could just finish. I'm finishing up now. Okay. Not a question.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Because we do need to keep moving.

LEG. ROMAINE:

That's why I'm finishing because our Chair lady has asked us to keep this brief. So, my request to the Chair lady would be perhaps at our next Committee meeting ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I know you're preempting what I was about to say which was that I will invite members of the board to come to our Committee meeting because these are serious allegations. And we would like to give them an opportunity to be heard and to be asked the questions on the record. And so this is why I was going in on your time because as the Chair it's my prerogative to make the request and invite people to come before this Committee. However, Legislator Lindsay has a question for you.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

You fellows understand that the Suffolk County Water Authority is an independent authority; that this •• you know, I don't want anybody to mislead you that we have power over the Water Authority. Our only input to the Water Authority is to appoint the board members which we get an opportunity to appoint one every year. And so that •• I think there's five members. So, every five years the term is they come back before us.

Mr. Halpin, even if he heard your complaints, he isn't approved yet. His name will go forth before the full body. So, he is •• you know, he really doesn't know anything about what's going on over there. I will personally tell you that we will make sure that he is aware of your testimony today. And I don't know whether you know it or not, but Mr. Proios who is a sitting board member is in the audience today. And, you know, if •• it might behoove you fellows to sit down with Mr. Proios to make him aware of some of the things that are going on. And I would be most happy if you want to avail yourself of that opportunity to provide a conference room if you would like to sit and talk. And I think, you know, that might go a long ways in trying to help you out with your dispute.

MR. CARACAPPA:

With all due respect, Mr. Lindsay, Mr. Bohn tried in an open public forum Tuesday night at the board meeting to do just that; not just to Mr. Proios but to the rest of the board members and he was denied. To say you have no power to intervene, and to suggest that, is unacceptable to us because you've just made a comment that you can get everybody together in one room along with us and talk things out. That is precisely what we've been requesting for the last two years.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Don't misportray what I said. What I said is Mr. Proios is here. You guys are here. If you wanted to avail yourself, I would make a room available to you. I didn't say I had the authority to call in all the parties. Because if I did say that to you, I'd be misportraying our authority here. I just want everybody to know the abilities of this Legislature. And I don't want anybody to lead you down a garden path that we have more power than we

actually do.

MR. CARACAPPA:

Understood. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

And although we don't •• we cannot forcibly demand that they be here, we have in the past invited the Water Authority here. And I will do so and ask them to come before us and talk about this. But probably dialogue and colloquy among yourselves would be much more beneficial.

Mr. Bohn?

MR. BOHN:

Yes, I'd just like to respond to Mr. Levy. Thank you. Lindsay. I'm sorry. I appreciate your willing for reach out and try to get us together. I think that's the road in the right direction. Obviously I tried twice. I failed. Thank you very much for your time and effort.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

It's the moment. Rose Tullo.

MS. TULLO:

Good afternoon. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

My name is Rose Tullo. I'm an employee of Suffolk County Water Authority for 23 years. Up until recently I could say I was proud to work for Suffolk County Water. I'm grateful for my job. I'm no longer that proud employee. For 18 years of my career, I worked as a field employee. I've been on both ends of the stick. I'm now an office employee. I'm the voice your neighbor, family and friends get when they call to complain or need water service.

There are over 360,000 services. We serve over one million consumers. I'm one of the 20 call center reps they will get on the phone. I'm the employee that takes complaint after complaint all day. I'm the employee that will make a bad situation better and make sure that when that one consumer hangs up, they hang up satisfied and happy.

After implementing an \$8 million computer system, I must justify our billing system our public is not happy with. Everyday I come to work without a contract, I still give 100% dedication to my job. I'm insulted that the negotiating board for Suffolk County Water doesn't feel I deserve the cost of living raise for the past two years and my future three years. The raise will not go towards my utility bills nor my rent or even food on my table. It will go towards the 180 additional mile commute I am being forced to travel as of September. Once again in my career here I'm being uprooted further away from my home so the company can rent out their building.

The management team is worthy of their raise, their compensation and their benefits. The employees are not? Suffolk County Water Authority should lead by example. Myself alone with the other 360 employees are the dedicated staff day in and day out that serve quality and assurance to the public. Thank you for your time.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Ms. Tullo. Michael Fogarty followed by Robert McGrath.

MR. FOGARTY:

Good afternoon to all. I don't want to get into everything that has been said and repetition and everything. But, again, Michael Fogarty, Suffolk County resident, an employee for Suffolk Water better than 18 years. I took this job knowing that the benefits were very good, the rate of pay, you know, was okay. It was a place to go to work and make a career, to stay there, New York State retirement and look to the future from what I first started. You know, the quality benefits and everything, it was good. And it was a good choice that I chose to take.

But the company that I thought to be very good, it seems to be taking on a new face. I believe it doesn't take pride in its dedicated and honorable employees maybe as they once did. You know, to make safe, productive,

secure as well as prosperous job to all its employees, you know, now and in the future throughout these negotiations. It's been very difficult, trying times for everybody, everyone's pinching, rubbing two pennies together. The oil man comes, you know, instead of just filling it up, well, you know what? Maybe we can only afford to fill if halfway to know fault of any individual, but everybody's feeling it. And I'm sure it's just not Suffolk County Water Authority employees. But they seem to have a strangle hold on us. And they're using it to their •• to their advantage. And it seems like it's, you know, take•it•or•too•bad attitude.

And as Rose just said, you know, it's very tough to come to work and have that looming over you. The pride, well, I used to like coming to work. I enjoyed it. It was an adventure, always learning different things. And it doesn't seem that way anymore. You always have to look over your shoulder. And never knowing what's going to be coming around the corner, you know. The Water Authority's going to continue to grow. Technology is always changing. And there's different things for everybody to do there to go along with it. And it's a shame that the managerial people within are not including their employees. It seems that everything seems to be farmed out so to speak. They don't seem to take care of their employees as they once did. Cost, what have you, I'm sure we can go on and on and on.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Please wrap it up, sir.

MR. FOGARTY:

Yeah. My three minutes?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

That's up.

MR. FOGARTY:

All right. You know, alls I'm asking for is a little help. You know, for the workers, you know, for the general public to continue to provide them with the quality that we do. They're going to keep growing. We want to grow along with them, you know, to provide, you know, the safest and the best quality that we can.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, sir.

MR. FOGARTY:

And I thank you for your time.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Robert McGrath.

MR. McGRATH:

Madam Chair and members of the board. Thank you for your time. I handed out a piece of paper to everybody. I hope you all have it. It comes from the Chairman of the Water Authority. Let me just read a little bit of it for you.

"The future possibilities are endless and will depend on the employees to make the progress." That's us. That's the 400 employees that are the backbone of the Suffolk County Water Authority. We have a proud tradition of dedicated and honorable employees. Again, that is us. We come to work everyday. In the wintertime, in the summertime, 24/7 we're providing the service for the Suffolk County residents of purifying their water and making sure it's safe to drink.

I want to make sure that they are safe, productive and secured as well as prosperous. To me I take that word as growing with the company. To prosper. If the company's making money, we all make money. If the company is taking a hit, we all take a hit. We do this as a family. We provide a service for Suffolk County residents 24/7. And we do it endless. We do it in all harsh kinds of weather. The heat. We never complain. Why? Again, you heard the members here. That's just a few. It's endless that they feel that their jobs are being jeopardized.

The other day we were in negotiating again. They just threw the contract at us and told us •• they insulted us. We insulted them. I thought negotiations is you give a little, you take a little. I didn't think it was that you just keep taking. And if you don't like it, that's tough. That's not the way to negotiate. And we had a mediator that sat in on the last two negotiations siding with the company saying this is the best you're going to get. You better take it. I thought a mediator sits in the middle and goes for the company and goes for the union. This gentlemen was 100% company and didn't care we even existed. Told us that's the best you're going to get and I can't get you no more. That's why we're in front of you today. Okay?

On the bottom of it, it says "just to ensure our retirees' benefits and services, we are working to ensure." To ensure. Hopefully that means we still have a job when we go back. "Retirements for our current and future employees as well." Now this is from the gentleman that's running the Suffolk County Water Authority. We want our jobs. We're dedicated employees. Okay? We just want a fair shot at a fair contract. And all we wanted was a simple 3% and no give backs. And all they want is what they're going to tell us they're going to give and that's the end of it. It's not right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. McGrath. Thank you for being here.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Paul Gonley.

MR. GONLEY:

Thank you for the Committee for hearing all of us today. My name is Paul Gonley. I've been a resident of Suffolk County for 41 years. I've been an employee for 16 years. I am also on the executive board for the local 393.

I just want to answer your question because I didn't get a chance to. The

way they're doing things, unfair labor is if we bring up an unsafe situation at a job site, their answer is you're refusing to work, you're suspended. That's not •• that's not fair to labor force when you want to do the job but you want to do the job safely. That's how they're getting around by actually intimidating union employees. I just wanted to interject that.

I came here today to ask if are you aware of all the situations both quality and respect. When I first came to Suffolk County Water Authority both management and labor always had their eye on the ball, which was to provide a quality water to the residents of Suffolk County. In the last couple of years not only the pride and the respect has gone, but the labor •• between labor and management, the environment and the atmosphere is at a boiling point.

And we came •• all of us came here today to ask you to intervene on the board members that you appoint, we know you do not have jurisdiction over the Authority. But you do appoint every one of them. And we came here, all of us today, to hope that when we leave here today, that you take us serious because we do not need an atmosphere at the Water Company that both you and •• both yourselves and my family both drink.

And if you are not aware of this, one of our employees unfortunately God rest his soul, he ended his life while working. He ran out in front of a truck on Route 25 because he felt his life was ruined. Not because of the Water Authority, but for personal reasons. And I hope to God that that never comes to happen to one of our employees because what's happening to us today all of us.

So, I'm asking you today when we leave here take us seriously. We are dedicated employees. We provide a service that is more valuable than oil to this whole world and human life; is water. And I'm asking you again please intervene and put the Water Company back on the right track. And hopefully that was done by appointing Pat Halpin today. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Gonley. Just under three minutes. Very good. And I assure you we take you seriously.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Madam Chair lady, a question for you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Just a minute. I was in the middle of a thought. I just wanted to let you know that although I've indicated that I would be inviting the Water Authority administration and/or board members to come here, this isn't a place for contract negotiations. I mean I didn't want to mislead you. We want to provide that kind of equal time and also an assurance to you that the message that you've given us today will be shared with those in the Water Authority. My time is up.

Legislator Romaine, did you want to be recognized?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yes. Just a point of information for •• that perhaps you could get an answer for the Committee from the County Attorney's Office •• I wanted to know if the members of the Suffolk County Water Authority work force was covered by a Whistle•Blower Law? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Mr. Romaine. Thank you very much for coming down here. We appreciate your sharing with us. Joe Gergela?

THE AUDIENCE:

Lady Chair, Joe has left. He won't be addressing the committee.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you very much. Johann McConnell. I'm sorry. George Proios.

MR. PROIOS:

I just wanted to respond before everybody left. I know I have to do a presentation, but I'm going to take Legislator Lindsay up on his offer and try to meet with some of the members. You're correct in saying that, you know, as you know as Legislators there's two or three or four sides to every story. And we can't get into this type of discussion in terms of the contract here. But one thing that did bother me is that one of the members said that they tried to speak and couldn't. I wasn't aware that anyone wished to speak because that's one of the things that I feel very strongly about.

When I ran the Pine Barrens Commission, I specifically put on the agenda that there's a public portion. I did ask the Chairman last year when someone else raised this point, that they were in the audience •• that there was no public portion. And I asked to have that put on the agenda on every meeting; that there's a time set aside when the people can address us. And I was told that, no, we don't have to do it.

It's not that clear. So, if you do do an actual •• ask for a legal opinion, I'd like to know also whether we follow the Open Meetings Law or not. Because, again, it's not absolutely crystal clear.

But it's my opinion as one member that the •• any member of the public should be allowed to address the board on any issue. I've asked to have my phone number included on the phone directory that the Water Authority puts out every year and was told no; some board members do not want it. It wouldn't look appropriate to have your number ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

The Presiding Officer is here. I'm sorry to interrupt you. But because I had already called somebody else up, I didn't want to take up too much time. And if you wanted to take the Presiding Officer up on his offer ••

MR. PROIOS:

I will. And that way if you want me, call me back later.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I think that's a great idea. And I'll call you back. You can hear my voice in

other parts of the building.

MR. PROIOS:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

So you can hear whatever goes on here. So, the Presiding Officer's right behind you. And he will find a place for you and those members of Local 393 who would like to speak with Mr. Proios. I think this is a terrific opportunity. Thank you all for being here. Good luck. Good luck.

Ms. McConnell.

MS. McCONNELL:

Johann McConnell. South Yaphank Civic Association. I'm the President. I will make my statements brief. It is in reference to the Trap and Skeet. I made a presentation before the Parks Committee yesterday. And there questions asked of the Commissioner, which I feel that the answers were not completely to the point.

First everyone should know is that the Trap and Skeet Range is located in the core preservation area of the Pine Barrens. There was a question who has jurisdiction. I'd like to read from a letter that was written to the Pine Barrens Commission dated January 18, 2006. It's from Nicolas Gibbons, Senior Environmental Analyst for the Department of Parks.

The Department of Parks had put a request in to the Pine Barrens to establish or to build a seventeen-foot high wall by 1,805 feet. The Pine Barrens Commission ruled that it was development. The very next month that request was withdrawn from the Pine Barrens.

And the last letter is a letter from Nicolas Gibbons was "when our proposal is finally complete, we will return to the Commission pursuant to state law." So the jurisdiction over the Trap and Skeet is under the Pine Barrens Commission as by state law.

Also again from state law, the definition of development from article 57

number E is reestablishment of a use which has been abandoned for a year. The range has been closed for four and a half years. And I'm sure in any court of law that would be considered abandoned; therefore it is a developmental issue.

Also there are three environmental reports, not two. I keep reading in the Parks Commission Meetings that there were only two environmental statements when in actuality there are three.

The Pine Barrens Advisory Committee voted at their last meeting five to three not to reopen the range and to send that recommendation up to the full commission. Criteria for discerning significance on a SEQRA review law 617•7 to determine whether a proposal is a Type I, an unlisted action may have significant adverse affect on the environment. Listed under that, and on 617.14 (g), the entailment of the environmental characteristics of a critical environmental area. Both the County and the Town recognize the Carmen's River Watershed as a critical environmental area CEA. The range is located in the Carmen's River Watershed. So, again based upon SEQRA law, this should have been a Type I; not a Type II. So, I would wish that that would be reviewed and a new environmental impact statement be done on the range before it is opened. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you very much, Ms. McConnell. Dan •• I think it says Seubert. I'm not certain. Dan Seubert, I believe? You're timing was very good, Ms. McConnell.

MR. SEUBERT:

My name is Don Seubert. And I'm from the Medford Tax Payer Civic Association. And I'm here to express that it's Spring 2006. And I'm asking you people realizing that fact that a fossil fuel plant is certainly not the way to go. It's the wrong direction for Long Island especially for our community.

As stewards of our environment, I would ask you to prevent any permits being issued until a full air quality study is done of the area; a longitudinal air study. And also the water resource committee completes redefining the deep recharge zones. Okay? The power plant, the Caithness Power Plant is

in proximity to a lot of our taxpayer preserved lands. And as the stewards I'm sure it's up to you people to ensure the quality and habitat and the ecology of those lands are intact.

The Carmen's River's very close to Wertheim Preserve. We just purchased Mt. Olympia, which is only a few thousand feet away. And there's also some other endangered species in that area, the human species. A lot of our people, maybe well over a hundred thousand people lived on the surrounding western border. And there are so many toxic sites in the area that could be endangered by the plumes •• from the thermal plumes from the power plant, that we would ask you as the Environmental Committee to withhold any permits until those two studies are completed and the study of the thermals from the plant.

I know Richie Kessel was here with his hot air the other day. I saw it on channel 6/12. And he certainly could give us another energy for us. But the only •• the only public hearing that any response was, a SEQRA hearing in Yaphank which not one •• you can talk about Crookhaven and all the town, but every time we go to Brookhaven Town, at least we have a SEQRA hearing. We have the people from the Town Board listening to the people. Not one person •• I know that's the usual run of the mill stuff •• but not one person from the LIPA board was there. Certainly Mr. Kessel, we would have recognized him. I was in the morning and afternoon. And nobody was there.

This whole process looks like a decision made first; then they fulfilled their obligations afterwards. And I think as this Committee's obligation, I think, number one, the people who live in this area, it is just surrounded by the landfill, by toxic plumes, by anything else you could imagine. C&D debris, the highest truck traffic in Suffolk County. 112 and Horseblock is now the number one road of threatened or endangered human habitat, traffic in all the way up Horseblock Road. Nothing was considered about the Long Island Expressway, impact of the pollution, a 20/30 percent increase in traffic from there. And we just ask you to please look at this. Taxpayers have spent a lot of money for their preserved land and for the quality of drinking water.

And I will say this. The economic engine of Long Island is truly ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

You heard the buzzer; right? If you could wrap it up, sir.

MR. SEUBERT:

The economic engine of Long Island is truly based on two things. Our air quality and the quality of our water. And there's really nothing else that defines us. And I think that it's worthy of a long study of the air quality and of the pollution in our area. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you Mr. Seubert.

MR. SEUBERT:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

John McConnell.

MR. McCONNELL:

Hi. Good afternoon. My name is John McConnell. I don't have anything prepared because my wife is very thorough and Don is very thorough. But anyway, today I'd like to start off, the union members aren't here but I'm a big supporter of unions. Unions have done a lot for our country. All of benefits that everyone has, whatever •• a lot can be traced to unions. And something should be done about that. That's for sure.

Just a couple of things I want to mention real briefly. Earth day is coming up. 1970, I think, was the first time. The Gaylord Nelson, the founder, this is the time he's •• he died in the past year so he won't be there. We've just been designated •• New York State, we've just been designated as the worst air quality. This ties in with what Don said, my wife said and other people •• as the worst air quality in the nation. Okay? By the EPA. California second. Surprisingly. I thought California might be worse.

But I agree with Carmine; that EIS is a fraud. This stuff they're trying to, you know, push down our throats with this Caithness. We have plenty of

power to re•power and do, you know, other things. I attended a wind power seminar. Very interesting. And it can be done. It can be done. I'd to see that in the future rather than going with fossil fuels. We have to get away from that.

But the thing is Earth Day coming up, we're designated as, you know, the worse air quality in the nation. Do you want to build a power plant? You want to have this trap and skeet with all the lead. And the lead gets into •• there's a house that is real close. Pellets got into their pool, okay, from the shooting range. And that leads to lead chlorite, I guess, whatever. Carmine was telling me. But this is •• we just have so much. We don't need any more, you know, endangerments to our air or water quality. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you very much, Mr. McConnell. A lot of names today.

Michael White.

MR. WHITE:

Madam Chairman, members of the Committee, I know you've acted on these resolutions, but I just wanted to stay and comment on the important appointments that you voted on today both for the Regional Planning Council and the Suffolk County water Authority. And particularly of note voting in favor from the Committee to go to the full Legislature next week of the confirmation of Michael Deering. I've had the great privilege of working and knowing Michael for a number of years. He will make an outstanding Commissioner in a very essential department. And I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you for staying to put that on the record. I appreciate it. I think we all appreciate that. Thank you very much.

We now have a presentation by Becky Weisman from Cornell Cooperative Extension who will discuss Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Programs. I apologize to all of you who came at 2:30 to make a presentation and are now beginning at •• my eyes are getting weary ••

4:45. Thank you your indulgence.

MR. WILLIAMS:

No problem. Thank you having us. My name is Tom Williams. I'm the Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Good evening. It is spring in 2006. And it's springs on the Suffolk County Farm. And we have a presentation later about the farm. But wanted to make a presentation today about our Agricultural Stewardship Program which is the result of the task force that you set up; the Legislature set up and funded last year. And we have some progress to report. That program was started a number of years ago with Cornell. And we've been working with farmers to look at agricultural sustainability and environmental management issues. So we appreciate the support of this Committee and of the Legislature. And I will turn it over to Becky Weisman who is our coordinator for Ag Stewardship. Dale _Moyer_ who's the head of our Ag Program was going to be here but he had to leave. So, Becky Weisman.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you. By the way, for those of you who are still here, this time slot has been become untenable for us on this Committee. So keep on the look •out for a change in time.

MS. WEISMAN:

Well, I want to thank you, Madam Chair, for offering me this opportunity to present to you and to the Committee on the development over the past several years of the Ag Environmental Stewardship Program. I want to just give you a brief outline of what I'll be talking about for the next few minutes.

First of all, I wanted to give you a brief history of the Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Committee, some review of the task force findings, an overall goal of our stewardship program, the structure of the program itself and some program content and our goals and objectives.

The development of the Suffolk County Ag Stewardship Program really began in 1999 when the industry initiated the Ag Stewardship working group. It was a sub•committee of the Agricultural Farmland Protection

Board. Went on in 2003 with the establishment of the task force for nitrogen and pesticide reduction; and again in 2004 with the task force recommendations. And in 2005 we put together this booklet which is really the development and implementation of the progress report. And I believe we gave you one of those.

Some of the •• the two primary principal findings of the task force was to reduce non•point contamination of ground and surface water through increase of funding for ag environmental management programs and services. And the second major point was to increase the coordination of Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, the NRCS and Cornell Cooperative Extension ag environmental programs and services.

This is really the goal of our program which is to promote the use of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers in a reasonable and environmentally sound manner at the same time maintaining a strong and viable agricultural industry. The picture there portrays the diversity of our commodity groups here on the east end of Long Island. And for the west we have so many green houses and nursery products. We have the vegetable industry, the viticulture industry and, of course, the sod farms.

The stewardship working group, again, this is the structure of the •• of the stewardship program. Begins with a working group which provides the program's direction, some guidance and definitely help in promotion. It's made up of •• and you have a copy of this presentation. You'll be able to go over that, but definitely we have government officials. We have Cornell University. We have the Planning Department, Health Services and on many representatives on this working group board.

In addition we have the technical team which is a cooperative partnership of Soil and Water Conservation District, the NRCS, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Cornell Cooperative Extension. We meet monthly to discuss numerous issues and programs. Recently some of our accomplishments we've put together an AEM, a training video, which is an ag environmental management video to teach educators and technicians how to do the AEM work sheets. We've also put together a pest and nutrient management work shop that we had in February.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Can I interrupt you just one minute because we're not going to have a period of time for a lot of questions.

MS. WEISMAN:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

But you said AEM training for the work sheets. And if you could just briefly say what the work sheets are because if people aren't accustomed to the program they may not know that.

MS. WEISMAN:

Exactly. The work sheets are nutrient •• we have streamlined them. New York State designated what they now have entitled the Agricultural Environmental Management Plan. It entails a whole farm of perspective •• and the work sheets that we have tailored to Long Island's needs meaning the soil and water conservation district, NRCS and Cooperative Extension have worked to streamline them around specifically nutrient and pest management issues in agriculture within all of the agricultural commodity groups. We meet individually with growers at the farm and in person to go over with them all of the best management practices that they are doing on the farms in their operations to look at ways •• it's really an educational kind of program •• to look at ways that they might be able to improve their stewardship practices to decrease.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Right. I just wanted Legislator Romaine to hear that because so much of this is going on in his district.

MS. WEISMAN:

Right.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I'm making notes.

MS. WEISMAN:

And we live next door to each other so we might be able to meet. And also the best management practice recommendation pamphlets we're putting together and working on them constantly so that they can apply to each commodity group so that they'll be able to look at how they can make changes and specifically the ways that they can go about making those changes to reduce the nitrogen and pesticide use. Or the possibility of it leaking into ground and surface waters.

Our stewardship program staff is pretty impressive. We have the program coordinator, stewardship technicians. And we also have the blessings of working so closely with soil and water conservation district staff, the NRCS staff and Cornell Cooperative Extension staff. We're blessed with having the ability to use, you know, also services of engineers through NRCS Soil and Water and through the staff and faculty from Cornell University. We have so many resources that we can rely on within this program.

This staff together •• accumulative •• provide the AEM assessments, recommendations. We do consultation with farmers and growers, technical assistance, research, pilot projects, educational programs, cost share initiatives. So, we've very busy. And including all of the commodity groups.

This is information that we've been able to put together as of today. This is current. When we talk about •• I'm moving now into the content of our agricultural environmental management stewardship program. We •• first of all we have the AEM program. Our participating farms to date, we have 117 farms which have completed tier one and two, which is really that AEM program from New York State; is geared toward those five tiers. One in two is really a system that is evaluating what •• and is an educational process of looking at their farm, their operation and what kind of tools and programs that they can change and what they're doing well. So that is •• we have 117 farms who have completed those.

We have 19 farms on a waiting list preparing to •• for us to meet with them and go over those one and two. We have 42 farms that have moved onto implementation where they're moving into making those necessary

changes. Some of the changes are quite easily done. Other changes require infusion of funds to make those changes; maybe new machinery, maybe new •• I'll give more information about exactly what kinds of programs that they can move into.

As far as our stewardship education program, we have recently •• it's under construction, but our website, we will soon •• I'll soon be making that very known to you. It's under construction. We're developing it to be much more user friendly and available for growers and for people, just general public who are interested. We've established a stewardship program data base. We have worked with the Long Island Ag farm, an environmental stewardship program, greenhouse and _florae crocia_ conference. We do consultations. We have twilight meetings around pesticide management and DEC credits. We also do pilot projects.

A little bit of more about our research and how necessary research is. Before growers can move into looking at ways that they can make changes, there are many questions •• scientific questions about what exactly the cost and the benefits and the research needed to reduce safe fertilizer and pesticide loading. The photograph here is of a control release fertilizer site dress application. This is a new kind of practice. There are other practices that must be tested first on small plots so that then they can be used in greater future commercial application.

Our pilot projects are unfarmed demonstrations of what has happened within the research industry. So first they did the research of new kinds, new trends in, say, fertilizer. Then we have slow release fertilizers. There's all kinds of new technology that is being created and used. And once it has been researched, then we can move into using those practices on the farm. We have many growers from all of the commodity groups who are participating in pilot projects. That means that we go onto the farm, the technicians, and the educators and myself. And we go out there and plot out big parcels and practice those practices right there on the farm. This is teaching and also demonstration. And we work with the grower in showing them new practices that can minimize run off and the amount of fertilizer and pesticide loading. So it's a very dynamic part of the program.

Another part of our program is the cost share environmental initiative. We our proud right now that the one that is really highlighting the list today is the ag _critical_ pesticide handling facility. This is really a new program that DEC usually seen as a regulatory agency has come up with some funds; quite a large amount of funds. And that they are working with Soil and Water Conservation District and we're able to have applications for farmers and growers to make application to obtain 75%, up to \$30,000 in erecting these impervious platforms for their •• as a handling facility. Again, to reduce the chances of leaching into the ground and onto the surface waters. There are other programs. EQIP, Environmental Quality Incentive Program through NRCS. We have the Conservation Security Program, Wildlife Habitat, CRP, Conservation Reserve Program. We also have an on farm compost cooperative. We have pesticide container recycling and collection program. And then of course we have pilot projects. We have stipends for the growers who participate in those programs.

Again, as I said, there are many •• and there's best management practices that can be implemented at little or no cost. It's being aware or being sensitive, say, to calibration, but there are other practices that are quite expensive. And anything that we can do to encourage that through incentives is wonderful.

Lastly, as we look to the future, our goals are, of course, to increase all that we're doing right now. This is a wonderful program. It's exciting. And I can't thank you enough for all that you have done to really promote this. We are looking to increase, of course, the participation in the AEM program. We believe that education is very important. And the pilot projects, the research, we have to have both to teach our growers new ways of moving. A cost share environmental programs and initiativesand, of course, education. They're all vital to the continuation of this program. I can't thank you enough for all you have done. Any questions?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Becky, thank you for the good work you've done. Thank you for this presentation. I'm sorry that we don't have the kind of leisure that we'd like to have for all the questions that should come out of this. But we'll get them to you as the questions come up. I do have to say that sometimes we look

at ourselves and say we put too many task forces together. But I'm really proud that in 2003 I did put this together.

MS. WEISMAN:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

That Cornell Cooperative and the other entities involved chose someone with your kind of expertise to really take a leadership role in helping to implement it. And we are going to reach those goals, aren't we?

MS. WEISMAN:

Absolutely. Absolutely. Thank you again. And I gave you all my •• I believe you all have my card. You have a little brochure that we've been able to put together. And, of course, the slide presentation. So thanks a lot. Give me a call or e•mail. I'll be happy to answer any of your questions.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you very much.

LEG. ROMAINE:

A quick, quick question. If you could stop down •• I think we're neighbors • • if you could stop down sometime and just make a quick appointment with my staff and then I can talk to you more about this program.

MS. WEISMAN:

Would love to.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Very good job. And I'm sure you're working very closely with the Farm Bureau.

MS. WEISMAN:

Absolutely.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I'm just going to ask Tom Lyon, Tom Williams and Pat Hubbard to come up. I don't know •• I'm being informed by some of the Legislators who are sitting here that they also have to go places. How much time do you need?

MS. HUBBARD:

We can do a really brief introduction and then leave some materials with you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Because I don't want to feel that you have been here for three hours and that we don't even give you an opportunity to tell us something about what you're doing. And may I add that I know •• I know Tom very well and I know how dedicated he is to making life better here in Suffolk County. And that much of the work that he's doing here is all volunteer. It's voluntary work that you're doing.

If you could, I'm sorry, but give us a brief idea and we'll have the materials to look at.

MS. HUBBARD:

Sure. My name is Pat Hubbard. And I'm privileged to serve as the 4•H Youth Development Director for Cornell Cooperative Extension. And I also serve currently as the farm manager out at the Suffolk County Farm and Education Center. And I would encourage you to come out to the farm next week. Our kids will be born and or lambs will be born. They're all due and so the place will be alive with new birth.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Any llamas? Any new llamas?

MS. HUBBARD:

No new llamas yet this spring. May, we have one due. So we'll have

another baby llama on the farm. So, I want to extend that invitation to you.

What Tom and I are here to talk with you very briefly about this morning, or this afternoon, is the blue folder which we just handed you. What we'd like to do is propose a new program out at the farm called a Global Village. And what we'd like to do is involve middle school and high school youth in a variety of different kinds of programs that will help them to look at the broader world in which they live. It has a particular emphasis on agriculture which is why we find ourselves in front of you this afternoon. We want young people to understand more about how other people live particularly in other agrarian cultures around the world. And Tom Lyon is a very dedicated, committed volunteer who has been working side by side with us to further develop this program.

What you have in your folder is a description of the program which you can read at your leisure. But I think that you will find the photographs that are included interesting. What we're proposing is to build overtime on a small piece of property at the farm, houses that are representative of various countries. Peru. This one happens to be from Peru and Nicaragua and Thailand on the back page. And it will give young people an opportunity to be emersed in those agrarian cultures. Alongside of those houses are areas for animals that are associated with those cultures and as well as garden plots so that young people can learn about the particular foods that are grown in those countries.

Following that you have some pictures of young people participating in a service project. That's an important component of the program. And then you see them purchasing, using the money which they earned •• money •• not real money •• that they earned doing their service project in the global market so that they're learning something about what food costs in other countries.

And finally you see a picture of one of the educational programs that is offered; gives them a chance to look at the world and the world's resources and the use of natural resources around the world. The bottom line is to help young people look at global issues particularly poverty and issues of hunger.

So, I'm going to let Tom say a few words because this is really something that he has brought to the farm and strongly encouraged us to take a serious look at.

MR. LYON:

Yes. I know it's late. If you were my students by now I'd want to take you outside to the farm and shovel a little manure and wake you up or something. That would be the best thing to do, I guess.

Yeah, we're just here to say hello and tell you this is exciting to me. I didn't know much about 4•H or Cornell or the Suffolk County Farm until two or three years ago. I come to this from a real strong conviction that we have very disconnected young people in Suffolk County for all kinds of reasons. Insulated, privileged; various reasons like that. And they're very hungry to learn about other parts of the world, other parts of Long Island. And that's pretty much the focus of our programming here, just to work on that.

I would just mention one or two things in the packet. It's quite interesting that as we talk about food and all of these issues, I've been a volunteer with HEFRA International for twenty years. And they're very concerned about these issues world wide.

And the very last issue that came out and we left a copy with you is about food democracy. And it's written by a young man named Brian _Holowell_ who lives in Sag Harbor. I thought it was just an amazing coincidence. This is an international magazine. And when this issue came up, they came to somebody on Long Island for help. He also publishes a magazine quarterly called Edible East End. At some point you should probably all speak to him. His issues and the things that he talks about. He talks about how Long Island used to feed half of the United States. And now we can't even feed ourselves. You know, 80% of our food is imported. And there's a lot of those issues. And it's certainly not a black and white issue, but for a lot of young people they're just very confused about where the food comes from, what is good food, what is good eating. Where's the justice in all of this, why are there farm workers that are hurting all over the world.

So they have lots and lots of questions. And sometimes the context •• I think we're trying to take them outside of the box. Two boxes. The box of a classroom environment that they spend so much time in; and the box of just the standard supermarket where young people think, you know, it's kind of a food factory and the food comes from there. So, we're just looking at a larger picture here. We're forming some very interesting coalitions with •• Stony Brook University's interested in bringing some of their freshman orientation students out there. We're working with students for 60,000 in Northport High School who for 15 years have been sending students to Nicaragua and just finding incredible inspiring things as a result of that.

We're working with a council on produce production and the Suffolk County Bias Crimes Task Force. They're interested in programming here that would •• that would discuss some of the issues about why are we so divided in many parts of Long Island. So, there's lots of opportunities. I just see this as an exciting incubator for youth ideas in a global context. And stay tune, we want to have your input and invite you as a piece of the network.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

We will stay tune. It's an exciting project. And I think one of the best learning experiences I ever had was when I went to your hunger task force. And everyone had to eat the type of food in the part of the world where each of us got a coupon. And we spent, I think, four hours there. And if you came from a place that didn't have my food you good to eat nothing. I think I was able to eat rice; just rice for those hours. And then there were people who were lucky and they were from Long Island. And they got lots of good food.

MR. LYON:

Yeah. So it'll be education by process. And I guess the best thing is right now we're not asking you for any money.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

That's always good. Thank you very much. And again I apologize. And we do have to move to the agenda before we lose our quorum.

MR. WILLIAMS:

Thanks very much.

MS. WEISMAN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Oh, I'm sorry. George, is it possible that we could reschedule your presentation? We can't have a presentation with no legislators here. And if you have to leave, I can't ask Mr. Proios to speak to an empty dais. Okay. Is it a brief presentation?

MR. PROIOS:

Five minutes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Five minutes. Okay. George, thank you for graciously volunteering to go and sit with the people who were here. And we don't want to know about it. We don't have time. We do want to know about it, but we don't have time now.

MR. PROIOS:

I apologize for asking you to put it on the agenda so late because it was our oversight. We were going to go after some funding. And one of the requirements we didn't realize was to make an in person presentation to the local Legislative body. And we were told it had to be done before the end of the fiscal year which is tomorrow. So this is just to enable us to get a big thousand dollars but we figured any dollar ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

And, George, although I received your report •• although we received your report, that doesn't satisfy it?

MR. PROIOS:

No, it had to be in person.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay.

MR. PROIOS:

But they didn't specify it had to be a quorum so we're not going to tell them whether there is or isn't. As long as we did it here in person, we're going to send a copy of the minutes and that will suffice. You're getting three items in there. One is just a brief two page overview. I'm not going to really read it. You can read it. I think Water Quality Coordinated Committee, two of your members already know something about us. Dan Losquadro is a member of the board. And I've spent more than enough time with Vivian a few weeks ago so I'm sure she's somewhat brought up to speed.

But for the other members, the state thought that there was a need to have some better coordination on the water quality issues within all the counties and they asked if the soil and water districts •• of all the 58 soil and water counties •• 58 districts •• get together and form these committees which are made up of town representatives, county, village, state, anybody who has a responsibility for dealing on water issues. And periodically we meet and try to provide an exchange of information. And some of the issues in the last couple of years have been obviously focussing on storm water because of the federal and then the state regulations to deal with what they call storm water phase II. And we are in the third year of a five year program so the Suffolk County has two more years before they're going to be required to come into compliance with the phase II requirements.

Some of the projects you'll see here listed under one agricultural non•point source, one of the items in the state EPF fund is a specific amount of money for non•point that's split into two categories. Agriculture non•point and non•agriculture. Only the soil and water district can access the agricultural non•point. And up until this last budget that the state had, we were dependent upon DEC who gets all the money and controls EPF, how much would go to agriculture. Usually they gave the Department of Agriculture more than 50%. In the Governor's budget that just got released this week, he specifically said that 60% of the money, in this case they're putting in over \$12 million, will go to the agricultural portion. So we will have increases available to us to work on agricultural non•point while the other portion is your town highway departments and your Department of Public Works that goes after the non•ag portions of it. And they're doing work on trying to

remediate the storm water run•off that's going into our three estuaries through the various streams in the County.

So, some of the projects I list A through G, or Tom has listed in here, to explain what we have been working on. Item two goes into some of the stuff we're doing with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. What we're trying to do in some of these projects is just prevent ground water and surface water contamination. If you look at any of the projects that Vito Minei has worked heavily on in terms of the estuaries, they have identified storm water run•off as the major culprit. The Long Island Sound did that over 15 years ago, the Peconic Estuary followed several years ago. And then the South Shore Estuary. All identified storm water run•off as a key issue. And that's exactly what soil and water districts are here to do. They were created after the major catastrophe, the dust bowl back in the later 1930's to address Soil and Water erosion that was creating problems.

As part of the work on the South Shore Estuary over the years some of you who have been here have seen the reports that were done. And Tom has included the most recent one which was the Browns Creek, Green Creek prioritization storm water outfalls. There is a series of these books that we've done for many of the streams and creeks in Suffolk County. This is the most recent one. So we asked the print shop to make a number of copies so that you can have one. And just gives you a flavor of the type of issues we're working on in one specific geographical area. What we're trying to do, and one of the things we haven't achieved yet, or I've been trying is to address our problems on a water shed basis.

You may recall when Legislator Ginny Fields was here, she put in the bill to do a pilot project at Beaver Dam Creek to make that sort of a pilot to look at having the county, the town, the state look at addressing storm water run•off on a holistic basis rather than have three separate contracts issued by three separate agencies to deal with different storm water run•off pipes and have them run into each other on the same roads because we're doing work and didn't coordinate our efforts; rather than issuing one RFP to do six or seven outfall pipes simultaneously. We don't have data bases that indicate where all of the land that we own along streams are. So if we wanted to use some of that vacant land that we acquired through tax default over the

years, that we could put in a recharge basin or a settling basin rather than having a direct discharge that currently exists.

At some point DPW gave me a list that we had, I think, 130 some odd direct discharges going into our streams and creeks in the County, which in two years are somehow going to have to be eliminated. So we have a lot of work to do in the next two years.

I've also included a copy of our annual report summary of what we did. This is over a year old now. We are finishing up last year's annual report. We're just proof•reading it now so it should go to the printer probably in the next month or so. And I'll be sure to send you copies of that update. But for those of you who just came on the Legislature, it's the first time I'm sure you're seeing this.

And I think very quickly, you know, I know you're pressed for time but we just wanted to let you know that we're still doing these issues, that we're coordinating with as many people as possible. The Peconic Estuary Program recently had a presentation by a consultant _Horsely Witten_ that actually has been looking at this issue holistically for the Peconic Estuary; and working with the towns and villages and the State Department of Transportation to see how we can eliminate those direct discharge that are causing the worst pollution problems first; and then go and work on the others later on and sending out a prioritization which currently we really don't have in the County. And we'd like to see this done for the South Shore Estuary as well and some of the areas along the north shore. Is there anything you'd like to add?

MR. McMAHON:

I don't think so.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you very much. You've done your ••

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Due diligence.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

•• your due diligence. You've done your presentation.

LEG. ROMAINE:

A quick comment for George. George, if you find time in your schedule, any time, because I know this is very rushed today, and a lot of things that you're talking about are very important, come out at my office, it's at Cornell, you know where it is, have a cup of coffee with me, sit down, I'd like to take some notes particularly about the Peconic Estuary and some other things that you're doing. Thank you.

MR. PROIOS:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

You're right, Ed. This is very important stuff. And we spent hours going over it in my office because it is complex. Thank you. Thank you for coming down. And I notice that you brought the project that took place on Easy Street. If you look inside •• it happened on Easy Street. Thank you very much. Okay. To the agenda.

Presiding Officer Lindsay, I believe **1074 (authorizing acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Save Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund for the Pine property)**, is that the resolution that you said has been withdrawn? Or should it be table subject to call?

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Make it subject to call. I haven't put in a withdrawal.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Tabled subject to call. Second? Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. All in favor? Opposed? **1074 is tabled subject to call. (Vote: 5•0•0 •1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1147 (donation and dedication of certain lands to County Parks, a SCDHS Board of Review Transfer of Development Rights), the County Executive's Office bill, did you still want that tabled? Ben Zwirn? There had

been a request from the County Executive's Office to continue to table that. Have you received the information that you requested? 1147. Did I say the wrong number?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No, you didn't.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I'm sorry, we're all a little tired. That's the donation and dedication of lands to county parks. I believe it was a transfer of development. And there was a problem that you had with an ethical question.

MR. ZWIRN:

Right. We still haven't gotten an answer back. So if we can get it tabled •• I forgot which one it was.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion to table.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Just on the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Oh, please don't make this protractive. We have a long •• just file yours, Dan, please. Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **1147 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1165 (authorizing planning steps for acquisition of One Tower Street property, Huntington Station, Town of Huntington under the Multifaceted Land Preservation Program), I believe the sponsor asked that it be tabled. Motion by Legislator Stern, seconded by •• excuse me. Oh, he wanted it approved. Sorry. Got the message wrong.

LEG. STERN:

There wasn't a second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

There was not a second. Okay. I was wondering why he would have wanted that tabled. Okay. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Stern.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

On the motion Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Is this the same parcel •• I know we have a new member on the committee here. I recall the address. Is this the same parcel that we had discussed last year that Legislator Cooper wanted to do a community health center or something along those lines?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

It's a community center. Can you describe it, please, Mr. Isles?

MR. ISLES:

My understanding is that the current proposal of the property at One Tower Street is to have two uses of the property. One is the community resource center that would have different job counseling services and so forth available that are community services. And then secondly a part of the building •• I think the second floor for an affordable apartment use to be operated by the Town of Huntington, is my understanding.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Good. Affordable Housing. Did you have another question?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes. Would this entire facility be operated by the Town of Huntington or ••

MR. ISLES:

That's my understanding. The current resolution is a planning steps resolution. It's not an authorizing resolution. The two concerns that Planning staff had at the last meeting was that there was no funding source identified for the planning steps for the appraisal. And there was an issue in terms of a binding commitment from the Town of Huntington.

It's my understanding that there's been an amended resolution put forward that does identify a funding source that would seem to take care of that issue. And I did contact the Town of Huntington. And they have indicated an interest, but that would have to be flushed out prior to an authorizing resolution.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Madam Chair, I still remain firm in the belief as I did last year that this is something that should be taken up by the Town. It's not something that the County should be getting involved in. I feel it sets a dangerous precedent. And I'm sure there are a number of properties in all of our districts that have become an eyesore to the community and are a source of problems for those in the neighborhood. And this one happens to be on point 17 acres, but who's to say that we're not going to start seeing bills throughout the County to purchase homes that we feel aren't appropriate or have been a source of problems. I do not think this is the right function for county government. And I think it sets a different precedent. I will not be voting for it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. The County has made a commitment to affordable housing. And if this provides affordable housing, then it is very much in line with the kind of commitment that I feel that we have made.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I don't believe so.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator Lindsay.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

This is planning steps, right?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

I mean, very often when we get into planning steps, when we identify a price, if a price can be identified, the Town comes in and partners with us and stuff like that, right? I mean at this stage, I think it's a little bit early to presume that there won't be any town participation.

MR. ISLES:

I'm not certain what the Town's participation will be other than my discussion with the sponsor because we questions on this as well. I believe it's contemplated there would be a county acquisition and then the Town would take management and maintenance and also improvement of the structure which apparently the Town has put forward in the order of 90 to a \$100,000 already on a lease basis.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

That's my point.

MR. ISLES:

Okay.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Until we get into the deal and find out who's doing what and if it can be acquired or whatever, you know, I think we're pre-judging it.

MR. ISLES:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

There is a motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Note one opposition. The motion carries.

LEG. ROMAINE:

One abstention.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

And one abstention. The Presiding Officer is voting?

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion carries. (**Approved. Vote: 3•1•1•1. Legislator Losquadro opposed. Legislator Romaine Abstained. Legislator D'Amaro absent**)

1167 has been withdrawn.

1171, expanding the incentive program promoting the closure of residential underground fuel tanks and reappropriating funds for the incentive program. Mr. Romaine?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yes. I'd like to move it. I know Mr. Zwirn at the last meeting said he was concerned that this would apply to all above ground tanks including those in basements. And we've amended the legislation so it only deals with above ground tanks that are outdoors that do pose a threat to the environment if they're leaking and provide a \$100 incentive for those who replace the tanks. It's a sound environmental bill. It's limited in scope. And I move it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Mr. Zwirn.

MR. ZWIRN:

The only question, and I appreciate Legislator Romaine amending the bill, is that the County Executive still has questions whether it's necessary. The reason that he proposed the underground tank \$100 incentive to remove them is because you don't know what's going into the groundwater. You don't know if your tank is leaking unless you have an expensive test done. So, this was a small incentive to help people get them out of the ground. When it's above ground and you're leaking oil, you can see it. And today you have an incentive not only for the environment but for the cost of heating oil today at almost \$3 gallon, you're most likely going to replace it on your own without having to be •• you know, the incentive is going to be just to save the money on losing the oil. So, we were just wondering if •• we question the need for this particular bill when you can see the environmental concerns. In the other one clearly it was a hidden danger.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Any other comments?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yes. I would simply say that the oil institutes supports this legislation. They think it's important. Obviously a number of mobile homeowners in the Town of Riverhead and in the eastern towns where they have mobile homes support this legislation. This is a way to ensure that above ground tanks that not always can be detected until it's too late that there's an oil leak can be replaced. And this is a very small incentive that is very limited in scope, applies to a very few people. And I think would be a worthwhile incentive to take up. I'm certainly moving it.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. There's a motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries. **(Vote: 5 • 0 • 0 • 1. Leg. D'Amato not present)**

1172, authorizing planning steps for the acquisition of land under

the New Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program. This is the one that we had said was duplicative, Mr. Isles?

MR. ISLES:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion to table subject to call.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Madam Chairman, if I could ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I just need to have a second and then we'll talk on the motion. Is there a second?

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Second by Legislator Stern. Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yes. Last Friday, Supervisor Foley called me. I wanted to amend. I was going to table the bill because the Town will now participate with me in this resolution. And we're going to amend the bill. And should time allow at our next meeting, I definitely want to review this and some of the testimony of Real Estate at our next meeting so we could go into detail. I know that we're pressed for time now so I'm not going to do that. But clearly there's been some mis•information for this committee. And at the right time I think we will bring forward that mis•information. But in any event I think tabling it would probably be the best solution considering the late hour. And we intend to amend it. I mean if you table it subject to call, I'll simply introduce the amended version that I will with counsel ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Would you like to make a motion to table, Legislator Romaine?

LEG. ROMAINE:

I'll make a motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. Motion carries. All in favor? Opposed?
1172 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)

1202, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed acquisition of land for open space preservation purposes known as the sanford Pines property.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

I'll make a motion to table subject to call. That will be withdrawn.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I'll second that motion. All in favor? Opposed? **1202 is tabled subject to call. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1219, a Charter Law to amend the membership of the Council on Environmental Quality. We need a motion.

LEG. STERN:

I make a motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion by Legislator Stern. Would somebody like to •• I can't •• I don't want to second it because my name is •• because it involves me.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

I would second it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. All in favor? Opposed? I'll abstain or recuse, however. Okay. **(1219 approved. Vote: 4•0•1•1. Legislator Viloria • Fisher abstains. Legislator D'Amaro not present)**

1220 authorizing planning steps for acquisition under Suffolk County Save Open Space Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund Governale property, Town of Brookhaven. And this is again one that we have had planning steps for previous to this. I'll make a motion to table subject to call.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Again ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

That's another amendment with the Town of Brookhaven?

LEG. ROMAINE:

That's right. The Supervisor called me. He's very interested in acquiring that. And again ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Wow, he's calling you more than he calls me.

MR. ZWIRN:

Well, he was in favor of it because he voted on the first planning steps resolution. He's very familiar with the property. I think he sponsored that. I think he sponsored the first ••

LEG. ROMAINE:

I'll just make two points. One, Counsel said that with a different funding source there really should be a different resolution. But now that the Town is progressing with this, there really has to be a different resolution. And, two, at our next meeting I'd like to go into some detail about the mis
•information and ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. You stated that. We do need to press on. Motion to table, a second by Legislator Losquadro. All in favor? Opposed? **1220 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1225, approving Master List IV. And tell me Supervisor Foley has called

you about Master List IV?

LEG. ROMAINE:

No, because this deals with the Town of Southold and Riverhead. We just received correspondence from Tom Isles that some of the list that was provided by the North Fork Environmental Council has some planning steps; plus we received requests from other environmental groups about parcels that we will be adding to the list where there are no planning steps. So we're going to be amending this resolution. I had would ask it be tabled until ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

That's a tabling motion. Okay. Good.

MR. ZWIRN:

Madam Chair, may I ask, has this gone to the Farmland Committee?

LEG. ROMAINE:

It's another reason to table it. It will be sent there. When the finished resolution •• when the resolution is in its finished form.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Seconded by the Chair. All in favor? Opposed? **1225 is tabled.**
(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)

1236, authorizing planning steps for acquisition under Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program, Land Preservation Partnership for the Rocky Point CGA, Demetris property.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Before I make a motion I just want to confirm this is the property the Town of Brookhaven just closed on; correct.

MR. ISLES:

It is.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to table subject to call.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Legislator Losquadro. Seconded by the Chair. All in favor? Opposed? **1236 is tabled subject to call. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

1279, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed Rabies Oral Immunization Programs, Towns of Babylon, Brookhaven, Huntington, Islip and Smithtown. Motion by Legislator Romaine, seconded by Legislator Losquadro. All in favor? Opposed? Approved.

(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present) That motion is to approve and place on the consent calendar. And we'll be doing a same motion, same second on **1280, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed acquisition of land for open space preservation purposes known as Great Pond.**

LEG. ROMAINE:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Well, we're doing the same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved and placed on the consent calendar. Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1281 making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed acquisition of a conservation easement of five acres of land known as the Sans Souci Lakes, County Park addition, Loughlin property, Town of Islip. Same motion, same second, same vote. **(1281 approved and put on the consent calendar. Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg.**

D'Amaro not present)

1282, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed acquisition of land for open space preservation purposes known as the Forge River County Park addition, Godzieba property, Town of Brookhaven. Same motion, same second, same vote. (1282 approved and put on the consent calendar. Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)

1283, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed acquisition of land for open space preservation purposes known as the Champlin Creek addition, Cacoperdo property, Town of Islip. Same motion, same second, same vote. We wanted to watch that and not get into any kind of •• never mind. (1283 approved and put on the consent calendar. Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)

1284, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed acquisition of land for open space preservation purposes known as the Forge River County Park addition, Rikidjiian property, Town of Brookhaven. Same motion, same second, same vote. (1284 approved and put on the consent calendar. Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)

1285, making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed acquisition of land for open space preservation purposes known as the Forge River County Park addition, Dovale property, Town of Brookhaven. Same motion, same second, same vote. (1285 approved and put on the consent calendar. Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)

1288. This is different. Creating a homestead A•Syst Task Force to minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers through a County•wide Education Program. I have spoken with Legislator Schneiderman and Mike Deering about •• talking about this so I'm going to make a motion to table for one cycle.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. And I would ask all of you to take a close look at this so that you can give me feed back on it as I talk about it with Legislator Schneiderman and with Mike Deering.

We took care of **1323**.

1338, authorizing certain technical correction to adopted resolution number 47 • 2006. Explanation by •• yes. Sorry, I didn't take a vote on **1288**. There's a motion to table and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **(1288 is tabled. Vote: 5 • 0 • 0 • 1. Leg. D'Amato not present)** Thank you very much, Debbie.

1338, we're waiting for an explanation.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Does this just add an additional parcel; is that correct?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion by Legislator Losquadro, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **1338 is approved. (Vote: 5 • 0 • 0 • 1. Leg. D'Amato not present)**

1339, 1340, 1341 have all been taken care of.

1347, donation and dedication of certain lands to county parks, Board of Review •• wait a minute. Is this •• this is a different one.

MS. FISCHER:

This is a new different TDR proposal. It's properties in the Town of Brookhaven. The sending property is a piece •• a small piece in Miller Place Yaphank Road Nature Preserve area of which we own approximately 95% of

the lots. The receiving site is in Mastic to the south. This has been approved by the Board of Review •• Health Department Board of Review. And we are requesting to accept the donation of this property into the County parks system.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

And so it continues that conservation area that ••

MS. FISCHER:

Correct. It's to be sterilized ••

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator Losquadro ••

MS. FISCHER:

•• and to be left in its natural state.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. I just wanted to ask one more question before we •• and what is the receiving site going to be used for?

MS. FISCHER:

I believe it's residential use. I can just check. If you have a second, I can just verify that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

We'll just trust your memory.

MS. FISCHER:

I don't have it written specifically here but as it's written I believe it's for residential use. But I can verify that and get back to you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Thank you. We'll be voting on it on Tuesday. Motion by Legislator

Losquadro, seconded by Legislator Romaine. No. Okay. I'll make a motion for the purpose of continuing the discussion. Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Right. First of all this is on Montauk Highway in Mastic. This site is probably zoned commercial, probably J 2. It's right next to the Ambulance •• the Mastic Ambulance site right across from the Memorial for the Mastic Fire Department. This is a commercial site. I did not see this being used as residential at all unless you have other information. It appears to me that this is •• from my knowledge of the area which is extensive •• that this is a commercial site.

MR. ISLES:

Okay. We'll verify exactly what the use is. The matter that's before the Legislature is the acceptance of the donation of the sending parcel. The Board of Review acts on the actual development of the receiving site. So, we don't have information. We will get it to you in terms of what the receiving site is. But here again your job in terms of the Legislature is to decide whether to accept the piece in Miller Place or not. But we'll furnish that to you before Tuesday.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I understand. Thank you. In writing, please.

MR. ISLES:

Sure.

MS. FISCHER:

Actually we'll ask the Health Department Board of Revenue to send that to you.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Thank you.

MS. FISCHER:

It's their information. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

There's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Abstention.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Note the abstention. **1347 is approved. (Vote: 4•0•1•1. Leg. Romaine Abstained. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1352 (appointing member to the Suffolk County Water Authority James T.B. Tripp)

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to table.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion to table by the sponsor, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed?
1352 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)

And just to put it on the record, I did speak for Mr. Tripp who told me that he would be in Washington today. And that's why he did not appear. He wanted to make sure that it was clear that there was no disrespect.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That's fine. And in light of the fact that Mr. Halpin moved today, I'll just make the motion to table in the eventuality that for some reason Mr. Halpin didn't pass before the full body, this would still remain active. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you. **1354, a local to require sufficient notice of Planning Commission referrals and meetings.** Tabled for public hearing. Motion by Legislator Stern, second by myself. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

We have done the reappointment to the County Planning Commissions. I'm sorry. 1354. There's a tabling motion. All in favor? Opposed? 1354 is

tabled for public hearing.

1358 has been acted upon.

1371, authorizing acquisition of land under the New Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program Open Space Component, Ensley property, Sagaponack Greenbelt, Town of Southampton. Is there a motion?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion by Legislator Losquadro, second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **1371 is approved? (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1372, authorizing acquisition of land under the Suffolk County SOS Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund Open Space Component, Godzieba property, Forge River Watershed. Motion?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll make the motion. And just confirm this is a 50/50 partnership with the town; is that correct?

MR. ISLES:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. Make the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion by Legislator Losquadro, seconded by myself. All in favor? Oppose? **1372 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1373, authorizing the acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Save Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund,

Open Space Component, McLaughlin property, Forge River watershed. Motion by Legislator Losquadro, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? **1373 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amato not present)**

1374, authorizing the acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Save Open Space, Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund, Open Space Component, Rakidjiian property, Forge River Watershed. Motion by Legislator Losquadro, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? **1374 is approved.** Congratulations. It looks like we're really getting that watershed protected. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amato not present)**

1375, authorizing acquisition of land under the first (1987, as amended 1996) Quarter Percent Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, estate of Peter A. Cacoperdo, Champlin Creek addition. Did you want to say anything about this or ••

MR. ISLES:

This is continued acquisition along Champlin Creek which the County has significant ownership in. This particular parcel is relatively small. It's a little less than an acre, about point 65 of an acre. It is one that has been approved for planning steps. It was •• and Real Estate has completed the appraisal process. It was one of the parcels on Master List One. It has also been recommended by the Environmental Trust Review Board.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Thank you, Tom. Mr. Presiding Officer, would you like to make a motion on this? It's in Islip.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Motion by Legislator Lindsay, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor?

Opposed? **1375 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1376, authorizing acquisition of land under the Suffolk County Save Open Space Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund Open Space Component for the Zanghi property, Orowoc Creek addition.

And you've just handed out information on this, Ms. Fischer?

MS. FISCHER:

That was the previous one, Champlin Creek.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Okay.

MR. ISLES:

This one is Orowoc Creek. This is along the north side of Sunrise Highway in the Orowoc Creek watershed in the hamlet of Islip, the vicinity of Brook Avenue. The parcel is a little over a half of an acre in size. As is standard Real Estate has completed the appraisal, the review process as well as the Environmental Trust Review Board. It is on Master List One and is consistent with the objectives of that plan.

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

I'll make the motion.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Thank you. Motion by Legislator Lindsay, seconded by Legislator Stern all in favor? Opposed? **1376 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1377, authorizing planning steps for acquisition under Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program Open Space Component Aspatuck Creek, Town of Southampton.

MR. ISLES:

We also have an aerial photograph on this that will be coming around to you in a moment. Aspatuck Creek is located just south of Gabreski Airport in

Westhampton Beach in Quogue and in the Town of Southampton. The parcel itself is about 50 acres of land involving about 48 properties. A significant parcel in two regards. One is there are wetlands directly on the parcel itself Aspatuck Creek which extends north of the property as well as being buffer lands serving as the watershed to Aspatuck Creek. The parcel's also within the flight path of Gabreski Airport so there's an added reason for consideration of this parcel in terms of future protection of the airport operations. The matter before you is a planning steps resolution only.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Would our east end Legislator like to make the motion?

LEG. ROMAINE:

So moved.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Seconded by Legislator Losquadro. All in favor? Opposed? **1377 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1381 was approved earlier.

1389, authorizing planning steps for acquisition under the Suffolk County Save Open Space Farmland Preservation and Hamlet Parks Fund, Pipe Stave Hollow property, Town of Brookhaven.

MR. ISLES:

This is a parcel •• four parcels that total about seven and a half acres located in Mt. Sinai at the intersection of State Route 25 and Pipe Stave Hollow Road. It's in the vicinity of what used to be the Davis Peach Farm which is basically across the street on the south end of this property as a locational reference.

We did look at this in terms of the SOS Open Space Component as indicated in the resolution. What we provided to you is an aerial photograph which indicates the parcels in red. We've also provided to you is a preliminary completion of a rating form. And we find the parcel is being, you know, interesting in terms of its open space aspects in an area that's intensely

developed especially with the commercial development going to the east.

However, in terms of the criteria for the County's programs, at this point in time the information we have is •• it comes in about 11 out of a hundred. And typically 25 is the normal consideration for a county planning steps resolution.

There is a town park which is a little bit •• very close to this property actually that's outlined in blue. This might perhaps be a more appropriate town acquisition. But if you have any questions on our ratings, certainly we'll do our best to answer those.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Madam Chair, if I may.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

It is in close proximity to the town park, again, which I know is something the, you know, the initial rating is not very high; but I think there are a couple of interesting factors here. Running down the middle of this which ordinarily you would think to be a detriment is the LIPA right • of • way. But I've been in discussion recently with Department of Public Works regarding the Rails to Trails project and trying to get them to move that project forward. If that project were to occur, that would give us a clear destination and a clear path through here to connect these parks. I think it's something that we should look. It is approximately nine acres. And I certainly think because of those factors it's worthy of planning steps.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

As I look at this, Legislator Losquadro, and I'm posing this question to you and also to Mr. Isles, I think an active use for this piece might be appropriate, maybe a hamlet park or something that would have some kind of active use particularly because of the town park nearby and perhaps a

partnership with the Town for active use.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Certainly.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. Does a planning steps that you have before you preclude looking at it for looking for hamlet parks or ••

MR. ISLES:

The planning steps is under SOS. And we understand it to be under Open Space Component of that. You know, there wouldn't be an objection from an environmental standpoint. It's not wetlands, it's not a special groundwater protection area. I'd have to defer to Counsel in terms of whether or not the resolution would allow us to do an appraisal for the purpose of an active recreation or not. But that's not something we've looked at. It's certainly something we can look at in terms of the use.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Because SOS does have the hamlet park component which is recreation ••

MR. ISLES:

Yes, it does. Yes, it does.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I was just going to add, we could change the funding source provided we had a willing seller. I don't think that would be a problem, would it Counsel, being that it's in the same program.

MR. NOLAN:

I think you could proceed with the planning steps; with the resolution the way it is now.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. As I said motion to approve.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Particularly when we see the low rating, I think for preservation I think an active piece would be more appropriate there. **(1389 approved. Vote: 5•0•0•1.**

Leg. D'Amaro not present)

(1390) authorizing planning steps for acquisition under Suffolk County Multifaceted Land Preservation Program, Treemont Avenue.

I thought that was in the Bronx. **Town of Brookhaven.**

MR. ISLES:

Madam Chairman, there is an aerial photograph and a rating sheet going around on this one as well. This is proposed under the Multifaceted Program for parkland purposes. It is a parcel located in Medford in the Town of Brookhaven along the east side of State Route 112. It's 2.2 acres of land. It's a triangular shaped parcel that's outlined in the red link on the map. We have done a rating under the active part of the County's parkland program. And the rating wasn't bad. It was 23 out of 25.

I will point out that Planning Department does have a number of issues with this in terms of obviously this site is developed. I did put a call into the sponsor, but he and I have not connected up at this point as to what his intentions are. So we have very little information at this point to really guide you terms of what's being proposed here, what's going to happen to the existing buildings. We feel at this point that this is very questionable as to whether this would fit into a county program. But here again I haven't been able to connect up the sponsor to find out more specifically what he has in mind. And if there's a partnership or anything like that that's possible.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

What are the dwellings or structures on the site? It looks •• the bottom portion of the site which obviously occupies the bulk of the land has the structures on it. Do you know what they are?

MR. ISLES:

I understand that they're commercial structures like older commercial stores or something like that. I don't believe it's a residence from what I know.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

No, not that I can recall because those are obviously •• we were just looking at it. Those are the car dealerships across the street on Route 112 there. I would make •• Madam Chair, make a motion to table until •• I'm planning to consult with the sponsor.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I'll second that. I'll second that. I'd like a clearer view of what the intent is here. Thank you. Motion to table. I'm seconding that. All in favor? Opposed? **1390 is tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1401, Greenways Fund Program for active recreational purposes of the Lewis Oliver property, Town of Huntington, Village of Northport.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Is that planning steps?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I have to look.

MR. ISLES:

Members of the committee, this is a parcel as indicated at the call of the meeting to be property located in the Incorporated Village of Northport. An aerial photograph and rating sheet is being provided to you. It's a little bit difficult to read, but the subject resolution would involve all the parcels outlined in green which consist of a small farm or farmette type of piece. Lewis Oliver Dairy at one time was a ••

MS. FISCHER:

Farmette?

PRESIDING OFFICER LINDSAY:

Never heard of a farmette.

MR. ISLES:

Maybe that's too Madison Avenue or something.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Garden.

MR. ISLES:

Okay, let's scratch that from the record.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

A large garden.

MR. ISLES:

By the way, this did go to the Farm Committee twice and they turned it down twice so we'll strike that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Hence farmettes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I think mainly because you didn't send it to the Farmette Committee.

MS. FISCHER:

We'll have to create one.

MR. ISLES:

So at one point this was part of a much larger farm, a dairy, that has since been since reduced in size and development around it. What exists now in this property on the north end with the three parcels that are indicated is a pasture area. There are horses and chickens and so forth there. Going further to the south there is a large barn structure and farm buildings. This now operates as a private parcel that offers educational, you know, school kids come through it; a petting zoo and so forth.

What is proposed then in this planning steps resolution is a consideration of an acquisition for recreational park purposes. The discussion has involved both the Town of Huntington as well as the Village of Northport. And what is being contemplated in terms of this is that this certainly wouldn't fit into what I believe would be a county park use, but possibly some sort of joint acquisition with the Town of Huntington. And then operation and management by the Incorporated Village of Northport.

We did do a rating as you can see in the attached. And we rated it about 51 points based on the information we have at this time. And planning would support this at this point in terms of at least getting a planning steps resolution given the interest of the Town of Huntington and the Village of Northport.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Let me try to start again. Farmette threw me, I guess, and the time of the day. Is the Town planning to do some agri•educational kind of program here or continuing with any of the current use of this or completely raise it and do a different type of ••

MR. ISLES:

No. The intent is to continue essentially what's been happening. There's a local not•for•profit group that operates this facility. They want to stay in the picture and continue to offer educational programs. And it's a •• it has a lot of symbolic value, I think, to the community that this is their last vestige of what it used to be. It has historical significance. So in the discussions that I've been involved in with both the Town and the village, the intent is to preserve what's here. As you can see, there's some storage of trucks on the south end of the property. That would be cleaned up. They talked about doing community gardens that would be made available on that south end. So, those are the ideas that are being considered that would maintain principally the existing use and provide enhancements to that.

MS. FISCHER:

And a playground.

MR. ISLES:

And a playground by the way.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

I'll make a motion to approve. Second?

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Legislator Stern. All in favor?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Could I ask a question?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. We're in the middle of a vote, though. I'm sorry. I thought you were voting before. Are you opposed then?

LEG. ROMAINE:

I would like to get some answers.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Counsel, in the middle of a vote can we stop?

MR. NOLAN:

We can hold the vote. He can ask his questions.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay, we'll hold the vote.

LEG. ROMAINE:

My quick question, which I tried to get recognition for, was would we normally adopt a planning step resolution if we don't intend to operate this property, if either the Village or the Township does and we don't have a letter of at least interest from either of those municipalities? Is that kind of unusual to go ahead to do a planning steps for a piece of property that we will never exercise stewardship over?

MR. ISLES:

I think in the case of hamlet parks or active parks we try to work out mutual arrangements with municipalities. So, I don't think that in itself is unusual. So in terms of a planning steps, from the Planning Department's perspective, we at least want to have some understanding what the plan is; and to have some at least reasonable belief that there's going to be participation by partners. In the case of the resolution at Treemont at 112, I'm not sure what it is. I'm not sure if there's any partner arrangement. The sponsor may well know that, but I certainly don't feel I can represent on behalf of County Planning that there's at least some thought to a plan that can come into effect. Here I feel comfortable that there is.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Do you have information that both of the Village and/or the Township will participate in this?

MR. ISLES:

Yes.

MS. LONGO:

The Town passed a planning steps resolution.

MR. ISLES:

That's true. Good point.

MS. LONGO

Including the County as a partner.

MR. ISLES:

Janet just put on record that the Town of Huntington actually passed a resolution supporting this.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Oh, they did. Okay. That's what I was looking for. Thank you very much.

MR. ISLES:

I neglected putting that out. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

There's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstain? **1401 is approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

1402 (approving the reappointment of John Caracciolo, as a member of the Suffolk County Planning Commission) We took care of that.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Did we do that?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

John Caracciolo, yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

We did?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I must have been out of the room.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

You might have been out of the room. Because I didn't realize he was here because it was a reappointment.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I might have been out of the room.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

You might have been out of the room because I didn't realize he was here when Counsel and I went over the appointments to try to get everybody who was here. Okay. Good.

CEQ RESOLUTIONS

CEQ resolutions. Is Jim Bagg •• he is here. Thank you, Mr. Isles, thank you, Ms. Fischer. Thank you, Ms. Longo. Is she still here?

MR. BAGG:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Good evening.

MR. BAGG:

Do you want me to just start and go through them?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes, please.

MR. BAGG:

Okay. CEQ resolution **18•06 is the Council's recommendation with regard to the resolutions laid to the table for March 14, 2006; what they recommended for Type II Actions.** It's pretty pro forma.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Motion to approved by Legislator Stern, seconded by myself. All in favor? Opposed? **18•06 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

19•06.

MR. BAGG:

19•06, the proposed donation of property to Suffolk County Parks for SCDHS transfer of development rights requirement, file #R02•03•0866 and 0867 in the Town of Brookhaven. This is again a donation of property to fulfill the Department of Health Services transfer of development rights credits. Council recommends that the donation is an unlisted action

with a negative declaration.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

MR. BAGG:

20•06 is the proposed donation of property to the Suffolk County Parks for Suffolk County transfer of Development Rights, file # CO2•02•0138, Town of Brookhaven. Council recommends an unlisted action, negative declaration. And this is the same as your resolution number 1347.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

1347, yes.

MR. BAGG:

Which I believe you approved.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Yes.

MR. BAGG:

And that contains the clauses for a negative declaration.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

It contained the SEQRA. So we don't have to vote on this one.

MR. BAGG:

Yes. So it would be redundant to pass another SEQRA.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. The previous one was for 1247, I believe.

MR. BAGG:

All right. **21•06 is the proposed acquisition of property for Open Space Preservation known as the Sagaponack Greenbelt County Park addition, Ensley property in the Town of Southampton.** Council recommends an unlisted negative declaration. And I believe that was part of your resolution number 1371 or 1271?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Yes.

MR. BAGG:

So that SEQRA clause is contained in that resolution.

22•06 is the proposed acquisition of property for Open Space Preservation known as the Orowoc Creek County Park addition, Zanghi property, Town of Islip. Council recommends an unlisted action negative declaration. And that was also covered in resolution number 1376 that you previously approved.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Correct.

MR. BAGG:

23•06, proposed safety and sanitary improvements, CP #8103 and improvements to treatment facility, CP #8163, Sewer District # 9, College Park, Farmingville, Town of Brookhaven.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Jim, I'm just going to correct something that you said because I think it's important in a SEQRA •• in a CEQ resolution. I have proposed safety and security improvements. Not sanitary improvements.

MR. BAGG:

Safety and security improvements, correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

All right.

MR. BAGG:

Council recommends an unlisted action negative declaration for that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Approved. Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

24•06, proposed safety and security improvements to sewer district #15, Nob Hill, Ronkonkoma, CP #8103, Town of Islip. Council recommends and unlisted action, negative declaration.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

MR. BAGG:

CEQ resolution number 25•06, proposed safety and security improvements to sewer district #28, Fairfield at St. James, CP #8103, Town of Smithtown. Council recommends unlisted action negative declaration.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

That was just a fence, wasn't it, Jim?

MR. BAGG:

This project involves the paving of a 4,706 square foot area and relocation of a fence area to improve sludge withdrawal as well as the replacing of landscape trees in the area.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Yeah, I thought that was where the truck had to come in?

MR. BAGG:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. They had to move the fence.

MR. BAGG:

Improves the safety in terms of the operation of the plant.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Okay. Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

MR. BAGG:

Resolution number 26•06, proposed improvements to treatment facility at sewer district #23, Coventry Manor, CP # 8149, Town of Brookhaven. Council recommends an unlisted action negative declaration.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

MR. BAGG:

Resolution number 27•06 is the proposed Southwest Grit Improvement to Sewer District #3, CP #8170, Town of Babylon. Council recommends an unlisted action negative declaration.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

MR. BAGG:

Resolution 28•06, proposed Southwest infiltration/inflow study and sewer rehabilitation to sewer district #3, CP # 8181, Town of Babylon. Council recommends it's a Type II action because it's a study of inflow potential to the sewer district.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **(Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

MR. BAGG:

CEQ resolution number 29•06, proposed installing/constructing a full public safety 800 MHz radio communications site, Rocky Point, Town of Brookhaven. Council recommends an unlisted action negative declaration.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

I'll second that. All in favor? Opposed? **29•06 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (Vote: 5•0•0•1. Leg. D'Amaro not present)**

That concludes our business. If there is anyone here who wishes say anything, save it.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

That was good.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Don't even think about it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA•FISHER:

We stand adjourn.

(THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 6:13 PM)

DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY