

DATE

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**MINUTES**

A meeting of the Environment, Planning & 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 July 17, 2014.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Kara Hahn, Chairperson  
Leg. Al Krupski, Vice Chair  
Leg. Sarah S. Anker  
Leg. Thomas F. Barraga  
Leg. Thomas Muratore

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, 15th Legislative District  
Legislator Robert Trotta, 13th Legislative District  
George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature  
Lora Gellerstein, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Dennis Brown, County Attorney  
Jon Schneider, Deputy County Executive  
Tom Vaughn, County Executive's Office  
Lisa Santaramo, County Executive's Office  
Robert Lipp, Director/Budget Review Office  
Sarah Lansdale, Director/Department of Planning  
Walter Dawydiak, Environmental Quality, Health Department  
Michael Jensen, Environmental Quality, Health Department  
Alyssa Turano, Aide to Leg. Hahn  
Michael Pitcher, Aide to Presiding Officer  
Amy Ellis, Aide to Leg. Anker  
Bob Martinez, Aide to Leg. Muratore  
Michael Kaufman, CEQ  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern  
Eva Greguski, Aide to Leg. Calarco  
Brendan Chamberlain, Aide to Leg. Muratore  
Rachel Sceifo, Esq.  
Bob DeLuca, President/Group for the East End  
Kevin McDonald, Nature Conservancy  
Michael J. Finland  
Vincent Pizzulli  
Adrienne Esposito, Citizens Campaign for the Environment  
Ali Nazir, Aide to Leg. Kennedy  
Catherine Stark, Aide to Leg. Krupski  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer  
Transcribed by: Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer  
Proofed by: AnneMarie Farrell, Legislative Aide

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:20 PM**

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Everyone, welcome to the Legislature's Environment, Planning & Agriculture Committee. All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Krupski.

**SALUTATION**

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Thank you. We have the Public Portion. Our first card and speaker is Rachel Sceifo.

**MS. SCEIFO:**

Sceifo.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Sorry.

**MS. SCEIFO:**

That's okay.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And followed by Bob DeLuca. And you have three minutes. Rachel, welcome.

**MS. SCEIFO:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

You may have to -- make sure that the green light is on.

**MS. SCEIFO:**

Thank you. Rachel Sceifo, Farrell, Frtiz, PC, 100 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, New York, here with respect to the pending application of Pal-O-Mine Equestrian, Inc. We are withdrawing that application. And I have a formal letter of withdrawal which I'd like to submit to the Board -- the Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So, just a quick question. So you're withdrawing an application for it to be in the Agricultural District so you don't need the passage of our bill, is what you're saying?

**MS. SCEIFO:**

That's correct; that application is being withdrawn.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Got it. Thank you. Any questions? No? Thank you very much.

**MS. SCEIFO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Next speaker, Bob DeLuca.

**MR. DE LUCA:**

Thank you. Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members of the Committee. My name is Bob DeLuca

and I serve as President of Group of the East End. I'm here today to support IR 1575, which is the Enhanced Drinking Water Protection Program resolution and ask for your vote to discharge with recommendation for approval to the full Legislature.

I've spoken to the full Legislature before but just very briefly. This enhanced program resolves and strengthens the role of the electorate and authorizes changes to the Drinking Water Protection Program. It restores prior funds that were redirected to general obligation spending without voter approval; directs those funds to land and water quality protection efforts that advance the goals of the program. It also ratifies the Wastewater Infrastructure Fund and establishes a short and defined period of general obligation borrowing subject to voter authorization with a defined payback period.

And I know there have been some questions previously about whether or not this in any way interferes with other conservation efforts. And we do not see this as precluding any other efforts to create new or enhanced protection funds down the line. But in any case I just want to lend our continued support. I'm certainly available to answer any questions you may have.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

I have a question.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Trotta has a question.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Would you prefer a bond that reinstated the entire Quarter Percent into open space purchases for sewer stabilization and for expanding the sewer districts over this one?

**MR. DE LUCA:**

No. I think there's a defined need to fix what we perceive to have been broken with this particular program, which was the -- essentially the redirection of funds without voter approval. I think we need to get this program on track. And we're certainly very willing and interested to talk about any future programs. But I think this program has enough complexity to it that it needs to be restored and resolved prior to doing something else.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

What organization are you from?

**MR. DE LUCA:**

Group for the East End.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

So you're an environmental group safe to say?

**MR. DE LUCA:**

Yes. Uh-huh.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

So what you're telling me is you would prefer to have, probably the way I look at this, about \$60 million taken out, put into the General Fund; as opposed to having 75 million put in every year to drinking water, open space and sewer stabilization?

**MR. DE LUCA:**

No, they're not mutually exclusive. I think that basically you have a program here which has been running since 1987, which I've been involved in since that time. And we have an obligation to shepherd and steward that program to restore it to what it's supposed to be. Future programs, borrowing, obligations, ideas that the Legislature have, those are terrific. But you can't not resolve this issue first, because it's hanging out there. And this has been a problem for us for many years. This resolves that problem of borrowing without asking; paying the money back that was borrowed; and essentially directing some additional funds that were not really anticipated early on in the ASRF to programs where they're needed now. So I think it's actually --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I just want to clarify this. You're from an environmental organization. And I'm essentially offering you the ability to vote on something that would put \$75 million into the hands of environmentalists, expanding sewer systems, buying open space. And you would prefer taking 20 million and letting the County borrow 60 or \$70 million --

**MR. DE LUCA:**

Maybe I should clarify --

**LEG. TROTТА:**

-- out of that fund.

**MR. DE LUCA:**

Maybe I should clarify. What I am supporting is a resolution that requires the voters of Suffolk County to restore the Drinking Water Protection Program and to have control over changes to that program at any time now and into the future. That's been a controversial problem with this program, which is the first order of business.

Second order of business is if there's any other proposals or initiatives that any Legislator wants to put forward, of course, we would look at those. And based on what they look like, we would be willing to support them if they were good programs. But you can't -- I don't think it makes sense to not resolve the issues related to this program before you go down a path of opening up another door to do something else. This problem still exists for us.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Okay.

**MR. DE LUCA:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you, Mr. DeLuca. Anyone else? Okay. Kevin McDonald, followed by Michael Finland.

**MR. McDONALD:**

Good afternoon, Madam Chairwoman and members of the Committee. I'm Kevin McDonald. I serve as Director of Public Policy and Public Finance for the Nature Conservancy on Long Island. I have two quick items.

One is on reso 1588, appropriating funds in connection with the Peconic Estuary Program. I'm here. I chair the CAC so I would hope that you'll move expeditiously on that.

And then on the second issue, which is why I'm here also, is to support on behalf of the Nature Conservancy on Long Island Resolution 1575, many of the same reasons Bob DeLuca just outlined. This resolves a host of issues that all need to be resolved and can be resolved. It's a -- it's an agreement among a number of issues that, if gets resolved, bundle this whole issue up very nicely, I

think. It's better for water quality. It's better for clarity to the public on when the use of the fund going forward can be solely administered by the Legislature; or when they have to go back and ask the public. We think that's really important. And would hope that you'll discharge with this a recommendation for approval. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Any questions? Okay. Thank you. Michael Finland followed by Vincent Pizzulli.

**MR. FINLAND:**

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Michael Finland. And I'm the Executive Vice President from Suffolk County AME. I'm here on behalf of our President Dan Farrell regarding the previously discussed referendum on the 2014 ballot that would improve water quality and provide Suffolk County flexibility to meet its budgetary obligations while remaining within the tax cap.

As a labor union with over 6,000 active members and 2000 retired members, we want to make sure that Suffolk County has a balanced budget. This referendum would be a prudent way to lead us toward attaining a balanced budget. Amongst the salient features of the referendum, it would ask voters to authorize a new \$29.4 million water quality bonding program in the 2016 through 2018 Capital Budget, which would in essence pay back funds which would be taken out of the Assessment Reserve Fund ASRF, which funds the General Fund in 2011 through 2013. And also in the contrast by working together with the environmental community, we're allowing Suffolk County voters the opportunity to support the resources to improve water quality, provide budgetary flexibility and move forward together to secure the resources we need for water quality.

My principal concern as a labor official is to ensure continuity, our governmental operations, and to look out for the best interest of my members. This referendum would be a means by which we would essentially be on better economic -- be on a better economic pathway and as someone who is keenly interested in the advancement of environmental endeavors, as well. I would hope that this referendum would move forward. I thank you for your time.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Next we have Vincent Pizzulli. Welcome.

**MR. PIZZULLI:**

Thank you for getting that right, too.

Good afternoon. Vincent Pizzulli, Special Counsel to the Village of Islandia. I just want to forego the rest of my time and simply end this by thanking you for your patience and cooperation in regard to the Ag District application. We thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you very much. Any questions? We have one more card. Adrienne Esposito.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Good afternoon, members of the Legislature. My name is Adrienne Esposito. I'm the Executive Director of another environmental group, Citizens Campaign for the Environment. We're a statewide group with 80,000 members; 40,000 of which reside here on Long Island. We also are in strong support of the IR in front of you today for a number of reasons.

And, you know in short, this fix does what needs to be done: It restores public confidence in the Drinking Water Program; it restores public confidence in government to do what they committed to do when they first passed the resolution; it restores some money in land preservation; it restores \$4.7 million into the water quality component; it keeps the Legislature's and the public's commitment on the four sewage programs including Bergen Point, Patchogue, Riverhead as well as Northport with promises we've already made, that also will be kept.

But what it also does, which you gotta love, is that it allows for some level of continued borrowing to the year 2017 with zero percent interest. So it eases the financial challenges associated with the County's budget. And it allows for the hardworking men and women of Suffolk County to not have payroll lag. This is a great deal that it took months and months and months to craft and to come to conclusion for. So we strongly need your support. We need for everyone. It's a bipartisan -- a bipartisan agreement that gets the job done for the people of Suffolk County.

So with regard to opening up a new program, we will be in your office and figure out what that is. But we can't not fix the old program. So you can't run a marathon without doing training. We need to fix this program first and then move forth together. Thank you very much.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I have a question.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

I sensed you might.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

I didn't mean a new program.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Oh.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

What I meant was taking in round numbers the \$75 million that is collected every single year from this Quarter Cent sales tax. Twenty-five million already goes to stabilize the tax.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Tax stabilization fund.

**LEG. TROTТА:**

Exactly. Twenty-five million approximately -- these were round numbers -- goes to buy open space, which is mortgaged out and we're really not getting much of any of that anymore. So the one part of it, the sewer stabilization, that is fat, that has some money in it, I'm dumbfounded that environmentalists want the County to be able to take that money to pay bills with absolutely no plan to pay it back. We're talking about \$11 million in interest on the \$20 million that -- \$29 million they want to give to the open space plan.

Plus, if they start taking it in future years, it's \$136 million without any plan at all to pay it back. This year we're borrowing \$625 million in short term debt just to make payroll. There's nothing here that is good. I'm saying when I voted for that in 1987, I had no idea that 25 million was going into tax stabilization; just going to the General Fund. Now, we bought some open space; now all of the money, you're saying, is okay to go into the General Fund in hopes that in the next 20 years --

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

That's not what I said. But you're missing the -- I'm sorry to interrupt, but you are missing the fact that it's not that none of the money is going to open space; it's that the money did go to open space and now we're paying it back because we paid for that land upfront before it got developed. So that's a very essential important point that had a lot of public support. In fact, I was here at all the hearings that the public chose to do. So I don't -- I just don't want to miss that in your analogy of what happened here. We bought land upfront. In many cases as it was being planned to be

developed and lost forever. So the preservation component was very real and is a legacy component. It wasn't wasted. Yes, now we have to pay the piper and pay it back, but we knew that.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

I'm not talking about that money. I'm talking about --

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Well, you mentioned it. I just wanted to --

**LEG. TROTTA:**

It's one of three things.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Okay.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

The point of the matter is the groundwater is being polluted. It's -- that's all the County Executive seems to be talking about. And what we are doing is we're kicking the debt down the road again and again and again. And this is just another \$136 million that we're kicking down the road for our children. It's just -- this is unacceptable to be continually doing this. I understand that, you know -- I want more environmental things happening. I want that whole 75 million to go for the sewers for Kings Park and for Sayville and for Oakdale because now that pollutant's not going in the water. This is putting -- giving us \$4 million. I'd rather have \$29 million doing it.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Okay. Let's do a point of clarification.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

We also have a question from Legislators Barraga. So, quickly.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

The 4.7 million that's going to the commitment for the four sewer projects, and then there's another 4.7 million that's going to the 11% or the clean water component, and then \$20 million for land, that's all from the first area of borrowing, which is the 29.4 million. Okay? So that's one segment of the deal. So that was money that was taken out of the program that's now going to be put back in, in those three classifications. And then the rest of this -- I mean we still need some money --

**LEG. TROTTA:**

I'm familiar with where it's going.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Okay. I didn't know -- well, you know, I mean sometimes if you read Newsday, you really can't tell.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

That 30 million is going to be costing the taxpayers \$43 million.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

I'm sorry, say that again?

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Borrowing that money is going to cost the taxpayers \$43,543,000.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Well, in this structure there's no interest that's being required.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Not on that 29 million.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And, actually, Legislator Trotta, we're going to have the Administration here to talk, you know, the fine details about what's --

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Which would probably be better than me.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

-- in this bill. And I think that it makes sense. And we have Mr. Lipp here. And I think it makes sense -- more sense to get, you know, our own experts, our own -- the Administration who's proposing this to be the one to answer these questions.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

What I was trying to do was explain Dr. Lipp's proposal --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yeah, and then --

**LEG. TROTTA:**

-- so she understands.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

We'll get to that -- when we're debating the bill I think --

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

I understand it. I've been in the negotiations for six or eight months now. So this is not a surface support that we just came -- trundled over today. We've been engaged in these -- these negotiations for a longtime. We support this. It was worked out. Diverse entity, sat at the table. This is not a quick thought out, put on the back of a napkin.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

I hope you see that the Conservative Republican wants more money for open space for --

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

We're going to be holding you to that. So let the record show that we will look forward to be working with you in the future on this. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Barraga.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

When I have a situation where I have to, you know, balance a budget and there's a potential for deficit, I have to look around for cheap money; cheap money. And the borrowings you're talking about in the next several years, there's no interest on the payback.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Correct.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

So in 2018 when some sort of program is set up, the money is paid back at face value. If I borrow 100 million, I pay back 100 million. I just want to make sure the environmental groups fully understand that in the next several years, the borrowings could be considerable. I'd hate to have somebody come back to me and say, *gee, Tom, we never anticipated you people borrowing 125 or*

*\$150 million over a three-year period.* It could be considerable depending upon the economic circumstances that exist in Suffolk County.

But having said that, and Mr. Trotta is right, there's going to be an interest paid on the 29,400,000. There's no doubt about that. But the rest of it is interest-free. It is cheap money. I can't go any other place to get that kind of cheap money. So there's a selfish interest from the standpoint of this Legislature and this County Executive -- because anyplace else you look, they're going to charge you. And we may need considerable amounts of money based on what I'm seeing in terms of 2015, '16 and '17.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Or you may have to do something you don't want to do, which is cut staff again or payroll lags or other options that may be less favorable than just taking cheap money. But the other thing I just want to say -- I'm sorry, Legislator Barraga -- is that we also have to trust the Legislature that you will -- and the Budget Department -- that you'll know how much money needs to be left in that sewer stabilization portion in order to stabilize the sewer rates, as was the intended, you know, plan. So there'll be some -- some --

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

It's for us to figure out how much money to take out of that fund.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Both.

**LAUGHTER**

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Okay. As long as we're on the same track here. All right. Thank you.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

That was our last card. Anyone else in the audience like to speak on this issue? Seeing none, we will close Public Portion and we will head on into the agenda.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

Tabled resolutions, we have **1484, Further strengthening the land acquisition process. (Krupski)**

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Second -- motion to table by Legislator Krupski. I'll second that. All those in favor of tabling? Opposed? Abstentions? **1484 is tabled.**

**(VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

**Introductory Resolution 1495, Authorizing the inclusion of new parcel(s) into existing Certified Agricultural District(s) in the County of Suffolk - 2014 (SCTM No. 0504-004.00-01.00-016.000) Pal-O-Mine Equestrian, Inc. (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion to table.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Second by Legislator Krupski. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1495 is tabled.**  
**(VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I'm sorry, Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Because the applicants requested to withdraw that, should we just make a different motion to withdraw that?

**MR. PIZZULLI:**

I think it's fine to wait for the County Executive.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Yes, whoever introduces the legislation has to be the one to withdraw it, if I'm correct.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

We'll withdraw it at the end of the meeting.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you.

**Introductory Resolution 1575, Adopting Local Law No. -2014, A Charter Law amending the ¼% Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) for enhanced water quality protection, wastewater infrastructure and general fund property tax relief for Suffolk County. (Co. Exec.)** I'll make a motion.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Second by Legislator Anker. On the motion, I was hoping we could have -- I know Jon Schneider -- Deputy County Executive Jon Schneider is here. If you want to have a seat.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

You might be here a while.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

I'm good.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Okay. Just make sure that the green light is on. And we also have, of course, Robert Lipp here. Thank you, Robert, for being here. On the motion, do we have any questions for either Jon or Robert at this time? Jon, did you have a statement you'd like to make?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

No, I'm good. If there are any questions, I'm happy to answer them.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Yeah, I have a question.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Trotta.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

How are you going to pay this money back?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

I'm glad you asked. In a number of ways. What we need to do is continue to make strides, as we've made over the last few years, to put our County onto a path towards structural balance. So let me give you a couple of examples of how we've gotten there to this point and how we can continue to move that ball forward.

First and foremost, the -- when County Executive Bellone came into office, there were approximately 10,000 -- 10,000 employees of the County of Suffolk. Today that number is reduced by 1,092. That alone provides for \$101 million in annual savings in terms of salary and benefits.

When County Executive Bellone came into office, Suffolk County did not have a Traffic and Parking Violations Bureau. Today we do. That provides the County of Suffolk with approximately \$30 million in recurring revenue. We've also made some strides, you know, done things like out of county tuition, not going to relitigate Foley here. So there have been a number of -- and there have been a number of smaller initiatives that we've moved forward with.

What do we need to do from here? One initiative that we've done some work on, and I think over the next couple of months we're going to do a lot of work on, and I hope that we'll have your support as well as the entire Legislature, has been the shift in how we -- how we provide our health centers going from County-run health centers to Federally Qualified Health Centers, FQHCs. So right now -- again when County Executive Bellone came into office, Suffolk County provided an approximately \$25 million dollar annual subsidy to operate health centers. To this point, we've done resolutions. We've moved forward the East End Health Clinics. We've moved forward Wyandanch. We've moved forward Amityville. I think off the top of my head that provided somewhere in the ballpark of about 18 to \$20 million in annual -- in savings over the next five years. We are going to move forward by the end of this year with agreements on the other health centers. That will have considerable savings.

So just stop on that point alone. So when we're talking about, again, down the line how you can possibly pay back 10 to \$12 million annually, if that's the number, what I'm telling you is right then and there, that's a \$25 million annual subsidy that we're hoping to eliminate for the County of Suffolk.

We have two initiatives. You know, one of the things that, you know, we've striven -- we strive to do is -- which I'm particularly proud of, you know, as our Deputy for Intergovernmental Relations, has been to reestablish a strong relationship with Albany. As a matter of fact, related to some of the things we've all been talking about with water quality, you know that relationship is hopefully going to bear a lot of dividends in terms of providing us the resources necessary to make, you know, frankly what we believe can be the greatest stride in drinking water protection in Suffolk County in a generation.

So -- but from that relationship we've had a couple of successes. One that I just mentioned, that has been providing recurring help has been the Traffic and Parking Violations Bureau. Two others that have not yet come on line is video lottery terminals through OTB, which when that is up and running, we're hopeful that would be something that can be in, you know, just to lowball it, maybe the 8 to \$10 million range in terms of what it can generate for the County. Maybe it's more than

that, but hopeful --

**LEG. TROTTA:**

Video lottery you're expecting 8 to \$10 million?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

I think that \$8 million is a very reasonable amount on VLTs when fully operational.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

That was the figure.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

He's being very conservative.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

I heard a figure of \$1 million.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Okay. I heard two million. I mean, I don't know where you got that from, but I can just tell you the conversations that I've had. And that's a reasonable number.

One other -- you know, another item that we -- that we're able to get through the State, which again, you know, I don't want to provide a revenue number on because it's first and foremost a public safety measure is speed cameras. I know Nassau has provided some very high revenue estimates for what they ultimately believe that will achieve. You know, again, I'm not here to say that it will be in the ballpark of their numbers; but, again, if the question is, well, what could be coming down the pike in order to help us, that would be it.

And, again, just to touch on an earlier point, you know, as I had mentioned, we're down -- you know, the single most painful but also impactful thing we've done since we've -- we've done over the last two-and-a-half years to put ourselves on a path towards structural balance, has been what we've had to do in terms of, you know, making this a smaller government.

So as I said, we're down 1,092 positions. You know, we're continuing to look for ways that through -- you know, through efficiencies, through consolidations and through attrition, we can hopefully get that number down even further and find additional savings, you know.

And obviously, you know, last but not least, you know, is -- you know, is the need, of course, to grow our economy, which we're hoping to do in a number of ways. But, you know, again, when you look at a measure like this -- I think what happened a couple of weeks ago is very telling. You know, we're -- we continue to see, you know, signs of -- you know, signs of hope in the economy. And yet, you know, we had our second quarter adjusted sales tax; went down by \$10 million. No one -- you know, through no fault of anyone's. You know, Nassau County's went down considerably more than that. I think theirs was down \$26 million or 52%. But what these -- what that speaks to is that you have to do the right things to get yourselves on a structural balance, but it also speaks to the fact that you want to have a couple of things in your pocket in order to -- in order to have budget flexibility without having to go to the State of New York; without having to, you know, go on bended knee and hope that, you know, this week, you know, the IDC's talking with this one and you can work out these deals. Again, I've tried to get things done in Albany. We've had some success in the matter, but it's difficult, so.

But, again -- so I hope I've answered your question to some extent as to just a couple of the measures that we believe we can -- we've shown a commitment to and can continue to put in place over the next couple of years in order to put Suffolk County on a fiscally sustainable course.

**LEG. TROTTA:**

My concern is you did all this and we're still doing all these short term borrowings. We're going to borrow \$625 million. We have not done that since the early '90s. For the past two years we're borrowing short term to pay payroll. And now what you're doing is piling more debt onto this with the exact same thing that you just admit happening: Sales tax is going down. You're digging a deeper hole and kicking the can continually down the road. It's -- the past two years we're borrowing this short term -- this money. We've never done that before since the '90s. After all of what you did. And now you want to kick more stuff down the road.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

You know, again, to a point that, I think, Legislator Barraga made earlier, and I would very much say is first -- is why this makes makes sense for this body; is I think we're doing a couple -- here's what I think we're doing: What we're doing is first and foremost, we are -- we're, you know, we're working together with the environmental community and we're preserving the spirit of the voter-created Drinking Water Protection Program. What we're also doing is working together to find a way to tap into the cheapest source of capital available to Suffolk County. There's -- you know, there -- you know, there ain't nothing cheaper than free.

So if this were -- you know, at the end of the day, you know, what this gives us the ability to do -- and just before I get there, what I would say is what we're also doing here is frankly we're giving ourselves the tool in the toolbox. So the County Executive's going to bring over a budget. The Legislature is going to put together -- is going to take a look at our budget. It's going to make recommendations to it. Here's what I would say: If we put together a budget that says, I don't know, say for the sake of argument, let's borrow \$20 million from the ASRF. And you say, *you know what, we don't like it, that's kicking the can down the road.* I'll tell you what? Find \$20 million worth of cuts. I welcome it. I think County Executive Bellone welcomes it.

**MS. ESPOSITO:**

Let the Court decide.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

But what I would say, though, is -- is if -- is what it is, though, it's a tool in the toolbox. So if we're going forward with it, it means that the policymakers of Suffolk County have decided that, again, we've made cuts, we continue to make cuts, we continue to find new resources of recurring revenue. We continue to, you know -- I believe we are moving this County in the right direction, but we want to have a tool in the toolbox, we want to have access to the cheapest source of capital.

I mean these are -- these are just -- these are just things that make sense. So, you know, I -- you know, County Executive Bellone wouldn't feel comfortable going forward with this if this were just a matter of, as you would say, kicking the can. This isn't kicking the can. What this is, is tapping into, is working together with the environmental community, respecting -- including Suffolk County voters in the process, respecting their wishes and really working together to give ourselves a tool in the toolbox and access the cheapest source of capital. I think it just makes sense. And I think it's something that I'm hoping this body allows the voters of Suffolk County to, you know, approve or deny this November.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

We have -- we have other Legislators who are interested in asking questions. Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you. So this resolution contemplates borrowing money for open space and \$20 million, but it doesn't contemplate borrowing any money for farmland preservation. And when you preserve farmland, the money stays in private hands. It stays on the tax roll. It's not a burden to the taxpayer to fence it or police it or clean it or maintain it. And it does provide a level -- especially in the future, for food security and for local food production going forward. Suffolk County is blessed

with a wonderful climate and good soils. And this is -- it's a proven program. It works well. It's going to serve us well into the future. Was there any consideration given to putting any money -- to dedicating any of that money for farmland preservation?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Right. I would say that, you know, in the main, we were looking at this as a way of, you know, and working out an agreement, to, you know, to work on programs within -- you know with a specific -- with a specific drinking water quality and access. I think to the extent that -- that farmland can fall into that, there may -- I'd say two things about farmland: One to the extent that farmland could fall into that, there may be possibilities to utilize some of these monies. And the other as -- you know, as I know you're keenly aware, you know a number -- frankly the entire committee is aware, but keenly interested in, you know, when -- you know, when we look at our open space funds which are obviously -- you know which we're at the point that because -- you know, because the County had made a decision to front load a lot of the purchases, you know, we're getting to a point where we're going to be very limited. So I think, you know, in the main this will -- you know, this will allow the County to move -- you know, in some ways to move forward with additional farmland preservation.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I don't disagree with you that farmland could fall into this. It's just that in black and white when you read it, it's not -- it's not included in it. And was there any -- and borrowing money is a -- well, it's like any money, you have to pay it back. In this case with interest. Was there any discussions in the negotiations about finding a recurring revenue stream that wouldn't have to be borrowed in order to fund open space and farmland preservation purchases? Because that's -- when you have to borrow money like the County has in the past for these type of purchases, then you -- you kind of -- you take away a lot of flexibility and you limit the future success of the program.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Right. I would say the goal here was to find -- was to find a discreet solution to the issues within, you know, within the previous borrowing for the ASRF and a path to address those issues and a path to move forward, that, you know, again, not only -- that checks a number of boxes, including preserving the ASRF, including allowing -- you know, allowing, you know, necessary budget flexibility, which, you know, which we had envisioned when -- when we put together the '14 Operating Budget.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

The ASRF is collected from the whole County. So to use -- and it's used as rate stabilization for the sewers.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

U-huh.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

So it's not unreasonable to conclude it could be used for taxpayer -- tax stabilization since it's collected from the whole County. I mean that -- I don't think that's a stretch. But my question is more of finding -- shouldn't there have been something in this -- in this arrangement here, in this legislation, that would -- that would come up with recurring revenues for open space? And -- I mean -- because the -- and farmland protection, as well as, you know, any kind of water quality projects. So you'd have that stream coming in not having to pay it back with interest.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Right. I don't think we've been able to come up with that kind of a solution at this time. But -- I mean that -- that remains -- that remains a major -- you know, a major priority and a major challenge.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I want -- I want to just interject. I know, DuWayne, you're waiting. Do you mind if I just --

**P.O. GREGORY:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Because it's so directly related to what Al has just said. I obviously, you know, made a motion to approve. I'm supportive. I'm going to say reluctantly so. I do believe that this would have been a perfect opportunity to go for a recurring revenue, as I've said to you, as I've said to everyone. I think that we lost an opportunity here. And I'm somewhat disappointed by that, but I do think we need to move forward on this. I do hope that the environmental community, which settled for \$20 million for open space, I think really needs to make crystal clear when we're selling this that this doesn't end it. My fear is that we waste a lot of time, money, effort selling this referendum to the public. And when we need the recurring revenue, they say *we just gave you \$30 million*. And \$30 million isn't going to cut it. And it's a huge effort for \$30 million. And, you know, I know you get more in there, but it's a huge effort. And it's -- in my mind from -- as Environmental Chair, I just wish there had been something in there with a recurring revenue.

And so we've been working on that. We still need it. There are really great ideas. Of course we'll need -- we know. You know, we're not dumb. We realize it would have been harder. But just because it's harder doesn't mean that's what you fight for first. Because now we're asking the voters to help us approve a bond. And it's disappointing to me. But I hope that you will take to the State, you know, as soon as they start back up, which isn't for a while, but, you know, that -- and if anyone else goes to the State that's in this room, you know, really clearly we need the ability to get those recurring revenues. And whether that be, you know, surcharges, taxes, whatever it is that could help us on this -- this item, that's what we do need.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Right. I mean --

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Just to add to that, because Legislator Hahn deserves a lot of credit because she did set up a number of meetings last year to try to find a source of revenue, ongoing revenue, not borrowed revenue, for open space and farmland protection and -- so she's absolutely right.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Just to add one point to that, and not to go too far afield, but, you know, I do think you're on the right track. And, you know, if you look at what we've been -- you know, what we've been trying to do over the last couple of years, you know, we're hoping to have, for instance, a report out, you know, from the folks who came from IBM, which was -- which I think a lot of their ideas and kind of fresh perspective were -- were very helpful. You know, you look at the work we've done in terms of mapping, you know, the 209,000 priority homes, and we know -- you know, so we're starting to get a sense of what are the homes that need to be connected, how do we need to connect them in terms of the -- in terms of, you know, in terms of advanced on-site wastewater treatment systems, getting some actually approved in Suffolk County by the end of this year.

So I do think we are on a track where we're putting together all of the information and, you know, really the plan to say to Suffolk County this is how we, you know, in the larger sense resolve our water quality issues. And clearly there's going to be a need for a funding component, but I also think that that argument, and again, you know, you could argue about the timing. I think that argument will be dramatically helped by the fact that we have all of these -- you know, all these

ducks in a row, if you will.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I'm not 100% sure we needed a referendum. But that being said -- okay. So Presiding Officer Gregory.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to voice my support for passage of this bill. I think it resolves several issues, obviously the concern with the environmental community about us borrowing from the ASRF. This goes to the public. It gets their permission; gives us their permission to borrow in the future years. Obviously it gives us budget flexibility. You know, Jon knows better, Jon and Louise and the others from the Administration know better than us, or at least I do anyway, how difficult it can be to get what can be simple things passed in the State Legislature.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Kind of is.

**P.O. GREGORY:**

Because often we're not considered on our own merits. We're lumped in with other counties and communities so it becomes a political process as opposed to pure good government process. And we have been victim to that process many times.

So, you know, I -- so I support that we're having more -- it gives us more flexibility and controls of our -- our future and destination. So I support that. I understand Legislator Krupski's and Hahn's desires to have more funds, recurring funds. Hopefully we can look at that in the future. But, certainly, I think this as designed infuses more monies, 29.4 million for environmental purposes. So that's certainly a good start. So I would encourage my colleagues to support it. And, you know, let's see what happens.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Anker.

**LEG. ANKER:**

I just want to thank my colleagues and also the environmental advocates for really focusing on this. You know, honestly, you know, we need to leave land preservation and environmental preservation funds alone. We need to focus on the purpose. The purpose is to protect the environment, to protect our health ultimately. So, again, in looking at this legislation, I think we need to also consider we are investing in the future of Suffolk County. The County needs those tourist dollars. Our residents need to stay safe and healthy. This is an investment. And, you know, for the -- and it's actually priceless, the lives that we're going to save by, you know, creating a clean water source. And I want to encourage, you know, the environmental advocates here today, keep up the great work. It was great working with you prior to me being a Legislator. And I look forward to continuing the fight. Because we shouldn't have to fight for this, but we will continue to. And I just wanted to state that we are on your side. We are on your side. It's not easy, but we will continue to be there for you. So, thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you, Legislator Anker. Any other Legislative questions or comments? Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1575 is approved. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Thank you.

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

**Introductory Resolution 1588, Appropriating funds in connection with the Peconic Bay Estuary Program (CP 8235). (Co. Exec.)** I will make a motion for the purposes of discussion.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I'll second for the purposes of discussion.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

We have a motion and a second. On the motion, 1588. Do we need someone from the Administration? Tom, are you -- anyone? Bueller. (Laughter) Walter, come on up, down, whatever. State your name for the record.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Thank you, Legislator Hahn. Walter Dawydiak, Director of Environmental Quality. I'm joined by Mike Jensen, the Supervisor of our Marine Bureau in the Health Department.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Welcome. Can you -- you're here to give us a little background on this, you and Mike.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

I'm here mainly to answer questions, but I'm happy to give you the mile high overview, if you'd like.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you. Might have to go a mile-and-a-half, but go ahead.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

This is an annual Capital Project appropriation which supports the Health Department equipment and implementation programs for environmental restoration. It also serves as a match for the Peconic Estuary Program Grant, which is currently a half million dollars a year that comes to Suffolk County.

This year we're proposing that the \$225,000 appropriation be used to replace a 28-year-old boat. It's a 34-foot Webbers Cove which is currently in very poor condition. It's denominating. It needs major repairs. It's beyond its useful serviceable life. We're proposing to replace it with the smaller, more cost-effective and efficient boat, a 28-foot Parker which is \$165,000. It would keep our fleet intact.

We have the longest, continuous monitoring data record in Suffolk County. Integrating the groundwater, the drinking water and the surface water quality data is what we're all about, environmental quality. This information set goes back to the 1970s. It was critical to the establishment of the Peconic Estuary Program, total maximum daily loads, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, harmful algal blooms and most currently the County Executive's water quality initiative to establish priorities for nitrogen reduction and document effectiveness of success of upcoming implementation.

The other pieces of this are a small replacement motor for the 23-foot Parker outboard and replacement for marine monitoring sondes. So the typical annual appropriation request is 150,000. This year it's a little larger, a 225,000 due to the need to replace one of the four boats in our fleet. And again with that replacement, all of the boats would be serviceable for a good decade. The other three have been replaced since 2001.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And a boat is a capital expenditure?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Yes, the boat is proposed to be part of this capital, right.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay, okay. All right. Legislator Anker.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Again, I'm not familiar with the cost of boats, but what was that two -- two and a quarter, \$225,000 for a boat? How big is this boat? And is it specifically for the purchase of a new boat?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Yes. Actually, the new boat is \$165,000. It's a 28-foot Parker extended cabin with twin four-stroke outboards. Initially we had proposed a slightly larger boat, but with experience with Parkers, we downsized. This would be adequate for our purposes and essentially more cost effective than the boat that was previously proposed.

**LEG. ANKER:**

So you said it's \$165,000. Is that what you said this boat costs?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Yeah, I'm sorry, it's \$165,000. The Webbers Cove is a boat that it's replacing. So we're replacing a 34-foot boat with a 28-foot boat.

**LEG. ANKER:**

And what is the remaining funding going to?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

\$20,000 is going for a 250-horsepower outboard engine for a smaller Parker, which is located in Great South Bay. And \$40,000 is to replace six continuous marine monitoring sondes. We have a group of 11 sondes which measure water quality on a continuing basis in places like Flanders Bay, West Neck Bay, the Forge River, Long Island Sound. About six of those are at the 10 year or older mark and are deteriorating. The replacement costs -- the repair costs are high enough that we're better off buying new ones.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Did we auction the old boat?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

I believe that all of the equipment gets auctioned, if possible.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Is this -- so this is replacement equipment. Is this -- my question is more to the Monitoring Program. Is it going to remain the same, be expanded? I know it's very important.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Yeah, we actually made a commitment -- thank you, Legislator Krupski. A couple of years ago we made a commitment to expand Peconic Estuary monitoring by about 20% as part of the water quality initiative. We redoubled and reinvigorated the monitoring. We expect to continue monitoring the Peconic Estuary Program on a biweekly basis or more intensively as time permits.

South Shore Estuary Program is generally monthly including the Forge, Great South Bay, Shinnecock and Moriches. Long Island Sound embayments, we try to get to at least once every two months. So that level of service is expected to continue in the future.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Are those monitoring stations, Orient Harbor and Flanders Bay or are there any others?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

The monitoring stations extend from the mouth of the Peconic River all the way out to Gardiner's Bay. There's dozens in the Peconic Estuary.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Are they -- what's the word I'm looking for -- the monitoring stations, are they connected wirelessly? Do they send -- were you saying that they continually track data, but do they have to -- does someone have to go there and look at it or does it send you the data directly?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

The USGS currently has two water quality stations: One in the Peconic River and one in Orient that are wireless that transmit certain subsets of data, but not all the data that we typically collect. And that's available online. Our sondes, we experimented at one point with telemetry and wireless transmission. We were successful at it, but it's very labor and time and cost intensive so we generally do not do realtime sonde data within the Health Department. The sondes that we're purchasing are retrieved generally on a weekly or biweekly basis. So when the marine staff is out there collecting regular samples, they'll swap out the sondes and download the data and then upload it so it's done essentially manually, the sondes.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So you're saying it's cheaper and easier to go out there and test it every week than to have it sent wirelessly?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

For purposes of sondes, that's generally true. The telemetry set up and the operation and maintenance on the sondes is high enough that there wasn't any overarching need to justify the expense to do realtime remote transmission.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Okay. Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

I'm sorry, Mike is expanding that you have to go out there once a week anyway. So you're not wasting additional labor by collecting them manually. Somebody has to go out and either clean the sensors or swap the sonde out. So any expense for the telemetry would be above and beyond --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Right.

**MR. DAWYDIAK**

Not as an offset to manual labor.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And then so what you swap out is a data chip?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

It depends on the condition of the sondes and the time of year. Generally what they do is they have a fresh sonde precalibrated so they'll just take the other sonde back because it's got to be taken apart, cleaned and scrubbed typically during periods of peak fowling and barnacle growth. If it's early or late in the season and the sonde is still in good condition, it could just be cleaned and redeployed.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

But the monitoring is continual, so it's --

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

With the sondes, yeah. For example, like when you're looking at dissolved oxygen and you're getting an instantaneous grab, you're not capturing the diurnal or night to day shift. And you're not capturing those low levels of dissolved oxygen that you can get in the overnight period. You're also not capturing effects of tidal exchange or flushing. So when you're doing particularly intensive work in a given area, the sondes give you a much more useful data set. And it was very helpful to researchers in terms of harmful algal blooms as well as for the total maximum daily loads in areas in the Peconic and the Forge.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So how many sondes -- sorry, not just these six, but how many sondes does our program have in total?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

We have a total of 11 right now. And these six would replace six which need repair. And they're plus or minus 10 years old at this point. So they're near the end of their useful life.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

How many should we have?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

That's a good manageable number for our purposes. Generally we have three or four special studies going on in any given Summer. And between the need to do surface in-depth and swap them out, that's been a workable number for us. Obviously more is better, but this is a good number for the size and scope of our work.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

And this is only on the East End and on the South Shore? I mean I know you said you had one in the Long Island Sound, but it's a big Sound.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

We have done significant work in Long Island Sound in the past, particularly as part of the North Shore Watershed Management Study. I don't know that we deployed a sonde in the North Shore recently, but it's certainly on the table depending on where the priorities go.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I would imagine Northport Harbor and Port Jeff Harbor or Stony Brook -- you know, I would imagine there are quite a few harbors that could use monitoring. And maybe one day we could add to it once we get you more staff. Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you. What are the parameters that you monitor for? And do you share the data? I know

the DEC is having a very difficult time in collecting and sampling for total and fecal coliform. And you mentioned the TMDLs. I know they've had trouble actually with the TMDLs as well as the EPA has. So how do you share your data? What do you sample for and how do you share?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

We sample for a broad variety of physical, chemical and biological parameters: Biological being bacteriological, like coliform bacteria; physical being temperature, solidity, light extinction; chemistry being primarily nutrients, like nitrogen, phosphorous, inorganic, organic dissolved in total as well as Chlorophyll-a, a measure of standing stock of phytoplankton. So that's kind of the nutshell overview. From time to time we do special stream studies on areas like pesticides and metals. This information is compiled. We recently issued a status and trends report on the Peconic Estuary Program water qualities status and trends. We also had the database available online to interested parties, including researchers and agencies. So all the data that we collect is available to DEC, EPA and Towns. I don't know if that's currently available as a public link, Mike, or that's pending?

**MR. JENSEN:**

It is on.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

It's now on the public web page. So anybody out there could download a spreadsheet of all of our data and all of our stations.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Thank you. As long as the DEC knows that.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Yes. This is an issue that was just straightened out in the last year, Legislator Krupski. The access to the data was done manually on a case by case basis. And we established the interface and got it on line.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Is it downloadable?

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

In a usable fashion?

**MR. JENSEN:**

I think so.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

So not just like a PDF.

**MR. DAWYDIAK:**

Correct. It's in an Excel Spreadsheet that you can manipulate.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Thank you.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Great.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Any questions? Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1588 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**Introductory Resolution 1621, Reappointing member to the Council on Environmental Quality (James F. Bagg, Jr.). (Hahn)** I'll make a motion.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Seconded by Legislator Krupski. He -- this is a reappointment and he was unable to be here today. We don't require individuals to be here for reappointments. So he is not able to be here today. **All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1621 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**Introductory Resolution 1624, Reappointing member of the Council on Environmental Quality (Michael Kaufman). (Hahn)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Seconded by Legislator Krupski. Mr. Kaufman is here if anyone had questions for him. It's a reappointment. He doesn't have to be here but he is here.

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

I like coming.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

He likes to be here. Anyone have any questions for him?

**LEG. ANKER:**

He can come up.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

We don't need to. We don't need to, unless you have a particular question.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yeah, I have questions. Have him come on up.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Come on up, Mike.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yeah, he made the trip. You don't want to come up, that's okay. Hey, Mike. I just wanted to thank you for all the time that you've served on this board. And how long have you been on the board? Been a while.

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

Since the last century.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Yeah, that's what I thought. That's what I thought. So I was just curious, again since you're here, can you just, you know, maybe a 30 second version some of the highlights that you're proud of, you know, being proud of the Committee -- the Board.

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

Well, since --

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Make sure the green light is on.

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

There it goes. I worked on every EIS that the County has been required to produce since, I think, 1994. Everything from the Yaphank EIS to the -- there's so many of them I can't even keep them straight anymore. We worked on the Suffolk County Jail in Yaphank. That was an interesting one. Fortunately I do not have a cell reserved for me. I don't have my resume with me so I don't actually remember how many I've worked on, but I've been primary on most of them since that time. And those are the most grueling things that we go through. They're also the most important things. And I think we've produced some pretty good ones.

The other one that comes to mind is the Mariculture. I like seafood so I took particular interest in that particular one.

**LEG. ANKER:**

Again, I think that's important, because, you know, you want -- we want people that are not only interested, but are also dedicated into focusing on -- especially environmental issues. And, you know, seafood, tourists, it's an important part of Suffolk County. So now you're an attorney, right, is that your background?

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

I don't necessarily like to admit that, but, yes, I am.

**LEG. ANKER:**

And, again, that's another good quality that we -- you know, that we need, because there's a lot of legal that arise. And it's nice to have professional advice. So, again, thank you for coming up. I don't know if anyone has any questions, but thank you for your service.

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Legislator Krupski.

**LEG. KRUPSKI:**

I just got to know Mr. Kaufman in the last year. And I'm very impressed with his breadth of knowledge on many different topics. And he certainly has served the County very well and I would encourage us to reappoint him.

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

I'd like to echo that. I serve on CEQ with Mike. And he's been extraordinarily helpful to me, you know, in my capacity there, helping -- helping me to understand some of the finer points of the State Quality Environmental Review Act. So thank you very much, Mike, for your assistance.

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

Well, I appreciate the support.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Any -- any questions? Anyone else? We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's approved. **(VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

You do not need to attend the General Meeting.

**MR. KAUFMAN:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

**Introductory Resolution 1627, Making a SEQRA determination in connection with the proposed safety and capacity improvements to County Road 13, Crooked Hill Road, Towns of Islip and Smithtown. (Pres. Off.)** I'll make a motion.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Seconded by Legislator Barraga. On the motion, anyone have any questions? Okay. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **1627 is approved. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0. P.O. GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

There is no further -- oops, Mr. Vaughn.

**MR. VAUGHN:**

Hi, good afternoon. Actually, Director Lansdale just has one issue that she needed to bring to the Committee's attention.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Excellent. Director Lansdale. Sorry about that. You usually come up because we have -- (laughter) -- maps and things to go over.

**DIRECTOR LANSDALE:**

Thanks for your attention. Just wanted to bring to your attention that we will be going before the full Legislature for a Certificate of Necessity. Tomorrow we are presenting to the Water Quality Protection Committee a proposal. And if it -- if they choose to fund it, then we'll go before the full Legislature asking for a Certificate of Necessity for funding to start up the Suffolk County Septic and Cesspool Upgrade Program, to hire a consultant manager to help us review the proposals, identify possible sites for demonstration projects for the innovative alternative septic systems, and to operationalize it. So I just wanted to be available to answer any questions that you may have at this point. And certainly at the full Legislature I'll do the same.

**CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

Excellent. Does anyone have any questions at this time for Director Lansdale? Thank you for bringing it to our attention. I'm sorry, I didn't know you wanted to discuss that. So, thank you, Tom, for running up before I adjourned. I don't have any questions at this time. And I look forward to hearing about it at the General Meeting. Thank you. Okay.

**(Sidebar Conversation)**

Okay, seeing that there's no further business, we are adjourned. Thank you.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:24 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**