

**FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING of the  
Suffolk County Legislature**

**Minutes**

A regular Finance & Financial Services Committee Meeting was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium at the William Rogers Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, New York on **January 24, 2001, at 9:30 a.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Michael Caracciolo, Chairman  
Legislator Maxine Postal, Vice Chair  
Legislator Martin Haley  
Legislator Cameron Alden

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Paul Sabatino, Legislative Counsel  
James Maggio, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, S.C. Police Department  
Joe Poerio, Chief Deputy to the Comptroller of Audit & Control  
Todd C. Johnson, County Executive's Office  
Kristine Chayes, Civil Service/Human Resources o  
Phil Robilotto, Suffolk County Police Department  
Tom Donovan, Aide to Presiding Officer Paul Tonna  
Fred Pollert, Director of Budget Review  
Ken Knappe, County Executive Office - Budget  
Alan Schneider, Director of the Department of Civil Service  
All Interested Parties  
Irene Kulesa, Legislative Secretary

***(The meeting came to order at 9:50 a.m.)***

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

I will call the committee meeting to order. We will start the meeting with a Pledge to the Flag led by Deputy Presiding Officer, Maxine Postal.

**SALUTATION**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. The first order of business this new year is first of all, to welcome everyone back and extend from the horseshoe our best wishes for a healthy prosperous New Year and to begin the committee's agenda this year with a presentation from the Police Department with respect to overtime --

anticipated overtime expenditures; plans to mitigate some operational cost in the Police Department and we would like, at this time, have Chief Robilotto come up.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Nice.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Good morning.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Am I on?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Yes.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Chief, you might feel more comfortable just taking the mike out of the holder.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

We are very pleased to say that thanks to certain economies of personnel that we were able to accomplish in the first six months or the last six months of 2000, that we managed to stay within our estimated budget. We even came in a little bit under it before last year; not the allotted budget but the estimated that was redone in July and barring natural disasters or man-made disasters for 2001, we anticipate being able to stay well within our budget for this year.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

I'm going to do the same thing, okay. Just briefly, give us, then the numbers that were budgeted. The actuals, as you anticipate they will be and then we'll move forward to 2001, which, as you know, from reading today's editorial page, there are some concerns, at least, in the executive branch of County Government about some potential shortfalls and is Ken Weiss here?

**MR. KNAPPE:**

He's in Florida.

**CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

Oh, Ken is away. All right, is there someone else from the Budget Office here? There is? Oh, okay, why don't you come up and join us? Kenny Junior. All right, go ahead and for the record, please identify yourself for the stenographer.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Jim Maggio. The 2000 Adopted Budget in Fund 1 was just over three million dollars and in Fund 15, just over thirteen million dollars. A total of about sixteen million dollars. The 2000 estimated budget as adopted by the Legislature in November, listed an estimate of twenty two point eight million dollars for overtime for both funds total combined. Our estimate right now should be very close to the actual with some adjustments made by the auditors before the end of the year. There's twenty point eight million dollars, not a savings but a reduction by a -- of a one point nine million dollars for the Year 2000, less than what was estimated in the budget.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

What can we attribute the reduction to?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

There are a number of things that we did last year. We moved the narcotics detective teams back to the narcotics from narcotic squads, the street enforcement teams, the so-called net teams. We combined them, put fifty-four detectives and put them into the various precinct squads, where they were able to maximize their usage. Obviously, the drug problem on the day shift is rather minimal compared to what it is on the four to twelve, so those detectives were being used. We also took a number of people out of the headquarters commands. We shut down some of the commands in and around the building and moved them into the precincts.

One of the biggest economies that we were able to accomplish was we moved the DARE personnel from the support services division where they working and put them into patrol. We took them out of the unmarked cars, put them into the marked cars and over the vacation periods, we were able to utilize those officers rather than pay other officers on overtime. That saved us a considerable amount of money. This year, we anticipate changing the

program. The Commissioner will be here this afternoon to give us a -- not abandoning the program, just doing away with DARE which is a copywriter program, continue to do the drug enforcement through the COPE Program. Keep the COPE Program. Enlarge the COPE Program. Put the COPE Program on seven days a week. I don't want to steal his thunder, he's got a whole show for you and we're also looking at the civilianization. Now, as soon as we can start to hire those folks, as we speak, we have thirty-seven people, which we're over return.

On the downside, in 2000, ninety sworn officers separated from the department. Two passed away. Two were fired and eighty-six retired. As we sit here, forty-four of our sworn staff is planning on retiring by April. Twenty-five have retired to date. We have a class of a hundred and thirty in the Academy. Obviously, that's a big advantage to us because by our PBA Contract, they owe us ten extra days. That would be a hundred and thirty working days. Days, we wouldn't have to pay overtime for and of course, they are at starting salary, which is considerably less than top pay. So we anticipate, as I said before, without a problem with natural disasters, plane crashes, etc., we'll be able to stay well within the Adopted Budget.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Did the County ever recover from the federal government expenses associated with Flight 800? Okay, you --

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Some of it but not all.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Okay. We'll get to that later then. Fred, if you'd make a note, because we're going to have you make a big presentation as well. So looking at Year 2000, we have essentially a reduction in overtime expenditures from what was budgeted for 2000, last year?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

What was estimated?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Estimated.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Right, budgeted was sixteen.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Spent was two hundred.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, I'm glad you clarified that. So it was actually in excess of budgeted but the low what was estimated?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Yes, sir.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

In terms of 2001, what is budgeted and what is anticipated?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Budgeted, twenty million, twenty-one, one in both funds.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

You had twenty one million one -- twenty point one million between the two funds and we've estimated we'll to be able to stay within that budget. It's just about what we spent, actual expenditure last year, in consideration of the fact that the PBA picked up a 5 percent raise and in consideration of the fact that the other two unions, the Superior Officer's Association and the Detective's Association are still working without a contract. We believe we'll be able to stay within that.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

So in terms of net cost, which you just said, then is that while you have a salary adjustment that's going to ratchet it up, overtime expenditures, on one

hand, on the other hand, you have productivity gains, as a result of a recruit class that's required by contract to work ten additional days a year. So when you factor in, it's almost a net, net, same situation.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Plus the additional forty people from the civilianization and there's thirty-four officers in DARE that we're now using much more than we were before.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, let's talk a little bit about the civilianization effort. Where that stands? Tell us what the process is? What types of positions will be civilianized and what the timetable for implementation is?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

In the Budget for 2001, created thirty-seven new positions. Thirty-seven new positions. Most of the titles are clerical, evidence control clerks, public safety dispatchers, some office systems analysts for our data processing unit, management analyst, research analyst, also for our research and development unit. It's a variety of titles in total. We're ready to go. Our implementation will probably be starting in April. There'll be a slight training period for those people as they come in. They have to be trained in the duties that were performed by the police officers and at that point, the officers will be released and go to the street.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Are all of these positions civil service?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, so they've already been through the civil service process, background investigations. Do they -- do you require --?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

No, they're not through that process yet.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

We're up to the scin form process. We're awaiting scin forms to be signed. Once the scin forms will be signed, we'll start that whole civil service process. That's why I'm saying April.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Oh, okay.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

It's going to have to go through that background check.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Through the Civil Service Department.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Are oral examinations required for these positions?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Most of them. Some aren't. You know, heavy equipment operator, a driver messenger, a material control clerk, positions like that aren't regular civil service.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

But you're confident by April 1, or thereabouts, these positions will be filled? And the police officers that are presently in these positions will be reassigned? Is that the plan?

**MR. MAGGIO:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. MAGGIO:**

Some will retire. Some are aware that their positions are being those that are targeted for civilianization and some have decided to retire, yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

In terms of retirements for the year? You mentioned, Chief, how many have already taken advantage, which is probably, you know, based on my own experience was in Nassau County, that's a pretty reasonable number for this time of the year. It's early in the year that a lot of people, either as you and I both know, take advantage of retirement, particularly people who are maxing out. When I say maxing out, people with thirty-two and a half years or more service. Although with the sixtieth bill, I guess -- well, there is a cap, right?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The one-sixtieth bill for us gives you thirty-five years of service.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Thirty-five.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

You max at thirty-five, unless you stay past forty, which then it increases up to 80 percent. What we are beginning to see though is a lot of the light duty people who have been in these jobs are recognizing the handwriting on the wall and they're leaving us. They are retiring. We are running double last year's rate. So about this time last year, we had somewhere in the neighborhood of about twenty-four, twenty-five people sign up this year are over forty-five.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

When you look at the overtime expenditures in the department? Where does the bulk of it occur? In patrol?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The vast majority of our overtime is in personnel shortages to fill the sector cars in patrol.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

And out of the total twenty, twenty-one million-dollar appropriated amount, how much of that would be in that category?

**CHIEF ROBILITO:**

Put back into patrol, we put fourteen million dollars -- fourteen point five into the patrol division.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay and the remainder of six -- six, seven million dollars is expended where?

**CHIEF ROBILITO:**

It's in the support services division. For the new classes, it's in the detective division, court time. There's also mandatory overtime if they work on a holiday that kind of thing. So it's spread out throughout the division.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

What category is the mandatory formative?

**CHIEF ROBILITO:**

An officer who works on all the -- on a holiday, he gets paid time and a half.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Right.

**CHIEF ROBILITO:**

Or she gets paid time and half.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Right, okay. Well, let me open it up to the committee, of course. Maxine?

**LEGISLATOR POSTAL:**

The only question I have has to do with the scin forms for the civilian positions. Because I read in today's paper and I'm sorry, Ken Weiss is not here but I read in today's paper that one of the, I guess, measures to address what might be happening budgetarily pending the receipt of final figures on sales tax revenues for last year was a freeze on filling new positions. So it sounds to me like that means signing scin forms and I guess, I'm concerned that we could be holding off signing scin forms for these civilian positions, which would -- no, they don't fall -- that might be -- my only suggestion is that could be counterproductive. Because it's a measure by filling these positions, we get the job done at lower cost to us. So this might be in a separate category from those other scin forms. I don't know if you could comment?

**MR. KNAPPE:**

Ken Knappe, from the Budget Office.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Ken why don't you take that out of the holder? It's a lot easier to do.

**MR. KNAPPE:**

It is the County Executive's position that we will release positions where it is cost effective to do so and this plan, I believe, would fall into that category.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

We've been assured that we can have these.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, if there's any change in that direction, would both the Department and the Budget Office notify the Legislature?

**MR. KNAPPE:**

Certainly.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Its cost effective over the long term. It's not cost effective in the short term if it's going to cause a police officer to retire. Is that true? Because there's separation pay that's pretty heavy.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

They're separate accounts though and it's actually -- it would be an increase for 2001, but it would be a decrease thereafter.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Yes, so it would be a long-term effect?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Yes, it would.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Now, the other thing is, I don't know if it's in -- you know, like written solidly right now but there's a plan to deploy one of the helicopters in the eastern part of Suffolk County and the preliminary report that we heard on that was that it was going to kick up the overtime costs. Has that been factored in?

**CHIEF ROBILOTO:**

We have the new helicopters on order. We've budgeted into our current budget plan sufficient personnel to cover that with the deployment to the base at Gabreski Airport.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Good, okay, so that's not going to be a surprise like later on in the year that we were going to incur a ton of overtime because of that?

**CHIEF ROBILOTO:**

With all sincerity, I believe that absent extraordinary circumstances, we're going to be well within our budget. The plan cuts for this year are the plan redeployments for this year are the already accomplished deployments for last year. I hate to say things. It can always come back and bite you but in

spite of the fact that the PBA raises went up, we're running 4 percent behind last year's schedule. We've done things; for example, the Marine Bureau Personnel would normally be over in the Marine Bureau. They would be waiting on the boats. Well, the bay is locked in. So we took the Marine Bureau people out of the Marine Bureau and put them into the patrol force. That had never been done before. We've also -- we deployed some of our plainclothes people on the ships when they're not busy. We're now asking them to bring uniforms to work and we're filling up to four positions in every precinct without overtime. That generated sixty-five thousand-dollar savings just for the month of November. We only started in mid November with the Marine Bureau folks.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Good that sounds like good management. Now, just one other question on the retirements? Are they running about what you thought they would be? I know you said they're double last year's rate but because we civilianized, or went to the civilianization, did you anticipate approximately what we're getting right now?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Actually, the civilianization didn't affect it as much as the governor signed into law the military buy-back where you could buy-back three years. Roughly half of those people who are leaving the force at this time are buying back military time.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

And had you anticipated that?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

No, we didn't but with the class, we had anticipated making a net gain in 2001, of sworn staff. Right now, we're going to be negative four from 2000. Because of the economies of salary, with that hundred and thirty influx though, a hundred thirty officers in the class that we have, we see that as an advantage.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I guess this question could be answered just as well by the Chairman. The second half of the year, is that traditionally more retirements or about the same and what would you anticipate that?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

It usually runs about the same. The problem is, of course, with taxes. If you collect your half a year salary and then you get that big influx of money as a scat check, Uncle Sam is standing right there. So usually, we get people leaving in July but not as many as in January.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Good, okay, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, Fred has distributed a copy of BRO's Year 2000 Budget Report. Is this 2000 or 2001?

**MR. POLLERT:**

It was 2000.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

All right, 2000 and on this particular handout, you had identified what we had been reimbursed for a number of situations, including the sunrise fire, the blizzard and TWA crash. Just to stay with the TWA crash, are there any monies owed at this point, Fred? Do we anticipate collecting that at a later date?

**MR. POLLERT:**

At this point in time, we don't anticipate getting any additional revenues. It was an extremely complex process even finding what we did receive in part, because of federal government indebted reimbursement in other checks to the County.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Chief, in regard to the remarks you've made today, they are very informative and I know they're well received. It seems that the Commissioner and his new upper echelon staff including yourself are moving in the right direction, in terms of reducing expenditures where it's prudent to do so. It would be helpful if you could put that in some type of written report and make copies for this committee, because I think they are really an example of what can be done when we make a commitment to do the types of things you're doing and that's the type of information that really should be shared with the public.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The Police Commissioner will be here at eleven. He's bringing over a PowerPoint presentation and he's bringing over a complete packet with everything we have in it that we've accomplished so far and what we would like to do obviously, with the Commissioner, the Executive and the Legislative Branches, I believe, you'll be rather please with it. I'm sure he's got -- he has copies for everyone.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay that will be very much appreciated. Fred, would you or John like to comment with respect to this presentation at all? Or add anything to it?

**MR. POLLERT:**

The process of civilianization, as well as the reorganization of the Police Department that the department is carrying out has, in our opinion, been very well thought out. It has not caused any disruption of services that we're aware of and has resulted in true budgetary savings, not just a shifting the money from point A to point B but really has realized significant budgetary savings. I think you've done an excellent job.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

In terms of the overall County Budget of one point nine billion dollars, on a percentage basis, approximately what is the public safety budget and that includes not just the Police Department but all of the public safety agencies in the County.

**MR. POLLERT:**

It's more than one third of the budget but on a net basis, it is about three-quarters of the budget. So clearly --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Can you just explain that for the record? I know -- I understand what you're saying but someone reading this may not quite understand it.

**MR. POLLERT:**

The expenses for the Department of Social Services, Health, Probation and a variety of other departments are highly able. In addition to that, you have departments such as the County Clerk and the Parks Department, which bring in additional revenues, which significantly offset the cost of operations. The Police Department is almost exclusively funded through real property taxes and with the general types of revenue such as sales tax. So on a net

basis their portion of the budget is significantly higher than you would be led to believe from looking at the total expenditures.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

What's the total funded amount in Fund 1 in the Police Department?

**MR. POLLERT:**

Close to a hundred million dollars, I believe.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

One hundred million dollars. Okay and could you just elaborate or comment on where in the department that one hundred million dollars is utilized? Fund One?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Fund 1 is the funding for Countywide services, for example, the Helicopter, Canine, the E.S. Units, the Detective, certain Detective Divisions, the Homicide Squad, we've also moved into Fund One we created and we are attempting to continue to do so, a pro-active approach to crime. We have now a Career Criminal Unit. We've put a bunch of people into that unit. They don't make spectacular arrests but they do an awful lot of preventive arrests. As an example, the head of the Latin Kings was released on parole. We were able to violate him before he hit New York City. He's back for three years. They had child molesters taking pictures of children. We've taken pictures of the child molesters and violated them. So while it's sort of low-key grunt work, if you will, it has a phenomenal effect on the level of crime. We've also instituted a Crime Analysis Unit. That has given us the ability to overlay burglaries in the Hamlet of Manorville, which is in Brookhaven.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

My district.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Your district. All of a sudden we found seven burglaries on a block. We mapped the burglaries and then we mapped the parolees and there was a burglary right in the middle of the crowd. So we've taken to tasking that back out to the detectives. We're going to offer that service to the East End. We're also doing some other things with them, as far as running seminars. We had one planned for May 5th, May 9th of this year to talk about mutually interested problems.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

And would you make sure I get notice of that?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The seminar?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Yes.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

May 5th?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Let me just check, Mike. It's a Thursday, Friday, I think.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

At Police Headquarters or where will it be?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

We're either going to use the Police Academy depending on the response or possibly Brookhaven Laboratory, the big Amphitheater that they have right there.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

I'm sure the East End departments would prefer Brookhaven National Lab.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

And I would like to request that you make every effort to locate it there as well.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Yes, it's May 10th.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

We tried to do it at BNL.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

We've already asked for it.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Okay. In terms and I just want to conclude on this note. In terms of crime rates, are we seeing any disturbing trends or are we still looking at a trend that's on the decline across the board?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

We've identified an increase in crime. Searching through it, it looks more like a much better reporting procedure than it was. Earlier on, the department had a separate entry system for crime in the Detective Division. It wasn't linked with the rest of the departments. We did away with that. We integrated it into recurrent computerized system for two reasons. First of all, it makes it easier to search with -- and second of all, it gives us a handle on where they are happening. It was known as the detective daybook, I'm sure you're familiar with that. They were entering it into an automated daybook and they were leaving it out of our Central Records Program. So while crime has picked up, not drastically it just picked up, I think it's more it should be readable to the reporting than it is to actuality.

**CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

And year over year, what do you anticipate the change would be for 2000 crime rates?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The 2001 crime rate?

**CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

2000 last year.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

No, it's up about 4 percent.

**CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

Across the board.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Across the board.

**CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

And that's the seven major categories or that's all categories?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

All categories.

**CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

Okay. In terms of the serious categories?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The violent crimes against women probably has the biggest increase seen. We haven't done the total analysis on that yet. I'd like to think, frankly that it's because we've instituted a number of different procedures that get people to come forward.

**CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:**

Okay. Legislator Alden.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Is gang activity and organized crime, is that statistically is that reported together?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Gang activities is reported by the Gang Unit and it's not reportable with organized crime. There's two separate units that go after them.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

So how are we doing with the gang activity?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Gang activity has been on a downside. What we noticed is we had the big Task Force last summer, you're probably familiar with that. We noticed that the Task Force forced them to have their meetings on the weekends. Consequently, we have an agreement that we're about to do a memorandum of agreement with the Suffolk County PBA to move the COPE people and the gang people into the weekend work that the Gang Task Folks, which we have several in every precinct. Every squad has a gang member. There's a gang ID book. There's gang signs book. There's gang colors. The photographs are all out there and the biggest weapon we have with that, of course, is the COPE people. We've also been using the career criminals in that case. Where we note gang activity is directly rated to drug activity, we surveil them.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

But we're not seeing a huge like increase in any of that?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

No, exactly the opposite.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Good, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Since this presentation was to focus on overtime, let me conclude by asking this question? The recruit class will graduate when?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Well, we've changed that too. Under the old standard, the recruit class would graduate on May 19th and then they would spend twelve weeks in field training. Field training is a big expense for us. A police officer by Suffolk County PBA Contract gets forty-five minutes overtime a day when he has a recruit in the car or she has a recruit in the car. Twelve weeks of that is a

substantial amount of money. We note that in the class, there are fifty-six New York City Officers and there are several with prior time in other jurisdictions, as far south. So what we've done is broken the Field Training Program into three four-week segments. If an officer is deemed fit to ride on his own, or function as a solo operator, we will release that officer after the first four weeks. We'll continue to review with those that haven't and do it again. So we look for double savings there. The first half is the forty-five minutes a day, which on a five-day week and it adds up. Believe me, when you're talking about 130 cops with twelve weeks and the second aspect of that is once they're solo, they are authorized to ride on their own, we obviously don't have to pay overtime for the whole sector car.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

That's great. That's very good. Okay, that concludes this particular presentation. We look forward to seeing you probably in about three months. So you'll give us an update as to where things stand after the first quarter and continue to monitor this, given the expected or I should say, unexpected and we hope temporary shortfall of sales tax collections for last year. Thank you very much. Thank you. Fred, that's a segue to you and the sales tax report. Will you bring us up to speed on what was reported in the editorial and what we should expect or anticipate as the final numbers come in later in February?

**MR. POLLERT:**

On January 12th, the Budget Review Office issued a report to all the Legislators in which we had projected that there would be a shortfall in 2000 sales tax revenues. The bulk of the shortfall will materialize in the general fund not in the police district because for Fiscal Year 2000, the police did not receive a percentage of the sales tax; they received a sum certain. So most of the shortfall will occur within the general fund. We had anticipated at that point in time that the sales tax shortfall from what was originally estimated in the budget could exceed twenty five million dollars. That was not totally unanticipated, however, when we had prepared the operating budget review, we had felt that the sales tax estimate was overestimated for Fiscal Year 2000 and when we did our report, we had indicated that we felt that it could be overestimated by an excess of eighteen million dollars. The County Legislature during the budget process recognized that there were several revenues in excess of eleven million dollars, which we had identified in the 2000 Budget, which will be coming in higher than estimated. It was decided not to lower the sales tax estimate because it would self correct with the under-budgeted revenues that had been identified by the Budget Review Office. I would also note that the projected shortfall approximately four million dollars of that will be coming into the County in future quarters. It is associated with late filers that had not remitted their sales tax to the State of New York in a timely fashion. We will be receiving that amount of sales tax probably in the next few checks from the State of New York. So contrary as to what was reported in the headline of Newsday, Newsday's story was

accurate but the headline had indicated that there would be a shortfall in the fund balance that is not in fact the case we will still have a positive fund balance in the general fund and to a large extent the revenue shortfall was anticipated and was taken into account by the Legislature.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, since none of us here are privy to Newsday source of information, let me turn back to the Budget Office and make an inquiry as to whether or not the Budget Office provided the newspaper with that information. If so, do you stand by their report? Their editorial?

**MR. KNAPPE:**

Unfortunately that's probably a question better for Mr. Weiss. I am not aware of what their source of information is exactly.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay at our next committee meeting then would you bring that too Ken and we'd appreciate his response. Because it's very important that the public be provided with accurate information and if we have a disagreement, I think that disagreement should be reconciled before it's made public record.

**MR. KNAPPE:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Fred, in terms of the two classes and the police department that are scheduled to be hired this year? The current class is the chief indicator of the graduating a little bit latter or not later but I guess the outside date is May 19th for everybody. Some of those officers, by virtue of field training may actually be in the force full time prior to that given their prior experience in other Law Enforcement Agencies. When does the next class come in and what's their anticipated graduation date and how will that affect or mitigate overtime expenditures this summer when we have peak vacations?

**MR. POLLERT:**

The 2001 Operating Budget anticipated a hiring of two classes for the police department during Fiscal Year 2001. The timing of the classes is clearly the prerogative of the County Executive's Offices while there's a police department budgetarily there are sufficient funds to begin the first class in April and the last class, I believe, has sufficient funds to begin the fall timeframe approximately October or so. There will not be a real impact on

police overtime during 2001. The benefits will be picked up during 2002.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

I see the Police Chief would like to make a comment. Maybe he knows something we don't know yet. So let's --

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

This is a commercial message. We have also looked at is our training process and we found that our academy is most efficient at fifty. If we have fifty recruits, it helps us tremendously with being able to reduce the recruit training staff, better utilize the in-service training staff and what we would like to do and we have proposed is to put them on a wheel, so that while we have two hundred for the year, we'd like to do fifty, fifty and continue to use the same level. Obviously, when we have to bring in fifty with the vast numbers of people who are applying for the job, we have to put an awful lot more folks into the Candidate Investigation Unit and an awful lot more folks into our Investigating Unit, that into the Training Unit, I'm sorry. That said, if we can put them on the wheel, we can minimize our current staff levels and maximize their efficiency. We would not have and impact on the 2001 Budget from any police officer hired in 2001 as far as overtime is concerned, because they won't be ready until 2002.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

That includes the current class?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The current class is a 2000 class. So they'll be out and ready. We will have all of them on the road by no later than June. So hopefully, we're going to have most of them out, if not all of them out long before June with the four week cycles.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

In terms of current --- the T.O., what's the current strength?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The T.O. this year I think is twenty-eight eighty-five, if I'm not mistaken and the current strength is somewhere around twenty seven hundred.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

The seventh precinct long range, what's the expectation that, that precinct will have a compliment of patrol officers above and beyond the current staffing level, which is primarily COPE?

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

I honestly can't answer that. The Commissioner is looking at that. What we are doing is we have just started revising our -- re-evaluating our current sector plan, our B plan. We've had the same B plan in place for as long as I've been a cop and it's ridiculous. What we are doing at the moment is we made several overtures to the PBA. If I used the term forth platoon, I know you understand it but basically what that says is outside of the regular rotating rolling shifts. We noticed now with the advent of our computer system, we all knew it, now we can improve it. That there's a huge increase in our workload at four in the afternoon and obviously it drops way down at four in the morning. We're going to assign our recruits there in accordance -- I'll withdraw that. We're going to assign our recruits in accordance with the new beat plans. We've also asked every precinct commander to think outside of the box to look for overlay sectors. To look for special patrol beats for special times of the day. So with all of that accomplished, we may, depending upon what happens with the retirements, we may be able to move the seventh precinct.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

That would be subject as you've indicated to collect a modification of the collective bargaining agreements.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Yes, they've already agreed to a couple of fixed shifts.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, thank you Chief. Are there any other questions? Okay, very good.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

Can I just correct one thing for you?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Yes.

**CHIEF ROBILOTTO:**

The deputy tells me we currently have twenty-six forty-four, not twenty-seven on route and the actual amount is three thousand forty five, not twenty-eight.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you. Fred, what's budgeted in the department? What's in the budget for personnel, the Police Department?

**MR. POLLERT:**

The salary costs are in the total budget.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Salary costs. If you need some time Fred, we can come back to that.

**MR. POLLERT:**

Exclusive of fringe benefits in Fund 15, the total appropriations are approximately two hundred and twenty million dollars for personnel services. That includes holiday pay and night differential and what was scat funds. So in the direct salary line, the 110 line, the budget is one hundred and sixty seven million dollars.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, now translate that into personnel.

**MR. POLLERT:**

With the turnover rates that they have, that was included in our Operating Budget Report. Hold on.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. POLLERT:**

John took the Operating Budget Report.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

All right, just do it before the committee meeting concludes, you can advise

us on that. Thank you. Thanks again, Chief. Thanks Commissioner. Okay, if Legislator Haley is within earshot of this announcement, please return to the horseshoe.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

I heard every word.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, Joe Poerio you wanted to make a presentation. I almost forgot about that.

**MR. POERIO:**

If you want to go the agenda, I just wanted to speak on Resolution 1023.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

All right. Why don't you come up and when we get to 1023, you'll be at the ready. Is there anyone else in the audience that wanted to address the committee before we do the agenda? Alan, did you want to speak?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Oh, the same resolution? Why don't you come up and when we get to that resolution, you'll be -- Joe, if you just hold your remarks in abeyance until we get to the resolutions? It will be fresh in everyone's mind. Okay, the first resolution before the committee is I.R. 1617.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I withdraw that. The Year 2000 funds, I appreciate it.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, sponsor has withdrawn, is withdrawing 1617. It's no longer before the committee. 1706, is there a motion on 1706? There is no motion. The Chair will make a motion to table subject to call.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?  
Unanimous.

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS:**

**YEAR 2000**

**I.R. NO. 1706 (P) To extend fiscally prudent pilot payment policy for Suffolk County and Towns. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES (Legislator Binder)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 TABLED SUBJECT TO CALL**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

1846, is there a motion? The Chair will make a motion to table subject to call. Is there a second? Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**I.R. NO. 1846 (P) Authorizing action to stop taxpayer bailout of Nassau County budget mismanagement. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES (Legislator Fred Towle)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 TABLED SUBJECT TO CALL**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

1854, Legislator Postal makes a motion, which the Chair will second to table subject to call. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**I.R. NO. 1854 (P) Repealing home heating nuisance tax on Suffolk County residents. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES (Legislator Fred Towle)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 TABLED SUBJECT TO CALL**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

2041, the Chair will make a motion to table this resolution. Is there a second?

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

By Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**I.R. NO. 2041 (P) Adopting Local Law No. Year 2000, A Charter Law authorizing local municipal funding of Suffolk County Capital Projects. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES (County Executive)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 TABLED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

2300 motion to approve. Is there any reason why this should not be considered counsel?

**MR. SABATINO:**

No this one is based on a court order that the Dowling College should have gotten a tax exemption. So the basis for it was they had a court decision.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

A motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**I.R. NO. 2300 (P) To readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge backs on correction of Error/County Treasurer by: County Legislature #115. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES (County Executive)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 APPROVED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

2301, same motion, same second, same vote.

**I.R. NO. 2301 (P) To readjust, compromise and grant refunds and charge-backs on real property correction of errors by: County Legislature Control #663-2000. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES (County Executive)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 APPROVED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

I.R. 1001 of 2001, delegating authority to refund certain erroneous tax payments to the Suffolk County Treasurer. Motion by the Chair, second by Legislator Postal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**YEAR 2001**

**I.R. NO. 1001 (P) Delegating authority to refund certain erroneous tax payments to the Suffolk County Treasurer. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES (County Executive)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 APPROVED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

1003, establishing Suffolk County Sales Tax Policy for implementation of stable General Fund property taxes. Counsel, could you just comment on the resolution?

**MR. SABATINO:**

There is a corrected copy of this now. This was Legislator -- well, actually this become a new bill --

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

New bill.

**MR. SABATINO:**

To replace the old one but in effect, there was a corrected copy of the old

version which was to apply for 50 percent of the --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Excess.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Amount of sales tax in excess of what's actually adopted to be applied to tax stabilization purposes. The difference is that now would it be all future years. The original version was, I think, a one-year bill.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

The original, may I?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

The original was 100 percent and people had problems with that and it was only for one year. Now I've reduced it to 50 percent and it's in perpetuity.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

And the Tax Stabilization Fund is across all funds? Or is that just --

**MR. POLLERT:**

Just the General Fund.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Just the General Fund.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Okay, very good. So we have a motion by the sponsor, second by the Chair.

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved unanimously.

**I.R. NO. 1003 (P) Establishing Suffolk County Sales Tax Policy for implementation of stable General Fund property taxes. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES (Legislator Martin Haley)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 APPROVED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

1023, Mr. Poerio.

**MR. POERIO:**

Yes, thank you. Good afternoon. Good morning, I should say. I making this presentation on behalf of Joe Caputo who is out of town at the moment and he asked me to read the statement regarding Introductory Resolution 1023.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we come before you today to discuss Resolution 1023, which was laid, on the table on January 2nd. It's very interesting to note that this resolution creates three new positions within the Department of Civil Service that relates to administering the Insurance and Risk Division. For the last ten years that division has operated under the direction of the Department of Audit and Control and Executive Director of Risk Management administered the program and are capable and productive direction during that time. Under the Department of Civil Service through this resolution, it is requested that three new positions that of Director of Employee Benefits, Director of Employee Services and Public Information Officer be created.

Taking a mid range on hiring, these three individuals at approximately a step five, the cost of these positions annually is two hundred and fourteen thousand one hundred and nineteen dollars and thirty six cents, exclusive of benefits. Well over a quarter of a million dollars.

During the debate in December of 2000, the Legislator's Counsel stated that there would be utter chaos if the division were to go back to Audit and Control as a result of the public hearing. He said that bugetarily it would be a nightmare to correct this. We assured the Legislature at that time that this would not be the case and that a smooth transition could be attained. Several people at the Legislature did not believe that this would be the case and stated so. Now, I am surprised to see in this resolution that all of the public

relations people that were transferred into the Civil Service Department are going back to their original departments, as well as the funding without any looming problems.

I seriously question as to whether or not this can be done at this time without waiting for the quarterly budgetary process, which would take place in April. However, I do not hear, at this time, any outcry of utter chaos and looming problems by switching them back. As a result of this transfer, which was proposed by Legislator Carpenter's initiative to transfer the division from Audit and Control to Civil Service under a resolution entitled, a Charter Law to consolidate and streamline County personnel functions for more cost effective employee friendly services.

The first thing that was done to enhance these friendly services that the tried and true practice of flextime, which had been operated for over ten years in the department was immediately taken away from all of the employees. This was a blow to many employees whose lives function around the flexible schedule that they developed for themselves and for the department. Without any discussion with the employees, this benefit was removed from their working lives.

Last week, there was an article in Newsday regarding the gloom and doom of lower than expected sales tax revenues in 2001. The Presiding Officer was quoted as saying, we will have to tighten our belts, which perhaps is a good idea if, in fact, the sales tax prediction is realized and we discussed that today. However, I would like to point out that the increase of three new positions costing a quarter of a million dollars is not a good idea at this time.

Secondly, the County Executive's Office and the Presiding Officer have decided to enhance some fifty-employee salaries over the last several months to the tune of approximately two hundred and sixty two thousand dollars annually. These increases range from a low of three percent and in some cases to a high of fourteen percent and almost an eleven thousand-dollar increase in salary to one individual. In belt tightening times, is this really the right way to go and to show the public that you are treating favorite aides and management people to wage increases without the benefit of a contract renewal or by resolution.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask that you review the statements made here today and in good conscience make a decision as to whether or not these practices that I've described to you are the kind of practices that we should be taking at this time of impending problems with regard to the economy.

I thank you for your attentiveness and hope that you delay action on this resolution today.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Thank you Joe. Mr. Schneider, would you like to make a statement?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Yes. Good morning. I came over here today to answer any questions that any committee member might have in regard to this resolution. I didn't expect to hear what I just heard. I just want to go back to the early '90's, when employee benefits and the insurance and the retirement plan were under the Department of Civil Service. Employee benefits belong in a personnel office. But in the early '90's, the employee benefits and the insurance were removed from my department and were brought over to Audit and Control. It was an act of the County Legislature, which I disagreed with, which I fought and which I lost. When I lost, I walked away from it. It was the decision of the Legislature to put it under Audit and Control. That's where it was. I walked away. Now, the Legislature has decided to move employee benefits and self insurance back to the personnel human resources operation, including risk management, workers comp. safety office and the public information function. This was not something that I solicited. This was not something that I wanted, as I've said before. But if it is the wisdom and the request of the Legislature for me to carry out these functions, then I am going to do so to the best of my ability.

The statement that I just heard and I won't direct my comments against Joe Poerio, who I consider to be a friend. I will direct them against our County Comptroller who apparently wrote this statement. As far as I'm concerned, what he said in here today is a complete disgrace. He talks about items in this resolution that he absolutely didn't have the decency to call me to say why, talks about an increase in over two hundred thousand dollars in salaries, which is not true. These are three positions that are going to replace three current positions at no cost and I will go into the details on each one.

We came in there, now obviously, as I said before in this legislative body, I have been the County Personnel Director for eighteen years. Believe me, it is a full time job. Not only to run the County Personnel operation but to administer civil service law, not only for the County but for the ten towns, seventy two school districts, forty three villages, all the libraries and all the additional districts that are out there. These are all under my responsibility. This is what I do. This has been my career. This is what I know.

In 1995, the Legislature gave me telecommunications and management information data processing. We took that on in 1995 and we have taken the Data Processing Department and brought it up into the year 2000, to the point where we have something in this County that we can be proud of. I did not have the time to do this nor do I take the credit for it. I give the credit to the people that I put in there to be my eyes and ears and to administer that department on a daily basis. Now I've got this function.

I have assigned Paul Greenberg over there. He has been in data processing.

I've assigned Paul over to the 7th floor where these functions exist to be my eyes and ears and to administer that for me on a daily basis, because I don't have the time to be over there myself. The Legislature created, in this resolution, to move everything, a title of Director of Human Resources, a grade 35. Well, human resources and personnel are synonymous terms. Human resources became a buzzword for personnel in the '90's. When people come to me, they talk about their personnel. They don't come to me to talk about their human resources but their personnel are their human resources. Now, if I'm the County Personnel Director, I can't have a position working for me, Director of Human Resources, because in effect, I am the Director of Human Resources and that's all I say in regard to this position. It's also -- I want to put Mr. Greenberg over there. He is over there. It's a lower grade than what he already is. I can't say to him take on this additional responsibility, because he still has responsibility to me over in data processing, take on the additional responsibility and I'm going to lower your grade and put you in a title that's synonymous with mine. That's why I said take the Director of Human Resources out and replace it with this title of Director of Employee Services and that explains that position.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Just clarify?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

This is not then a new position. It's a new title but not a new position.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

It's a new title but it is not an additional position.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Number two, the original resolution of moving all the public relations people in the County to the Civil Service Department. That -- there's no way that that could work. Because you're taking the people who do public relations in the different departments in the County and moving them over to me, they are then outside of their departments and they don't know what's going on. So I said, instead of giving me five positions, in this budget, to do public

relations or public information with a Director of Public Relations, I don't need that. All I need is one person, not five, just one and possibly after someone gets hired, a clerical person to work with that individual. One person, a Director of Public Information, because Legislator Carpenter made very clear to me this is not public relations, this is public information to coordinate all the things that every County Department does that the taxpayers should know about. So it's very simple. I hire a Director of Public Information who will then coordinate with every public relations person in each department and deal with the various media to get the word out to the taxpayer, one person. So I am replacing a title of Director of Public Relations with a title of Director of Public Information.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

It's an add, one additional person.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

It's a subtraction, in effect, of what the Legislature put in the Budget. They put in there five positions. One position was a Director of Public Relations. I said put the other four people back to their departments where they are all needed. Every one of their Commissioners said they need the people to coordinate the information, otherwise, we wouldn't have the people in the departments. All I need is one person to do this whole function.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Is that one person currently on County payroll?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

No, so that's what I said, it's an add. It's an additional; it's a new hire.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

It's a new hire but what we're using is there was a Director of Public Relations.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Was that position filled?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

It was a Director of Public Relations in the Police Department. That position was moved to me. That one is not going back.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

That is being taken out and replaced by a Director of Public Information.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

And that person was in the Police Department has just been transferred to you?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

No, the person who was in the Police Department was transferred to the County Executive's Office.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

The position was vacant and that was the position given to me by the Legislature and which I assume they wanted me to fill. Instead of filling that as a Director of Public Relations, we are creating --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

I understand.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

A Director of Public Information.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

I understand.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

For that to do that.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

So let's go directly to --

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

That's number two. Position number three.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Director of Employees.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

The Director of Employee Benefits. Now, I have asked for this title to be created. No position -- I haven't asked for a position. I asked for the title, because what I want to do is sometime this year, hold a civil service examination. Now, the individual who is in this job and she is a wonderful lady, she has been working in the County for thirty-one years. She is in her mid '70's. I assume there is going to come a time when she is going to retire. I don't plan to fill her title with somebody else, because that title came through the evolvement of a clerical position and she, over the years, just built up her knowledge and her experience and eventually wound up in this Employee Benefits Supervisor position. Eventually, when she leaves the County and I don't know if that's going to be one year, two years, three years or four years but I want to be prepared with a civil service list. I cannot hold an exam if I do not have a title established in the County. All I'm asking for is to create the title, so that I can have an exam, so that I will have a list. Eventually, when that position becomes vacant, this is the position that I will fill the job from. This will become a Division Director for me.

Now, let me say this. In eighteen years in this County, I am the only management person in the Department of Civil Service, in Personnel, in Human Resources. I do not have a deputy. I do not have an assistant but I find it disgraceful that Joe Caputo would send his deputy over here with what I consider to be absolute sour grapes with this kind of statement that we are spending all this money to administer what he's been doing, in effect, without these titles.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Alan, before you go on? Let me just go back to the statement because I think

you have substantially clarified a lot of misstatements in the statement. I'd like to just go back to Mr. Poerio.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Can I just --?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Before you do.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Okay.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. What is the origin of this statement? Has this statement been prepared by -- who prepared this statement?

**MR. POERIO:**

This was prepared by the Comptroller.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. In doing so, did he consult or check with anyone in any other department, including our Budget Review Office to see if factually, the statements he's making in this statement are accurate?

**MR. POERIO:**

I can't tell you that Mr. Caracciolo. All I know is that we received the resolution and the resolution doesn't spell that out. It just talks about the creation of three positions.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. POERIO:**

If you look at Resolution 1023 --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

You answered the question.

**MR. POERIO:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

Mr. Pollert? Based on what you know about the resolution, the representations or the statements made by the Deputy Comptroller on behalf of the Comptroller, are they at all factual or accurate? Is anything in the statement that you would concur with?

**MR. POLLERT:**

Portions of them are accurate. It all depends how you look at the numbers. Since you had said the title that was put in to be the Director of Employee Services, which is the new title that they are requesting was a vacancy. It was up to the department to decide whether or not they wanted to transfer someone into it. So it's a question whether or not you look at that title being a new title with no one currently in the title. The department has elected to transfer someone to that title. So from a net budgetary point of view, when the Legislature amended the budget, we increased it assuming that it was going to be a new hire from some other, you know, as a new employee. So there are additional costs associated with the creation of the entire employee benefits unit in the Department of Civil Service that was anticipated. It was the department's option to transfer a person into that title.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

Ken? Is it anticipated that this position will be filled? Given the new policy that you alluded to before that as a result of sales tax?

**MR. KNAPPE:**

I believe so but I'll defer if, Mr. Schneider had any conversations with the County Executive's Office to answer that better.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

Okay. Alan, you may continue and if you will pick up on that point? Whether or not this position will be put on hold or filled?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

The Director of Employee Services?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Yes.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

It will be filled.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

It would be filled as soon as it's created because I already have somebody doing the job.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Right.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

But there won't be an addition in numbers to the County --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

I understand.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Because the person, Mr. Greenberg is already in --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

We understand that.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

A position in data processing and there would be one less person in data processing.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, so I want to stay with this point just for a moment longer. Because on page three, there was a reference to -- as a result of creating three positions, which we now know are not three new positions, there will be an additional cost to County Government of a quarter of a million dollars. How would then -- I know how you characterize that statement. It's a false statement from your perspective. What is the net cost for the one position? That will subsequently be hired? Not present.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

For this position?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Yes.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Okay, it's a good question. If I didn't put this resolution in and just acted on what the Legislature gave me to run this operation, the difference between hiring a Director of Human Resources, a grade 35 and this position of Director of Employee Services, a grade 37, the difference is the cost of the two grades, which I would assume comes out to about seventy five hundred dollars.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

That's the total cost.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Did you want to conclude your --

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

That would be even mitigated and reduced in data processing.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, so the representation of a quarter of a million in reality is up at most seventy five hundred dollars?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

That is correct.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Okay. Did you want to conclude your statement?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

The only other thing I have to address is the statement in here that Mr. Caputo put in, in regard to flextime. When this resolution first came up and it started to become a subject of discussion in the Legislature and obviously, the Comptroller's Office was opposed to this, as was Alan Schneider. Because at this point in my career, I wasn't looking to take on additional responsibilities. My whole background is in personnel and civil service. It is not in risk management. It's not in insurance but it wasn't in data processing or telecommunications either and the Legislature gave it me. We took it and we did the best job we could. Same thing is going to happen here. We've got it. We're going to do the best job we can to make this work as cost efficiently as possible. But I told Joe Poerio and Phil Bauccio that if this legislative action is passed, the one thing that I will change and eliminate is flextime. Because I had flextime in the Department of Civil Service. My employees asked for it. I said I would do it on a trial basis of one year. To me the only beneficiaries of flextime are the employees. It does not benefit the taxpayers. It does not benefit management. It created situations in my department where somebody was off on a Friday and I -- maybe in a big department it works but in a smaller department, there's no way it can work. Because if somebody is off on a Friday in a section of six or seven people and in the summertime, people are out on vacation and somebody calls in sick, all of a sudden, you don't have people doing the work and what we found in the 7th floor was there were a tremendous amount of people on flextime.

Now, I went one year in my department with it. It didn't work. We stopped it. The employees were not happy when I stopped it but I gave them the reasons why. When I heard that the possibility was, if we were getting the department and I heard that they had flextime, I told both Joe Poerio and Phil Bauccio that if we do get it, tell the employees that we are not going to keep flextime because I sure couldn't have it for one division in my department after I took it away from another. But what we believe in now, we've got people working from nine to five, five days a week, instead of working four days a week with people working from early in the morning until later on in

the evening. We've had everybody concentrated during the timeframe when the employees are working in this County. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Thank you. Fred?

**MR. POERIO:**

If I could respond? If I could just have a couple of minutes?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Sure.

**MR. POERIO:**

First, let me just respond to the flextime in which Mr. Schneider did, in fact, mention to Mr. Bauccio and myself, which would end. You've got to understand that this and that was done. He did mention that to us. That doesn't still necessarily make the employees happy about that. We had that program running in the Department of Audit and Control for about ten years and it's a management thing. Alan is correct, if sometimes you get problems with people on Fridays and so forth or on Monday they like to take long weekends, you have to make sure, as a manager that you have that covered and we did for ten years. We were able to make that work, not only in insurance and risk but throughout the rest of the Department of Audit and Control and it works very well and it's a management technique. For us it worked. For Alan, it didn't. So it's one of those things. I just want to correct the record here that it's just not like a situation where it doesn't work and it's not going to happen. It does work in some cases and it works very, very well in some cases. It worked well in our case. So let me just add that to the record.

Just going back to the three positions. You know it was not the intention and I'll stand up for the Comptroller because I was involved in the discussions. It was not the intention of the Comptroller to put forth to this committee today, information that was erroneous or improper or whatever. I forget what the term was that you used, Mr. Caracciolo but it was responding directly to the resolution. He did not have conversations with Alan Schneider regarding this that I know of, however, he was responding just to what was on Resolution 1023. That was his response. It was brought to this forum, to the committee, to be discussed. I think we had an adequate discussion from Mr. Schneider and adequate explanation, I believe, which I will now, hopefully, try to discuss with the Comptroller before he gets back and I'm going away myself. If we can get together on the phone, I'm going to mention this to him. He was prepared to come here on Tuesday and speak in the public portion about

this resolution and hopefully, we'll have that discussion on which Mr. Schneider discussed today, how those positions are being filled and you know, what the situation, what the strategy is, which I'm now enlightened and I'm sure he's going to be enlightened once I speak with him.

So it was no intention here to hoodwink the Legislature or to upset Mr. Schneider, anything like that. We simply went by what was on the resolution. This is the proper forum to bring it to -- to the Legislature, say we're opposed and for what reasons. Now the other side speaks and says well, it's a good idea and here are the reasons. So now as -- in this particular forum that's how we decide whether or not the resolution or you decide whether the resolution should go forward or it shouldn't. So I think there was no intention here of anyone to hoodwink anybody or pass forward some information that was not correct.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Before I recognize Legislator Alden. Let me go back to Fred Pollert. Fred, previously you said that some of the statements were inaccurate but others were not? Could you elaborate?

**MR. POLLERT:**

The comments go to the price out. Again, what I had previously mentioned is this component of the Omnibus Resolution did a variety of things including adding some additional titles that are not spoken to in this resolution gave the Department of Civil Service, I believe, another four titles to do human relations type of work. They received several additional personnel analysts, as well as a clerk typist. If you look at the total cost, if you take your point of view that these are new titles within the budget, the reorganization did wind up costing additional money. To the extent that people will be transferred into it, it is shifting costs from point A to point B. So that again, goes back to the title that Mr. Schneider wants to head up the employee benefits unit. We assumed there was going to be a new title. We assumed it was going to be a new additional cost if he transfers in a title, it is not the full of additional costs. So I could see how the Comptroller could work up the costs being a quarter of a million dollars assuming that no one was going to be transferred in.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Ken, the financial impact statement indicates no financial impact. Is that accurate?

**MR. KNAPPE:**

Excuse me. There's a couple interpretations. Basically, when I was preparing the fiscal impact with the anticipation that an employee may be going over from one unit of civil service into the other, that it would be a very minimal increase based on what Mr. Schneider was saying before about seventy five hundred. In addition to that, the backfilling that would occur would be a net savings. We would have another employee going into the MIS Division possibly, which may create a savings and then the backfilling going on behind that. In addition to that, there are sufficient appropriations within civil service's administrative appropriation to cover any increased costs from the increase of the grade of the position. So any additional fiscal impact, the answer would be no.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

All right. I'm going to request that we table this resolution for one cycle and that a new financial impact statement be prepared to reflect what we now know will be the actual costs associated with this. Thank you. Yes, counsel?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Just two other points, Mr. Chairman. There are two corrected copies that were filed subsequently. I'm not sure everybody's got them. So maybe that will help, in terms of, you know, people understanding it and one other point is that there are three transfers to public works, which weren't discussed earlier on. I wasn't sure where they fit in when I was looking at the bill but I understood the first part, Mr. Schneider explained but I didn't understand that part. You might just want to get into that at the next meeting.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Okay. I think it's terribly important, given what we now anticipate may be some shortfalls, revenue shortfalls that every financial impact statement that is prepared and attached to a resolution, reflect nothing but the latest and most accurate information and based on what I've heard here, I'm not certain that's the case. So we're going to now go back to the agenda. We thank everybody. Did you want to make one closing comment, Alan?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Well, the one -- and I respect your wishes to table this but what I've asked for in this resolution, the three titles is what I need now and eventually -- and when I say eventually, I'm talking about that third position, which again, I'm only requesting the title, so I can hold an exam some time this year.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

I understand.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

But this is what I need to do the job that you guys have given me to do.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

And I'm sure we won't --

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

I can't do this myself. I cannot go over to the 7th floor and be there for hours a day and do my job.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

That's the basic -- I don't have the deputies, the assistant {too's} that luxury of people working for me that I can assign over there. Mr. Caputo does have that. That's how he was able to run his operation.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

I think we understand that. I understand that.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Ken did you just want to close?

**MR. KNAPPE:**

Yes, if I can just clarify? There is no need from the Budget Office's standpoint to change the fiscal impact. If you look at question number six on the fiscal impact, that is an accurate statement, whereas that there is no additional fiscal impact. The offsets for the new position added and/or transferred are included within those respected departments. 110 appropriations exists within the 2001 Operating Budget.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Fred Pollert, do you want to comment on that?

**MR. POLLERT:**

We don't prepare fiscal impacts that way. I guess it's the prerogative of the County Executive's Office when they sign off on a fiscal impact statement to make that determination.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Right, I understand.

**MR. POLLERT:**

It's mostly when we do the fiscal impact, we would find out --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

As you and I have discussed many, many times, often times, these FIS's are not accurate and given the -- but I think is an essential need to be accurate, how would you cost out this resolution?

**MR. POLLERT:**

How we would cost out would be the net cost of increasing the grades that are spoken to within the budget. So when the Legislature had included money within the budget, we had done it as a grade 35, not as a grade 37. So what the fiscal impact statement should reflect is that dealt between those two titles.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

All right. Could you expedite my request to table by telling me today what you believe the actual cost should -- the impact statement should reflect?

**MR. POLLERT:**

That I don't know. I would have to look at it. The County Executive prepares the fiscal impact statements for all resolutions that he submits. We only prepare them for the Legislature.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

All right, but we'd like you to cost those out.

**MR. POLLERT:**

Yes, I would happy to do that.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, thank you.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

Could I just add there that the position that was created was a grade 35 and what I'm asking for here is a grade 37? So you've got a difference of two grades but the actual cost is only one grade, because the person who is in the job is already a grade 36.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Which I believe you said was a total of about seventy five hundred dollars?

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

No, the paper cost between a 35 and a 37 is seventy five hundred dollars but the actual cost to the County would be the difference of grade 36 and grade 37, because the individual is already a grade 36. So that is going to be a little less than four thousand dollars in actual costs.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

I said the actual cost is going to be one grade in actual dollars, which is a little less than four thousand dollars, I believe.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

But on the -- what would appear in the budget line is, in effect, the difference between 35 and 37, which is seventy five hundred.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. Legislator Postal and then Legislator Alden and then we'll go to the resolution.

**LEGISLATOR POSTAL:**

I'm just wondering, in view of your request that this be tabled, pending receipt of better fiscal information. I'm concerned that it was the intent of the Legislature in passing the Omnibus Budget to make some reorganization and I'm concerned because our next legislative meeting after the January 30th, meeting is not until February 27th, which is a whole month away and I'm wondering if it would be possible to discharge this without recommendation and ask the Budget Review, if prior to Tuesday, they can give us the information?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Fred?

**MR. POLLERT:**

Yes, we can do that, however, I would just note that the Department of Civil Service is continuing to operate as if a reorganization has taken place. The individuals in employee benefits are reporting to people from the Department of Civil Service. So it's not that none of the legislative intent has been carried out. Mr. Schneider has, in fact, carried out the legislative intent by doing the reorganization. What this does is it fine tunes it and gives him what he feels that he needs to completely be carried out. But it's not that the department is continuing to ignore what the legislative intent was.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay, we've got to move my committee meeting along. Legislator Alden, then we'll go into the resolution.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Alan, you had one quick comment.

**MR. SCHNEIDER:**

I just have to say, Fred is correct that we have people over in employee benefits and that is operating and we're running the operation right now. Where Legislator Postal raises an excellent point is, at least, I know Legislator Tonna, Presiding Officer Tonna and Legislator Carpenter have both asked me to move as rapidly as I can to get this public information operation going and that I cannot do until the title is created, because I can't hire somebody until the title is created. So in effect, if it is going to take until the end of February, it's going to be the end of February before I can even address --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Given the fact that we haven't had this -- the benefit of that position all these years, I don't see a one-month delay, having a material effect. Legislator Alden.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Actually this whole debate has actually raised some very, very serious concerns on my part. We expect professionalism and in this day of communication where we're going to do a transition, I would have expected personally that there would have been a higher level or higher degree of communication before something like this came over and was placed before me. So personally, I'm not real happy with this and it raises some concerns, as far as the degree of cooperation in this transition and we -- I personally will be taking a very, very close look at what's going on in those departments. There's something else in here that was raised, the degree of belt tightening. I'd also like to -- possibly the Comptroller can prepare something, as far as what he's doing, to contribute to the belt tightening but I'd also like him to be prepared to speak to his participation in an orderly and a professional transition, because we expect nothing less than professionalism.

**MR. POERIO:**

You can ask that question of him on Tuesday, when he's here at the public portion, Legislator.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Very good. That's enough. We have a motion to discharge without recommendation by the Chair, second by Legislator Postal. All in favor?

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Mr. Chairman?

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Yes?

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

I've asked you twice.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Oh, I'm -- I didn't --

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

I mean earlier on.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

I'm sorry.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

You should not be the only one that has the ability to interject when people are speaking. Because I've asked twice and I wanted to --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Go right ahead. Go ahead.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

We're right back to where we were. In all deference, I'm not -- I don't have that much of a problem with the Comptroller's statement. However, I want to say to you, Joe that I understand the point about flextime. But two things I see as a problem. You said that he reacted to that based solely on the reading of that resolution, correct?

**MR. POERIO:**

Yes, I did say that.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

Right and if you read that resolution, it's very clear that those positions would be an offset. They're simply making some changes and for instance, the

difference between a grade 37 and a grade 35 and it just -- out of the three new positions, there is only two that are, in effect, I think it's the employee relations person, he's hoping at a later date via some resolution perhaps to get that changed and he probably would offset that by that lady who is in her '70's.

**MR. POERIO:**

It was clearly explained today and I have no problem with it.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

I just want to make a point, Joe. You don't have to necessarily respond.

**MR. POERIO:**

I understand.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

But it's very clear in the resolution. Now, I'm not a personnel guy but I could see that in the resolution. The second point I have and I think is a problem is that Joe Caputo and you said previously, never had a conversation with civil service.

**MR. POERIO:**

It's not that I'm aware -- well, Allan is here so apparently not.

**LEGISLATOR HALEY:**

You never had a conversation -- listen, we're all in the same business here. Somebody should have picked up the phone and communicated and if he had done so, he would have not only found out the reasons for the flextime change but he would have also found out or perhaps been enlightened as to what was going on in this particular resolution. So I understand Joe's thoughts, all right? But I think you could have done a better job of communicating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Let me just raise one final point with regard to the statement and that is on page three. Counsel, there's a second point made by the statement that deals with the enhancement of some fifty-employee salaries over the last several months to the tune of approximately two hundred and sixty two thousand dollars. What does that reference to?

**MR. SABATINO:**

I don't want to speak for the Comptroller but I assume that what he is referring to is the process that occurs during the course of the year where there is sign off's by the Presiding Officer and the County Executive for salary increases for County employees.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Is anyone in Audit and Control the beneficiary of these salary adjustments?

**MR. POERIO:**

Rather than --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

No, let me ask --

**MR. POERIO:**

You could have asked me the question directly; I would have answered you. I think the only --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Anyone in Audit and Control, the beneficiary of --

**MR. POERIO:**

Not to my knowledge, except that there may have been one low level employee who may have gotten a step back in June or July or something like that and I would say no at this point.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Mr. Pollert, are you privy or Ken, are you privy to who these individuals are?

**MR. KNAPPE:**

No, I'm not.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Legislative Counsel, are you? Anyone with respect to the Audit and Control Department?

**MR. SABATINO:**

I don't see the master list but I know that --

**MR. POERIO:**

Mr. Caracciolo, I'm making a statement on the record and I'm telling you no.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Well, I've been told otherwise and that's why I'd like to clarify.

**MR. POERIO:**

Well, then tell me who told you that and tell me where you received the information and I will correct it for you. I'm telling you no.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Let me be very direct? Let me be very direct then, Joe? Did you receive any benefit under this particular, you know, statement that's made in this statement? Are you one of those that received --?

**MR. POERIO:**

No, not in the last six months. No, I have not. I did receive an increase last year about this time, in February of 2000. I did receive an increase. I was a beneficiary along with any of the other --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

What percentage increase was that?

**MR. POERIO:**

Three or four percent.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

Okay, so you had been at the low end of this particular reference?

**MR. POERIO:**

Right.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

Thank you. Okay.

**MR. POERIO:**

And that was before -- I'd just like to add that was before any statements of gloom and doom with regard to the economy occurred and so this was a statement made with reference from that timeframe not from a year ago.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

But isn't it fair to say to put the statement in its context that this is something that takes place from time to time?

**MR. POERIO:**

Oh, yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

Year in and year out?

**MR. POERIO:**

Oh, yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

There's nothing unusual about this?

**MR. POERIO:**

I'm not saying that there is --

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILO:**

Okay.

**MR. POERIO:**

In any way shape or form. All I'm stating is a fact.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Okay. I think that's important. That things are not taken out of context, when you're talking about two hundred and sixty two thousand dollars in a County Budget. Fred, what's the total personnel cost of County Government?

**MR. POLLERT:**

Including fringe benefits, roughly eight hundred million dollars.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

I mean again, to put that in context, it's really a very small number. Thank you, okay. All right, so we have a motion to discharge without recommendation. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**I.R. NO. 1023 (P) Amending the 2001 Operating Budget and Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan to accommodate the transfer of Divisions and their responsibilities which were adopted during the budget process for Budget fiscal Year 2001. ASSIGNED TO FINANCE & FINANCIAL (County Executive)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 DISCHARGED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Ken and Fred, would you both get together and make sure we have a corrected copy of the FIS?

**MR. POLLERT:**

Yes.

**MR. KNAPPE:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

Thanks. Okay, we now go to I.R. 1895. We are non-prime. I'm going to make a motion to defer to prime, seconded by Legislator Haley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**INTRODUCTORY - NON PRIME:**

**YEAR 2000**

**I.R. NO. 1895 Establish permanent exemption from County Park Fees for Volunteer Firefighters. ASSIGNED TO PARKS, SPORTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND PUBLIC INFORMATION AND FINANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES (Presiding Officer Paul Tonna)**

**VOTE: DEFER TO PRIME**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

2226, same motion. Legislator Postal made the second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**I.R. NO. 2226 Link County Park Fees for volunteer Firefighters/Ambulance Workers to Park Fees for Senior Citizens. ASSIGNED TO PARKS, SPORTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND PUBLIC INFORMATION AND FINANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES (Legislator Fred Towle)**

**VOTE: DEFER TO PRIME**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCILOLO:**

2303, motion to approve by Legislator Postal, second by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Approved unanimously.

**I.R. NO. 2303 Accepting and appropriating 100% Federal pass-through grant funds from NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for the "Catch them before they Fall Program" administered by the Department of Probation and authorizing the County Executive to execute grant related agreements. ASSIGNED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND PUBLIC INFORMATION AND FINANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES (County Executive)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 APPROVED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

We now go to 2001 - I.R. 1000. Counsel, can you just comment?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Yes, this is going to be a hundred and eighty two thousand nine hundred dollars of State money to deal with some non-compliance at the Sewer District. It will help Public Works get the County into compliance with State DEC requirements.

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

Okay. Motion to approve by Legislator Postal, second by Legislator Haley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Unanimous.

**YEAR 2001**

**I.R. NO. 1000 Amending the 2001 Operating Budget and accepting and appropriating an approximate 40% grant from the New York State Research and Development Authority regarding nutrient removal at Sewer District No. 1 - Port Jefferson and authorizing execution of agreements for the improvements to Sewer District NO. 1 - Port Jefferson. ASSIGNED TO ENVIRONMENT, LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND FINANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES (County Executive)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 APPROVED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

1006 motion to table. This bill is being amended. Actually another bill is being prepared by counsel, of which I'm prime sponsor, Legislator Bishop is co-sponsor and we will be distributing it for additional co-sponsors. So 1006 is tabled. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? A second on that was Legislator Postal.

**I.R. NO. 1006 Adopting Local Law No. 2001, a Charter Law to authorizing \$59 million State borrowing for 1/4% Open Space**

**Environmental Protection Program. ASSIGNED TO ENVIRONMENT, LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING AND FINANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES (Legislator Michael Caracciolo)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 TABLED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

1021, same motion, same second, same vote.

**I.R. NO. 1021 Adopting Local Law No. 2001, a Charter Law to authorize low interest borrowing for land and water protection under the 1/4% Environmental Protection Program. ASSIGNED TO ENVIRONMENT, LAND ACQUISITION AND PLANNING AND FINANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES (Legislator David Bishop)**

**VOTE: 4-0-0-0 TABLED**

**CHAIRMAN CARACCIOLO:**

And that concludes today's agenda. Thank you all very much and right on time.

***(The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.)***

{ } Denotes spelled phonetically