

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY**  
**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, HOUSING & CONSUMER**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A special joint meeting of the Economic Development & Energy Committee and the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on May 16, 2012 to discuss the Capital Budget.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Co-Chair of Economic Development & Energy Committee  
Leg. Robert Calarco, Co-Chair of Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee  
Leg. Thomas Cilmi, member of both Economic Development & Energy Committee/Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee  
Leg. DuWayne Gregory, member of Economic Development & Energy Committee  
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, member of Economic Development & Energy Committee  
Leg. Kate M. Browning, member of Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Commissioner Minieri, Economic Development & Energy  
Carolyn Fahey, Economic Development  
Tony Ceglie, Manager of Gabreski Airport  
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office  
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office  
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Leg. Cilmi  
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern  
Christina DeLisi, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

## THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:05 PM

### CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:

All right. Good afternoon, everybody, and welcome to the Capital Budget hearing for the Economic Development. I'm looking for my notes here. Economic Development as well Government Operations and Consumer Affairs. So, if we may, may we all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance?

### SALUTATION

May we all stand for a moment of silence in reflective prayer. I know that we did this in the Public Works meeting, but we want to give all our prayers for our Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay today. He is facing an operation today and we're wishing him Godspeed.

### MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED

Thank you. All right. What we're going to do, if I may, along with my fellow Committee Chairs, I understand Joanne Minieri is interested -- she's got another meeting. I'm sure what you're going to do is you're going to provide us economic development into the future and that's why you're going to this other meeting. But why don't you come on up and just give us an overall briefing on what is planned for Economic Development as far as the Capital Budget. And then -- I don't have any cards -- so that may be the best way to do it, so if there's any questions for you, Joanne, we can get you going. Joanne, why don't you sit at the table. Be comfortable.

### COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. I'm here to introduce you to a new Capital Program that was included in the budget this year called Jump Start Suffolk. I believe it's two-and-a-half million for 2012 and then five million for 2013. And I think that primarily the purpose of this new Capital Program is really to provide a tool so that we could advance the economic development strategy for the long-term sustainable growth for Suffolk County.

And primarily what that tool is, is the availability of cash to advance certain projects that will allow for a development that we are expecting that we'll have a plan in place, that will provide for improvements in infrastructure, transportation, have a multi-family housing component to it, have a community sense to it, quality of life element and the like.

We want to be able to use this tool, use this money to advance that project in what I would call a quicker timeframe. We will be assessing the risk levels of the projects that are presented for this funding to determine how quickly they could break ground and ultimately open. And, honestly, it's really for the ultimate mission, which is to create jobs for Suffolk County.

### CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:

Thank you. And that's enlightening. Let me just ask you, from -- just a quick question on that. You say that it's going to be used for future plans for multiple housing, transit hubs, that type of thing. Are you going to use existing proposals that are out there or are you planning on doing something new that we haven't been hearing about?

### COMMISSIONER MINIERI:

Well, you know, honestly, it would be a combination. I think -- this kind of money is really, I would like to propose it for projects that are really ready to go, that have really mitigated a substantial amount of development risk, so that we can get them in the ground quicker and we can see results quicker. If there are new projects that potentially because of the risk factors are lower risk, then, by most certainly they would be considered for this, too.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Okay. What we are thinking about maybe, some of the major projects that are already on the drawing boards would be under consideration for these dollars. Ronkonkoma Hub comes to mind.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Yes.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Hartland, maybe Wyandanch Rising, the East Farmingdale proposals with the 110, and things like that?

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Yes. Because this kind of fund makes a difference to get those types of projects moving. Those are the projects that'll make a difference and allow us to grow in a long-term sustainable future for Suffolk County. They will make a difference in this kind of opportunity to advance them quicker is really what we're looking to do.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

So, what -- that monies, then, that would be for -- as -- the buzz word of the day is transformational projects. Everyone uses it.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Yes, transformational projects, right.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Why not use it then? It used to be Smart Growth. I like that.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Urban economic development strategy and future growth of Suffolk County.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Can I also throw in as a suggestion that we're also looking at over this next year the monies that were out of the Sewer Stabilization Fund that were set aside for growth projects for sewers. So like when we look at things like the Ronkonkoma Hub, we also have that money that could also forward a project like putting in the sewer project in the Ronkonkoma Hub area so that just -- so you know that will compound the dollars in which we have to use as a combined entity for the County.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

You're absolutely right.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Good. Love to hear it. Legislator Cilmi, did you have something? Oh, okay. Anyone like to talk to the Commissioner?

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Hi, Joanne. So this funding in the Jump Start is ideally for infrastructure that we're going to be doing or any kind of road improvements that need to be made?

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

If necessary, yes.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Those kind of things? Is it going to be used to help offset with land acquisitions, with the development, similar to the way our workforce housing program works? Or is it strictly, you know,

with the Hartland project I know we will be looking at some major roadway work around Sagtikos and some of the other ulterior roads. Is it something along those lines we're looking at, using the funding for? I mean, I'm a little bit lost on how exactly that money's going to be applied to help further these projects.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

I think that the answer is all of the above. But some of these projects really do require improved infrastructure, whether it be roads, utilities and the like that with this money we could assist the municipality in getting that work done now so that the larger plan can proceed and unfold.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

So the money will be used for actual municipal needs that go along with expediting that particular private development project?

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Correct.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Thank you.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Are there any further questions of the Commissioner?

**LEG. CILMI:**

I'll ask.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Okay, Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Hi, Joanne. Other than the Jump Start Program that we're talking about, is there anything else in the Capital Program that you can talk to us about?

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Well, I know that we have Carol Fahey here to talk about the revitalization of downtown. And we have -- there's some money in there also for the Suffolk County Economic Development Infrastructure Projects, which will also be coupled. But the big number here is the Jump Start Fund.

**LEG. CILMI:**

There are two projects, if I recall correctly, one that was two million or so and one that was five million or so; right? Am I wrong?

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

That's the Jump Start.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

The Jump Start.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Are they both Jump Start?

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Yes, that's correct.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay, so it's a combined project.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Yes.

**LEG. CILMI:**

But they're listed as two separate projects, right?

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

No. I believe they're --

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Two separate years.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

-- just two years.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Sure, you'd like to answer?

**MR. PERNICE:**

There are two new economic development projects. The Jump Start is five million thirteen and then there's two million and thirteen for CP 6409, which is the Suffolk County Economic Development infrastructure project.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. So that's the one that you're suggesting, Joanne, that Carolyn might talk us to about?

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Yeah, that's the traffic violations -- right, Carolyn's going to talk about the downtown. The Suffolk County Infrastructure, I believe, and I'll do the best I can, but I believe that -- as stated in the budget that those funds are used primarily for some of the projects called the Red Light Camera Project and the Traffic Violations Bureau Project, some very specific projects that are being developed at the County level.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Commissioner, the concept of the Traffic Violations Bureau, where are we at with that? Is that something that -- I know you haven't had much time so, you know, is that something that you're going to unfold the next year? Is that how that works? We need State approval, I understand, but we're running late? What is the anticipation for this?

**COMMISSIONER MINIERI:**

Actually, I think Commissioner Melito is working on that, but I'll find out and get back to you.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Okay, that's fine. Carolyn, do you want to talk about your downtowns, anything that you want to mention? Would anyone like to be heard? We're here for the Airport, too. Welcome, Miss Fahey.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Hi. No, I actually just -- questions on Downtown, if you want. I know that the County Executive made a recommendation to fund the Legislature's Program again in the next three coming years. Budget Review Office has recommended that it not be funded because there's an outstanding balance of obligated money and encumbered money. As you're all very well aware, some of these projects take a longtime. The Lindenhurst Project, the Bay Shore project, those take quite a few years to get up and running. Lindenhurst we hit hurdles. We hit a hurdle with regards to the MTA, not allowing them to use that building. So this is money that --

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

So what you're saying, the money's encumbered.

**MS. FAHEY:**

The money's encumbered, right. We are going to work with the Budget Office to liquidate about \$600,000 that is in the first three or four rounds. There was an issue with regard to one encumbrance still on that -- on those projects. And you cannot liquidate and close out a capital program unless you closed out all the encumbrances associated with that. We had one left. That's being closed out. So the 1.8 million that Budget Review shows as being unobligated, that'll be reduced by about \$630,000 within the next couple of weeks.

So, we are moving forward. We have taken the years off where we haven't had grant money to really push and get these projects up and running. Municipalities are short-staffed, as everyone is these days. Having the surveying done and getting the projects done sometimes takes a little longer than we had hoped. Some hit hurdles, like the MTA with the Lindenhurst Project, the hospital with the Bay Shore project. And we've tried to give the municipalities some time to work those issues out and they seem to be working. So, we're making great strides in getting the projects done.

Again, it's going to be your decision whether or not you fund this program next year. The County Executive did recommend funding it.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Since you brought up the Lindenhurst, they seem to be moving along. I mean it's right across the street from my office. I do one of these (indicating). Yes, there's a gazebo and a building there now.

**MS. FAHEY:**

The Downtown panel's going to be visiting Lindenhurst for our tour in June

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

You'll let me know and I'll tour with you. Sounds great. So what you're saying is BRO is wrong.

**MS. FAHEY:**

No, no, never. BRO's figures that are in the budget -- in their report are accurate. They don't reflect what's happened in the last week or so with regards to liquidation of our last encumbrance, which will then let go of that 630,000 something thousand dollars (inaudible - in point three ten).

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Noted. Okay. Anything else? Any further -- okay, Legislator Cilmi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Hi, Carolyn.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Hi.

**LEG. CILMI:**

We had some discussion -- we meaning, the Legislature and some members of the Administration, a week or so ago with respect to the solar carports and the possibility of possibly embarking on some sort of a project like those, like that project on our own. Is that something that's been talked about at all? Is that on the radar? Do you have any idea what I'm talking about?

**MS. FAHEY:**

No.

**LEG. CILMI:**

No. Okay. I'll address it privately with somebody else then.

**MS. FAHEY:**

Okay.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And I guess that's really the only question I had. Thanks.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Okay. Any further questions of Carolyn? We're good? All right. Thank you very much.

Would anyone like to be heard on Economic Development? Would anyone like to be heard on Economic Development? There being none, I'll close the hearing on the Capital Budget for Economic Development. And at this point I will turn this over to Mr. Calarco who's going to do Government Operations.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Thank you, Legislator. Seeing that we don't have any cards, is there anybody in the audience that would like to address the Committee regarding the Government Operations Committee? Anybody like to speak? Seeing none, I guess we will close the Government Operations --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Question.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

Sure.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Is Mr. Melito joining us?

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

I do not have him here. He did not advise he was coming, so. We will have him at our next Committee, though.

**LEG. NOWICK:**

This is capital.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I know. But, I mean, there might be some capital -- he's not here, so we can't really ask.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

We'll query him at the next Committee.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Consumer Affairs? It's all the same. Okay. I think we're done.

**LEG. CILMI:**

If I may, when is -- when is -- we're not having another meeting prior to the adoption of the Capital Budget; is that correct?

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

No more public hearings.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Right.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

We have no more public hearings. We do have a Committee cycle that does come before we vote on the Capital Budget.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. So, I guess we could address, you know, any issues with respect to either Government Operations or Consumer Affairs at that time.

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

We will certainly reach out to the various departments and make sure that if they have any issues they want to speak to us about, or if we have any issues we want to speak them about, we'll have them at the Committee on the 31st. May 31st is our next Committee.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay, that'll be fine.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

And also so you know, the Capital Budget Working Group has been working. And so you're welcome to join us, you know, if you'd like on any and all questions and, you know, speak your mind on it.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I appreciate that. I was just interested to hear from Mr. Melito and also Mr. Meguin to see if there are any projects that we could embark on that, you know, would help the County work a little more efficiently. That's all. Thank you.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

It may be that there's no capital --

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I was going to say, most of what they're doing is mostly operating than capital. It's more --

**LEG. CILMI:**

Fair enough but --

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Making it more efficient to operate. That would be staffing issues and things like that. So really wouldn't require the capital.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Well, not necessarily. I mean there may be on the Consumer Affairs side. For example, there may be different types of software or equipment that could be used to do some of the things that Consumer Affairs has to do that might address --

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I think IT might address that?

**CO-CHAIR CALARCO:**

I had a conversation with our new IT Director, Mr. Rogers, quite -- about a week or so ago about much of the software needs. I knows he's going to be looking to make it his priority that where possible they're going to develop this stuff inhouse using our own personnel to develop this software programs, new protocols. And if he's is going to need consultants to assist with it, he's going to be looking at just, you know, something where they're in for a very short period of time to train our staff so that our staff can do the work themselves.

**CO-CHAIR HORSLEY:**

Okay. Anyone like to be heard on any of the above issues? We're good. These hearings have been closed.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:24 PM  
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**