

WORKFORCE HOUSING AND LABOR COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Workforce Housing and Labor 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 June 7, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Kate M. Browning, Chairperson
Leg. Jack Eddington, Vice•Chairperson
Leg. Vivian Vilorio•Fisher
Leg. Thomas F. Barraga
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Ian Barry, Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk
Joseph Muncy, Budget Review
Barbara LoMoriello, Presiding Officer's Office

Linda Bay, Presiding Officer's Office
Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Aide to Legislator Browning
Greg Moran, Aide to Legislator Nowick
Marian Zucker, Director of Affordable Housing
Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Executive
Annemarie DiNicola, County Attorney/Intern
Negan DiMiceli, County Attorney/Intern

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Lucia Braaten

[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 2:34 P.M.]

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Good afternoon. We're going to begin the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee. We'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

[SALUTATION]

Do we have any cards? Okay. Okay. Hearing none, no cards. And my presentation had to cancel, so we have no presentations either. So we'll move forward with the tabled resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

1075 • To evaluate County properties for Workforce Housing purposes. Do we have a motion? Anybody want to speak on this?

LEG. NOWICK:

I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Okay. Motion ••

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Motion to approve, second by Legislator Barraga. Sorry. Motion to approve was Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Motion **approved. (Vote: 5•0•0•0)**

Okay. Tabled Resolution **1177 • Adopting Local Law Number •2006, A Local Law to encourage affordable housing and workforce housing initiatives in towns and villages.** Do we have a motion?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I'm going to make a motion to table.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

I don't believe we had a public hearing on this; correct?

MR. BARRY:

Yeah, it's been posted.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

I just have a question on •• is there a difference between the next 1499 and 1177? Once there's a ••

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Ian, do you want to comment on this?

LEG. NOWICK:

I don't think 1177 was first. I don't know why.

MR. BARRY:

They're not the same. The titles are a little bit misleading, but they do deal with different problems.

LEG. NOWICK:

Can you tell us the difference?

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

The first one is about Planning Commission, isn't it?

MR. BARRY:

Yeah, the first one deals with Planning Commissions and reference for municipal zoning and to the Planning Commission. Why it says affordable housing in the title, I don't know.

LEG. NOWICK:

Tell us how it involves the local ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Isn't this that if the Planning Commission rejects a plan, heretofore, the Town •• the Town Planning Board could override it by a super•majority, and this would be •• this would deal with it differently?

MR. BARRY:

That's correct. This would allow municipal zoning, permit towns and villages to override Planning Commissions by a simple majority vote, rather than the super•majority that's now required.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Yeah, that's what I thought. I'm going to make a motion to table. I think I did make a motion to table, but I don't think there was a second.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

There was some question on that and I don't think we ever got an answer on it.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

No.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Yeah, I'll second that.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Okay. So the motion to table from Legislator Viloría•Fisher, second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. It's **tabled. (Vote: 5•0•0•0)**

Okay. I have 1139. I don't know what happened to that one. What about this one?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Oh, this has to be tabled for public hearing.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Okay. I have one, 1139. Does anybody have that one?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

No.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Okay. Then that doesn't belong in my book.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Okay. ***I.R. 1499 • A Local Law to further accelerate the County's Affordable Housing program.***

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to table for public hearing.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Motion to table, Legislator Nowick.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's tabled.

I.R. 1560 • Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Department of Public Works (Senior Industrial Waste Pretreatment Technician). Is there any questions? Do I have a motion?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Motion to approve.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Legislator Viloría•Fisher, second, Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? It's moved. **(Vote: 5•0•0•0).**

I.R. 1571 • Amending the 2006 Operating Budget to create one new position within the Department of Health Services, Division of Environmental Quality. Do I have a motion?

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Motion to approve, Legislator Nowick.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Second, Jack Eddington. Any •• all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay.
It's moved.

1601 • Authorizing the sale of County•owned real property pursuant to Section 72•h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Islip for affordable housing purposes. Motion.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I'll make the motion.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Okay. Motion is Legislator Barraga. Second?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

I'll second that.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay.

1626 • Transferring and appropriating Living Wage Contingency Funds to the Federation of Organizations for the New York State Mentally Disabled, Inc., Respite Fee Subsidy. Motion?

LEG. VILORIA•FISHER:

Motion.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Motion, Legislator Viloría•Fisher. Second? I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Thanks. Okay. And since we have none, we are adjourned.

LEG. NOWICK:

Motion to adjourn.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Did Marian want to speak?

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Oh, no.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

No, she didn't want to speak?

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Did you want to speak? I didn't even see you there.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

She came all the way over here in the rain.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Okay. Marian wants •• I'm sorry, Marian, I didn't see you.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Can you please turn on your mike?

MS. ZUCKER:

I'm mike challenged right now.

MS. ORTIZ:

No, it's right up here.

MS. ZUCKER:

Oh, sorry. The Islip CDA that you approved is going to go •• I mean, I'm sorry, the Islip 72•h is going to go to the Islip CDA. They're going to renovate the house themselves and sell it off to a first•time homebuyer.

You did table the changes to the Workforce Housing legislation. That's going to go to a public hearing on Tuesday. We're looking to make a couple of changes that I wanted to elaborate on for you. We're looking to create some more flexibility in our low income requirements for the program, because we're finding that towns are setting their standards. We have our standards.

We want to make sure that we can mesh our program with whatever policy goals each town has, so we worked in a little more flexibility for that.

We've also provided a specific accommodation for employee assisted housing programs. The changes are relatively minor. We hope we'll have your support on those.

In addition, in the next cycle, as I keep on telling everybody, Patchogue is coming. We •• the documents were •• should be laid on the table at Tuesday's meeting. We'll finally be in front of the Legislature with an authorizing request to purchase the site for the Patchogue Development. We're very excited about it. It was the first development supported and endorsed by the Workforce Housing Commission. We've been working very hard on it and we're very happy to get to this point. Also, this week at the Environment ••

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

I believe it was the Budget Committee or the Environment Committee.

MS. ZUCKER:

In the Environment Committee. Thank you, Vivian.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Where we had that 5 million dollar ••

MS. ZUCKER:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

•• appropriation, which we tabled.

MS. ZUCKER:

Thank you. It was tabled. That provides part of the necessary funding for the Patchogue Development. It did go to the Environment Committee, because it's part of the Multifaceted Program, but it's also something that we would look for the •• your Committee's support of. We do need that money in order to consummate the Patchogue transaction. Thank you.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Okay. And just to clarify why it was tabled, Budget Review also indicated that they had a problem with that resolution in as much as there was not enough detail in the resolution. And I did get a chance to speak briefly with Marian about this. When we get resolutions that look for an appropriation, which are for a program with a number of items that would be bought, for example, we have this with the Farmland Preservation resolutions which list a number of farms where the money will be going, at least if we have that kind of detail, the names of some of the projects where the money would be going, because 5 million dollars is a lot of money.

MS. ZUCKER:

We have since reached out to Gail Vizzini and provided her with a list. We hope that's sufficient.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Excellent, excellent. That's all we need, and then we can move it forward. And it's a short cycle, so we'll be able to get it going.

MS. ZUCKER:

Great. Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN BROWNING:

Thank you, Marian.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Thank you, Marian.

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:44 P.M.]

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