

LABOR, WORKFORCE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing 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 18, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Kate M. Browning, Chairperson
Leg. Ricardo Montano, Vice-Chairman
Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher
Leg. John M. Kennedy, Jr.
Leg. Daniel Losquadro

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Tim Laube, Clerk of the Legislature
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director of Budget Review Office
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Joe Muncey, Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn, Assistant Deputy County Executive
Brian
Jimmy
Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director of Affordable Housing
Ginny Suhr, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher
Bob Martinez, Aide to Leg. Montano
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Debra Alloncius, Legislative Rep for AME
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

(The meeting was called to order at 10:48 AM)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Good morning, apologies for being late. We will start our Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee with the Pledge of Allegiance. Legislator Montano.

(Salutation)

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you. We have one card. Debbie Alloncius.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

Good morning, members of the committee. My name is Debra Alloncius. I'm the AME Legislative Director. I'm here to speak to you about IR 1392, replacing the Real Estate appraisal people, the two people. The unit is desperately in need of the people. I understand that there was a bit of a problem when we sat here at the last committee because it looked like provisional appointees would have to be made because there was no existing list. Well, whether or not provisionals have to be appointed at this point, it's really -- the unit is in dire straits and provisionally we'd have to take a couple of people in. I think it's best for the unit and we'll get Civil Service to, you know, call for Civil Service to get a test as soon as possible. We don't always like provisional appointees, but they need the people.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Legislator Kennedy, you have a question?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to kind of follow-up on that. My understanding is the unit at this point is basically operating at 50% of it's capacity. It is a four person unit.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

The volume of, you know, assessments and condemnations in particular has been tremendous through that unit. Speaking with Geoff Mascaro I know that County Road 16 is just starting now. That's about an eight or nine mile long project that's probably going to involve a couple of hundred parcels as far as condemnations go. We're buying land, you know, at breakneck pace and oftentimes, you know, we have some particulars associated with it.

So I hear what you're saying, that ordinarily we try to support creation of positions where there is an existing title, but nevertheless, I guess when we have the provisional appointments these individuals -- hopefully we're bringing forth individuals that are qualified. And secondly, they are going to have to score on the test and score high enough to be reached.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So the concerns of the union should be addressed just by virtue of the fact that we have the process and the integrity of the process maintained.

MS. ALLONCIUS:

That's the whole thing. We want to keep the County running. We really don't see, you know, any good amount of work being able -- they are not productive. They cannot be productive, they are

just drowning. And, you know, you had a retirement of a grade 32 and they are going to make two 16's out of it. It is advantageous for AME, there is no doubt about it, but I think it is more advantageous to the unit. We have spoken to the unit and they do need the help. So, you know, just a little bee in your bonnet. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Thank you, Debra. We were supposed to have a presentation from one of the workforce housing -- I guess they didn't show up. So we'll go on with the agenda.

Tabled Resolutions

2579-2006, Adopting Local Law No. 2006, A Local Law to broaden eligibility under the 72-h Transfer Program. (Schneiderman). I will make a motion to table.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'll second it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Sorry, that second was Legislator Montano. **(Vote: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Losquadro).**

The next tabled resolution is ***1358, Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law to expand the County's Affordable Housing Program. (Co. Exec.).*** Jill, do you want to comment on that?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

It's a work in progress and we're almost finished with it. And I hope to have it ready for the next session.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. MONTANO:

Second. Quick question on it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second by Legislator Montano. And a question by Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Hi. With respect to revisions, do you know -- because I think the last time we were discussing this bill there was an issue with respect to the promulgation of the guidelines and whether or not they would need Legislative approval. Do you have any comment with respect to that?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

I'm not quite sure I'm following your question.

LEG. MONTANO:

All right. Paragraph 2A2 of the resolution, last sentence talks about the Director shall establish guidelines pursuant to section A32 and shall file those with the Legislature. What we had discussed was some kind of mechanism where generally speaking -- were you here at that --

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Okay. My point at that time was that generally rules are promulgated, they are reviewed, and then they are passed. That no one person or entity has discretion, sole discretion, in terms of

promulgating the guidelines. I'm just wondering if the amendments that you are talking about in terms of this being a work in progress encompass that conversation.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Yes. They will be submitted for review, if that's what you're asking.

LEG. MONTANO:

For review and approval. Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So we had a motion to table and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

Tabled resolution ***1392, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Suffolk County Department of Public Works (Real Estate Appraisal Technician I)***. I'll make a motion to approve. Do we have a second?

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second by Legislator Viloría-Fisher.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Madam Chair. On the motion, if I can. If we have somebody from the administration here I just have a quick question. Hi, how are you, Ben?

MR. ZWIRN:

Good, John.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good. How quickly -- does the administration have particular individuals in mind and how quickly will the individuals be brought on board assuming this passes?

MR. ZWIRN:

I don't know if they have anybody in mind for this provisional spot, but as you indicated earlier they will have to take a test for it. It's not a new title, the title exists in Civil Service. I don't know, but I know they have to move if they want to move very quickly on this because the unit is down and they have got a lot on the plate.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Again, County Road 16, County Road 80, I mean, all those condemnations alone you're probably talking about a couple of hundred of them. And I've seen this test before -- I mean the requirements. Again, I guess the message is, you know, we are just looking for people to come on board hopefully as soon as possible. Qualified people.

MR. ZWIRN:

I'll bring that message back.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Good. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

I think we all echo that. So there was a motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, motion is approved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

Introductory Resolutions

1599, Amending resolution No. 459-2007 regarding waiver policy for Civil Service Examinations for Veterans. (Cooper). I'll make a motion to approve. Do we have a second?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll second it for purposes of explanation. Why do we need to change the proof of residence? Was there a problem in terms of individuals being able -- not being able to provide adequate proof of residence?

MR. NOLAN:

The original resolution that gave veterans the lower park fee schedule said that the proof submitted had to be a DD form 214. Since the County -- since that resolution passed the County's passed a new program saying that the Veterans Agency is going to issue veteran ID cards to residents. So this just says the Parks Department can accept that as proof of residency and give them the lower fees.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And also Kris Chayes couldn't be here today and she did send an e-mail that --

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

But this says just for Civil Service exams. I apologize.

MR. NOLAN:

Same deal.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Same thing? Oh, because in the interim we began issuing these ID cards. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

And like I said, Chris Chayes did send me an e-mail that she -- there is no problem with the bill. Okay. So there's a motion to approve and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

The next one. Resolution **1614, 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 (SCTM No. 0500-367.00-03.00-090.000). (Co. Exec.)** A motion by Legislator Montano. I'll make a second. Do you have something you want to --

LEG. MONTANO:

No.

CHAIRPERSON BROWN:

Okay. I'll make a second.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Just a question.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Go ahead.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Is this one of the transfers that we usually see a resolution from the town board as far as acceptance prior to our execution and transfer or no? There is?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Yes, and we've received it.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Great. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0). 1627, Amending the hourly rate for temporary positions in the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan. (Co. Exec.)**

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve by Viloría-Fisher.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Second, Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0).**

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

What is the new salary? I just don't have it in front of me.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Student intern year one is seven dollars and currently the new minimum wage is I believe is 7.15.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay. Thank you. I got it.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

You got it?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yup.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. No Memorializing Resolutions.

Home Rule Message

Home Rule Message requesting New York State Legislature to expand binding arbitration to Suffolk County Parks Police (Senate Bill S.4690 and Assembly Bill A.8342). (Losquadro)

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

I have question for Counsel, Madam Chair.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion to approve and I'll second. Legislator Viloría-Fisher has a question.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

George, being that the New York State Legislative session is coming to a close this week, and -- but even with a home rule we can -- what happens with that?

MR. NOLAN:

Well, if it -- we can act on it but it may not ultimately be in time for them to consider if they close their session at the end of the week.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Well, they're closing Thursday and we won't be able to vote on this until Tuesday.

MR. NOLAN:

That's true. It is also possible, though, that they'll come back into session later in the year, so there's no harm in doing it.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

So we could send it up and they could act on it in the fall. Is that what you are saying?

MR. NOLAN:

Yes.

LEG. VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Okay. So there was a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? And the motion carries. **(Vote: 5-0-0-0)**.

With that, we'll have a motion to adjourn.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON BROWNING:

Motion by Legislator Losquadro. I'll second and we are adjourned.

(THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:00 AM)

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY