

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 May 5, 2009.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Chairperson
Leg. Kate M. Browning, Vice Chair
Leg. Thomas F. Barraga
Leg. Jack Eddington
Leg. DuWayne Gregory

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

William J. Lindsay, Presiding Officer
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Alicia Howard, Legislative Aide
Lance Reinheimer, Assistant Director of Budget Review Office
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Patrick Skip Heaney, Commissioner of Economic Development
Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director of Affordable Housing
Joe Sansavarino, Community Development Director
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader
Debra Alloncius, Legislative Rep for AME
Kris Chayes, Department of Civil Service
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:14 PM

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Welcome to the Labor, Workforce & Affordable Housing Committee. Could we please rise and salute the flag led by Legislator Eddington.

SALUTATION

Okay. Welcome to the Labor Committee. Is there anybody that wishes to address the Committee? I do not see anybody so I will start with tabled resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

1092, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in Suffolk County Community College (College Personnel Officer). (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? **1092 is tabled. (Vote: 5-0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Introductory Resolution 1306, authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-H of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Southampton for affordable housing purposes. (Co. Exec.) Do I have a motion for 1306?

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? **1306 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1313, Establishing an application fee waiver policy for Civil Service Examinations for volunteers in the Suffolk County Community Emergency Response Team. (Browning)

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll make that motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Browning. A motion by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed? **1313 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1321, accepting and appropriating recaptured adult, dislocated worker and youth funds from the New York State Department of Labor for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program. (Co. Exec.) Is that something that can go on the consent calendar?

MR. NOLAN:

(Indicating yes)

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'll make a motion to approve and put on the consent calendar.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? **1321 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1322, accepting and appropriating adult incentive grant funds from the New York State Department of Labor for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program. (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1322 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1323, accepting and appropriating additional TAA Training Funds. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1323 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1324, accepting and appropriating American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding from the New York State Department of Labor under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1324 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1358, Transferring and appropriating living wage contingency funds to the Federation of Organization for the NYS Mentally Disabled, Inc., Respite Fee Subsidy. (Co. Exec.)

LEG. GREGORY:

I'll make a motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Gregory, second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? **1358 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

1364, amending Chapter 631, Article I of the Suffolk County Code. (Co. Exec.) George, what is that?

MR. NOLAN:

This basically states that exempt employees are who hired or rehired after the effective date of this resolution are going to contribute 10 percent of the cost of their health care benefits.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh.

LEG. BROWNING:

At this time I'd like to make a motion to table.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second to table by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed?
1364 is tabled. (Vote: 5-0)

1383, amending the temporary classification and salary plan for Nurses Aides. (Co. Exec.)
I'll make a motion.

LEG. EDDINGTON:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:
Second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor?

LEG. BROWNING:
Just real quick, I know this is the John J. Foley Nurses, right?

P.O. LINDSAY:
Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:
And, you know, I know, Bill, you have the numbers, how much money we're saving by doing this.

P.O. LINDSAY:
What this will do is create a pool of nurses aides. We created -- last month we created the pool of nurses for additional shifts that ultimately will probably save over \$400,000 for the facility. So this is just changing the salary schedule to give them a rate that they could hire people at.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:
Okay. I think we have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? **1383 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1388, accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the New York State Housing Finance Agency for a neighborhood stabilization grant and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements. (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? **1388 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1389, accepting and appropriating a 100% reimbursed grant from the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation for an Affordable Home Ownership Development Program grant and authorizing the County Executive to execute agreements. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1389 is approved. (Vote: 5-0)**

1410, Adopting Local Law No. --2009, A Local Law to amend the Living Wage Law and establish new date for Cost Of Living Adjustment. (Pres. Off.) This has to be tabled for public hearing. I'll make that motion, second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? **1410 is tabled for public hearing. (Vote: 50-0)**

And that would --

LEG. BROWNING:
Lynne, I don't want to belabor this because I know -- next committee, I'd love to get some lunch. But we have Skip Heaney and -- okay, both of you. There was a question at the, I believe, Ways and Means Committee. I was listening to them on the computer in my office, believe it or not. But there was some question -- there was a piece of property in my district that was discussed. It was a 40 by a 100 lot and questions about what is Brookhaven doing about affordable housing and was this a buildable lot. And I know that we have Jill and Skip are here. I did receive a binder. And if you could maybe speak on, you know, the question was, is Brookhaven doing their fair share on

affordable housing with the 72-H process? So if you could just make a comment. I know you put this lovely binder together with lots of nice colors and I think it would be nice that you could just real brief speak on it.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Hi, everyone. Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director of Affordable Housing. Yes, I gave -- we have completed a comprehensive review of all the 72-H properties that the County has transferred pretty much since about 2001. I gave the gentleman a copy of that. And I will be distributing copies to each of the members of this Committee as well.

Essentially we broke it down by towns as to how many properties were transferred per town, how many were sold or rented, the number of parcels outstanding, the number of parcels needing extensions because there's a limitation on how quickly they can complete construction and then the number of parcels that were within the three year limit or were in the pipe line to be transferred.

And I can go through it in more detail at another session or today as you wish, although I do have to be in Huntington at two o'clock. But let me just say with respect to Brookhaven we have transferred approximately 282 parcels to the township; of that 104 have been sold or rented. The number of parcels outstanding, therefore, is 178. The number needing extensions thankfully is only 19. But the number of parcels in the pipe line or have been in the three year time limit that need to be developed is 159.

What we're now doing is systematically meeting with all the non-profits who the town has designated as the developer of these parcels. And we are systematically closing in bulk on many of these to get these into the hands of the non-profits and then we monitor it pretty strictly now to make sure that they comply and stay within the time limits so that we can get people into the homes. It's just a waste of a County asset to have the property sitting out there.

So I'm very happy that the County Executive asked me to do this. This is very helpful. And we see this as a tremendous opportunity to utilize these county asset properties.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you. So what it's saying is Brookhaven's doing their fair share; right?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

In terms of numbers, yes. They've got the biggest bulk of it.

LEG. BROWNING:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Jill, maybe you could distribute that to all of the Legislators because I know there are questions sometimes in Ways and Means so if you could just distribute it to everybody, that probably would be helpful.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

We'll do that, yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And I think Legislator Eddington had a question.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Yeah, I just wanted to know if the three year time frame is not met, what happens?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

I can give them a two year extension for good cause. And then a second two year extension for

good cause. After that, I've got to come back to you all and get your approval; otherwise we take it back.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Thank you.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

You're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Any further questions?

LEG. BROWNING:

No, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. I will make a motion to adjourn, second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed?

We're adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:26 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**