

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, 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:

George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Patrick Skip Heaney, Commissioner of Economic Development and Affordable Housing
Jill Rosen-Nikoloff, Director of Affordable Housing
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive
Brendan Chamberlain, CE Assistant
Barbara LoMoriello, Deputy Clerk/SC Legislature
Robert Dow, Commissioner/Department of Labor
Maxvel Rose, Aide to Leg. DuWayne Gregory
Paul Pontieri, Mayor of Village of Patchogue
Kris Chayes, Civil Service
Dennis Brown, CA's Office
Joe Sanseverino, Director of Community Development
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative Director
Gary D. Cannella, Architect Artspace Patchogue
Diana Weir, EVP, Long Island Housing Patchogue
James Britz, VP, Long Island Housing Patchogue
Bob Coughlan, Tritec/ Downtown Patchogue Revitalization
Chris Kempner, Town of Riverhead/ CDA Director
Robert LoScalzo, Tritec Real Estate Co.
Ronald Simpson, DSS
Shawn McLearn, Artspace Projects
William Hillman, DPW
Martin Sendlewski, Summer Wind.
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Alison Mahoney/ Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographers

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Gabrielle Skolom - Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:09 PM*)

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'd like to call the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee to order. Kate's not here; Duwayne is here; Eddington -- we can start. Oh, there's Kate. Okay. I'd like to start with the Pledge to the Flag, please, led by Legislator DuWayne Gregory.

Salutation

Welcome to the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee Meeting.

Anybody that wants to build an ark can start collecting the animals two by two. Outside, have you not been outside?

LEG. BROWNING:

No.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Unbelievable. Okay. We're going to start our meeting with the public portion. I do have two cards. The first card is Gary Cannella. Gary? Is Gary Cannella here? Okay. Okay. The second card is William Hillman. We'll get you the next time. Come on in.

Public Portion

MR. HILLMAN:

My name is Bill Hillman, Chief Engineer of the Suffolk County Department of Public Works. I'm here to speak on IR 1554. Unfortunately, I have a closing at 2:00 in Melville, so I won't be able to stick around. I just want to put it on the record and give an opportunity to ask any questions if this Committee has any.

This position is for Bill Chandler, who's in charge of our Federal Aid Highway program. He brings in millions and millions of dollars every year to the County. He actually ran the local program unit for New York State DOT and wrote -- assisted in writing the manual for administering local programs through the Federal Aid Highway Program. He is extremely knowledgeable. We are -- between last November and this November, we will be letting \$110,000,000 in highway projects through the Federal Aid Program which is an unprecedented amount of money. It approaches what New York State DOT actually does in an annual year. Their program is normally \$150,000,000.

Just to give you an idea, DPW normally puts out about \$20,000,000 in one year. We're doing 110 in one, not full calendar year, but November to November, which is an amazing amount of money. The majority of that and the majority of the process was handled by Bill Chandler. He was instrumental in getting this done. Without him, there's no way we could have achieved this. So I just wanted to express how important he is to the Department and answer any questions, if anybody has any.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is this -- this is a change of position title -- a new -- creating a new position title?

MR. HILLMAN:

That's correct. When we brought him onboard, there were about four people that did different

portions of his work. We took certain elements from those people who -- three of them have actually retired from the County at this point -- but he's assumed a lot of the responsibility from various different people that did different functions, and it's now all under one person.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is it a salary increase with the new position?

MR. HILLMAN:

No, it's not.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

So it's just a new title, a lateral move, almost, as far as salary?

MR. HILLMAN:

That's correct. It puts him in the correct position with the correct descriptions. It clearly identifies exactly what he does, and he will be taking the exam he should be taking.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I think you're doing good so far. Okay. Thank you.

MR. HILLMAN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Anybody have any questions?

MR. HILLMAN:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you, Bill. Now, we did have a card. I believe the gentlemen walked in; Gary Cannella? Did he walk back out? Oh. Good afternoon.

MR. CANNELLA:

Good afternoon. I only filled it out just to let you know I'm here to answer questions on Artspace. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Does anybody have any questions yet? Okay. Bob Coughlan?

MR. HEANEY:

Legislator Nowick, good morning.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Wait a second --

MR. HEANEY:

Commissioner Heaney. We didn't sign in, but those folks are with us.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Well, that's fine. All of these people are here, and you're speaking for them, Skip?

MR. HEANEY:

Yes. I'll try to give some form to it, and I know people do want to speak. I'm accompanied today with our Housing Director, Jill Rosen-Nikoloff. We have Riverhead's Director of Community Development, Christine Kempner, who has a statement that she wants to read as a representative of

Supervisor Bill Cardinale. We have representatives for the project called Summer Wind Square. We have Ray Dickhoff, Jodi Giglio and Martin Sendlewski representing that project. We have from the New Village Tritec Proposal in Patchogue the principals, Bob Coughlan and Rob LoScalzo. We have representing Artspace Patchogue Lofts, Mayor Paul Pontieri and Shawn McLearn, all who want to have an opportunity to address the Committee. We also --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Skip, can I just interrupt you one second?

MR. HEANEY:

Sure.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Everybody who filled out cards and everybody speaking on related subjects, do you want to come up here and do it as a group, or do you want to come up and speak separately; what would you prefer?

MR. HEANEY:

No. I think we're all settled in and comfortable.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay, but somebody has to get up and speak at some point and speak, or are you going to do the speaking?

MR. HEANEY:

I'm going to do the introduction, and then you can go back to those cards, and if someone who was asked to speak has not filled in a card because they came in late, we'll try to shuffle them up here to the podium to have that opportunity.

So we're here to address any questions that the Committee would have regarding IR1505, 1506 and 1507. In brief, these three actions authorize funding for three mixed-use projects that are very significant in several ways. They provide an opportunity for Suffolk County to partner up, in this case, with the Town of Riverhead and with the Village of Patchogue to provide a total of 164 new affordable rental units. They're important to both of those municipalities because of their efforts to breathe new vitality into downtown areas by bringing in people with expendable income to live and work in areas that are within walking distance to new shops, new restaurants and public facilities.

And finally, and very importantly, I think, these projects represent in excess of \$100,000,000 in new shovel-ready construction, and that means jobs for trades and an opportunity for Suffolk County to send a very positive message about our willingness to do our part, not only to produce new affordable housing but to help our local economy climb out of the recent recession. So, at that point, with my comment, I would ask perhaps that we invite Christine Kempner, representing Supervisor Cardinale to come forward with her statement.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Just let me ask you -- we do have a bunch of cards. I'm not sure if I understand that Bob Coughlan does not want to speak, but you're here just in case there's questions.

MR. COUGHLAN:

Yes, that's fine.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is that what he said, yes?

MR. COUGHLAN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'll put that aside. Usually, we go through the cards. I just want to know who wants to speak. Chris Kempner, will he want to speak or you want to just bring up your own --

MR. HEANEY:

Chris, she will want to speak on behalf of Supervisor Cardinale from Riverhead.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And Martin Sendlewski?

MR. HEANEY:

Martin Sendlewski representing Summer Wind Square will want to speak.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

And Shawn McLearn?

MR. HEANEY:

Yes, representing --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Will want to speak?

MR. HEANEY:

Is that Mayor here? Mayor Paul Pontieri would like to speak.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. I don't see him, but I'm sure he's here somewhere.

MR. HEANEY:

He just walked in a minute ago.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. So we usually go through the cards first, but did you want to bring up someone that would be important to have that --

MR. HEANEY:

There was a bit of confusion here when we all came in. There was an awful lot of people milling around.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We'll do it your way.

MR. HEANEY:

We'll meet halfway.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. Bring up --

MR. HEANEY:

Christine?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes.

MS. KEMPNER:

Good afternoon, and thank you for --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Just state your name for the record, please.

MS. KEMPNER:

Christine Kempner from the Town of Riverhead Community Development Agency on behalf of Supervisor Phil Cardinale and United Riverhead Town Board to speak in favor of the Summer Wind Project in Downtown Riverhead.

Riverhead Town supports the Summer Wind Project enthusiastically as a model of a great public/private partnership that will provide quality affordable next generation apartments located in a prime area along the Peconic River and Grangable Park in the heart of Downtown Riverhead. Summer Wind will provide desperately needed affordable lifestyle options for our young people and local professionals. Area employees who work at the Suffolk County Center, Peconic Bay Medical, teachers and school and administrators and town, fire and police department employees are among those.

To date, the County has been an instrumental partner in Riverhead's emerging downtown revitalization, including substantial County support for the County Court renovation and expansion, and multiple Suffolk County downtown revitalization grant funded projects, including a safe pedestrian crossing over Peconic Avenue between the riverfront walk and Grangable Park, which is directly in front of the Summer Wind Project.

Undoubtedly, these next 52 -- these 52 next generation housing units will bring new life to our downtown. The Supervisor of the town board, local businesses and employers and the community support this project and appreciate the interest and continued support of Suffolk County to join our revitalization efforts, and we particularly thank Commissioner Heaney and Ms. Rosen-Nikoloff for their assistance with this project, and we thank you, the members of the Labor, Workforce and Affordable Housing Committee for your favorable review of this request. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you very much.

MS. KEMPNER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Chris Kempner?

MR. HEANEY:

That was Chris Kempner.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh, I'm sorry. Martin Sendlewski.

MR. SENDLEWSKI:

Good afternoon. Martin Sendlewski, Riverhead. I'm here as the architect for the project as well as being a principal. I'm also in attendance with Raymond Dickhoff, one of the principals, and Jodi Giglio, also a principal.

I do have a copy here -- reduced copies of this, if you would be interested in having them. They not only show the rendering, but they show the approved site plan -- the approved site plan for the project. This project does have all of the approvals required: site plan, etcetera, as required for us to obtain a building permit.

One of the parcels, the structure, which was a dilapidated structure on the southern edge of the property, which was the first building you would see when you came into Riverhead, has since been razed. The two remaining structures are still there, and they would be razed within a very short time should this project be approved.

In addition to speaking as a principal and as the architect, on a personal note, I'm basically a lifelong resident of Riverhead, and I have three children, one of whom is out of college for two years and two still in college. I see their friends all the time. They come to our house; good kids. They're all in school looking for -- looking toward their future. One of the problems they all have is they talk about places where they're going to live when they graduate and places that they can find to stay in the area.

We think a project like this would represent a community within the Community of Riverhead, so it would benefit the youth that it would serve, and it would certainly also benefit the township in terms of a much needed revitalization. We thank the County Legislature for your review of this and hope for your favorable review, and, again, we do thank the Town Board Supervisor Cardinale and the Town Board as well as all the Suffolk County officers that are here that have been very helpful in this project. Thank you. If you have any questions, we'd be glad to answer them.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. You have a question. Yes?

LEG. GREGORY:

Hi, and thank you for coming today. Just so I understand, is this a current vacant lot, or is it a building that's being revitalized or --

MR. SENDLEWSKI:

There are three lots, and there are three separate parcels that are being merged. Each parcel has a structure, all that are in disrepair. There's a small two-story building, which is directly adjacent to the historic Vail Leavitt Music Hall. In fact, it turns out to be a building without a foundation. It's actually bolted to the side of the theater. There's a social hall adjacent to that on Peconic Avenue. Then there was a small commercial building which was the southernmost parcel. The southern building has already been razed. The other two would be razed and replaced with this new facility. What the facility does do is it does allow for a walkway and first floor commercial development within Downtown Riverhead for walkable community and a sustainable project in the community.

LEG. GREGORY:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Mayor Paul Pontieri?

MAYOR PONTIERI:

I almost put my jacket on, but then it was raining out, and people will understand why I keep this jacket on.

LEG. BROWNING:

How is your dog?

MAYOR PONTIERI:

He was home a week-and-a-half, but I drove him back yesterday. Thank you very much for asking. I appreciate this opportunity to address this Board. We're presenting two projects today, both significant in that they both have large affordable components to them, all of it rental, but both of them servicing and providing the Village with a different sense and look about them.

The Artspace development which is being built on Village property, two parking lots and another

piece of property that we own, will be forty-five units of affordable housing for artists, loft space put -- built in a manner that allows to be living work space, almost commercial space unto its own, which will have a retail component to it, and it will also have galleries and studio space therein to sell.

As many of you know, and you've been at the Patchogue Theater, the Patchogue Theater for the Performing Arts is that; it's for the performing arts. This allows us to have a component of the fine arts, whether it be sculpture, whether it be painting, whether it be poetry, or for that matter, music also, so it really helps us redefine and set up another mission for the Village itself and to project a different image that's out there and allow the different kind of growth for the community.

Take that piece of it, and if -- interestingly enough -- and we have gotten some funding through the County, some downtown revitalization funds for the redevelopment, the reconstruction of an alleyway that takes from Main Street to where this Artspace is going to be. That alleyway actually connects to the theater to the Artspace development, so there's a connection that will be automatic and natural by nature.

The other one is the Tritec New Village development, which I think has as much regional significance as does local significance for the Village because it will have retail components to it, and I'm going to ask Bob Coughlan, and I'm going to ask Shawn -- Bob Coughlan from Tritec to give you a three-minute capsule piece of that so you can get a sense of what it's about. It will have the retail, it will have office space and a hotel on the corner, but more importantly, it will provide rental -- 240 rentals, which all 240 are below the 120 percent mean average income -- the average mean income, the AMI, so all of it will be affordable and a percentage of it, and Bob will go over that. The numbers will be below the 85 percent on average mean income, so what we're attempting to do is to bring that youth back into the community, revitalize downtown as you do it and keep the activity going.

I don't want to spend much of my time explaining to you. I'd rather have the two principals, one being Shawn McLearn from Artspace and the other being Bob Coughlan from Tritec to give you a sense -- they can answer some specific questions about the project itself, unless you have some specifics for me for now, but I do appreciate this opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

We just have one question.

MAYOR PONTIERI:

Yes?

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Actually, it's really not a question. I just wanted to tell the Committee that this is a man that stands before you that has a tremendous dream and vision for downtown revitalization, and it's a two-point-two mile area, and if you haven't been in Patchogue lately, I would invite you there. At one time, I used to be able to go out to lunch and go to one or two of the restaurants because that's what there were. Now, there must be 12 in walking distance from my office. He has a dream. He's been working on it. He's gotten together with our workers in the county to get support, and he's actually, if you've read the paper lately, helping so that I can get sewers down into the East Patchogue area by fighting and twisting arms to get at least some of the money now from Brookhaven Town.

I just want to tell you how much I appreciate working with you because we are really going to start making a change in Suffolk, and Patchogue is a great place to start.

MAYOR PONTIERI:

Jack hit on something that's extremely important. You know, it is about partnerships and how we make these partnerships work and whether it's through Skip Heaney and Jill Nikoloff-Thompson and how we build those and how we make these partnerships work. It is between the County, and it is between the State, and it is between the Village, and it is with the partners between Artspace and

Tritec, and it's how we build those partnerships and how we make them work. But I'd like to ask, and I started with Artspace, I'd like to ask Shawn McLearen just to step up and just give you a little background about Artspace as a corporation and a little bit of what it does for the community.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

As a matter of fact, Shawn McLearen did fill out a card, and it's the time, so come on up.

MR. MCLEAREN:

Thank you. My name is Shawn McLearen. I'm project manager for Artspace Projects, and I'm thrilled to be here again with you in Suffolk County talking about the work that we're doing together in Patchogue. We're creating a facility that will house 45 units of affordable live/work space for artists and their family and additional two commercial units on the ground floor for a total of 2500 square feet that we hope to have filled with cultural and community organizations.

Artspace projects is the nation's largest nonprofit real estate developer for the arts. We have 23 projects across the country that we own and operate. We have another 12 or so that are currently in our pipeline. We've been working with Mayor Pontieri and Legislator Eddington in Patchogue for some years now and have benefitted greatly from that partnership. We're very excited about the work that we're doing in Suffolk County, and we've also been working, I'd say very well with Jill Rosen-Nikoloff-Thompson, Joe Sanseverino and Commissioner Heaney to get to a position where we're now talking with you once again.

And we've also been working very well with DHCR and HFA to bring the project to a close in August of this year. I just want to state that we also have a project that we completed in Buffalo, New York with some of the same agencies. That project has a waiting list of approximately 500 people. So we see the benefit that is occurring not only in New York State, but also we see the sort of critical mass occurring in our projects in the partnerships that the Mayor has referred to across the country and the communities that we work with.

Our mission is to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and their families, and we do that in perpetuity. So we have no intention whatsoever of letting these units do anything other than continue to be the mission-driven facility that we're all investing in today. So if you have any questions, I'd it be happy to address them.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you very much. Legislator Gregory?

LEG. GREGORY:

So these properties, units will be for artists only. What's the criteria; is there an application process; do you verify that the person is actually an artist; how does that work?

MR. MCLEAREN:

What we do is, we'll be working with all the local, state and federal regulations per affordable housing like any other affordable housing developer does. The only difference really is that we try to market to a population within the affordable housing community such that all things being equal -- income qualification, background checks -- we try to advance the units to persons who can show some kind of creative pursuit. So essentially there is no logistical or formal qualification that they have to fill out.

We work together in the selection committee by inviting not only the management here but also local leaderships and some artists and creative professionals in the community that are not interested in the units to help us assess a couple of things. Is someone going to be pursuing their creative pursuit in these units effectively? Will they benefit from that in some regard? And also equally important, do they have a sense for not only the community inside of the facility, but also ensuring that the community that has helped build this facility will also be welcomed in.

So we do things usually monthly, quarterly where we have big open days and try to get the community in to open studios and open up the place in a way that we think is very different from some of the other affordable housing facilities, but also, I think does a great deal to advance some of the other goals the community has in trying to create, for example, the rest of Terry Street continuing to grow and also create kind of a critical mass of sorts that the mayor was talking about in terms of the shops, the restaurants and the significant amount of investment that's already gone into the cultural infrastructure in that village.

LEG. GREGORY:

All right. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. Thank you for the presentation.

MR. MCLEAREN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Sounds like a wonderful project. Thank you.

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

I would like to ask, if possible, Bob Coughlan from Tritec --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes. I had asked him before. He said he wasn't interested in coming up. Has he changed his mind?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE MEMBER:

What I would like to do is just have him give you an overview also of that project and give you the opportunity to ask --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Might as well bring him up.

MR. COUGHLAN:

Thank you. As Mayor Pontieri mentioned, I'm Bob Coughlan. I'm with Tritec. My brother and I started Tritec almost 24 years ago. For most of that time, we have been primarily commercial developers, meaning we build office buildings, medical office space, hotels, industrial parks. We're here on Long Island, Manhattan and Northern Virginia, D.C. marketplace, and a number of years ago, we became concerned about -- well, primarily what fills up office buildings and industrial parks are job creation. Without job creation, there's no real demand for our need, for our space, so we became concerned with the number of young people moving off of Long Island.

Young people, in our mind, are the raw materials of what these companies here on Long Island are trying to attract need. We decided to figure out why they're leaving and where they're going. We went around the country, and we visited all these places. We have been to Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Denver, Atlanta, Washington D.C. and a host of other places, and we have been to all the conferences on smart growth, and we said, "Hey, where are they going? Why are they going there?"

What we discovered is that a lot are moving to these environments where these mixed-use facilities -- they don't want to live in a basement or a converted garage or an attic. They want an environment where they're with other people like themselves. They want an environment where they can -- you know, the cliché of work, play and live in close proximity to one another. They want the ability to ride their bike or take a train or not necessarily drive in a car. They want the ability to get to a coffee shop or where they're working out or to a bar or hang out with their friends.

What we started doing is looking around Long Island for an opportunity to do that. We discovered

Patchogue really is, for us, the ideal environment to do that. In Patchogue, if you are familiar with it, as Legislator Eddington mentioned, there's -- right now, it's in a renaissance. When we first started looking at it four years ago, we bought four blighted buildings. It was a blight study going on.

That was a good thing for us. It was a bad thing for Patchogue. It was good for us because it allowed us to accumulate property we wouldn't have otherwise been able to afford to buy. They have the parking capacity in the downtown. They have the sewer capacity in the downtown, and most importantly, they have political will and vision to do something about it.

What we have done is we have acquired six parcels surrounding the municipal parking lot. We've designed, gone through the entitlement process over the last couple years and received site plan approval to build a 111-room hotel, 240-unit rental complex, 37,000 square feet of retail and approximately 20,000 square feet of office space. We are working right now with the State of New York on a "Restore New York" program. We're starting the renovation of a 100-year-old building in the downtown. We have worked closely with the County on the development of 240 residential units, 67 of which will be workforce housing. And we appreciate the opportunity to present today, and hopefully, we're looking forward to your support on this project.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

That timing was perfect. Just a quick question. These apartments are for rent for workforce housing?

MR. COUGHLAN:

Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Approximately one-bedroom, two-bedroom -- say, a two-bedroom, what would that go for; what would the rent be?

MR. COUGHLAN:

Units will start from \$1,050 and work their way up. You are talking about workforce units?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Yes.

MR. COUGHLAN:

Workforce units would be starting around \$1,050 into \$1,200 range.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

For a two-bedroom?

MR. COUGHLAN:

Rob, do you have the exact figures? It's Rob LoScalzo, Chief Operating Officer at Tritec.

MR. LOSCALZO:

They will range from, like Bob said, from \$1,050 for studios and \$1,150 for one-bedroom units.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. All right. Thank you. And we do know what Patchogue has become, and you are probably too young to remember when Patchogue was the only place you could go to if you wanted to shop at the Beehive or Sweezy's, and then it did a complete flip, and now it's -- I would say thanks in large part to Mayor Pontieri, it's becoming a major little city. So thank you very much.

MR. LOSCALZO:

Thank you.

MR. COUGHLAN:

Thank you about the young comment, but I used to shop for my school uniforms there.

[*Laughter From Panel*]

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. We do not have any other cards, and I think we're going to go to the agenda.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS.

IR 1092-09, 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 make a motion to table.

MR. NOLAN:

Subject to call.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Table subject to call.

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Eddington. All in favor? Opposed?

1092 is tabled subject to call. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1364-09, Amending Chapter 631, Article I of the Suffolk County Code. (Co.Exec.) Can you explain that? That's already been tabled.

MR. NOLAN:

This one would change the code to require that in the future, exempt employees would contribute 10% towards their medical health plan and their benefits.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Oh. Okay. Just so I get this clear, employees that are coming for the first time, exempt employees that are coming into the workforce for the first time will at the time be told, "Ten percent of your benefits will be paid for." And is there another part to that -- somebody -- did I remember that employees that leave and come back are also considered new employees and that they would also be paying into --

MR. NOLAN:

It says, "Hired or rehired on or after the effective date of the resolution" would have to kick in ten percent of their health benefits.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. So they know coming in. Do I have a motion?

LEG. GREGORY:

Motion to table.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to table second by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Okay. **This will be tabled.**

(VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 1478, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing purposes. (Co. Exec.) Do I have a motion?

LEG. BROWNING:

I would like to make a motion to table, and maybe Jill or Skip would like to come up. There has been some question about -- I know some of these properties that are being transferred, and some of them are exceeding, I believe, three years and have not been moving with the Town of Brookhaven. And I have actually contacted Supervisor Lesco's office to try and sit down and talk with him because of the fact that many of these properties are not moving and what do we need to do to get them moved. So I know that there's been some discussion about we keep giving them these properties, but they're really not moving on them and why do we keep giving them to them. Jill or Skip, do you have any comment?

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

You want to table that, though, Legislator Browning?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes, until they have that meeting.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Did we get a second on that?

LEG. BARRAGA:

I second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Barraga. On the motion?

LEG. BROWNING:

It's just, you know, you give us the numbers, and there's well over 200, and after three years, I believe it reverts back to the County, and, you know, a lot of these properties are just not moving. I mean, I don't want to put them on an auction block; I certainly don't want to do that, and you know why. But at the same time, if they're not working with the non-profits, they're not moving fast enough, I want to know why. We do have a new supervisor that I want to sit down and talk to him and see if there's a way we can move it, which obviously, I would need you there, but go ahead.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

I'm super excited that you have spoken with the supervisor. One of the things that we hope to accomplish by putting together that report of what's outstanding is just this, is to move these properties. We have been systematically closing on the old ones, and we have an understanding with the town, particularly those towns that get the bulk of 72-h that we're not going to give them to them unless they can properly tell us in a resolution what non-profit is going to get it.

We can't afford to have them sitting around in anybody's inventory. Yes, you are correct; there is a backlog. We're on top of it. We're moving them with the help of my assistant, Nicole Christian, and Commissioner Heaney. We have been working very closely with the town community development agencies to move them through. But there's no question that you've hit it on the head; they're County assets, and they need to either be built as affordable housing or sold for the public benefit.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. I guess my aide is listening to this as we speak, but he's saying probably the week of July 13th that we're going to be meeting with him, so I would like to table them now. I don't want to let them go and go for auction. But do you have an issue with me -- with us tabling them at this time?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

I do not have an issue. The only thing I would say is, if we could confer with our Real Estate Department because if they don't want them or don't feel that they can add it to their already existing inventory --

I do know that the Real Estate Department is preparing for an October auction and has asked us to move -- to close on as many properties as we can prior to July 31st. Otherwise, it's difficult for them to prep those properties for auction.

LEG. BROWNING:

But these ones, you know, if we're just transferring now, we have three years with these current ones that we have, right?

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

With these that are on the table right now?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

We have three years, plus I can grant two two-year extensions.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. We'll maintain that motion to table, but we've got to move these properties.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Legislator Gregory?

LEG. GREGORY:

If I may, Madam Chair. Through BRO, I would like to see, if there hasn't been already, some type of fiscal impact as to the loss of tax revenue because of these properties that have been in limbo, some of which, from what I understand, over 10 years. So I think it's important as a body that we see those numbers and that we understand. I know that your staff is working very diligently to do that, and it's not something that's your fault. It's really on the townships to move and do what they have to do, but I think that this is certainly something that we should explore into further.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Yes, you are correct. Once we transfer them to the town, they're off our tax roll. Unless they're developed, they're not producing tax base for anyone. The ones that really we want to focus on are the ones the town has said they want but have not closed on, they remain our tax liability at the County level. So that's why I said, the quicker you get the town to say they want to close, the better off the County is.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Did you want an immediate answer from BRO, or did you want them to gather the information?

LEG. GREGORY:

If you can just look into that. I don't know if you have that information now --

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Then maybe you can get the information to us.

MR. REINHEIMER:

I was going to say that I think that Real Estate has that information because they have in the inventory of parcels that they're looking to transfer, that they have transferred, they would have that information and the parcels that haven't been closed on, the County is continuing to pay the taxes. So we would have to get that information from that other office, which I assume they could provide to you.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

Yes, I know they can.

LEG. GREGORY:

If you guys could provide it to us, I think that would be important for us to have.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

I will have to confer with the Real Estate Department; that's sort of their jurisdiction. But every parcel that comes across your desk has the County's investment in it, and that just continues to grow the more it stays on our tax roll.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BARRAGA:

I was the second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

All in favor? Opposed? **1478 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

IR 1479, Authorizing the sale of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for affordable housing purposes. Legislator Browning, did you want to table that one also? Same motion, same second?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes, make the same motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Same motion, same second?

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah. Again, size of the lots is also another issue I didn't bring up because I'm hearing from the civics. I know, Jill, you were at one of those meetings where there's some concern and certain communities where we have a lot of very environmentally sensitive land and these 50 by 100 lots, we just can't keep building on them. It's just not good for the environment.

MS. ROSEN-NIKOLOFF:

I just want to point out on this resolution there's a bunch of adjacent lots that when combined will be 24,000 square feet in one instance and 18,000 square feet in another, so right now, I think they're vacant and full of junk. I'm not quite sure the Committee is going to have the same concern, but that's your area, and I'll defer to whatever it is this committee would like to do.

LEG. BROWNING:

Hold off until that meeting.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed?

1479 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1505-09, Authorizing planning steps for implementation of Suffolk County Workforce

Housing Program for Workforce Housing (SCTM No. 0204-013.00-06.00-002.000). (Co. Exec.)

LEG. EDDINGTON:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion to approve by Legislator Eddington.

LEGISLATOR GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

1505 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1506-09, Authorizing planning steps for implementation of Suffolk County Workforce Housing Program for Workforce Housing (SCTM Nos. 0204-009.00-05.00-025.002. and 025.003, 026.000, 024.000, 017.000, 016.000, 015.000, 014.000, 044.000). (Co. Exec.)

Shall I do the same motion, same second? All in favor? Opposed? **1506 is approved.**

(VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1507-09, Authorizing planning steps for implementation of Suffolk County Workforce Housing Program for Workforce Housing (SCTM Nos. 0600-128.00-06.00-081.000,

0600-128.00-06.00-082.000 and 0600-128.00-06.00-086.003). (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? **1507 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

IR 1511-09, Authorizing the disbursement of funds from the Suffolk County Living Wage Contingency Fund for Kids Place Early Childhood Day School, the Community Programs Center of Long Island, Inc. - Port Jefferson, the Community Programs Center Of Long Island, Inc. - Ronkonkoma, Rainbow Chimes, Inc., Brightwaters Child Care & Development Center Inc. DBA Kiddie Academy of Brightwaters, and Lazy Cow, Inc. DBA Kiddie Care Early Learning Center Day Care Providers under Contract with the Department of Social Services. (Co. Exec.) Do I have a motion?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Barraga.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed?

1511 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1537-09, Accepting and appropriating Workforce Investment Act funds for the purchase of computers. (Co. Exec.) One hundred percent federally funded. I will make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed?
1537 is approved and placed on consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1538-09, Accepting and appropriating unrecognized revenue for program Year 2008 Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Funds from the New York State Department of Labor for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Program. (Co. Exec.) I'll make the same motion, same second, placed on the consent calendar as well. All in favor? Opposed? **1538 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

IR 1539-09, Accepting and appropriating Workforce Investment Act Transportation funds. (Co. Exec.) Same motion, same second, also placed on the consent calendar. All in favor? Opposed? **1539 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

IR 1540-09, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Department of Health Services [Medical Assistant (Spanish Speaking)]. (Co. Exec.) That would be a Spanish-speaking position.

LEG. GREGORY:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:
Motion to approve by Legislator Gregory.

LEG. BARRAGA:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:
Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed?
1540 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1541-09, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Department of Health Services (Senior Boat Operator). (Co. Exec.)

MR. NOLAN:
I think Ms. Chayes is here if you have any questions from Civil Service.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:
Kris Chayes? Just quickly, for a boat -- is that what that says?

MS. CHAYES:
There is currently an incumbent in the title of Boat Operator who has assumed over the course of his being employed since 1998, supervisory duties supervising other employees in repairs and things like that. And as such, the job spec had to be amended to reflect that additional responsibility of supervision of other employees, and the next step would be the Senior. So this person has been an employee since 1998, and it is a salary difference of \$1,592 per year.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:
It's a classification?

MS. CHAYES:
It was a desk audit.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:
I'll make that motion.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? **1541 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**
Thank you very much, Kris. Which boat is this?

UNKNOWN AUDIENCE SPEAKER:

We operate several boats in the Division of Environmental Quality. We have a 34-foot Webber's Cove, 32-foot Thomas Diesel powered inboard, 23- and 25-foot Parker with a 20-foot Privateer and other boats, and this is all part of the sampling effort that Division of Environmental Quality undertakes.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay. I think we understand now. Thank you.

IR 1554-09, Amending the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan in connection with a new position title in the Department of Public Works (Highway Funding Program Manager). (Co. Exec.) I think this is the one we heard from Bill. I will make a motion.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed.
1554 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

IR 1557-09, Waiving the employment of Vinessa Manfre from Suffolk County Residency Requirements. (Cooper) What position does she hold?

MR. NOLAN:

She is an aide to Legislator Cooper. Apparently, she's planning to move to Nassau County. She is getting married, is what I'm told, and planning to move to Nassau County. Under our code, there is a residency requirement, which can be waived by the Salary and Classification Board, and she has requested a waiver, but the board has just not met in the last year; it may not meet for several months more. What this bill would do is waive the residency requirement until such time as the board meets and rules on her application for a waiver from the residency requirement.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Who is she an aide to?

MR. NOLAN:

Jon Cooper.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Is this temporary according to this --

MR. NOLAN:

One year or the until the Salary And Classification Board meets.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Do I have a motion?

LEG. BARRAGA:

I'll make the motion.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Motion by Legislator Barrage.

LEG. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Vanessa gets to get married.
1557 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

That concludes our agenda. If there is anybody -- Mr. Heaney?

MR. HEANEY:

Fist of all, thank you very much for the opportunity to make a presentation on those three projects that we discussed earlier. By way of courtesy, I just want to let the Committee members know that there is a CN coming forward. It concerns -- you heard the one about, "Honestly, it got stapled to somebody else's piece of paper"? It actually happened. This is the resolution that would authorize the acceptance of just under \$1,000,000 in additional stimulus money for a Block Grant Recovery Fund that would be used by Community Development in conjunction with the eight consortium towns with the typical -- to bolster the annual Community Development Block Grant Program, just to the let you know it's coming.

CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you. I'll make a motion to adjourn by Legislator Eddington. Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We are adjourned.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:55 PM*)