

**PARKS, SPORTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

**Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Parks, Sports & Cultural Affairs 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 **March 27, 2003**.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Ginny Fields - Chairperson  
Legislator Cameron Alden  
Legislator Angie Carpenter  
Legislator Brian Foley  
Legislator Lynne Nowick

**MEMBER ABSENT:**

Legislator Jon Cooper - Excused Absence

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Sabatino, II - Counsel to the Legislature  
Mary Skiber - Aide to Legislator Fields  
Alexandra B. Sullivan - Chief Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature  
Judith Gordon - Commissioner of Parks Department  
Lance Reinheimer - Budget Review Office  
Denise Speizio - Suffolk County Parks Department  
Steve Malo - Sr. Vice President, Fleet Management Services  
Steve Raptoulis - Parks Department  
Ming Liu Parson - Suffolk County District Attorney's Office  
Brian Galango - Aide to Presiding Office Postal  
Elizabeth Tesoriero - Audit and Control Exec. Director  
Frank Bayer - Audit and Control  
Greg Lauri, Suffolk County Parks Department  
Stephani Galteri - Suffolk County Attorney  
Emi Endo - Newsday  
Christine Costigan - Director of Real Estate  
Lauretta Fischer, Suffolk County Planning Department  
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office  
Barbara LoMoriello - Aide to Legislator Cooper  
Jim Spero - Budget Review Office  
Isabel Dietsche - Self  
Georgia Lheron - Self  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Eileen Schmidt - Legislative Secretary

**(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:15 P.M.)****CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

We will begin the Parks Committee meeting, boy this group knows what to do. We're going to begin the meeting by starting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Carpenter.

**SALUTATION****CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thank you. We have a lot on our agenda so we're going to try to move it along, but we have a couple of problems because some people are going to be delayed. So rather than start with Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum we're going to ask the Commissioner to come up and just direct some of the discussion. You know what, if you would stay there maybe there's a card and I think maybe they want to according to what the card says, it might be something that they're directing toward you anyway or want your information and response. George Wheron.

**MS. LHERON:**

Georgia.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Georgia, it is Georgia; that's without my glasses. Come on up to the podium.

**MS. LHERON:**

Good afternoon. My name is Georgia Lheron. I'm going to read because I'm real nervous. I'm a resident of Elwood in the Town of Huntington. My library board of trustees is anticipating renting and renovating the Little Red School House in Cuba Hill Road in Elwood. In fact, it already has a little of first option to rent. I believe that Suffolk County owns the building. I have been in the building and found it to be in major disrepair. If at all possible, I would like to have the answers to the following questions regarding the building. First of all, does the building have a property CO or and including a letter in lieu? Secondly, since I have noted that there is exposed wiring in the ceiling, does the building have an underwriter's electrical certificate of inspection and compliance? Three, has the building had a termite and boring insect inspection and if so has it been treated and with what chemicals? Four, since the building dates back to 1915 and the original plaster walls were probably painted with lead based paint the furnace appears to have some pipes still exposed and covered with asbestos. I would like to know if the building has been tested for lead and asbestos contamination. Fifth, is the deal being formulated where the Elwood Public Library will occupy the building for no fee in return for a commitment to bring the building up to code for building use? And sixth, are you aware that while many negotiations have taken place and the Suffolk Cooperative Library System has had architects examining the building for possible renovation cost. Myself and other Elwood residents have not been asked nor will we be asked if we want to invest our money in renovating your building. I realize that my questions are complex and you'll need time to look into the answers. I would appreciate any information you can obtain, but regrettably I need the answers before April 8<sup>th</sup>. For on April 8<sup>th</sup> the residents of Elwood will be voting on a library budget that will give our library board the funds and the authority to rent and renovate your building with out any further community approval. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I don't have a response to all of her questions, but we would be happy to get as much of the information for her as possible. I'm sure we don't have a C of O because that building was acquired prior to the County requiring the C of O's. As far as the lead paint if it dates back that far they're probably very well is lead in the building because all of our historic buildings just about have lead in some way shape or form. I believe it may have been inspected for asbestos, but I'm not 100% sure, but again I can find that out also and, yeah, we have not committed to anything, but the Elwood Library I guess just recently passed a referendum to create a library in the area. But they are not able to build it immediately and I think what they would like to do is get established and I believe since the County has owned the building which dates back to 1987, if I remember correctly. The Huntington Art League, which is now the Long Island Art League, utilized the space in the building. They are building their own facility and moving out, their target date I believe is this fall thereabouts. And the library the Suffolk County Cooperative Library System had approached us about using the Elwood Library for I believe they said five years and in return they would restore the building for us according to our Historic Trust guidelines. We made it clear to them that it would have to be done along those guidelines. And they're in the process of investigating, you know, whether or not it's feasible for them to do it, but we have not, you know, signed anything with them yet, as yet, but I will try to get answers to your questions, you said April 8<sup>th</sup> you need?

**MS. LHERON:**

Correct.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay.

**MS. LHERON:**

And our community had very little knowledge of any of these deals that have been taken place.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, I don't think it's up to us to, you know, --

**MS. LHERON:**

-- that's why I'm here to go back and tell the community.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

What isn't up to us?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

To go out to the community about the library situation.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Oh, okay. I wanted to ask a question, if Elwood Library is going to utilize the Suffolk County building is that not an alienation of parkland?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. And as a matter of fact there have been some questions about this. We believe that this building may not be designated parkland. It's designated to the Historic Trust and as matter of that happening because when this was acquired it was acquired specifically for the historic value

of it. And I think there is some question as to whether or not it is dedicated parkland however the County Parks Department is the custodian of the building. But it is part of the Suffolk County Historic Trust and its got to be handled in that manner.

**MS. IHERON:**

Okay. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

But it's along the lines of any of the other historic buildings that we have tenants in. You know it's what we call adaptive reuse of those buildings.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Thank you. The next speaker is Isabel Dietsche.

**MS. DIETSCH:**

Good afternoon. I'm a resident of the Ronkonkoma area. My family and friends were all upset about the Lake Ronkonkoma Park being closed which happens to be run by the State which is I guess the only park on that lake that is. And the thing that really makes us sad is that for instances, you know, that's a place where you can picnic. Where you can go on a dock and you can fish. Or you can just go on their trail and maybe roller blade; it's a very nice thing for the community. And myself I've also noticed that maybe some handicap people will be very disappointed because the small mini buses do come in and they use that little dock, you know, to hang out and have their little day. Or the people that, you know, they're not all handicapped; some of them have some mental problems, but it's a very important park. And for the Lake to have come as far as it has over the last few years with all the fixing up of it, you know, the Ronkonkoma Beach area. Brookhaven I understand is now taking care of their problem over there with drainage. Why start closing things down now; we just invested in the trout and everything there. With the logs that they had dumped there recently for the trout and now they're closing one side of the park. It's very sad to us. We're going to miss out on a lot of good times. So please. I started a petition by the way that was the last thing I wanted to say with the tackle shop that's there, which is called Ronkonkoma Outfitters. And they're having people sign if they want the park saved. I don't how much I'll get between now and April 8th, but I will submit that at the meeting here on April 8th. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thank you. Judy, can you comment about the closing?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, I thought that we were going to be finished with our plans so that we could put it in front of you today for hiring additional people in order to get the parks reopened. It's not done to my satisfaction, but I intend I think what we're planning to do is get it to you very early next week. And conceptually what we're looking at is a plan of action that would allow us to reopen the two park facilities that we've closed with perhaps some fee increases to offset the cost of doing that. That's conceptually how we're looking at it, but I didn't want to come to you with half of the information or even three quarters of the information and it's done to my satisfaction. So we're hoping that very early next week we'll get that to you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Anybody have any questions? Thank you. I think we promised last time because we cut them off, I think it was a snow storm or we ran out of time I forget what it was.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

It was a snow storm; what a difference in weather.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Fleet Bank we should have come up to discuss the Suffolk County Vanderbilt.

**MR. MALO:**

Good afternoon, Madam Chairman, Legislators. I think you have before you, hopefully each of you have a copy of the handout that I will reference if you want to follow along. Under the first tab of the book --

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Excuse me, but you have to state your name for the record.

**MR. MALO:**

Okay. My name is Stephen Malo, Stephen with a ph. M-a-l-o. Behind the second table of the book you'll find an investment policy statement which describes briefly the investment objectives and the requirements of the account. This is considered to be a moderate risk, moderate income account, which generally describes an account, that's balanced more or less equally between stocks and bonds. It's a long-term investment account. It has some monthly income needs so we do keep a moderate amount of liquidity available. Legal issues largely revolve around the Suffolk County resolutions by which we are guided. There are no particular tax or unique issues to this account and obviously we make ourselves available to you as you wish. The following page gives you a pictorial display of the asset allocation currently based on market conditions we've overweighed the fixed income portion of the account. The equities amount to about a third of the assets at this point and a small percentage of cash.

The following pages outline the individual holdings of the account as of yesterday's business day. As you can see the assets comprise 65% roughly of individual bonds generating interest about 2% cash and a variety of equity holdings in various sectors. The weighing there are governed and we have a fair amount of dispersion amongst various equities and equity classes. The purposes being to spread the risk and to make sure that we have a high degree of safety in the account.

If you go to above the fourth or fifth page in there is a review of the performance. It shows action going back to December of 1996 which is when we acquired the responsibility for managing the account. At that point on December 31st of that year the assets that we had gathered totaled \$11.3 million roughly. There were maybe a number, a couple of stragglers that came in early in 1997. Since that time there have been a number of obviously transactions through the account. The account currently stands as of the end of February at \$12.5 million and the performance over the course of the last year the account lost about 6.3% between the combination of profits on the bonds and loses on the stocks.

The following page indicates Mr. Pollert from the Budget Office has asked that I address a couple of questions. The first was to estimate the income that we expect from interest and dividends in the course of the fiscal year 2003 which runs February 1st to January 31st of next year. And I estimate the total interest income to be about \$453,000; dividends about \$70,000 for a total of 523,000. In addition to that I have been swapping some bonds that we had held for some better returns capturing some of the gains on those and in the process we picked up about \$29,000 in accrued income on those bonds which does not show in this account. It's held in a separate

income account and will be paid to the mus -- will be paid to Suffolk County the beginning of next month. So I would estimate that in the course of the year we will have generated somewhere around \$523,000 gross in interest income.

Secondly, I was asked to comment on the impact of falling corporate bond interest rates. Well, as interest rates decline existing bonds rise in value because the high coupons have a much greater benefit to an acquirer and so anyone selling it is going to demand a higher price. So in the meantime for the last couple of years interest rates have declined significantly. The bonds that were held on the portfolio rose in value. What we do on a routine basis is analyze the value of those bonds; the outlook for the economy and where appropriate we'll sell those bonds and in effect swap them for something else that will capture the gain and yet retain the income. As a matter of fact I had been in the process of doing some of that. At my last appearance here and I have concluded that process in the meantime so the remaining bonds are all quite valuable for the long-term and there is no particular advantage to anything that's left in the portfolio at this time to do the swaps. They have excellent coupons, excellent cash flow and long-term high horizons so they'll be continuing to generate income for quite some time.

And finally, I was asked to comment on strategies to preserve the fund and contingency plans in the event market value should fall below \$12 million. Essentially, I would say I don't consider the \$12 million factor to be from my perspective a significant number particularly. That's the threshold at which history says you can maintain the account forever paying out \$1.2 million to Suffolk County without impinging the principle in any way. Since markets rise and fall and we're certainly in a period where the equity markets are historically down quite substantially we expect that will change without too much difficulty. I think the main concern had been whether or not we could fully fund the \$1.2 million for this year and my sense is twofold. One, the \$523,000 worth of interest income certainly covers close to half. And on the other side we're now with -- we've actually picked up \$100,000 in value since the three weeks ago that I was here despite the fact that the wars underway, but there was a fairly good rally that helped us out there. Plus the gains that I took on some of those bonds plus the \$29,000 in accrued interest that we picked up. In addition, we will be paying another \$100,000 in about two weeks. I think the fact that we originally acquired the account with about \$11.3 million in assets and over the course of the intervening years we've paid out a total of \$7.4 million to-date to the County and we still have about \$1.25 million over and above what we started with. I suspect that we really don't have a long-term problem. We certainly have seen some of the gains that we had made in the past eroded, but I think the worst is probably behind us and I think we'll make it through this year without too much difficulty. And it that's the case and if the war that we're in the mist of is successfully concluded in some reasonable amount time I would expect that the markets will likely do quite well thereafter or at least stabilize. So while on the one hand certainly the concern has to be that this fund remain self sustaining and it's every expectation I have that it will remain so. Certainly there's concern and we're watching that every step of the way.

In terms of strategies to combat any problems we may have I would tell you that on the following page there's a strategy that our investment strategy group has been developing in terms of further diversification for some of the assets. And so we're looking at other sectors and I would expect that in the not too distance future I'll be -- begin to employ some of these. They include essentially, moving a little bit beyond the large-cap core stocks that we do and look at some mid-cap and small-cap situations. And also look to invest in international stocks by way of mutual funds essentially so that we get wide dispersion diversification and that gives us a greater degree of safety. They've done an awful lot of work on the disposition of assets in the various balances between asset sectors to provide better returns for one thing, but also to reduce the risk involved and increase the safety factor.

So in response to what strategies do we have to do this, I would say that I intend to move toward this model depending on marketed ignitions in the next several months. And that's -- beyond that we have some information on economic outlook and sector analysis I'd be happy to answer to answer questions, but that's the extent of the presentation that I have.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I think one of the key things that you mentioned in your presentation is you're fairly confident that even at \$12 million or if it slips below that you'll be able to generate enough capital gains to continue to pay out to the Vanderbilt Museum?

**MR. MALO:**

A) I'm confident of the distribution for at least another eighteen months to two years without too much difficulty I'm real confident of that. Again, I don't consider the 12 million to be particularly key and I would also say that we do not view capital gains as being particularly significant. The reason for that is the State of New York in, I think, 1995 or 1996 passed Prudent Investor Rule. The Prudent Investor Rule essentially states that a prudent investor's going to spread the risks and to probably own some proportion of stocks and bonds that will help support each other when the markets do their ups and downs. Trusts within the State of New York are bound to follow those kinds of rules and what they're really saying is you don't want to be totally focused on capital gains because in some years there will not be any. And you don't want to be fully focused on just generating fixed income because that will not allow you to grow the portfolio.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

The Prudent Investor Rule pretty much protects somebody that might be, you know, have a trust account held for them or something like that. It invests -- it protects the person that's the trustee of that account from lawsuits, from the people that would benefit from that account. But in our instance, we're in a unique position because if we have a shortfall then we got to go into -- we have to raise taxes basically to everybody in Suffolk County to keep the Vanderbilt Museum going. So we don't have the luxury of, you know, sitting for a couple of years and not taking money out of the trust account to support the operations of the Vanderbilt. Whereas I guess that in other instances where you're a trustee you can lower the amount that's paid out because of market conditions or because of generation of profits and cash. But I really do want to hear like a solid, you know, statement from you that you don't see any problem in generating, you said before, 500 what is it 523,000 is generating dividends and interest?

**MR. MALO:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. So that the remainder of that, you don't see a problem in generating that kind of and that's got to be through I think capital gains or --

**MR. MALO:**

-- no, that was changed in the last resolution.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

It can be through drawn down of principle, which that greatly concerns me. So while you're

saying that we should have a comfort level it's because of the ability that we can draw down the principle. Okay. Then I don't have a very much comfort level with that.

**MR. MALO:**

Well, I can understand that and I understand the rationale behind your questions. From our standpoint it is not always advisable to be selling the bonds that have the gains in them and in some cases that would tie my hands. And so as an investment manager I'm much more inclined to think that it's in your best interest if we follow the Prudent Investor Rule more than we do. Now I'm not saying that I have to follow the investment rule, obviously, I have to follow the restrictions of the committee and I do so. But I don't think it's in your best interest not to ever have the possibility of invading some of that principal since the account, I guess, initially was funded with something less than \$8 million. It seemed to have performed pretty well when you smooth out market changes over time, but in a case like we've had the last three years you would've had to of come up with some funds if I could only provide you with capital gains. It means I've got to sell something to generate it and maybe I really don't want to sell some of the things that have done quite well because they may continue to. So I suspect had we had to follow that this past year then you would've as a committee had to consider coming up with some Suffolk County funds rather than from this trust if we hadn't been allowed to use some of the principle it had built up.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Well, there in lies the problem because where we come up with funds is through taxes and that's a major problem.

**MR. MALO:**

Of course.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Anybody else? Okay. Thank you very much.

**MR. MALO:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Lance, do you have anything that you wanted to add to any of the discussion?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

No. I just think it should be clear that I think what Fleet is doing is based on the market value of the fund that they feel pretty confident that's going to stay around 12 million or higher. And that the distribution of principle is really capital gains from prior years not in the current year based on the market value of the fund.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

That's all I have to say.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Thank you, thank you very much. And you'll continue to keep us informed, thank you. Okay. Next discussion is Suffolk County Parks rentals and the status of appraisals. And I guess

I'd ask Christine Costigan to come up with you. I think just as a background the point was that there was a resolution that was passed early January asking for the County Parks Department to appraise the properties that we manager and to increase it to fair market value. And I guess we are looking at this point at the status of that resolution. It passed and where are we now?

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

Madam Chairman, I had for whatever reason the copy that we got did arrive this week finally from the Clerk, but the whereas notice as to this resolution was a little do to the fact of the veto and the override having said that we got a late start. We're trying to catch up. The discussion we had at the Parks Trustee's meeting last week was to the effect that these are rental surveys, which evidently were expected to be done in house. While we are ready, able and willing to supervise the process a rental survey is not something that we are prepared to do in house. The data for our rental survey is not available publicly. It's not something that you can look up unless you are in the business of locally renting property so this is uniquely suited to being done by outside consultants which is what all our other appraisals are done by. So I had advised the committee that we need some funding to conduct these appraisals. Having said that 's the first question as how we're going to pay for it. There are 44 units at 25 sites; a rental survey I estimated at \$500 a unit so this is close to a \$20,000 bill for appraisers. I'm trying however to get a start on it and the fastest way to do that is to make up a database of the units.

So I've talked briefly with the Commissioner, but I haven't arrived at the final form. What we're going to do though the notion is to send out a form to all the tenants, which they should be motivated to fill out if they want to stay, where they are and the form will provide all the data that the appraisers need to get started. For instances; the number of rooms; the source of heat. The sources of water whether it's you know, public, well. Who pays for the utilities; the condition of the premises, the square footage. All of these would be some time savers in terms of when the appraisers actually go to work, but having said that without being able to pay them I need guidance on that point.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. First of all, there is a list of all the properties. We've been going through it ad nauseam for quite a while and the Commissioner has given us that list and if you look at the inspection reports it gives you the amount of rooms. It gives the heat; it gives you who pays for utilities. It gives you all of the information that I've been asking for for over a year.

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

Great. We don't have that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Commissioner, why don't they have that?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, as Ms. Costigan just said, she and I have just recently spoken about this. I didn't I don't know that we have it in the form that she needs it, but we'll get it in the form that she needs it to her.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All right. I'm going to read something that was on the record and you've probably looked this -- looked at this. This was at a general meeting and Legislator Caracciolo said, "good afternoon,

Christine, have you had an opportunity to review this resolution and if you have could you give me some sense of what type of additional revenue of and what methods you would be using to try to generate the additional revenue under this fair market value scheme?" Director Costigan: "I've seen the resolution, we don't have any kind of capsulation of value yet, but we've already started looking at the properties." That's what you say, "we've already started looking at the properties." "It is our notion to try and do this with a certain a certified general appraiser from the staff." He asks, "and how long?" And you say, "we've only gotten the assignment last week so I have no number for you yet. And he says, "do you have a sense of how long it might take to do that, conduct that review?" And Director Costigan answers, "I know Parks was going to send us the" -- and then there's a blank -- "they had an inventory of the properties this size and generally the inventory that they had done. I haven't got that yet." Legislator Caracciolo says, "would you be in favor of this resolution? And Director Costigan says, "if you want me to value it I'll value it. You have to figure out if you want to do it" -- and the rest is of no value.

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

I standby all of that and it was thereafter as you know vetoed. In that discussion I had seen it about 10 minutes before he called on me. That's not why I was at that hearing. I was there for a completely different purpose, but the -- I agree with all of that. We'll be glad to do it. I did thereafter -- I had before that meeting asked the certified general appraiser who started the week before what he thought of this. I did tell him we had multiple units that we hoped to get more information on. He then got back to me after that and said he couldn't do it, but it was after that, well have that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Why did you say, "we've already started looking at the properties."

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

Because I didn't mean physically looking at the properties. I'm sorry I meant sort of intellectually looking at the problem.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, we spoke about it last week and I, you know, I'm very concerned that even though we've spoken about it a number of times. The Commissioner and I have spoken about it. You and I spoke about it December and January and still you still don't have the material you need and you know, I know that we have material that talks --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- well, we have a lot of info -- on the Friends units we have a lot of information. We do have the inspection reports and we probably have more information on the Friends units than we do on our own units.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

How do we not have information on our own units?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. We have information, but it's not in the form. I mean, we got various pages of information I'm certainly not going to hand an appraiser all that stuff to have to go through. What Christine and I just spoke about was maybe we'll just do a short form, fill it out and they can just look at the short form and get the information from that and we will do that as soon as possible.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

How long is that going to take?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Two weeks.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Why would it possibly take two weeks for how many properties does the County run?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No.

**SPEAKER:**

(inaudible)

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

No, we don't.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

We have 10 units.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

10 units. So let's start with the 10 which is what we discussed last week since that revenue comes directly to the County that was the intent of the bill. Why would it take two weeks to get 10 properties information --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- well, the easiest way to do it is maybe to send them out to the people that live in the units and have them send them back to us. We do not have square footage. It would be easier just have the tenants do that for us and get that back to us.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Square footage could be the only thing I think that the tenants would need to know. We should have every other piece of that information.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

We probably do, we probably do.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, we should more than probably do. We should absolutely have that information available. If we run a County owned property it doesn't make any sense to me at all that we just probably do.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Legislator Fields, my only problem is that maybe in different areas and we need to put it on one piece of paper for somebody to look at it without having to sift through various pieces of information.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, in our meetings that we've had for many months that's in that information is it not?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. I don't think it's all the information an appraiser would need is in that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Not all the information, but most of the information.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Most of it is.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

The only thing that I think is lacking might be the square footage.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

That maybe the only thing, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, I would ask that it not take two weeks. It's already taken three months.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

All right. We'll do it as soon as possible. I tell you we'll do it as soon as possible.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

If I can go back to one issue I just have a question. As far as notice of legislative action when we overrode the veto of the County Executive I'd just like to find out what the process has been in the past. And what happened on this and our Clerk is here now so maybe he could just explain how Real Estate gets noticed about legislative action?

**MR. BARTON:**

Yes. Earlier this week I was contacted by the County Executive's office and they inquired as to whether or not we had forwarded to Ms. Costigan's office a copy of the veto override. And I backtracked it and I found out that in fact we had not although the County Executive was represented at the meeting the County Executive's office, Planning, the County Attorney, Comptroller's office and numerous other of the major departments had received it. Her office had not received it. She notified the County Executive she had not received it. I had a discussion with Toddy Johnson and it seemed to me it should have been their responsibility to notify their subordinate division, but in the future we will and we have already sent her a copy which she should have received a day or two ago.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. But why didn't you give them the copy when --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- I'm just wondering.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Is that normal procedure?

**MR. BARTON:**

Yes. The County Executive is represented at these meetings and after the meeting we send them --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- so it's not your duty. Okay.

**MR. BARTON:**

We try to.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All right.

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

The County Clerk --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- wait, wait one second --

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

-- they send them to all the departments and you see because --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- but beyond that, Judy you knew that it passed because you and I had the discussion and we had meetings about it. So you knew that we had passed the resolution. We overrode the veto and now it was our duty to do something about it. Why did you not then discuss it with Christine?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, Legislator Fields if you remember cause we've discussed this at Park Trustee's meeting. We have a committee that's looking at this issue and we were going to let the committee finish their work before we did any of this stuff.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

If you have a resolution though you have to do what the resolution --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- I know and I believe that on January Park Trustee's meeting it was we had the same discussion and it was that the committee would meet, finish it's work and then we would proceed from there. So it wasn't as if I was ignoring anything it was just I was under a different impression.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Counsel, what's the procedure when we have a resolution that's passed what's the procedure that a department is supposed to do?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Well, once the resolution is adopted whatever the resolution calls for. I'm not familiar with this other committee, but I know that there was no committee created by the resolution to implement the legislation. The legislation was -- spoke for itself was self-executing in terms of going forward without a committee. I don't know what committee this is, but the committee wouldn't be able to supercede the statute.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Do you understand what he's saying? In other words, the committee that we meet with has no resolution. It was just started by --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- I was under a different impression, Legislator Fields.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

A different impression about what?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I believe it was the January Park Trustee's meeting because as you know attending all the Park Trustee meetings this has been on our Park Trustee's agenda every month since probably October that we formed this committee back, I believe, in August or September of last year. And the question came up by the Park Trustees in January, okay, now that this resolution was approved where do we go from here.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

We had a discussion about it and I thought we decided at that meeting that this committee that was looking at it would finish there work and then we would proceed.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

But we still had to have an appraisal. None of the Parks Trustees are appraisers; none of the committee are appraisers. None of us are appraisers. It still had to be done. So why wasn't that work moving forward? I had no idea that you decided not to have appraisals done that you were just going to wait, you know.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

It wasn't that I decided not to have appraisals done that --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- why, why did you not contact Christine and ask her to move forward on the appraisals?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Because as I said, we were waiting for that committee to finish its' work.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Before the appraisals would be done?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Before anything would be done. Before anything would be implemented I was under the impression that that committee would finish its' work.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

You know the thing that I think is the most troublesome is that we're closing parks because we don't have money and yet this is an opportunity to get some additional money in the budget. And yet that particular department that's having the trouble keeping it floating is not moving forward on trying to raise revenue. So I'm going to ask that it take a lot less than two weeks to move forward and get the appraisals done and whatever way we can do it and raise some of these fees so that we can start getting some money into the County.

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

I mean, that's why we're trying to accelerate it, but I still have no way to pay for it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, it's a resolution so I don't know who how we would go about doing it, do you?

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

I have no budget line for appraisals. Each appraisal is paid for out of the acquisition or sale of the particular property.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Well, there's two possibilities, one is \$20,000 is fairly in substantial amount so that's something that can be transferred within a department by executive action because it would be clearly less than the \$100,000 threshold or 10%. If for some reason that couldn't be effectuated, you know, take a budget amendment resolution. I think that with the \$72 million adjustment on pensions that just came through the 20,000 shouldn't be a problem either way, but those are two options. The easiest option is to do an intra-departmental transfer it's less than \$100,000, but for some reason that can't be done a budget amendment would be the next step.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. So then at least maybe I will get in touch with you in a week to find out if you have the information that you need to move forward. And we'll work, I guess the committee, if you all feel agreeable maybe we'll work toward solving their problem for them.

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

I can go ahead and line up the appraisers, line up the bids, line up all of that, but I just can't press a button to send them out there unless I have the money.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

What is -- may I? What is your entire budget?

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

My budget is woven into Planning.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I'm aware of that. What is the Planning budget?

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

I don't know the number of the entire Planning budget.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Budget Review, do you have that information? Just trying to get a sense of what, you know, the

total pot is we're looking try to get 20,000 from.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

I'll look that up I can look that up.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Okay. Thank you.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Actually, it you could refine that a little bit more; we don't need a Planning budget we need just the Division of Real Estate budget because that's what it would really fall under.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Okay.

**MR. SABATINO:**

No. You want the department because the 10% rule applies against the department. That happens to be a division within the department so if it was a separate department you could do that, but really it would be better look at the total department.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

To look at Planning as a total, okay.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Because the Charter deals with departments not divisions; you have to look at the departments.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I'd be very interested in seeing divisions budget also though.

**MR. SABATINO:**

You can look at it, but just for the standpoint of the calculation you got to look at the department that's all I meant to imply.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

The other alternative I suppose to increase revenue would be also perhaps not to continue the agreements with Friends of Long Island and have some of those rentals come back into the County so that we would have more revenue. So, you know, I would think that maybe you could look at that and see if maybe either Robinson Duck Farm properties could be brought back to us. And in addition we discuss the fact that Joe the Corn Man is using property across the street from his house to park maybe a dozen vehicles, trucks and cars and everything else and we're not charging rent for that. And so, you know, I see absolutely no reason why Friends of Long Island's Heritage should be receiving rent from him and it doesn't even include a parking lot that we're allowing someone to really essentially destroy.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, in terms of taking back any houses at this point I don't have the ability to maintain them with the staff that I have.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

They're not being maintained anyway.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yeah, they are being maintained, but I don't have the ability to maintain them at all right now.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Since when? Since when was the Robinson Duck Farm anyone of those three houses maintained?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, we have tenants living in them, Legislator Fields. They're not being totally ignored.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, we had a conversation and you said we haven't done a thing on these for three years. And Friends of Long Island Heritage said he has not done a thing on these for three years.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

But we plan in the work plan for activity for this year. We plan to get them back on the radar screen.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, maybe if we got the revenue from them we could plan on doing more.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

It's not going to be enough to hire staff that I would need. I can't do what I need to do now. I can't maintain these additional buildings. I just can't do it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

But they haven't been maintained that's my point. If you have something that hasn't been maintained why is someone else getting that rent? Legislator Nowick.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Commissioner, I'm not sure I'm hearing correctly, but these houses the people that rent I'm of the understanding that the people that live there and rent are also keeping up as we would do in our own home. Doing a little carpentry. Do they do that, the people that live there?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

To some extent, yes, to some extent.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

That's what I thought.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I won't say a 100%, but to some extent.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

So that would be the maintenance that they do?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Oh, no. There's additional maintenance to that as well.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

You know whether it's painting, whether it's repairing a boiler, you know fixing electrical problems, you know there's a whole host of things that happen and while all of us own homes.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Exactly, and who does that when that happens, the bigger painting, who would do that?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

The larger ticket maintenance items would be done by the Friends for Long Island's Heritage for units that they manager and would be done by the Parks Department for the units that we manager.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Okay. That's what I thought. Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Those three houses alone the revenue is probably about \$2,000 a month approximately.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I don't know off the top of my head. I don't have --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- so \$2,000 a month coming into the County I think we could pay for a couple more things and in addition the particular house that I'm talking -- there's two of them. One of them is the one that I talked about having 18-wheelers and all kinds of vehicles all over the property that we're ultimately going to be responsible to clean up I would think. And the second part is that, when I went and took pictures the one person has like a dozen vehicles. We are not charging him rent to park his vehicles.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yeah, you know, actually that we should change and we could change that right away that particular issue.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

But that was brought to your attention six months ago.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I realize that Legislator Fields.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

That's my point, in other words, why are we not taking back our property. Receiving as much revenue as we can for it and acting quickly.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, in terms of collecting revenue from him for the vehicles that he has there that would just be a matter of collecting the money. It wouldn't be maintaining, you know, a building. So that would probably be easy to do and we could do that now.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All right. I'm going to speak with you probably in about a week and I'd like to see some kind of resolution to at least the Robinson Duck Farm and in addition see what we're going to do about appraisals.

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

Just so that I'm clear on where you think we're going. I mean, the resolution directs all the properties. It doesn't (inaudible) --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- we've had this discussion a couple of times. I know it says all of them, but I would say that because we all know that Suffolk County is in a fiscal crisis and the money from the other properties does not come back directly to us lets first use a priority system. The properties that come back into the general fund would be the first on your radar list to look at and you said there are seven of them.

**MS. COSTIGAN:**

I don't know that. Okay.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

There are seven that are currently have tenants in them.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Correct. So those would be the first seven if I were doing an appraisal and knew that we were looking for revenue. Those would be the first seven to go after. Okay. Does anyone have any other questions?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Yes. I have an answer to the question. The 2003 adopted budget includes almost \$5 million for the Planning Department and specifically for the Real Estate area 2.9 million.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Mr. Sabatino, does that meet the criteria?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Yes. Because, the 10% would clearly be well in excess of the 20,000 and \$100,000 limit would be clearly above it so that could be done. It could be done intra-departmental which means it could be done unilaterally by the County Executive.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Just one other question if we could go back to one thing. You were going to prepare a plan to reopen the parks?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. I'm getting a lot of calls and e-mails and letters and stuff like that. Can I respond that we are going to open those?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. I wouldn't say that now, but that's my, that's what my hope is. And as I said before I intended to come here today with that information and it's not done in a way that I think is fully explanatory. So I'm hopeful to have that information to you very early next week.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. But it would be very imperative to actually get that and I mean an answer whether we're going to open them or not because my office anyway is starting to get a lot of pressure to do something to open those parks.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Legislator Alden, as the weather gets better we're all going to be getting calls. So it's to of our benefit to get this decision made ASAP and that's what my intention is; as I said, I intend to get it to you very early next week what our plan is for reopening. And as I said before we do need additional staff and what we're looking at is perhaps increasing some fees to offset that.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. But last time you had said that in the budget, you know, or I guess whether you said it or whether Budget Review said came up with it that there's an amount in the budget for all the positions that really need to be filled. So that money actually exists still in the budget.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, we have existing vacancies.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Right. And those are budgeted positions.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. So then what becomes the question is as far as whether just to fill those vacancies and then reopen those parks?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I'm still not clear though you're stating that I can't say that we're going to open parks because there's still a possibility that the parks would be closed?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, because we're still in a hiring freeze. I still can't get those positions filled right now.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

All right. No. I want to be clear with the people when they call that basically Mr. Gaffney's put in a hiring freeze that's why the parks aren't being reopened then.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I am under a hiring freeze and the plan that we are putting together is to come up with the number of bodies that we need to reopen the two parks that we closed along with perhaps increasing some fees that maybe we haven't increased in awhile to offset that. That's the plan that I'm working on right now.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. And that goes around the hiring freeze that would try to get around the fact that there's hiring freeze?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, I think the intention is to look at it to perhaps offset the cost of replacing those people.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Do we know how much revenue we would be losing in the parks that are closed by not reopening them?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. I think we went over that at the last meeting. I believe we did.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Lets -- Legislator Foley had a question and then we'll move to the next item.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Just for the record I echo Legislator Alden's concerns and the Commissioner and I have already spoken about the calls to my office as well by my constituents about the concerns of closure of some of the parks. And we eagerly await your report on how you think best we can work together to reopen those parks. So I just wanted to have it on the record we're getting calls in our office as well about it.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Again, I apologize.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

As soon as you get that plan together can you fax it to each one of the representatives of this committee --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- sure. Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- so that we don't have to wait till the next meeting? Legislator Nowick.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

I'm also getting a lot of e-mails, but just so you know we realize we're asking you to perform magic. We know that we want the parks opened, but we know it's going to be magic. We appreciate your efforts.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, you and myself both I mean, we're not thrilled about this at all.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

We know you can do it.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

The Commissioner has indicated though part of it is out of her hands. She's done what she can do and then it becomes, you know, it has to be a release of positions or relaxation of the freeze.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Maybe what we can do is everyone that contacts us we can state to those constituents that this is the County Executive who is refusing to sign those skins. And perhaps they should reach out to the County Executive's Office to request that he fill the positions so that we can reopen the parks. And I think that it is in his hands and that's what I will go about telling anyone of my constituents. Smith Point County Park arrests is the next agenda item. How are we dealing with that difficulty?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

There was a -- I'm not sure if all of you are aware that -- aware of this, but we did make a second arrest. I believe it was a week ago last Friday and that person was charged and obviously -- that was a seasonal employee that was not a full time employee. She was summarily dismissed and the investigation is ongoing and beyond that I don't -- Mr. Fazio the full time employee did submit his -- a letter of resignation. So beyond that I don't know, I really don't want to say too much beyond that because the investigation is ongoing.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I guess the thing that's of concern to anyone of us is how they were able to take money from the parks and how we are addressing any other park problems we're money is -- cash is concern.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

And I think the last --

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

And I think before that's answered though I would just caution as far as the first part of your question that's an ongoing criminal investigation and I don't think that any of us should address that on the record. If we want to go into executive session that would be appropriate, but as far as the second part of your question, you know, what kind of cash controls and things like that --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- that's what I'm not asking about that.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Yeah. The first part we really shouldn't discuss on the record.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

No. I'm not asking about the people in question. I'm asking about what are we doing in the Parks Department to prevent this from happening with any other employee and knowing that the money is being watched over and accounted for?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, as you know, I think I told you at the last meeting that I actually requested the Comptroller to come in and look at the situation. And they came into our office as of, I believe, last Wednesday to begin an audit of the cash management procedures that we have. They've started that, you know, they've been fully involved in going through information and as a result of that we're hoping that, you know, they will make recommendations to us as to how we can beef up. I mean, we had started already to beef up the cash management procedures and as a result of that this is how this was discovered. So we are also particularly at Smith Point looking at where for our toll machine, putting in a new -- getting in a new toll machine that is more I don't know if I should say state of the art, but certainly much better than the situation that we have there now. So we are fully, you know, and I'm hoping I'm looking forward to the Comptroller's Office making recommendations to us. And I believe as they are going through their process we are reacting to things that they're finding already.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I had asked, I don't know maybe six month ago and I think every meeting after, what the cost and details would be for Easy Pass. You said it was cost prohibitive.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. And last time we meet I believe you asked me to pursue that again and they still have not sent that information to us. Legislator Fields, we've made several phone calls and we still do not have the information as to how to be hooked up to the existing Easy Pass.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Do you have a letter? Did you write them a letter?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

We did write them a letter, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

And they've ignored the letters?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. They -- we wrote them a letter and what they sent to us was as if I were looking to get an Easy Pass for my own personal car.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

And then you wrote them another letter?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

And they we I don't know if we sent them a second letter, but we called and said no, we were looking to how to access the system, to be apart of the system.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Then I guess I would ask for a second letter because sometimes when you make phone calls they get lost, but I would think that if as I've stated before, if McDonald's can use Easy Pass there's no reason why the Parks Department --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- yeah. But as I said also there was a phone conversation with a member of my staff and somebody from the Easy Pass and it did sound like it would probably be cost prohibitive.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Like what was that cost?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I don't know; I don't remember off the top of my head.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Who was the member of the staff, do you know?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Denise, did you speak with them?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Do you remember, Denise? On the record you have to speak in the microphone.

**MS. SPEIZIO:**

I'm Denise Speizio, S-P-E-I-Z-I-O from the Parks Department. When I did talk to them the sign up cost was anywhere from 125,000 to 250,000 and that would be an annual expense minimum. That would be if we signed up directly. There are other options to sign in under something like the MTA where you could work under them through their main office, but they have not sent any of the information yet.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All right.

**MS. SPIEZIO:**

So just so you know I've talked to them about six times.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. So they I would ask that we get it in writing and see if there's a possibility because if obviously because of some of the things that have happened maybe it would have been cost effective to have that procedure in place, but maybe not. Legislator Alden.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

If I could just interject this. While you have the Comptroller coming into look at the Smith Point operation --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- oh, they're looking at everything.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Golf operations --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- they're not just looking at just -- all of our cash management they're not just looking at Smith Point.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

All the cash even down to the local golf course taking in greens fees and transmittal of the greens fees and the accounting for such.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. Although, you know, I'm more concerned Smith Point, Cupsoque, you know our beaches.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

(inaudible)

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. They probably will look at that also.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I'm very concern with this six and a half percent it's roughly six and a half million that comes in from the golf operations.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Golf operations I think is three, three million.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Three million in greens fees transmittals?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Revenue from golf courses, I believe is three million.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Then somebody definitely has to look at that.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, actually that was looked at 1999.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Where's the checks and balances then on that?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

We implement -- off the top of my head Legislator Alden I can't -- I don't -- I --, but we did implement checks and balances that were recommended as a result of that audit.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. But that's basically when Legislator Caracciolo generated a proposed legislation that would put cameras into the golf courses because Legislator Caracciolo and I observed on numerous occasions and I'm not going to make any bones about it, it was down at Bergen Point. No sale being hit. Money being put into the cash register and people going out and playing on the golf course. Not giving a receipt. Not given a greens fee ticket or anything like that. And then when we look into it further we found out that there was hundreds of thousands of dollars that was owed to Suffolk County in greens fees that was not transmitted from that particular golf

operation.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. Legislator Alden, as a result of that audit we wound up, we wound up owing Global Golf money.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

We owed them like \$20 or something like that, a small amount, but they were approximately there was hundreds of thousands dollars behind in their transmission to Suffolk County of the greens fees, the portion of the greens fees that they were supposed to generate and throw to us. So as far as that goes and no where have I every seen in any manual for cash management that no sale should be rung up on a cash register and money to put in there.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yeah. That's been an issue I think at other locations too and that was --

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

-- and what do we have and that's why the proposal was put in for cameras because a camera would actually see and would be timed when somebody hit no sale and put money into a cash register. Especially, since that's part of the thing that if we don't generate enough money to run our parks we have to turn to the people of Suffolk County and ask them for their tax dollars. So if money's being stolen out of or not transmitted to the County and in some instances stolen that's money that has to be made up by our taxpayers. So it's very imperative that we look at all these cash management systems. New York State has a cash management system over at Bethpage. They have at the other Sunken Meadow County Park rather New York State Park. They have it out at Montauk Downs. There's cash management systems that we don't have it's a completely different thing. There's other golf companies that are private that run open to the public type of facilities and they have cash management systems. Cash reporting systems, a checking and balance line. We don't seem to have that down there and they don't have it at any other golf courses that I've looked at. So that is what Legislator Caracciolo and I have been pushing for probably five years for some type of improvement in that cash management and transmission system to check and balance. It doesn't seem to exist there. So is there something that because you had told me one time to hold off that you had a plan actually that was going to change that.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. You I believe we were working on assessment of all of our location and what existed at all of our locations.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

What type of cash, what kind of cash controls were going to be put in there rather than put costly cameras in as a cash control devise. You were going to get that plan back to us and I mean I've been waiting for it. I can go back to the minutes. There's three or four meetings where I specifically asked for it and was told hold off you're doing an assessment that you will have a recommendation for cash management systems coming up in the near future.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. I don't think I said I was going to come with a recommendation for cash management systems. It was an assessment of what we had there and how we can improve the infrastructure that we had.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Well, if infrastructure means cash management system, I guess, then we're talking about the same thing.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay, okay.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

But I been waiting for and so has Legislator Caracciolo and he hasn't pushed the, you know, like moving his bill to force the cameras into those situations because we were waiting for a report from you and from the previous Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. And I think I sat here and December and told you that that was forthcoming and then shortly after that the situation at Smith Point happened. And, you know, a lot of our energy and efforts has been put into this investigation. A lot of our energy and efforts.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. Putting in you definitely have to put in your resources into an investigation, but if we're going to ever improve the County and we're going to improve that situation so it doesn't happen again, cash management --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- yes. I realize that.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

But we asked for it last year, we asked for it the year before and things have not been put into really it hasn't been executed. And now you're saying that you don't have a cash management system.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. We have a cash management -- I didn't say we don't we have a cash management system. As I said before, we were working on -- we instituted improvements in January to our cash management system and that's how we uncovered the situation at Smith Point.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. That report supposed to come to us of what improvements and what changes you're going to make in the cash management system. That was prior to you discovering money missing at Smith Point. Where is that report?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

It's probably 99% complete.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Can you just give it to us in that form?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Good. Thank you. When would that be transmitted to us?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

ASAP, I have to review it and see what kind of shape it is in.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

So in a day, something like that, two days?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

How about next week; middle of next week?

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

That's a lot further down the line than I'd like, but if that's when you can do it that's fine because we've been waiting for it for years.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I think I need until the middle of next week.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Okay. Fine.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Foley.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. This report that's almost complete Commissioner, when would you expect it to be fully complete and submitted to us? Could we have this discussed at, I mean, could. We'd like to have it discussed at our next Parks Committee meeting I would assume.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Sure. We -- I could do that.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Yeah.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Absolutely.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

All right. And in that report will it detail the changes that have been made within the cash controls for instances for Smith Point for the upcoming season?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. But just be aware that it would -- as a result of the audit that's going on it will be further revised, but any program like that should be under revision on a regular basis anyway.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Correct. The Comptroller's report, when do you expect that to be issued?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I don't know.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Have they given you a ballpark, a month, two months?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I don't believe we have yet, but I would expect that maybe by the next Park Committee meeting we shou -- we might have a ballpark.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Have you let say expressed to the Comptroller's office that it would be advisable to have it completed prior to the start of the summer season so you could take the reservations?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. I haven't even gotten into that conversation with them as yet, but they're only there for a week.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

I understand. They haven't given any indication as to how long it will take them to do --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- not yet.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Not yet. Okay.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Not yet.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Well, I would just say if you could express to them if they can do a thorough job and do a complete job and then forward their recommendations in order for the department to try to implement some of these changes prior to the summer season. Obviously, that will be very helpful.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

You know without getting into real specifics, as I said, as they are interviewing staff and talking to staff and looking at things we're already beginning to make some changes as we go along. And I'm sure that process will take place throughout the course of what they are doing. You know it's not a matter of I think some of it we won't wait until they're completed before we institute things. We'll begin to institute them as we move along.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Well, I look forward to the -- your report at the next committee meeting about the improvements in cash control. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. And the last discussion is regarding policy for the Division of Sports and Recreation and

the use of County facilities. What I'm inquiring about is the fact that Suffolk County Parks offers sport-fishing instruction and Suffolk County sponsors indoor youth tennis program. Just two things that came to my attention and in the press release that the Parks Department is sending out it tells you that you can enroll in these programs. And one of the says that you can pay \$110 a person and you're going to hold it in the Media Room at the H.L. Dennison Building in Hauppauge. Let's just start with that one. Who collects that money?

**MR. LAURI:**

The Suffolk County Parks Division of Sports Recreation.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Who in particular? Who is that at those meetings?

**MR. LAURI:**

Up until this point it was my secretary who handled the registration, but since she's been moved over to the Administrative Office in West Sayville it now falls to my assistant director Brian {Satterly}.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

So they -- the people that enrolled in the program sent you a check in the mail or they showed up that day at the Dennison Building and paid their fee?

**MR. LAURI:**

They'll do it either way. They'll mail it in prior to it as long as, you know, the flyers have been out long enough before the start of the clinic or camp or whatever it is we're running. Some people will pay that night or that day at the start of the program. We collect the checks and then make the deposit.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Does the person who's giving the program get paid?

**MR. LAURI:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Is there a RFP for that person?

**MR. LAURI:**

No.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Is there a reason why there's not an RFP?

**MR. LAURI:**

It's never been something advised to me that need to be an RFP. When we started the division --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- can I ask Counsel to come out here please. Go ahead.

**MR. LAURI:**

When we started the division or when the division was started we researched the programs that were run in other, you know, town facilities their recreation departments. Tried not to duplicate the things they were doing. Try to bring some different services to the residents of Suffolk County. At that point in time we identified a number of different types of programs, flying fishing, sport-fishing, surfing, tennis, golf to other things that we thought we could target. We sent out canvassing letters to just anybody we could find in Suffolk County that might be able to instruct those types of courses or programs. And we had minimal not minimal, but a small response that we started working with. We did a press release that we put out to all the local papers and everybody else and it's on our website that we're always interested in finding new partners to work with us to run those programs. And as those people approach us with wanting to run a program that they've done someplace else or that they're interested in implementing we'll sit down and interview them go through the process. Figure out how it can fit into what park system. Do we have the property facilities. Do we have the proper dates so or and so forth and then we go from there.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

How much did the person who is doing the sport-fishing instruction get?

**MR. LAURI:**

For any program that we offer we keep 10% of the total registration fee for the programs to continue to be operating now. So we keep 10% of the registration fee.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

So he gets 90% of the fee. 90% of \$175 a person.

**MR. LAURI:**

It's \$110 per person.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

\$110? 110 I'm sorry, okay, and we get 10%.

**MR. LAURI:**

That particularly because that person the instructor runs the entire program.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

The instructor is running the program in our building that we're paying --

**MR. LAURI:**

-- yes --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- the electricity.

**MR. LAURI:**

It's our -- for sponsoring the program for our residents in Suffolk County. We utilize our facilities whether it's H. Lee Dennison Building or someplace in our park system. We keep 10%. We handle the registration. We do the press release. We do the flyers and then that person handles the instruction of the course. I mean, I'm not a captain or anything along those lines that I could instruct somebody in sports fishing or fly fishing or things along those natures.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I'm just going to ask Counsel, were you able to hear or do you want me to just review it?

**MR. SABATINO:**

No. I was --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- okay. There have been some programs that are being -- here's an example. Suffolk County Parks offers sport-fishing instruction and Suffolk County sponsors indoor youth tennis program. The sport-fishing program is a \$110 per person and apparently the County keeps 10% and the instructor keeps 90%. Do you know how much the tennis was, Greg?

**MR. LAURI:**

I'm sorry.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

The tennis one.

**MR. LAURI:**

The registration fee for the tennis?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Here it is \$75 a person. Same deal, 10%?

**MR. LAURI:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

So my question is the policy for the County for using a County facility, these have been done in the Dennison Building. No RFP. The County keeps 10% of the registration fee. Is there a policy for utilizing our building when we do a program and giving the money to an instructor?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Well, there's no codified statutory policy that I'm aware of. The general principle of law is that for the use of County properties or facilities there has to be authorizing act. In that authorizing act you can impose the terms and conditions. So for example if this proposal was to have some kind of a percentage arrangement or allocation between an organization and the County based on some public benefit that was going to be generated that would be part of the enabling act, but I can't recall any resolution being adopted to do it. But it may be a detail that I'm just not recalling, but it doesn't sound like something that we've done. So I don't know of any policy that we currently have on the books, but it would in a normal situation, it would take legislative authorization. Just like we do periodically for organizations that come to use County property. We kind of spell out what the arrangement going to be.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

So in other words I think an example could be with Legislator Carpenter when they was a need to have the first fundraiser for Sagtikos, do you want to .....

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Actually, on that particular instance a community group was doing a fundraiser for Sagtikos

Manor which is part of our inventory and 100% of the proceeds were coming back to the County and yet, you know, we were instructed that we needed an authorizing resolution to allow the group to come in and use the property.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

This is not fundraising it's a program being offered to the residents of Suffolk County that we wouldn't get elsewhere. The way he has set it up is very similar to how the adult education programs are run in all the school districts. And generally you go out you find somebody with a particular expertise that they share with people and this is, you know, we look at this as a good thing to provide these activities for people. And you know, generally with adult ed. my knowledge of adult ed. is you know the instructor says, this is my fee and this is my fee what I need to get to offer my quilting program whatever it is and then the fees that are set for the people to pay for it is to offset the cost of the instructor.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I think it's a great thing and I know the Legislature as a body, you know, demonstrated a desire to see sports and recreation expanded, you know, from the County perspective for our residents. So all of these programs I think are absolutely wonderful. My only concern would be, it seems that if you compare the example of a not for profit community group doing a benefit service in running a fundraiser for our benefit and we had them, you know, we had to get an authorizing resolution here even though there's going to be a service derived to our residents. Our residents are paying for that service and the person providing the service it's a profit making operation. So and I don't have a problem with that, I think you know business and anything we can do to encourage business is a good thing. But I would want to make sure that our cost are being covered and I don't know if 10% off a \$110 fee is adequately, I mean, how many people are generated coming to that fly fishing clinic 10, 20?

**MR. LAURI:**

For the second the one that operating now is our second one we have 26 people.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

All right. So \$260, you know, give or take a few buck is what we're going to realize from that venture. Does \$260 adequately cover the cost of County promoting it? The County giving them the space to utilize for the electricity, for the use of the bathroom, you know, people are going to be using while they're in the building. And the maintenance crew that's going to be maintaining it after they leave and cleaning up and so forth and so on. I think there has to be a cost benefit analysis to make sure that whatever that amount is that it's an appropriate amount to at least cover our costs. I'm not saying that we necessarily have to make money, but I think we need to make sure that we're not losing money while we're doing it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I think also in addition if we have RFP's for other programs or whatever services that we want to have in the County then perhaps an RFP and I don't know, I don't know if that's something that should be done. But you know the fishing, the fishing captain thing at the end of the press release it said you had to pay \$110 and if you want to join at the conclusion of the program you could go out on his boat for I don't know for \$300 or something. So we're really promoting someone else to use their boat and collect a lot of money from the County and we're not realizing, you know, very much and perhaps if we had an RFP for any of the boat captains. And I know of many of them in Captree and I'm sure lots of us know in different districts where boats go out and do sport-fishing. They probably love to jump in and help, you know, raise their revenues, and get people on their boats cause very often if you go there those boats are empty

and people aren't going out and doing the fishing. So I think in, you know, in a dozen different ways, number one maybe we could realize more revenue. Maybe this could just be something that's -- a policy needs to be made and perhaps it's even a resolution saying that in order for you to run a program it has to come through. Just like when the Sierra Club what to do a walk through Blydenburgh Park there's a resolution that's passed for anyone to use County property other than us.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I would say about the RFP I don't know if the whole RFP process might be a little cumbersome for trying to reach out to somebody doing a clinic on tennis or bowling or whatever it is fly fishing, but I felt a little bit more comfortable hearing Greg say that he reached out to. And as long as you're not being selective and you're doing a press release saying the County is interested in instructors, you know, if you've got an expertise and you'd like to share it and promote, you know, whatever sport it is, you know the County is here to be your partner and help and blah, blah, blah. As long as you're, you know, getting that word out and everyone has an ample opportunity to be put on a list and that you're doing it on a rotating basis. And if you get three fishing guys that say yeah, we can do it that first one's done by fisherman Fred and the next is done by fisherman Felix and they all have an opportunity if you rotate them.

**MR. LAURI:**

We would either do it on a rotating basis or similar to our surfing clinic which we did last year with Woody's Surf Shop out at Cupsogue Beach. This year we were approached by Religion Surf Shop to do the similar thing at Smith Point and we going to -- now we're going to have two different providers, one working at Smith Point and one at Copsogue. So it's expanding as people see the programs and they're interested in getting involved with us. We may situate them at different locations or have it worked on a rotating basis, but we haven't turned anybody away who's interested in working with us for a program. Unless, of course, we just didn't have the facilities, you know, if they wanted to run baseball stuff and we didn't have the facility or something, you know, that we didn't have indoor basketball or things like that. We don't have the facilities then we obviously can't work with them those are the only people that we would turn away.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

But Legislator Carpenter brought up a really important point and that is that if we're charging -- if we're accepting 10% and they're getting 90% the RFP process would allow us to maybe negotiate and maybe it's not 10% we're collecting. Maybe it's 20 or 25 or, you know, to cover our cost.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I don't think we need an RFP to negotiate that fee.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, whatever the policy would be.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I just think we need to do a cost benefit analysis and make sure that whatever it's costing us to do it that everything has been factored. The cost of doing business, the advertising, the space and whatever, you know, your secretary or whoever is there that night collecting the revenue. Those, you know, person hours have to be factored in and maybe it needs to be 20%, maybe it needs to be 30%, but we just can't arbitrarily set 10%. You know I don't -- I'm not involved in

this and can't guess off the top of my head what it might cost to do that, but it seems to me that 10% is awful low. And it's certainly someone who's charging \$110, I have a feeling that if they're generating 26 participants for two hours or whatever it is I don't know how long it is probably would be just as easily satisfied with 50% or 60%. Because again it's an opportunity for he or she to let the public know what kind of, you know, other activities are out there available that they maybe interested in taking part in.

**MR. SABATINO:**

The one thing for certain is that if you got commercial activity on County property under state law you really do need the authorization. It's got to be codified and it's suppose to be as you stated, you know, either fair market value or at least to cover the cost to the County.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Thank you very much.

**MR. LAURI:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

We're going to move to tabled resolutions.

**2152 - To implement retention of technical consultant in connection with Forsythe Meadows property damage. (Fisher)** I had expected Legislator Fisher, but --

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Cooper)**

**2234 Adopting Local Law No. -2003, a Local Law establishing dog and cat run policy for County Parks. (Binder)**

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Second the motion. All those in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Cooper)**

**2253 Adopting Local Law No. -2003, Authorizing County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to construct dog runs in County Parks. (Cooper)** I'll make a motion to table.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All those in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Cooper)**

**1028 Authorizing, empowering and directing County Parks Department to initiate**

**process for cell tower revenue at County Parks. (Fields)** I will -- I'm going to make a motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Well, could I just get an explanation then on it?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. I have been discussing cell tower revenue with Peter Scully and with Budget Review and with two private groups that are in the business of, I guess, they're job is that of a middleman. Where they locate the site and then manage to get the vendors and get the vendors to rent the site. And apparently I'll give an example of the Water Authority has made like \$3 million doing that and we have facilities within the County where we could generate revenue. And again, this is another point about increasing revenue for the County and back in 2001 the County Executive had a resolution and they approved it and there was an RFP for Cashin Associates. Cashin Associates came back with a recommendation of some sites on buildings and we talked about it in several of the committees, but we haven't talked in the Parks Department where there maybe some ability to have some cell towers in some of our facilities. And again, it would increase revenue. Legislator Carpenter.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

So the County has already embarked on identifying sites, but did not include Parks.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

That's correct.

**MR. SABATINO:**

The prior resolution just so you know, the resolution in 2001 which explicitly excluded Parks so it said look at all sites for cell towers other than properties that we use for park purposes.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Do you know why there was some concern I really don't recall?

**MR. SABATINO:**

It was a County Executive initiative. I think that the reason was there was sensitivity to the magnitude of the project and I think maybe at that time they thought that the parks was too big a project. I mean, I can't speak for them, but know that they -- the language explicitly excluded parks.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Why don't we get someone from the County Exec's Office to explain why the exclusion? If not here today then at the next -- well, you want to pass it today so why don't we pass it? I'd support the motion to approve out of committee and then at the general meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> have someone from the Exec's Office to explain why it was excluded originally.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Can I make a comment?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Sure.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Unless Commissioner already knows one.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No, no, no. I don't know, but I would assume that it's probably the sensitivity and the issue of alienation of parkland. But having said that I have a problem with getting an RFP done in 90 days. I can't do it. With the staffing I have right now I cannot do it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

The alienation of parklands is a fact that I have been discussing, but in the example I think this committee, well, it might have been the different makeup of the committee there were wireless cables that were put under Smith Point and there was no alienation of parkland for that.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

One of the issues with the whole alienation issue in and of itself is preventing the general public from using the park. And I've had some discussion with the County Attorney with somebody from the County Attorney's Office regarding this issue and by placing the cable underneath the ground you're not preventing somebody from using the facility. It's under the parking lot where people are still able to park on the site. A cell tower I'm not sure whether it's a acre, two acres of land or what it is that they would take up in terms of space, but you would be preventing the general public from using that space. So I think that's how the under the ground was deemed appropriate.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I have the book on alienation of parklands and Counsel is looking through it, I guess looking for that particular segment of it.

**MR. SABATINO:**

I know licenses are exempted. I was just looking for that section while you were.....

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

That was done I believe with Smith Point that it was a licenses and apparently when you license commercial projects it apparently exempts you from alienation of parkland in certain respects.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Licenses are the exception and that's what was done in Smith Point that's how that issue was addressed.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Were you talking licenses as opposed to lease? Okay, but you put a cell tower up you're preventing somebody from using the particular area of parkland where that cell tower is located. And I'm not an attorney, you know, so, but --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- that's what we like about you.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- that's going to be the augment.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Are all of the acres of parkland that we have available to the public? Are there not some areas

that really are not accessible or available to the public?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, if there completely overgrown then I suppose you could say that they are not accessible.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

So perhaps in, you know, doing that kind of inventory we would find, you know, spots that were not necessarily appropriate for, you know, people to go through where it wouldn't be inhibiting anybody's access or use of the parks.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Oh, I'm going to be honest with you Legislator Carpenter, yeah, you probably could find locations, but again I don't know whether that's going to satisfy this issue.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

You know it's a possibility that Suffolk County Parklands aren't good place to put cell towers that's entirely possible, but at least I think that we should do due diligence to see if there is a site that a vendor would or many vendors would be interested in so that that would be it's not that what we've been accused of doing. What's the terminology when we want to put a revenue in and it's not ongoing?

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

One shot.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

One shot, it wouldn't be a one shot this would be potentially --

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

-- recurring --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- recurring, but it would be potentially millions of dollars that we could actually have within the County.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

But I also have the other issue of not having the manpower, you know, because we don't have any expertise in this area whatsoever. So this is going to be a task for us, a big task for us.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I don't understand, could we not direct purchasing to prepare the RFP that's their expertise. They prepare RFP's all the time and then it's not, you know, putting any undo burden on the Parks Department cause it's not any park sensitive kind of thing that we need the expertise of the Parks personnel to look at. We're just directing someone to prepare an RFP, so couldn't we direct purchasing to do it?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I'll do a corrected copy; the deadline is next Monday and maybe we can put it into the, it's a good point, Purchasing Department.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, we'd still have to get impute from us, but if they want to do all the paperwork involved in everything.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

What kind of impute do you think you'd have to.....

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Parkland.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

But I mean we know where the parkland is, right so?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, yeah, but I think you've got an issue with the public with this too. I think the public might not have, might not be real amenable to seeing cell towers on their parkland.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

The public may not be amenable to having cell towers on County buildings either. You know, but the point is I think that we at least look and see if there is potential without saying, oh well, maybe they won't like it lets not even try. I think, you know, we have to at least look at it and there maybe parklands that aren't available to the public. They can't get to it and we own it open space that, you know, that they may not have any problem with.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I also have not had the opportunity to put this before the Park Trustees. I would like that opportunity also.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I will table this and then lets talk about it further.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Second the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

But I think at least we need to just look at it and evaluate if it's a potential. So I'll make a motion to table. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Cooper)** I lost my agenda hold on.

**1034 Decreasing fees at Smith Point County Park. (Towle)** This is a motion -- this is a resolution to decrease fees at Smith Point County Park and I'm going to make a motion to table.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

I'll second it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

And Legislator Foley is opposed. Do you want to decrease the fees at Smith Point? Okay. **(Vote: 4-1-0-1 Opposed: Foley, Absent: Cooper)**

**1075 Amending the 2003 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating funds for resurfacing of Smith Point County Park parking facility. (Towle)**

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Second the motion. All in favor? Opposed.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

On the motion.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Commissioner, at the end of last year we had to appropriate monies for capital improvements at Smith Point and we had mentioned that you would work to have those improvements made prior to the oncoming summer season. Could you tell us where that stands particularly with the worst problems in the central part of the parking lot area?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

My understanding is that DPW was going to address this situation maybe perhaps not for the entire parking lot, but at least a portion of the parking lot --

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

-- the worst parking lot area, correct --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- prior to the summer season, but as you know Legislator Foley we have a meeting with them on Monday and I was intending to get an update at that point in time too.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thank you. Motion to table. All in favor? Opposed. Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Cooper)**  
I think I had seconded it.

**1161 Appointing Mary Ann Jedrlnic as member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustees No. 2). (Bishop)** I'm going to make a motion to table that. The meeting of the Economic Development group with -- is going on right now so she was not able to be here. So I'm going to make a motion to table.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Cooper)**

**1165 To reappoint Ronan Mulvey as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts. (Caracappa)** Same. He was not able to be here so I will make a motion to table. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Cooper)** Actually 1161 doesn't apply to that meeting it's 1165.

**1201 Authorizing the transfer of certain properties to the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. (County Executive)** Laretta.

**MS. FISCHER:**

I have some maps I'd like to distribute.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I had asked that whenever these kinds of proposals come before us at least we should be able to look at the maps and see where the properties are going or coming from. And for the record Jon Cooper has an excused absence.

**MS. FISCHER:**

If you have any questions I can address them if you'd like.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. What are we looking at that's my first question?

**MS. FISCHER:**

All right.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Miller Place.

**MS. FISCHER:**

These properties are south of 25A in the Miller Place hamlet. The area just east of here that long vacant lot on the right side of your page is the area that was proposed for acquisition for the DiLeo sod farm -- active recreation site. So if that can give you a context as to where we are. There are interspersed in those dark green properties that we have previously put into nature preserve. This was done many years ago. Since then we've accumulated all the light green parcels by tax lien procedures. I've tried in putting this boundary together recommended over the years to retain these parcels and then present to you to transfer them to parks. This is the wooded area between on the north side is another sod farm; on the south side is a disturbed land graded area and this in between is wooded primarily. There's some disturbed area of it along particularly near the Miller Place Yaphank Road, but specifically it's wooded.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Is there a plan for this property once it's transferred to Parks?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Not at this time.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Carpenter, did you have a question?

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

I have a quick question.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Alden then Legislator Foley. What is the total acreage and then ....84?

**MS. FISCHER:**

87.09 acres and it consist of -- that's what we're transferring. There's a few more that we already have which is approximately another acre or so.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

But it's not nature preserve?

**MS. FISCHER:**

No. Well, the little ones that we've already in the dark green are a nature preserve, but we're not proposing that the -- the parcels we're presenting to you today go into the nature preserve.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Good.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

That's very good.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Alden.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

These are all paper streets?

**MS. FISCHER:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Are any of them being used currently as like quick paths or do people drive in there and dump things?

**MS. FISCHER:**

There are some paths that you can see close to the Miller Place Yaphank Road on the aerial on the second may. And you can see and I'm sorry that some of the information is a little clouded by the overlay, but you can see that there is disturbance there.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

It's a ATV path probably.

**MS. FISCHER:**

Probably.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Oh, are there places where people can pull off on the Miller Place Yaphank Road, park by the road and gain access?

**MS. FISCHER:**

At this time, yes.

**LEGISLATOR ALDEN:**

Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Foley.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. Ms. Fischer, this is excellent work and as one Legislator I'm very pleased to see that we're preserving property through the transference of property that we receive from the non-payment of taxes on those properties that came into our inventory. My question is this, the property to the south what is that disturbed area, do we know?

**MS. FISCHER:**

It was a sand mining operation.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Do we know who the owner of that property was?

**MS. FISCHER:**

I'm not sure, but I think we're in litigation and I'm sorry I can't speak more of it.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Well, why don't we do this, why don't we pass this and make sure it's signed, sealed and delivered then we can get to the -- then we can follow-up with the questions. Very good work.

**MS. FISCHER:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thank you very much. We appreciate this because prior to this we were just getting resolution and none of us really even knew where it was. So this is very informative and helpful. Thank you very much. I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? It is approved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Cooper)** Anyone have anything that they would like to address the committee about? Okay. I will make a motion to adjourn.

**(Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P. M.)**

**{ } denotes spelled phonetically)**