

**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 **April 10, 2003**.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Ginny Fields - Chairperson  
Legislator Jon Cooper - Vice Chairman  
Legislator Angie Carpenter  
Legislator Brian Foley  
Legislator Lynne Nowick

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Legislator Cameron Alden

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Paul Sabatino, II - Counsel to the Legislature  
Mary Skiber - Aide to Legislator Fields  
Ed Hogan - Aide to Legislator Nowick  
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 Raptoulis - Parks Department  
Roger Podd - Aide to Presiding Office Postal  
Nicole DeAngelo - County Executive's Office  
Ken Knappe - County Executive's Budget Office  
Judy McEnvoy - Commissioner of Economic Development  
Richard Lapsley - Aide to Legislator Cooper  
Jim Spero - Budget Review Office  
Sean Clancy - Budget Review Office  
Ronan Mulvey - Citizens Advisory Board of the Arts  
Georgia Lheron - Self  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Eileen Schmidt - Legislative Secretary

**(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:17 P.M.)**

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

We will start the meeting of the Parks committee even though we are missing two Legislators so

we'll begin with a pledge led by Legislator Nowick.

**(SALUTATION)**

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. We're going to ask Judy McEnvoy to come up and just give us a little status and update on the cultural affairs contracts and then we'll go to our first speaker.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

I want to thank Commissioner Gordon for letting me go first. I'm on my defensive driving course and I get failed if I don't return on time. I would like to I have a report of the Cultural Arts Committee which I will submit, but let me read from it. The following items have been accomplished for the year 2003.

97 applications for funding were received. All were reviewed for completeness. Those that were not complete were called or emailed in order to assist them in submitting a valid application.

Final reports from 2002 applicants were reviewed for completeness. Those final reports that were incomplete those grant awardees were called twice and then notified in writing.

The Cultural Arts Advisory Board were sent copies of all 97 applications and met on March 27th 2003 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Mr. Ken Soper and Mr. Cararo are most gratefully thanked for assuming responsibility for acting as chairs. At that meeting, \$411,500 was allocated to 79 recipients for 2003. The recommendations of the Board have been forwarded to the Legislature for approval.

A representative from the Presiding Officer's office attended the entire meeting and reported favorably on the process of grant selection.

160 applications were received for the position of Cultural Arts/Film Coordinator. The Civil Service application was sent to those of interest in order that they qualified for this Civil Service position. Extensive travel is a requirement of the job.

Monday, April 7th, ten applicants were interviewed. Four additional are scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. The applicants are being interviewed by two Economic Development personnel in addition to myself and it's hoped that a new Cultural Arts coordinator will be hired by the beginning of May.

The Commissioner has responded to all inquires by from Arts groups. A meeting was held at the IMAC Theater on the 13th of March. The Commissioner could not attend that meeting, but issued a statement on the above processes. The next schedule meeting of the Arts groups is scheduled for April 29th and I will be there. It is hoped that the name of the new coordinator can be announced. I have brought with you -- you requested Legislator Fields, you requested the funding from last year I have brought that with me. Any questions?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Do you have just the one copy of last year?

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. My aide will come and make copies for the rest of the committee.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Okay. That's for last year.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Right. It was requested that a comparison be made.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Carpenter.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Generally, when we receive the listing of the grant amount in the column right next to it is the amount that the agency or group received the proceeding year so that we can see at a glance if they've gotten any increase or decrease in funding or whether it's a new first time funding.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

I do have -- I didn't realize that, but I do have if you want it the last three years. Would you like a copy of that also? Okay. This is what they have receive this year and the previous two years. So you can have that too. I did not make copies.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Overall Judy, would you say that most of the groups were able to maintain their funding levels or were there reductions?

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Actually, Ronan Mulvey is here. It is my perception I sat through the whole meeting. There were several groups that did not get funding because their final reports were incomplete or it was judged by the committee that the requests that they had was for inappropriate reasons. Those that got funding I think you will find is either at the level or above what they got last year.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Okay. Thank you.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Now there was difference I think last year was about 434 this year was 411. 200,000 of that is the county funding and the difference in that is the hotel/motel tax. Any other questions

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Does anyone else have any questions? Okay. I think we'll wait until we get the comparison for any further question. So if you could maybe wait for five minutes.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

That will be fine.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

And then we'll start our first speaker and ask you to come back if the panel has any other questions.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thanks. Georgia Lheron.

**MS. LHERON:**

I'm from Elwood and I'm here to talk about the Little Red School House again. I was here last time to ask questions about it and I know there was a lot of questions and no one got back to me yet. But I've been doing some investigating on my own and still looking into it and as I said last time Suffolk County owes the Little Red School House. And I found out that they gave it to the Friends of Long Island Heritage. They gave them license to use and maintain the building. They in turn could charge fees from the people that they sub-licensed it to, but under their contract those fees were to go back into the Parks Historic Buildings. Friends agreed to at their own cost maintain and keep the buildings in good repair. I have some pictures here of the present condition of the building that you can all have. As you can see it has not be kept in good repair.

Now Friends and the Suffolk County Parks are negotiating with the Elwood Library Board where Elwood would have license to occupy the building. In return Elwood would repair, renovate, and restore the building. The repairs that are going to be done by Elwood or contemplating being done by Elwood are repairs that were suppose to be done by Friends. Money was collected to do the work and I as an Elwood taxpayer do not want to pay for work that someone else already collected money for. If I own a rental house and if I had a management company that I had watching over my rental house and I went down 10 years down the road or 12 years and I saw my rental house that I owned in that condition. Number one, I would fire my management company, which is in the original contract that you have with Friends. Number two, also in the contract I would sue them for damages and have them do the work. The money -- they got the money and the work should be done. I certainly wouldn't turn around and say to the next tenant bail me out. You come in and you do, you fix all the things that I didn't do over the last 12 years and I as an owner would never want that to happen. And that's what their negotiating to happen in the Town of Elwood where I'm a taxpayer and I have some more pictures. There's a big garbage dump behind the building that's been accumulating for 12 years and the inside of the building has wires hanging down. I haven't gotten into inside the to even start taking pictures. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Commission Gordon, have we -- we had requested I guess a couple of months ago for Friends of Long Island's Heritage to give a plan of work to your department. Have they done that?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. They have, but it wasn't to my satisfaction so I sent it back to them for further review.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Is it possible to see their draft of what they originally --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- I don't have it with me today; I didn't bring it with me, but, yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All right. Do you have any answers for this lady to her questions that she asked couple of weeks ago?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, I know that the Friends have put some money into the building. I don't have the numbers with me and I don't have the report obviously with me either. I know that the building is in need of painting and that was one of the issues that we had talked about with the Friends last year to hopefully get done this year. But other than that I don't have anymore specifics; I'd have to go back to my office and get them.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

It looks like the steps also are in need of repair and that's looks like that could possible liability, you know, if someone were to trip on it. Does anybody have any questions?

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Do I understand that the Friends have had this did I hear for 12 years?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I think they came in shortly after the building was acquired by the County, which I believe was around 1987. So it probably more than 12 years.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

In their contract is there any timeframe in which they have to repair or that it's just on their own speed.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. There's not really a timeframe in their contract.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Does it say at all in their contract when Friends receive enough money or raise enough money -- it's at their discretion in their contracts?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

It's not really spelled out that that contract is a fairly dated contract and it's not really spelled out and it's been up to us to an extent to get them to do things that maybe wasn't a priority on their list of items to do. I know that I believe a boiler was replaced. I think there was initially there was money put into that building.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

What about the inside, I see pictures of the outside? Was anything done on the inside over the years do we know?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Off the top of my head Legislator Nowick I don't know. I'd have to go back and get that information. I do know at least going back to 1998 I have specific information about what was done in all of the buildings.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

But I would have to go back to the Friends for prior to 1998 to find out exactly what was done in that particular unit.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Cause I'm thinking in terms of just asking them when do you think that you can make the outside as the Chairman says the steps look to me like they could be a liability. What is their plan for fixing it this way we would have an idea?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I would ask that we be supplied with the Friends plan of work. By contract aren't they supposed to give you a plan of work when they sign the contract?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Again, Legislator Fields, I don't think it's spelled out. Ideally, we should do that, but I don't think it's spelled out in the agreement to do that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Can we also get a copy of the agreement?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Sure.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

I would think that would be worth looking into and possibly the contract could be changed in the future because if it doesn't say anything --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- oh, in the future absolutely it should be. Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I guess the first thing since this has been a bit of a problem in my mind for quite a few months about the Friends is that, number one, I think I had asked for a report of the inspectors for this year and that's November, December, January, February, March, April. Six months after I asked for it and still we have not received it. I'd like a copy of the agreement and I would like a draft even if it's not the final of his plan of work by the next -- in a week I don't think that's much to ask for.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

The draft that I have currently, I can get that to you if not tomorrow I can get it to you Monday.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, the plan of work you have a draft so I'd like that.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

That's what I said.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

The inspectors report, he promised it back in October or November that's quite a while ago.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay. I don't think we have the latest.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

That's right and it should have been done in October. So if you're talking about --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- again, I don't think that that's something that's spelled out in the agreement. I think that that's something that they've just done as part of what they do, but you did ask for it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Yes. And I think that we need to look at what the Friends is actually receiving money for and actually providing to the County because this is certainly, you know, above and beyond some of the things that I've even looked at. And before anyone is allowed to make an agreement with another entity before we even know that they're providing what we need I think we need to look through cautiously. Legislator Cooper, did you want ---

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Yes, Judy. This may have been addressed at the last meeting I was not there. Do we know what revenues exactly have been generated by friends at this specific case, The Little Red School House?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. And I have that information.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Do you know off-hand what that is?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I think that maybe the rent on that unit is or the license fee on that unit is approximately a thousand a month, but again, Legislator Cooper I'd have to verify that, but I think it's in that neighborhood.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

And do we have a handle as to how much money Friends has spent on maintaining this site or refurbishing it?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. As I mentioned, I have specific information from them going back to 1998. Prior to 1998 I'd have to ask them to quantify it for us.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

But is it, do you know what off-hand whether it's in excess of the revenues generated or less than

the revenues generated.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I don't know off-hand, but I can find that out fairly quickly.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

And ditto the other sites that, I don't want to pick on the Friends, but either Friends maintains or the County maintains directly? Do you know off-hand as a rule -- I've asked that a resolution be drafted that would require that any revenues generated for a specific historic site that at least 50% be spent on maintenance of that site. Is that necessary; is that generally done to your knowledge or would you have a problem with that concept?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

You mean in terms of the Friends?

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

With the Friends or whether it's a site operating directly by the County that if they raise \$100,000 in revenues whether rentals or other activities at the site.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. I wouldn't have a problem with that at all and actually with the agreement that we have with the Friends the money is supposed to go back into what we call the Landmark Program. We don't necessarily just because rent was collected on The Little Red School House that all of that definitely goes back into The Little Red School House. If I needed it at the St. James General Store or another location within Suffolk County that's been the way they've operated in the past.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

And that was because of I wanted to have some flexibility which is why I didn't envision having 100% being required as being spent on the site. But I wanted to make sure that at least half the revenue generated for any particular site do go towards maintenance and refurbishing of that site. At least I've heard that there are instances, without going into specifics of sites, where monies are raised and very little is spent on that site and seen as unfair. So I don't know whether that's true or (inaudible), but I just wanted to get your view on the proposal. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I guess I would ask that we have a review. We'll just put this on the agenda for next meeting and discuss the Friends program and then I guess the following meeting we will ask for Gerry Kessler to be here to respond to some of the questions. Lynne?

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

I just wanted to clarify in my own mind how it works. When Friends does the improvements on the different historical buildings, they do it at their own costs for the County?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. At their own cost. They have a staff of people both full time I think and part time who maintain the buildings.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Okay. Because I must say and I haven't seen the Red School House and that's why I asked about

the inside. I did get an opportunity to go out in the fields a little bit and look at, I think I called Coindre Hall.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

And another -- few other historical buildings in the inside had a lot of money put into Coindre Hall and it was beautiful. They did a lot of work there so that's what I'm curious if they're doing it in stages and we can ask I guess when the Friends come here again on the next meeting.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I'll give you some of the reports that have before the next meeting so you can look at them too. Okay. Anyone else have any other questions? Okay. Thank you. I would ask that Judy McEnvoy come back so she can get to her meeting and then if or does anybody have any questions about the Cultural? Okay.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

She said she handed out the 2003 Cultural Arts Grant recommendations with the overview of 2002 and 2001. I'm curious item number 13, the Community Library Friends of the Arts the 2003 number is listed as 7319.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Right.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

However in the backup that we have to the resolution listed as (A1) item 13 is --

**MS. MCENVOY:**

-- I can tell you the reason for that. You have two different fund numbers. We had to make a slight adjustment because of the -- one fund number is the Suffolk County money. The other fund number and I'm not sure which number is which is the hotel/motel tax and these were when the board did the recommendations the advisory board they had a total figure amount. When we started looking at the two different budget lines we had to make I think it was a \$19 adjustment.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

So that's the only, but the number --

**MS. MCENVOY:**

-- the only one.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

-- that's on the backup is correct?

**MS. MCENVOY:**

The number on the backup to the --

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

-- resolution --

**MS. MCENVOY:**

-- yes. Is correct.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Okay. All right.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Correct according to budget numbers.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Okay. Great.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Budget categories.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

And one other question. I don't have my calculator here. Do you know off-hand what the total is for 2003 versus 2002 versus 2001.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Yes. I had mentioned that. Last year the total amount was \$435,197. This year it came out to \$411,500 that's the difference.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Less this year.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Less this year.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Cause I'm just -- these are recommendations so you expect these recommendations to be cut back cause I'm just looking line by line and in 2003 it's it looks like it's unless I'm reading this wrong more in each instance.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Yes. There is more. The board had more because there were less applicants and there were about 15 groups that were denied funding because their final reports were incomplete and in many cases they had not even filed their final reports. The County requires -- they want to know certain things on how the money was spent. In addition, the advisory board itself looked at certain grant proposals and they were not applicable. They were not -- the board made a decision not to fund about 15 organizations.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

And is it possible for me to get that. I'm concerned particularly for my district, but either for my district or countywide a list of those organizations that for whatever reason are not being funded this year as compared to last year.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Yes. I have that with me.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Counsel, can I ask you a question or maybe Budget Office? The 10% cuts that the County Executive has suggested does that affect the bottom line of these numbers?

**MS. MCENVOY:**

I believe that was taken into account when we gave the board the number they had to work with. The 10% cut in the budget was taken into account, I believe it's my understanding that that was the figure that the board was given was less the 10% with the exception of the hotel/motel which was not subject to a reduction.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

So explain that one more time; so the money that we're seeing here in these columns --

**MS. MCENVOY:**

-- right. I don't believe they'll be any deductions in them at all.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

That's the figure.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Anyone else have any other questions? No. Okay. So if --

**MS. MCENVOY:**

-- your aide is making a copy of the groups that were denied funding.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Rejected, right.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Okay. And that was a decision of the advisory board not mine.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Great, thank you very much.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

You're quite welcome.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Good luck on your class.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Oh, thank you. Well, I didn't realize when you drive a County car you have to take that class so I'm there. Any other questions please, any of the Legislators don't hesitate to call me. Okay. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thank you very much and thanks for the update. I guess we should ask Ronan Mulvey to come up because your going to have a resolution to reappoint you here today.

**MR. MULVEY:**

You have copies of my resume.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Yes, we do. Okay. Mr. Mulvey, thanks for coming today. How long have you served on this board.

**MR. MULVEY:**

I've been three years on the board. In the past there were nominating them one year at a time. This one is for three years. It can be from one to three years.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Exactly, what is it that you do when you serve on that board?

**MR. MULVEY:**

Well, the primary function is to review the applications.

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

Please speak closer into the microphone.

**MR. MULVEY:**

I'm sorry. We have 14 members on the Arts Advisory Board and as you're well aware it's covered under Local Law #8 and they serve from the various areas. From each one of the townships and they're appointed by the Legislators. And as we meet, we meet once a year primarily to view the applications for funding. So what Judy McEnvoy just covered as far as \$411,500 that she mentioned we sit, look at all the applications read them, review them. We get them before hand we spend time reviewing them and reading them before we ever come to the meeting and then we express any concerns, any errors we find in it. At the same time they're reviewed by the office itself in this case Jim Hartnett who I believe works with Judy McEnvoy reviewed them and pointed out discrepancies of which he's already gotten back to the people to tell them that. For example, you have not filed the final report, which is required, or else you'll not receive funding or any other discrepancy in the applications. Sometimes the math is wrong; sometimes there's various problems. So then we come in, we sit down, we go through each applica -- first we look at the overall money and see whether or not we're going to be able to spread it comparable to the way it was spread the previous year. We look at that, see which applications have dropped out, in this case we lost I believe 17 applications, but we got 10 new ones. So we looked so we knew we were pretty well at the same level that we were last year. So the one pass through we go through every application discuss it. Most of us are familiar with some of the organizations or went to the productions they put on and those people that have speak up and discuss a little bit about it. And we go through all the applications we make one pass and we spread the money and then we see whether we got access after that and then we go back. We asterisk organizations that we think we should give them a little bit more and then try to go back to them and give them additional money. And so after two or three passes we have spread the money out across all the organizations. There's always some questions about something or other and in this case we normally would've left it with the Director of Cultural Affairs, but Jim Hartnett was wearing that hat at the table at the time. So we just mentioned it to him and to get back to these people and if there is some little tweaking that has to be done after that we just them the okay to go ahead

and do that. And that's fairly how it works.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Right. Thank you. Anyone have any questions? Legislator Foley.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. When I looked at the number of cultural institutions that were receiving funding I had noticed a couple of theater performing arts centers. Particular, Huntington has had it for many year and more recently the Westhampton Beach Theater for the Performing Arts and they had formally submitted application for funding?

**MR. MULVEY:**

I'd have to look at my listing that I have.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

I assume that they had. It's a leading question the reason I asked the question is that we have in my district now the Patchogue Theater for the Performing Arts. And in times past there's been more of a member item funding through my offices for that particular theater, but through the Chair I'd like to see that included at future time as a recurring revenue be allocated to the Cultural Arts funding for that particular institution. Now I don't know whether or not they -- they may not have sent an application in which probably not.

**MR. MULVEY:**

No. As far as I know they have never sent in a application.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Right. It was more of done affirmatively by this Legislator as opposed to them reaching out. So we have to do a little education on that part of it, but what I'd like to do in the future or if other monies somehow become available this year is to also place that cultural institution within this group of grantees.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay.

**MR. MULVEY:**

First of all I want to say that theater is New York quality.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Isn't it? It's beautiful.

**MR. MULVEY:**

Beautiful job on that theater and I went to some performances there.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

It's considered not only one of the largest, but one of the most beautiful theaters east of Manhattan Island. I mean, it's really that incredible.

**MR. MULVEY:**

A pleasure to attend a performance at that theater and at the same time, but if they fill out the application and submit it and they have that 501C status they there's not reason why they wouldn't and shouldn't receive funding.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Cooper.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Thank you.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

You may not be able to answer this, but Brian made reference to the Huntington Village Theater Company, which was of some concern to me since it's in my district. And I noticed that they're not slated to receive any funding in 2003 although they did receive it in previous years. Do you know off-hand whether it's because they did not apply for funding or that they were turned down and if they were turned down do you know the reason? The Huntington Village Theater Company.

**MR. MULVEY:**

They did apply for it and they received zero funding. I don't know the exact reason, but there must have been -- the only reason we would ever zero them and we bend over backwards never to zero them out is that there was something blatantly missing in their application of which we could not cover. We could not approve the funding.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Plus you said or Judy I think said that you do reach out to try to get them to be complete.

**MR. MULVEY:**

Oh yes. We want very much and beforehand there's multiple calls made to the people to tell them --

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

-- either Ronan or Judy if someone could get back to me with details about why they were not approved and if it's possible it may be too much work, but it'll be great if this happened in the future if my office could be notified. Because sometimes if we make a phone call and hold hands we're able to get you the information that's required. I know this happens sometimes with downtown revitalization funding. So I don't know if it's too late in this case for '03, but number one, I would like to find out why they were not approved.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

We have the reasons why all the applicants that were not approved we have the reasons. I can get that to you; I will call you, but I will tell you that they were called several times. Okay.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Okay. Thanks.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Nowick.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Commissioner, I think it would, what Jon Cooper just said, would be a very good idea. If you would be so kind if you did see that an organization was being turned down if you would let the district offices know that would help us out.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

Legislator Nowick, there will be a new person onboard and as each person is being interviewed they are being told that they are taking a much more active role, a much more hand holding role. They will be going out to these organizations. I intend to hire someone who will absolutely do what you're asking.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Yes, that would be wonderful for us.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

There's no question about that. There's been a noticeable lack of that and I am here I think in the capacity of making a report that you haven't had in the past of giving you reasons for certain things. And I will assure you the applicants for the position are top draw and you will have all of that hand holding and much more outreach than you have ever had before.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

That would help.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

I make that promise.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

I did want to ask you, what is a 501C status?

**MS. MCENVOY:**

That's a not for profit.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Okay. Because --

**MS. MCENVOY:**

-- 501C3.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Oh, okay. So if they have a not for profit --

**MS. MCENVOY:**

-- these applicants have to adhere to all of the legislative mandates for the grant money. They have to be a 501C3. They have to abide by the living wage law. They have to have insurance. They have to abide by the sexual harassment. So their application has to reflect that they comply with all of the Legislature's mandates and some of them were not funded because of exactly that reason. One in particular I know had no insurance and they get called on this. They get helped by the Office for the Living Wage and they are arts groups.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

Okay. And if you let us know too we can help out. I see one of my constituent, the Kings Park Heritage were turned down and I just would want to know what their problem was.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

There were two that were turned down because they -- I have to get the exact reason and I'm

talking out of turn, but off the top of my head there were two that applied for funding for archiving. Is that true, Ronan?

**MR. MULVEY:**

I remember one applying for archiving.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

And it was suggested that there are other organizations for archiving. Of the 13 members of the advisory board 11 were there. So 11 members of the advisory board took an entire day to review each and every one of these applications. I have the reasons that they were turned down.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

All right, if you would just do that that would be great.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

And I can do that, but I pledge to you that the new person who will be full time cultural arts and this has been difficult on me because we jumped in in the middle of a not good situation. So I will get you the reasons, but I don't hope to have this in the future because there will be an individual that will hand hold, but if they don't comply with all of those different mandates it may behoove us not to even let that application get that far. I'm going to let the new person work on that.

**MR. MULVEY:**

I would like to add to that that in the past there were occasions where Legislators have come to us and in one case Martin Haley came to us and he said he had people in his constituency that were just have trouble with the paperwork. And we use the office of the Greater Port Jefferson Art Council had about six or seven of them up there and let them use our computers or the computers that the art council. And to walk them through doing the applications and you know once they did it and once they saw how it was handled on the computer was quite easy for them to complete it. And they submitted applications and I noticed this year that six out of the eight that we had done for had be reapplying. So there's both on the art advisory board and in some of the art councils we'll reach out to anyone to help them fill out the applications.

**MS. MCENVOY:**

And we recommend that too.

**1165 To reappoint Ronan Mulvey as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board of the Arts. (Caracappa)**

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. I'm going to ask for the committee to take IR 1165 make a motion to take IR 1165 out of order for the purpose of approval.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? Okay, it is not before us. I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Second.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? Approved. **(Vote: 6-0)** So Mr. Mulvey, welcome back for your time and your work and your volunteerism. Okay. I guess, Mary can you speak to -- all right, thank you very much Judy for your report and for your help. And I guess Commissioner we'll ask you to come back again. Okay. I guess I'm going to ask the committee if you all received Commissioner Gordon's plan for reopening the Suffolk County Parks. Okay. So maybe Commissioner you could just kind of go over it.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, as I said -- as I open the memo by saying I decided to propose something to the County Executive's Office that if we were to do to the hiring freeze if we were to amend the fees in the department to attempt to cover some of the additional costs that we would incur by hiring six additional or by hiring six laborers so that we could reopen Lake Ronkonkoma County Park and Sear Bellows. And I understand that it's not necessarily the case that we can take revenue and divert it to a particular expense side of the budget, but I just thought that by bringing in additional revenues it wouldn't put the County in a bad position. It would be additional offsetting offsets to any additional expenses that we may incur. And we did go through the fee resolutions -- we did go through all of the fees. We did not increase across the board, however, in the '04 budget process we -- I expect that we're probably going to come back and perhaps amend the fees further, but at least in this point in time we looked particularly at some fees that had not been raised since probably 1997. I believe, one of which is the sticker that we sell for outer beach use that was \$75 and we're proposing to increase that by \$5 to 80. And I did some checking with people who are attached to user groups as well as talking to some of the Park Trustees because as you know the Park Trustees is supposed to approve of any amendment in the fees as well. And I didn't get opposition; I perhaps didn't get wholesale approval, but I did not get any opposition. But in terms of looking at the situation, is it a matter of reopening the parks and paying these additional fees, I think most people will accept it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I just have a question about golf. What's the regular fee if you were to go to a private golf, a nine-hole golf course? We have it as a \$14 in 2002, recommended 15 as a resident. What would an average person pay at another?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I'm not -- I would venture to guess it's got to be at least \$17 for nine holes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Carpenter, would you know that for sure?

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I think it's 14.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. So it's less money at a private --

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

(inaudible)

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- well, Gull Haven is a private -- Gull Haven is a municipal that's the Town of Islip.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I don't know if there are any private courses that have nine-hole rates.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

There's a nine-hole in Dix Hills.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Unless it's like Middle Island or something.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I know there's a nine-hole course in Dix Hills.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Oh, that's right.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yeah. And I think it maybe seventeen --

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

But Dix Hills I don't know if that's private either I think that's the Town of Huntington.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. There's two in Dix Hills. There's one that's private and the town has a golf course also.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I've just been told that it's \$22 on a private nine-hole. So we are still presenting a deal to someone to play on our courses.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

What courses offer nine-hole? Do all of our courses offer a nine-hole rate or is it just Timber Point?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. I believe we all -- all of them offer a nine-hole rate.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Okay.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Judy, do you know off-hand not comparing us to private courses, but if we compared our fees to those charged, but lets say Nassau County for public courses or campgrounds or beaches how we compare?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I believe we're comparable.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

So even with these increases we'd still be comparable.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. And I did not because of the time constraints I did not have the time to go out and get additional information from other municipalities, but what I plan to do for the '04 budget process is to have that information. And maybe even provide that, you know, to Legislators prior to getting that. I think we're going to target to try and get that information by early part of May if possible as a comparison.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

I just want to say cause if Nassau County is charging \$16 for nine-hole then I have no problem raising ours to \$16.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

But we need all the facts before we can make a determination.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay. I just need to point out to you that in terms of realizing this revenue we based it on putting them into effect as of May 1.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

That would need a C/N.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

There would be a C/N that would have to go through.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Legislator Carpenter, did you have or Legislator Cooper were you finished with your --

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

-- yes, I am. Thanks.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

The outer beach permit, there are quite a number of them I see.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

That we sell?

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Yeah. It's probably in the neighborhood of 11,000.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Right. Did you say '97 was the last time it was used -- raised?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I believe '97 was the last time it was raised.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Now when a person buys this permit, it's a annual permit, so they get it from year to year or is it just season?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. They get it from, well, Steve, do you know? I think it is for the calendar year. I think it's for the calendar year cause generally people come in a lot of people come in and purchase those things and even in January and February for use for that calendar year.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

But the outer beach camping that's done, I mean, if someone has a permit and wanted to use it in February are they able to?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Not necessarily. Not necessarily. We reserve when we sell an outer beach sticker on the receipt that they get we reserve the right to not allow access to a particular site for weather conditions, for best management practices for our endangered species. But this was an issue that came up I don't know how many years ago, maybe the last time we increased the fee.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I do remember that people complained about that. It engendered an awful lot of public opinion that come forward on it, that's why I'm just a little bit -- I just want to make sure that I'm comfortable with this.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

And I don't think in terms of the management of it I don't think that we're different than any other municipal organization who sells outer beach stickers permits.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Is there any limit on the amount of time that they can camp on the outer beach? Are they once they have this permit if they wanted to come everyday of the summer, everyday of the week, weekends this permit would entitle them to do that? Or after 10 days do they have to move on and come back three days later?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I know with our regular camping we have limits, but I'm not quite sure on the outer beach. I'd have to double-check that myself.

**MR. RAPTOULIS:**

Three days.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Three days on the outer beach?

**MR. RAPTOULIS:**

(inaudible)

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Then they have to come off and be gone for -- oh, yes, they have to come off because we want to make sure that they dispose of their waste.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Okay. So how long do they have to be off?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I probably should get back to you on that rather than guess.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Okay. Because you know if it's something that entitles them to have the opportunity to use the facilities a large amount of time then that doesn't seem when you break it down to the number of opportunities they have divided it into the cost of the permit it really isn't that bad. But I need to know what that -- those answers are.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay. I will try to get back to you tomorrow with that information.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Also I see with the replacement charge, do they get a sticker?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

So if the sticker is destroyed or lost do they affix to their --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- well, you know when we sell the sticker we don't physically affix it to the vehicle. We hand it to them and they affix it to the vehicle.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Right.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

And we had some problems which I wouldn't necessarily get into in this forum, but some people may claim that they lost it. So we do charge a replacement charge because --

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

-- well, I don't have a problem with that.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

In fact, I'm suggesting that that replacement charge be \$25 and not \$15 because, you know, you're not increasing it. You have the estimated activity at \$50. I think if someone is -- knows that if they lose it --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- they'll be more diligent.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Yeah.

**MR. KNAPPE:**

If I could, just to go with what Legislator Cooper was asking and Commissioner Gordon addressed. In the County Executive's preparation of a Certificate of Necessity for the 29th meeting with the five revenues that we are looking to increase the Budget Office in conjunction with the Parks Department will have an analysis of these five revenues streams and compare them to Nassau County for you. So we'll have that for you at the 29th meeting. More composite look is what the Commissioner is going to be doing as we enter the 2004 budget process and has been discussed numerous times in front of the Legislature and in the media. The County Executive and the Legislature are working in unison for the most part and we really are looking at every type of revenue enhancements from one extreme to the another to start talking about. And of course Parks revenues will be a topic of that and the Legislature will be appraised of that as we go along.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Commissioner Gordon, I sent you a copy of a letter from Mark {Bazinski} who docks his boat at the Timber Point West Marina. And he had written a letter back last year asking when the electric would be installed. When the road and the parking areas would be paved and when the drainage would be addressed. And what I note here is that in 2002 you had \$39 a foot to have a dock slip and you want to raise it \$10 a foot, but according to Mr. {Bazinski} those things have not even they haven't been done yet. When are they going to be done because I know we were working on electric a year ago?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yeah, I don't think I have an answer. I have not gotten a respond back on the electric question, but I know in terms of the repaving of the parking lot I believe the contractor was meeting staff at the site today, not today, tomorrow to go over the work that needs to be done and to get a date as to when that would proceed.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

And who are you waiting for the answer on the electric?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

A member of the staff.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

From our staff.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Has it been contracted out with someone?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I don't know that was the first that I had seen of that question Legislator Fields. And my impression is if the electric has not been started yet it may not even be planned I don't know, but I don't want to say that now unless I'm sure. And I will get that information certainly in time for you to make a decision on this.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I believe that former Commissioner Peter Scully had told me a year ago that the electric was going to be put in. I don't know if you recall.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No, I don't, but let me I will verify that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. So I guess prior to any C/N we need some answers to several of those questions. Does anyone else have any, yes, Legislator Foley.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Just back on the hiring. I appreciate the Commissioner's attempts to find way to hire the staff that's needed. What hours would each of these people work at the different parks?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

They'll work 37½ hours a week that would -- 40 hours a week that would be the normal schedule and perhaps some overtime.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Now you mentioned in your letter that since there's a hiring freeze you're trying to find another way to increase fees in order to hire these individuals, correct?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

All right. Now the hiring freeze was put into place, when?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

January 1.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Okay. The point I want to raise today, Madam Chair, --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- on or about January 1st.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

-- some of us will raise at some future points in time why -- I can say why I feel that we don't need to raise fees in order to hire these people. The hiring freeze was placed -- was in place as of January 1. There's been a huge change made to our budget since that date which to my way of thinking at least partially unfreezes the hiring freeze. By that I mean the following, you will recall

that I had introduced legislation resolution a Sense Resolution at the end of December urging the State of New York and it was a bi-partisan support to allow us to amortize our pension costs. And if they allowed us to amortize the pension costs that we could save this year tens of millions of dollars. It could be as much as \$60 million and that's something BRO is going to look at. It's between 40 and 60.

While as we sit here today through Comptroller Hevesi and some other plans that are out there that in fact are going to allow municipalities to amortize those costs. So that going to save us at a minimum and stand to be corrected, but at a minimum of \$40 million this year. So what's my point, my point is the original reason given for this hiring freeze to me is no long an attainable position given the fact that we now have a substantial savings to our budget stemming from the amortization of our pension cost. So that's why as I said at the same time I applaud the Commissioner for trying to find a way to fill these positions I just done think that we necessarily have to raise fees in order to hire these positions.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Legislator Foley, I can't respond to that certainly.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

I know you can't that's why I applaud you for what you're trying to do.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

But I'd like to just point out something in addition, you all know that we're going through an audit and we do have to deficiencies in our revenue collection and I didn't have that quantified for you today. But I may come back or go back to the County Executive's Office saying, that we need additional people to do that task as well as managing our contracts which are reflective of fees that we bring in also. We are very deficient in both of those areas. So that was in the back of my mind when I made this proposal also.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**MR. KNAPPE:**

If I could too?

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Sure let's open it up.

**MR. KNAPPE:**

Where I agree with Legislator Foley.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

That's fine. I'd like to get some dialogue on this because to me I think is a material change in our budget by virtue of the fact of what the state is permitting us to do on a local level.

**MR. KNAPPE:**

While there is a change and it's a good change if everything falls out the way that it is the Budget Review Office, Budget Review Director, Fred Pollert and my boss Bob Bortzfield have been talking in front of the Legislature. And in meetings together that the gap that we are facing in '03 and '04 and we have to stress that it is an '03 and '04 gap because we have to address it together for both those years is in excess of just the pension cost. The pension cost is a chunk of it, but we

were looking at about \$180 million budget gap at one point. That number is still moving and as good news as the pension cost is if there is relief in that area there are also now Social Services cost that are increasing beyond our estimate. So we are in a catch 22.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Yeah. And this isn't the Budget Committee, but I know there's been an increase in Medicaid, but I know the increase in Medicaid is still less than the savings that we are now accruing from the amortization of the pension costs.

**MR. KNAPPE:**

I wouldn't dispute that.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

But we can certainly, I think we should open up this dialogue in all the different committees. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All right. Thank you and thank you Kenny for input. I would like to move on to the cash control report, Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I have a report to pass out to everybody today and I want to also just say that it's definitely a work in progress going back again to the audit. I'm sure that we going to be making changes to this as we go along.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Have you been advised how long the audit should take or you have now idea?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. They have not given me a time, but when I asked the question I think the middle part of last week, the response I get is it's going to take awhile.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

So we're trying to keep you up-to-dated, but --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

And they are not auditing all the parks, right? They're auditing just some?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No. I think they're looking at everything. Yeah, they're looking at the whole cash operation. Now they may not be visiting every park. I know that have been out to some already; that I can't answer, but they are looking all of it. I don't know whether you want to take this report and look at it and talked about it further or if you have any questions cause there is quite a bit of information here, but certainly I'd be happy to answer any questions.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. So you have, well, you know, just in a quick review. You have mentioned in this report recommendations. These are your recommendations or it's a page that begins --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- it's recommendations from the department. It's not recommendations from the Department of Audit and Control yet.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

It's your recommendations.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. So you're suggesting these are not things that you're not doing now, but you would like to see done?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, the first attachment that you have Suffolk County Cash Handling Procedures. Those were new procedures that we instituted in January and we are operating under those procedures right now. And then I proposed -- we're also in the process of -- the people that handle -- the company that handles our Green Key were in the process of talking to them right now to install Point of Sales Systems at places, I believe, currently we have them at the golf courses. And we intend to install them at other places such as Smith Point where we have where we generate a substantial amount of money so that we can swipe Green Keys to make sure that the proper fee is being charged. That I'm hoping to have in place the beginning part of this summer season. The second part of that is the new toll machine at Smith Point. We've got a requisition going through the pipeline right now to purchase new toll machines; that does have to be bid. We're going to impress upon the Purchasing Department that we need -- this is a priority and we need it quickly and we are fairly confident that they will cooperate with us. So that we can get this out on the street as soon as possible with the hopes that maybe that they maybe installed by the July 4th holiday weekend if not before. Those are two issues that we're dealing with for this year. You'll see in some of the recommendations that we may -- it might be it's suggested that we install toll machines at other locations. Install computers at locations that don't have that right now, but obviously there is a cost involved with that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Did we get any more, any other response from Easy Pass other than what we had heard?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes, we did. We did get some information from them, but we've not plowed through it yet. But our initial take on it is that it probably will not be cost effective to do it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Anybody have any questions on this?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

And certainly if you want to review it and we want to come back and revisit it again --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- okay, we will and we'll make sure that those who are not here --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- I know Legislator Alden was --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- right.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- interested and he's not here today.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. I guess I would like to ask number one, there was a Parks Trustee who resigned and I'd like to know the update of replacing that person.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. I'm talking to the staff of the Presiding Officer's Office. I just made an inquiry about that today.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Why the Presiding Officer?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, my understanding of the procedure is that the Supervisor of the town proposes a name --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- Southold.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- proposes a name to be considered and Supervisor Horton did send a letter to the Presiding Officer requesting that this person be considered, but perhaps the newness of the Presiding Officer's staff and me maybe we've not handled it correctly, but we'll definitely look into that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Counsel.

**MR. SABATINO:**

I think the Supervisor made a mistake. The Supervisor makes the recommendation for each town, but the person has to make the formal appointment is the County Executive. Legislature can only do the confirmation so probably Mr. Horton should have conveyed that to the County Exec. so then the County Exec. can then make the actual appointment.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

They we'll get that done.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I believe he did. I think I saw a copy of the letter that was sent to Bob Gaffney that he did recommend it.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, actually he made two suggestions. He proposed one person who I think may not or may have difficulty attending the meetings.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

He withdrew that one.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

And he's proposed a second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Right. So they would you ask him to bring -- to lay that on the table for the next meeting because it would be nice.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

That's been vacate for awhile. And just an update on Suffolk Trap and Skeet for the committee.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

The propose licensee that we were negotiating with and I think I told you the last time we were in the process of meeting with sent us a letter I believe two days ago indicating that they were withdrawing their proposal.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Did they indicate why?

**MR. RAPTOULIS:**

The problem was they had sent us a letter requesting changes to their proposal based on the RFP which we in turn sent it to the County Attorney's Office. They indicated not they couldn't do that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

It was regarding the sound mitigation?

**MR. RAPTOULIS:**

Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

That they couldn't comply with --

**MR. RAPTOULIS:**

-- there were several points. There were some minor points, but the major points was the sound mitigation, they felt it was too costly and they felt that the County should pay for it. The environmental portion of the RFP in conjunction with lawsuits that they didn't realize that they wanted to be indemnified which we could not do. And that was in the sample license agreement which they neglected to read or have a legal counsel look at and those were the two major portions in conjunction with they wanted it reflex here is the percentage of gross to be increased from 100,000 to 250,000 which you couldn't do. So those are just several points. And then there's some minor points that they agreed to in the RFP and then they looked at it again and said, no, we can't do it, it would be too costly.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Do you have any plans for what you would like to do next?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, I think the sound mitigation is a big issue and we've had discussion in the department about perhaps as you are probably are all aware there was a report done in last year, I guess it was done in '02 regarding this issue. And there were recommendations made, but not necessarily recommendations that -- there was not necessarily along with the recommendation a guarantee that the recommendations would work. So we thought perhaps as we were moving along with Campsite Sport Shop if they came to us with a plan maybe we would engage a sound engineer to look at what they proposing and give us an opinion about the viability of it. That maybe a way that we should go now regardless of who before we go out with a new RFP however I don't have funding to pay for an engineer to come in and do that for us. So I guess we're still thinking about how we may deal with this.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. We've done the plan; we've done the cash. We've done Cultural Affairs. Thank you. I'm going to move to the agenda. Legislator Foley, Legislator Nowick.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I just wanted to note that I see some repairs going on to the fence at Gardiner Park. It looks great. I mean, there were areas that were missing pieces of wood and definitely needed to be repaired so I know it's not finished, but just seeing that wall wood and seeing activity I think sends a very nice message that we're working on it. So I appreciate that.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

You're welcome.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Just one quick thing, are you going to mow {ICON}?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. We have plans to do that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. I will go to the agenda.

**TABLED RESOLUTIONS**

**2152. To implement retention of technical consultant in connection with Forsythe Meadows property damage. (Fisher)** I'll make a motion to table.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

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

**2253 Adopting Local Law No. –2003, Authorizing County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to construct dog runs in county parks. (Cooper)** I believe this is the one that's back in CEQ, is it?

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

In any case, a motion to table.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

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

**1028 Authorizing, empowering and directing County Parks Department to initiate process for cell tower revenue at county parks. (Fields)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed?

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Could I have an explanation, please?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

This was to engage the County into possible locations and investigation of whether or not County Parklands might be able to have any kind of cell towers on them in order to increase revenue to the County.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

This doesn't commit us to it?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

No.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

So they will be doing what exactly then?

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Let me get to the --

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

-- while you're looking for it, Madam Chair, there was an issue at the last meeting the Commissioner brought up about alienation rights. How is that?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I've been advised by the County Attorney's Office that that is an issue, but I have a further issue that I don't have the staff to handle this at this point in time. That's a primary issue for me at this point in time.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Counsel, if you could make an explanation.

**MR. SABATINO:**

This legislation bills off of the previous legislation which had been done about a year and a half ago or two years ago for the wireless communication throughout County facilities. Parks was specifically excluded from the earlier legislation that was adopted in 2001. This would direct the Parks Department to prepare written RFP's to solicit parties or entities that would be interested in utilizing County Parklands for basically wireless communication facilities as a possible revenue to the County. The RFP itself would have to be completed within a certain deadline in this case, 90 days and it would be based on payment of at least fair market value and then each of the individual sites that would be approved would be subject to legislative approval. So the RFP would be to get the process going forward then anything that would come out of that would be subject to legislative approval. So if there was a specific site with a specific vendor you would be making the final decision on that.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

And I think I had asked that the Director of Purchasing prepare the RFP.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

That was my point too because I thought we had had that discussion not to burden the parks that basically you might give them some areas that would be appropriate or inappropriate not to even look at, but that really the responsibility for preparing the RFP and that whole process would fall on Purchasing not Parks.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

This resolution doesn't indicate that I don't think.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Yes it does, it's a corrected copy.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Oh, okay. All right, I don't think I have the corrected copy. I apologize.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

The corrected copy is not attached to the cover memo that I have.

**MR. SABATINO:**

The corrected copy was filed on March 28th and in fact, it came out of this committee.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Right.

**MR. SABATINO:**

It was based on a recommendation of this committee. So what it did was everything I just described to you is identical except that the responsibility for preparing the RFP was transferred from the Parks Department to the Division of Purchasing with Parks just to provide any technical background assistance. So that results from the last committee meeting.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay. Regarding the alienation issue, I don't know whether you're aware, but periodically the federal government has excess land that departments don't want anymore. And periodically the Parks Department has been the recipient of land that they don't want. There's a parcel called Terry Hill in the Manorville area which is a high, it's a hill, it's high and it had been used by the FAA and had a tower of sorts on it. We had been approached by the federal government about taking this piece of property so I thought I had a brilliant idea. I went back to them and I said fine. I said could we take the property and put a cell tower on it. And they said no, you know, if we could sell it for cell tower purposes that's what we would do. And I said no; I didn't mean selling it. I meant you give it to the County. It's not parkland yet. We go out and we put -- we find a licensee to put a cell tower on it. We reap the revenue for the park system. They didn't like that idea. The federal government didn't like that idea.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Once they give it to us --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- I know I gave them a idea.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Once right -- I don't know if I would've raised the question.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, they have to -- when they give you a piece of land they have to approve of the use that you're proposing for it.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

You know the phrase, public purposes.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

That covers a lot of ground.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

The only problem that I think I have is that in the Parks Trustees and in the committees we had presentations with a wireless or cable group where they used Smith Point to put their private cables underneath and that was never a question about an alienation of parkland. And in addition I believe I met with Peter Scully and former County Executive Pat Halpin and one of the vendors and we discussed the process and they told us that in Glen Cove in their parks they have cell towers. So I think, you know, that if you're going to allow cables to be put through a park, you know, that you could be allowed to put cell towers where appropriate. I am certainly not suggesting that we put a cell tower in the middle of Smith Point's parking lot or anything like that, but where appropriate. I think we absolutely based on all the information that Kenny Knappe and our Budget Review Office and everyone else is telling us we have to look at ways in which we can increase our revenues.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, as I said I think the issue with Smith Point was it was determined that it was not an alienation cause it was underground and it wasn't preventing anybody from using the park.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

But they were preventing people from using the park while they put the cable in.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

No, I don't think so.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

It was under the parking lot, right?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Oh, yeah, but we were able I believe we were able to accommodate people. I don't think we had to turn anybody away.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

And I don't believe that a cell tower is going to stop anybody from using the park either.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, maybe using the rest of the park. That particular land they will be prevented from using.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Well, if they could do it in Glen Cove I think we should at least, you know, evaluate whether or not we can do it and find out if that is the way. And I would think that we can get all of that information once we attempt to seek and get those. So I made a motion and a second.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Just one technical point, the bill is not specific to cell towers. It's whatever facilities are appropriate. So for example, a lot of the wireless optic fibers are done underground, but the bill itself doesn't state construct cell towers. It says whatever facilities or structures would be appropriate. So it's broadly worded not to limit you to doing the cell tower or flag poles.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Legislator Nowick.

**LEGISLATOR NOWICK:**

It seems to me if we can do this without destroying the integrity of the park and we can make some revenue it certainly is worth looking into. We can't turn our heads on this.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. We made a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Approved. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Alden)**

**1034 Decreasing fees at Smith Point County Park. (Towle)**

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Motion? Do we have a second?

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

We don't have a second so it fails. Do you still want your motion to table?

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

I withdraw my motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Thank you.

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

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

I'll second the motion.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

On the motion, quickly. I've spoken with Commissioner Gordon as well as Commission Bartha of Public Works and they are moving forward with plans to take care of the most objectionable portions of the parking facility. And then to get the parking area ready for future reconstruction.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

So just as a point of interest, Chief Deputy Raptoulis was out there last week and there's been a considerable amount of damage over this winter.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

So that's I mean, incorporated then into what we had discussed a couple of weeks ago?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. So we tabled it, did I actually call it? Okay. Motion to table. I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Alden)**

**1161 Appointing Mary Anne Jedrlinic as member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 2). (Bishop)** Apparently this person has not shown up or contacted us. We've contacted her and asked her to show up and she has not. So I guess we'll reach out to Legislator Bishop once again and tell him. We already did 1165.

**MS. SCHMIDT:**

We need a vote on 1161.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Oh, I'll make a motion on 1161 to table.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

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

**INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**1217 Adopting Local Law No. –2003, Authorizing County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation to construct dog runs at Coindre Hall and West Hills County Park. (Cooper)**

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

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

**1233 Re-extend the deadline for report by Committee to Study Common Sense Alternative Funding Mechanisms for the Suffolk County parks system. (Fields)** I'll make a motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

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

**1272 Dedication of certain lands now owned by Catherine T. Koch 50% and Patrick Donoher as Executor of the Estate of Elizabeth Donoher 50%, to the Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (SCTM 0200-980.70-05.00-040.000). (County Executive)** Commissioner, do you have anything to say on this one?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

It's a -- I believe it's a -- it's not a purchase. Somebody is donating it to the County and we would support it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Where is it?

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Mastic.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. I think it's near the Forge River area.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve.

**MR. SABATINO:**

Just as technical point, somebody should just add what the purposes. They didn't identify if they wanted it to be for parkland purposes or you know for active purposes or whatever. The problem is its status won't be clear. I don't know that when they made the offer if they had a restriction or not.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

It says for conservation purposes in the resolution.

**MR. SABATINO:**

It's not in the resolve clause though.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Then I'm going to ask that this be tabled unless that is --

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

-- or we could do this, we could approve --

**MR. SABATINO:**

-- I didn't mean --

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

-- but it's a important point.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

We can approve it from committee and since the next general meeting is not until the 29th. I mean, the Executive could put in an amended bill that explicitly states the purpose of the dedication.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Or do you want to discharge without recommendation so that it flags it so that it doesn't.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Okay.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I'll make a motion to discharge without recommendation.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. I'll second that. All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Alden)**

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Now Commissioner, you'll make sure?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

I'll follow up.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Yes, thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

**1298 Authorizing Cultural Affairs Agreement funding for 2003. (Fields)** Motion to approve.

**LEGISLATOR COOPER:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

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

**1301 Adopting Local Law No. –2003, a Local Law to exempt shooting ranges from Suffolk County noise control. (Fields)** This is a new bill because of the fact that we were unable to reach an agreement with Suffolk for Suffolk Trap and Skeet. And I think that the intent we originally had a letter from the author of the resolution for noise ordinances and it was not the intent to close down a facility that the County receives quite a bit of revenue from. And so that is why this bill is before you. I do have to make a motion to table for public hearing though, correct?

**MR. SABATINO:**

Correct.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Yes. And I'll second it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

All in favor? Opposed? Tabled. **(Vote: 5-0-0-1 Absent: Alden)** And I'll make a motion to --

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

-- before we adjourn Madam Chair I have a question. Follow-up question for the Commissioner.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Okay. Legislator Foley, then Legislator Carpenter.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Thank you. Commissioner, you mentioned the federal land and this one large hill in Manorville area, is the federal government still interested in conveying it to the County?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, they are, but apparently there are some environmental issues or hurdles that need to be gotten over first before we could proceed with it.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

But they would -- if there's an expressed interest on the part of the County to acquire this property if we have assurances from the federal folks that it wouldn't sell it from underneath us sort to speak or that they'd work with us?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yeah. If they've come to us trying to convey this to the County they would not sell it, absolutely not.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

How much acreage?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Oh, it's a small piece, Legislator Foley. Three acres maybe, I don't even know if it's that.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Is there a surrounding area of larger acreage that they own also?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Yes. It's adjacent to current, no. It's adjacent to current County owned piece.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

County owned parcel. Okay.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

And then there's housing around there also.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Okay.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

But there are -- it was a former FAA site and there's a building on it and I think remnants of a tower which would be up to us to get rid of. They don't do that. They just give it to you as is.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Are there other federal land in Suffolk County that you think would --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- I don't have any knowledge and I don't know if I could find that out. I can certainly try to find that out.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Whether they have other properties.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Well, we have a property that we just -- there's a piece across the street from Southaven County Park. Actually, almost across the street from the Trap and Skeet Range where we had had -- they had the federal government had conveyed a surrounding piece to us, but kept the whole of the donut. And we're in the process right now of transferring the whole in the donut over to us.

**LEGISLATOR FOLEY:**

Very good. Okay. Thank you.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Madam Chair, I have a question.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Can I just interrupt for just a second? Did we get a packet for Cameron for --

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

-- we have one.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Did we get one though?

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

She was going to mail it. Do you want her to leave it here or --

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

-- no.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Just put it in his box.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Okay, fine.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Put it in his box because I think that he did want to see it. He told us that he would be delayed, but I guess he couldn't get here and I know he did want to see it. Thanks Denise.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

And I did tell him that I would talk to him earlier and we just finished it this morning.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

So you just might want to call his office and let him know it's in his box.

**COMMISSIONER GORDON:**

Good idea.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I have a question for Budget Review. This memo on the Vanderbilt Museum Trust, what was the threshold level that we needed to be concerned? Was it not 12½; was that the number that we had?

**MR. CLANCY:**

I believe the level was actually 12.2.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

Okay. We're getting there, fortunately. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Anybody have any other questions? I'll make a motion to adjourn.

**LEGISLATOR CARPENTER:**

I'll second it.

**CHAIRPERSON FIELDS:**

Thank you. Legislator Carpenter you have 20 minutes.

**(Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 P. M.)**

**{ } denotes spelled phonetically)**

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