

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation 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 12, 2008.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Vivian Vilorio-Fisher, Chairperson
Leg. Lou D'Amaro, Vice Chair
Leg. Cameron Alden
Leg. Lynne C. Nowick
Leg. Steven H. Stern

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

William J. Lindsay, Presiding Officer
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Ian Barry, Assistant Counsel
Alicia Howard, Legislative Aide
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office
Tom Ryan, Aide to Leg. Vilorio-Fisher
Ron Pavacic, Commissioner of Parks
Brendan Chamberlain, County Executive Aide
Ben Zwirn, Deputy County Executive
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick
Justin Littell, Aide to Leg. D'Amaro
Bill Shilling, Presiding Officer Aide
Patrick K. Boyles
Thomas Jones
Debra Alloncius, AME Legislative Director
Trustee Fritz
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Kraus, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

(THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 1:08 PM)

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Good afternoon and welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator D'Amaro.

SALUTATION

PUBLIC PORTION

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We have just a couple of cards. Speakers. The first one is Patrick Boyles. For the members of the Committee this is about the two Home Rule Messages that we have on the agenda.

MR. BOYLES:

Hi, good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Good afternoon.

MR. BOYLES:

I'm Patrick Boyles. I'm a park police officer for the County. I also represent the park police as part of the Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association.

I'm here just to explain briefly, you have two items on the agenda, two Home Rule Messages, HR 09 and HR 10. One is pertaining to binding arbitration for us. That's something that every law enforcement union pretty much in the state has. It's an item of like last resort in case contract negotiations breakdown. Basically we're looking for the same ability, if contract talks were to breakdown in the future as a way to resolve the differences between the County and our bargaining unit.

About two years ago, we broke away from AME and we became members of the Deputy Sheriff's Police Benevolent Association. Since that time we've successfully settled the contract and addressed several issues that affect park police. Being such a small group of officers, as I'm sure the Commissioner could attest to, as well as any of our former commissioners, we have a horrible retention rate of police officers.

What happens is an officer will get investigated, background check by the Suffolk County Police Department. They get hired. They go through the Suffolk County Police Academy. Once they get their municipal police training certificate and have completed field training more often than not they get called by other jobs that -- on the Island that are higher paying and have better retirement and benefits such as the County police and the east end towns and villages. Oftentimes they're not required to go through the academy again because they've already been trained. And in addition just to the regular training, most of our officers are radar certified, laser certified and other advance training that we get offered because we're such a small group. Just about everybody in the Department gets it. And it makes them very attractive to any other law enforcement agency on the Island or in the state. And in some cases even out of state.

So these two Home Rule messages are a way for us to retain more officers and sort of put a Band-Aid on what's been happening in the last few years. Obviously our last contract helped us -- with the help of the former Commissioner helped us with the pay structure of the Department,

bringing officers at a higher starting pay and making the number of steps to top pay quicker, has helped us in some respects. But currently we're covered under a 25 year retirement. Almost every other law enforcement agency on the Island has a 20 year retirement. And that's another big issue with retaining people when they go to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Currently it's five years further down the road for us than with any other department.

So that's another issue. And that's HR 10, is amending the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law to provide us with an optional 20 year retirement. And we believe with these two measures in place, it'll provide us a better ability to keep and retain people at -- the County has already paid for all this training. And it would help us as well as the Department and the County as a whole. And if you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer them for you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. We have a question. Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi. Thanks for coming down. If these two things are Band-Aids, what would actually -- what would it take to actually correct the whole situation?

MR. BOYLES:

Well, the problem -- a couple of the problems, if you were to look at exit interviews of people who have left our Department to go to other departments, our pay obviously. Currently our top pay is around -- ballpark figure is around \$71,000. As you know the County Police, the Sheriffs, every east end town and village pretty much mirrors the County PD. So there's always going to be a problem with the pay.

However, with the binding arbitration in place, if we were to go on an arbitration award it is possible that that could be made up quicker than it would be in a negotiation process. And the retirement would be a big thing because everybody else has a 20 year retirement. We do get officers from the city and from other departments that come here, mostly the City; that when they come here, they're going from a 20 year retirement to a 25 year retirement. And then they often look to go to other places to get back to that 20 year retirement.

So the five years with the retirement's a big thing. It'll provide us that additional sixtieths if you were to stay past 20 years. So, for example, right now if you were to hire somebody who's 34 year old, they have to stay 25 years to retire. They're going to be 59, 60 riding around in a patrol car. You know, I know I feel aches and pains now and I'm 28 years old. I don't want to be doing this when I'm 59 unless I have to.

LEG. ALDEN:

Take it easy on the people in their fifty's though, all right? It's not like, you know, you're ready for --

LEG. NOWICK:

Not really a good thing to say.

LEG. ALDEN:

-- Jurassic Park or something. But --

MR. BOYLES:

Well, you all look phenomenal. I wouldn't have -- I didn't think anybody here was over 45.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you. Now, you're talking. See, now you're talking.

LEG. NOWICK:

We all look phenomenal. That's never a good start, you know.

MR. BOYLES:

The retirement would help us retain people because when you leave to go to another job, you're getting five years back plus additional -- if you were to stay later, you'd get additional money besides the 50 -- the half pay after 20 years. So right now, we're 25 at half pay. No benefit is staying past that point.

LEG. ALDEN:

Currently how many years to get to the top step?

MR. BOYLES:

Currently? Well, it's a tricky question. For people like myself, I got hired seven years ago. For me it'll take 12 years to hit top pay. New hires that were just hired in December will take seven years to top pay. That was something we were able to negotiate in the last contract where they were hired in step with the help of Commissioner Pavacic, they were hired at a step five. So it'll take them seven years to top pay. People that were already hired at that point moved up so it'll take them a shorter amount of time but everybody's different. There are people that work here now that took 13 years. There's people that'll take 10. There's some people that'll take -- the new hires will take 7.

LEG. ALDEN:

Is it okay to ask you how many -- or is it appropriate -- how many people are actually on the force right now?

MR. BOYLES:

Currently -- we just hired 14 in December. And before that I believe we had 20 -- between 20 and 23 active police officers not including sergeants, lieutenant or administrative personnel.

LEG. ALDEN:

Do we also have seasonals?

MR. BOYLES:

Very few. Very few.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay.

MR. BOYLES:

Under five seasonals.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I believe Legislator Stern has a question.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you, Madam Chair. Maybe I missed it. You gave the number for the top pay, but what's the starting?

MR. BOYLES:

Starting pay for a new hire is -- I wish I had the figures in front of me. I don't have them in front of me so don't hold me to the number but it's around -- I believe it's around 45. The starting pay is actually very attractive for somebody coming from the City or from off the street. It's a nice starting pay. It's just that in the past and with the new -- the new hires it's not as big a problem as it would

take 12 baby steps to only move a small amount of money to hit the top pay. So that's something that we've addressed in contract negotiations and we're in good shape on as far as that goes.

The retirement's a big thing. And then hopefully with the help of the binding arbitration, we could get the pay a little bit higher. And we won't be paying to train all these people and have them leave just to go work for Southampton Town. And they get this -- they get somebody from our department who they really don't have to spend any money in training. They just have them come in and swear them in and they're on the road doing a modified field training program and before they've -- driving around -- Southampton Town's like park police east. It's where a lot of people -- if you look at our addresses, you know, you'll see some people go out there, they get their address out there, they move out there and then they get hired by the Town because it's a -- you know, it's a no brainer for the Town to hire somebody with three years experience here, went through the academy, they don't have to pay to train them. And hopefully this will help us retain people.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I just wanted to -- were you done, Legislator Stern?

LEG. STERN:

Yes, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Now you said the starting salary was 45, but the people who were just hired this year were hired on step five. So their starting salary would have been higher than that; right?

MR. BOYLES:

I don't have the pay scale in front of me.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right.

MR. BOYLES:

If I had it in front of me, I could give you a definite number. I can have our office e-mail it to all of you if you want.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

No, I just wanted to clarify what you had just said.

MR. BOYLES:

The new -- the old.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Step one would be 45, but the people that were just hired were hired on step five.

MR. BOYLES:

No, they were hired at -- step five is 45.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, that was my question.

MR. BOYLES:

It's a little confusing. Step five is 45. Step one isn't really used anymore. It's still on the books there, but nobody's been hired at that.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Oh, that's why it takes seven steps instead of 12?

MR. BOYLES:

Correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. BOYLES:

Correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Got that.

MR. BOYLES:

We still have a quasi AME type of pay scale with grades and steps. And with the new hires they were hired in step at a step five.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I see.

MR. BOYLES:

And for them it will be seven years. For certain other people -- I got hired a few years ago, in 2002, so for me --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right. Now the math makes sense.

MR. BOYLES:

-- I'm going to end up like ten years, right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

You just clarified that for me. I just have another question about what you said in your opening statement. You had said that people -- the Parks Police often leave the Parks Department and go to other departments. And you mentioned Suffolk County Police Department. Now don't we have to hire from the list? Are these people who are -- are they high on the Police Department list, but they weren't reachable at first or what's the --

MR. BOYLES:

I'll give you a little background.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay.

MR. BOYLES:

The Park Police, we have our own test and our own list that that we hire off of. What will happen is because of these issues that it's a great job and it could be the greatest job on -- in the County and on the Island, I believe, but there are certain things like the retirement and the pay that other departments have a nicer retirement pay so people leave to go there.

The Suffolk County Police, these are people -- I took the last test. I got a 92 and a half. Probably not good enough to get hired, but I take that list. So right now I live in Yaphank so I'm on the County list, just for the County and nothing else. So I probably won't get called. We have about six other people that got a 97 and a half on the last County test.

So when the County PD hires a class, whenever that's going to be, those six people I would imagine because they're in a high band, will be canvassed by the County. And some of those six people, if they have addresses, if they live out east in Southampton Town, Riverhead, East Hampton Town,

they're going to be on a resident -- preferred resident list that those towns are going to hire off of. So I'm sure these people have already gotten canvassed because I heard canvassed letters went out for some east end departments that are looking to hire for this year.

Now if the police academy doesn't hold a class, they could still hire our people if they're reachable on the list because they're already trained and they don't have to send them through the academy again. So they -- what will happen is they'll hire -- like say the County hires a class of X amount of people. We'll lose those six because in all likelihood they've already passed the entire County background investigation and polygraph for this department, they should pass that without a problem again and then they'll get hired by the County or town or a village, whatever -- whatever they want.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. All right. Yeah, you answered my question. So they're reachable on the police --

MR. BOYLES:

Right. Everything, you know, Civil Service wise everything's --

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

-- Suffolk County Police Department list. Civil Service wise they're reachable on that list.

MR. BOYLES:

Everything's legitimate.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay, that was -- I was just curious about that.

MR. BOYLES:

Right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Or if they got extra points for having been on the Park's Police.

MR. BOYLES:

I wish, but no.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

No, okay. Thank you. Legislator D'Amaro, did you have a question?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I know you already stated this, I just wanted to get back some information. The number of Park Police we have currently is how many?

MR. BOYLES:

Like I said, I don't have firm numbers in front of me, I wish I did.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Roughly.

MR. BOYLES:

Roughly I'd say we probably have around 33 or 34, 14 of which are in the police academy. And then you've got to figure probably three people are on Workman's Comp at this time.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And how many times have you --

MR. BOYLES:

And that's just police officers. We also have six sergeants, a lieutenant, captain and chief.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. And how many times have you gone through the negotiation process for a contract?

MR. BOYLES:

I've personally been involved with negotiations once since we were --

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

No, no. I didn't mean you personally. I meant the force.

MR. BOYLES:

Well, we've been -- when we were part of AME we were really never involved that's why decertified from them.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. BOYLES:

Because being only 30 -- our numbers fluctuate because of this retention problem between like I was saying 20 PO's and --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah, just putting aside the retention problem for a moment.

MR. BOYLES:

Right, we've --

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

So you're a relatively new union, right?

MR. BOYLES:

Well with an -- we're a new bargaining unit.

LEG. D'AMARO:

New bargaining unit.

MR. BOYLES:

We're a new bargaining unit. We've successfully negotiated one contract since we've been out of AME.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. And how long was that contract for?

MR. BOYLES:

It expires at the end of this year.

LEG. D'AMARO:

How long was it for, though?

MR. BOYLES:

It was retroactive to 2003, I believe.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, because you didn't immediately come or timely come to terms.

MR. BOYLES:

Because we were in the decertification process.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I see.

MR. BOYLES:

So and that -- the decertificate -- according to PERB, decertification has to occur -- there's a window of opportunity six months before your contract expires to decertify from the union. So I believe in 2003 when our contract was expiring, we started the process and the County had opposed our decertification out of the union so it was dragged out for two years.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. BOYLES:

When we did finally get certified with the Deputy Sheriff's PBA, I believe we started negotiations in May of '06 -- May of '06 and we did come to a contract settlement within a, you know, a timely manner, several months.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And that -- okay, thank you. And that contract settlement that was negotiated included a 45,000 start salary, roughly?

MR. BOYLES:

What happened was there was language inserted into the contract that permitted the Commissioner to hire new park police in step. So instead of being hired at step one, the new hires were hired at step five. Now it's not set in stone that new hires are hired at step five. It's at the discretion, I believe, with the Commissioner to appoint them at whatever step and they were appointed at step five given them a seven years to top pay. The next group of hires could probably -- because it's not worded, new hires will be hired at step five, they could be hired conceivably lower in that step system.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, binding arbitration wouldn't guarantee anything either.

MR. BOYLES:

No, binding arbitration is a last resort. When currently right now if we were to go into contract negotiations --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. BOYLES:

-- and come to an impasse, and it would go to some form of mediation, and then, I believe, if mediation failed it would go to the Legislature to impose a one year terms of conditions.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Was your bargaining unit satisfied with the contract?

MR. BOYLES:

It was a fair contract to the unit, to the County. Could it have been better, of course.

LEG. D'AMARO:

But it was a fair contract.

MR. BOYLES:

I believe it was a fair contract.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And so your primary goal, though, going to the binding arbitration is to convince an arbitrator to increase your salaries to be on parity with the County PD? Is that what you're trying to do?

MR. BOYLES:

We're trying to be competitive with other departments within the County. It'd be great to make County PD money. There's towns and villages that make less than that, but are in the ballpark. Right now we're not in the ballpark. And you get people leaving to go to other jobs because they can make -- they're leaving here and they're making -- if one of our recruits was to go get hired by the County Police, they're going to get a \$10,000 raise walking through the door.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, I understand that. But, you know, my point is that the binding arbitration though would be a disincentive for you to continue to negotiate with the County when you have that option.

MR. BOYLES:

The way the binding arbitration is worded is you have to -- you have to -- you have to have good faith negotiations with the County.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Sure.

MR. BOYLES:

If that were to fail, as a last resort we would go to an arbitrator to impose -- where we would plead our case and the County would, of course, plead their case.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And would the County then lose its control over the salaries and benefits.

MR. BOYLES:

I believe the -- our benefits are controlled by the benefit fund.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You know, here's my question, you know, if -- I understand your arguments --

MR. BOYLES:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

-- about being competitive. And I think it's a good argument. But that argument could also be made in a collective bargaining process.

MR. BOYLES:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So why would we as a County take away our ability to have that discussion?

MR. BOYLES:

You're still having that discussion. Binding arbitration isn't something that when we start contract negotiations, we sit down and tell the County we're going to arbitration. You try to hammer out an

agreement. And I believe there's a one year period there where you have to be without a contract for at least a year. Whenever you're behind the ball as far as contract negotiations go, it's not a benefit to the unit to be behind. This last time we came in we were two, two-and-a-half, three -- ended up being by the time we settled, three years behind, and that's not a good thing. You want to be up to date. You want to be current and you want to be -- you don't want to be behind two years without a contract. It's never a good thing. And that's not good as a bargaining -- from the perspective of the bargaining unit, it's never good to be without a contract. And the arbitration, I don't think you can -- I think you have to be without a contract for a year before you can even think about invoking it. And you have -- both sides have to be at an impasse.

It's not like we could just invoke and say we're going and the County has no recourse. We have to negotiate in good faith until an impasse is reached. It's a last resort. It's not a panacea. It's something to be used as a last resort. If all else breaks down that an outside party, an independent, outside party can come in and objectively look at it. And these guys here will be the first to tell you, it's not always good for the unit. They got some things in their last arbitration award they wish they never got, but that's the nature of the beast.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Thank you, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Almost forgot about you, Cameron, it's been a while.

LEG. ALDEN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Alden.

LEG. ALDEN:

Hi, just a couple more questions because one thing you said really intrigues me and that's how somebody could go through the academy, then go through the specific police -- park police training and then go to a east end town. Because there's a cost incurred there. Are you paid from day one when you're in the academy?

MR. BOYLES:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. And I would imagine then when you get out of the academy there's a jump in the pay, right?

MR. BOYLES:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

No?

MR. BOYLES:

No.

LEG. ALDEN:

So these last guys that you said were hired at step five, they started the academy and they started at 45,000 when they --

MR. BOYLES:

Approximately, approximately.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, I know, I'm not holding you to that number. It's a process I'm looking at now. And then when you get them over at Park Police, then you have to give them the specific training. Right?

MR. BOYLES:

When they come out of the academy, after the six month academy, they go on a Field Training Program where they'll ride with an officer like myself where I teach them how to apply what they learned in the academy to real life situations, observe them, make sure they're ready. We have to do evaluations. It's a state mandated program and it's the same program that the County police follow. All of our -- every -- just about every department on -- in Suffolk County sends their recruits to the County Police Academy.

LEG. ALDEN:

Oh, no, I know that. But how long is your training then over in -- when they actually get to the Park Police?

MR. BOYLES:

The field training is a -- I believe it's three months. It's a couple of months.

LEG. ALDEN:

So this isn't like the army then when you sign up, you have to sign up for like one year, two year minimum. You could get trained. The day that you're done with your training, you can leave.

MR. BOYLES:

There is no minimum where they have to work here for X amount of time before they leave.

LEG. ALDEN:

So they get their training and then can take that wherever.

MR. BOYLES:

Right.

LEG. ALDEN:

Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Presiding Officer Lindsay.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Could I? If you don't mind. I just want to weigh in a little bit about the request for arbitration. Public sector employees, it's a dilemma on how to do this. Collective bargaining is supposed to work at the table. Parties are supposed to come to agreement. We have a deplorable history of reaching an agreement with our employees. I mean we have the Correction Officers now that have been without a contract for years. And they're in arbitration now. And when they do get it, they're back at the bargaining table because the contract's expired already.

I wish I had a magic wand. I mean, certainly arbitration isn't a panacea either because you pointed out you got some stuff in your last contract that you weren't happy about. And as Legislator D'Amaro pointed out, you know, the County has gotten burned with some bad awards along the way from arbitrators as well. So any agreement that isn't reached by the parties willingly isn't always the best agreement for all sides. And I recognize that. I just don't have another solution besides the process that we have now. I guess the solution is an attempt by both parties to the negotiating table to do the right thing and try and reach an agreement that's equitable. That's all I wanted to say.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you. It's an important question, an important point that Legislator Alden raises. And I get the concern and the potential for that. But, I guess my question to you is, other than the concern of what could potentially happen with those that take advantage of being trained through our academy and then leaving and going to some other agency, I mean, does that happen?

MR. BOYLES:

Do people leave?

LEG. STERN:

Yeah. And is it a significant number? And --

MR. BOYLES:

Absolutely, absolutely.

LEG. STERN:

How many would you say over the past couple of years have done that?

MR. BOYLES:

I got hired in 2002 with ten other people. Currently I still work with four or five of them. So half of the group I got hired with have left. Since then people have went to -- I mean, we have numbers on it. I don't have them with me. I didn't anticipate to come up here and give a schpiel. If had I had time to prepare I would have brought the pay charts to give you exact numbers and I would have brought our list of people that have resigned through either retirement or resignation.

LEG. D'AMARO:

If you did that, we wouldn't ask any questions so you're better off not being prepared.

MR. BOYLES:

Right. So -- but to answer your question, every time the County hires, we usually lose people because that's something where now the towns and villages are also going to hire. Like I told you before, we -- I believe the number is six. Six people are in that high band on the County list. Whenever they pull the trigger on the next County class, you know, you can pretty much guarantee we're losing six, at least. Sometimes villages and towns can go lower on the list because they have a residency requirement. And we could even lose more than that.

We -- while we were negotiating our contract, several people left for other departments and other reasons. One of the people, one of our negotiating team left. He had ten years with the park police. He left and went to Southampton Town. He's getting -- you know, he's getting -- instead of having to work another 15 years he's only -- now he's only got to work another ten. And he could retire and leave. And then his times, you know, his time will count on the end or it'll count somewhere.

Whereas now with our retirement, you don't -- there's no incentive to stay past 25. So, because you don't accrue any additional sixtieths on top of your 50%. So people are going to leave because they're going to say, I can do the same 25 years somewhere else and be compensated, get five sixtieths for staying there the same amount of time as I would have been with the Parks. That's the retirement aspect.

And people do leave. And if you need numbers, I could give you numbers about how many people have left in the past couple of years because they're there. People go to Southampton, East Hampton, Nassau, Suffolk. You name it, we've probably about lost somebody to the department.

LEG. STERN:

I think -- I mean, I'd love to see those numbers. Perhaps the organization can get them to our Madam Chair and then you can distribute that to everybody. I think that would be important to have.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Yeah, those numbers are important because we're talking about the police district expenditure of training the people. And that is training and an investment that, as Legislators Alden and Stern have both pointed out, is leaving the police district.

LEG. STERN:

Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

And that really is a great deal of money and resources that goes into that. So actually I also want to let the Committee know that Patrick came here ready to just be here in case we had questions. And I said why don't you fill out a card and come up and do a presentation just so that we knew exactly --

LEG. ALDEN:

So we ambushed him.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

So I ambushed him and I didn't mean to.

MR. BOYLES:

I'm used to it.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

But you did a great job.

MR. BOYLES:

All right. Is there any other questions?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

I think -- oh, one more.

LEG. ALDEN:

No, I don't know if you could answer or maybe Madam Chair could answer. Is the Police Academy a police district expense or is it out of headquarters?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We'll have to ask -- Ben, do you know that?

MR. ZWIRN:

I'm not sure. It should be headquarters, but I'm not sure. It trains all the departments.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

It does train all the departments. So all of the --

MR. ZWIRN:

You would think it would be.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Come to a mike, Ben, you can't do that from there. Okay. So then it's not as much of a concern as we thought because all of the departments then --

MR. ZWIRN:

I'll double check, but that would be true -- if that's the case and you would think it would be case, it would be paid for countywide. But it's a good question.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

That is a good question. Okay. So we have -- you've opened up a lot of questions for us to think about, but that's certainly something -- thank you --

MR. BOYLES:

All right.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

-- for sharing your knowledge with us about all of this.

We will now go to the agenda. Commissioner, did you want to come up and address us on any issue? And by the way, we welcome Trustee Fritz.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

I'm just available if a -- thank you for the opportunity -- if there's any questions that your offices have in particular, I'd be happy to address them. I know at the last committee meeting there were a number of issues that came up that weren't on the agenda. And so if anybody has any questions, I'd be happy to address them.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Legislator Stern has a question.

LEG. STERN:

When are we going to get to play golf?

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Friday.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Wearing my golf tie today. We just had a meeting with our -- semiannual meeting with our golf pros. We're expecting to open the golf courses this Friday.

LEG. ALDEN:

On that note.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

We have opened up --

LEG. ALDEN:

Did those mounds go away on the driving range in Riverhead? They were unsightly.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

The mounds -- the mounds are still there. They couldn't be worked on because of the extensive amount of rain that we had over the weekend, but they are going to be worked on shortly. They're going to be shaped into the targets.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Are those the mounds that the Town of Riverhead had a problem with?

LEG. ALDEN:

Well, they have those mounds and a whole bunch of other things they had a problem with.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right. Isn't there an issue with the Town of Riverhead and SEQRA and lead agency?

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Yes, there is. Not so much SEQRA or lead agency as it is whether -- the fundamental issue whether or not the town has any jurisdiction over the County, which is a higher level of government. And that's the fundamental issue. And whether or not their building code and zoning and land use laws apply to all or part of the activities at Indian Island.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Right. And Riverhead is claiming that they do on County parkland, it seems.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

That's correct.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Okay. Let us know when that gets settled.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

Will do.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER PAVACIC:

You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

All right. We will go to the agenda, if there are no further questions. Okay.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS.

IR 1213, Authorizing use of Smith Point County Park property by Mastic Beach Fire Department Inc., for Public-Safety Services fund drive. (Browning) I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1213 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1217, Authorizing the use of Southaven County Park property to hold a free concert for Child Abuse Awareness. (Browning) I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **IR 1217 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

HOME RULE MESSAGES

HR.09, Home Rule Message requesting State of New York to amend the Civil Service Law, in relation to Resolution of disputes between a public employer and Suffolk County Park Police Officers. (Senate Bill S.4690 and Assembly Bill A.8342). (P.O. Lindsay) I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON VILORIA-FISHER:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **HR.09 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

HR.10, Home Rule Message requesting New York State Legislature to amend New York State Retirement and Social Security Law to provide Suffolk County Park Police Officers with optional 20-year retirement plan (Senate Bill S.4689-A and Assembly Bill A.08341). (P.O. Lindsay) I'll make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? **HR.10 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0)**

That is all the business we have before us. Is there anyone here who has any further business? If not, the meeting is adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 P.M.*)

{ } Denotes being spelled phonetically