

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**  
**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Parks & 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 16, 2011.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leg. Lynne C. Nowick, Chairperson  
Leg. Wayne R. Horsley, Vice Chair  
Leg. Thomas Barraga  
Leg. Ricardo Montano  
Leg. Steven H. Stern

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Legislator Edward P. Romaine, First Legislative District  
Legislator Thomas Cilmi, Tenth Legislative District  
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature  
Sarah Simpson, Assistant Counsel  
Renee Ortiz, Chief Deputy Clerk.  
Eric A. Kopp, County Executive's Office  
Ed Hennessy, County Executive's Office  
Lance Reinheimer, Interim Director of Vanderbilt Museum  
Jill Moss, Budget Review Office  
Joe Montuori, Commissioner of Parks Department  
Tom Vaughn, Aide to County Executive  
Paul Perillie, Aide to Majority Leader  
Linda Bay, Aide to Minority Leader  
Greg Moran, Aide to Leg. Nowick  
Deborah Harris, Aide to Leg. Stern  
Bob Martinez, Aide to Leg. Montano  
Dot Kerrigan, AME Legislative Representative  
Gail Lolis, County Attorney's Office  
Jack Caffey, Presiding Officer Aide  
And all other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

**MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:**

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer  
Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

## THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:06 PM

### CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Welcome to Parks and Recreation Committee. Let's begin with the Pledge to the Flag.

### SALUTATION

### CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Good afternoon. Welcome to the Parks and Recreation Committee. We do have one card. Lance Reinheimer -- Lance you here? There you are. Hi, Lance.

### MR. REINHEIMER:

Thank you very much. I'm here to speak on two resolutions: IR 1202 and IR 1203, both pertaining to the Vanderbilt Museum. I'm the Director -- interim Director of the museum right now and having a good time still, but it's a month and gotten a lot done in a month.

First resolution is \$50,000. It's in the Capital Program for rewiring of the buildings. The work that would be done will be prioritized by the Department of Public Works. Many of the buildings, the wiring is older than we really know. One of the buildings, especially the Hall of Fishes, it's not the original wiring but it's got to go back well over 50 years. Aside from a safety problem. It's also high energy consumer with the lighting in there. So the wiring projects will be prioritized by Public Works. It'll include several buildings on the campus and they'll determine which work should be done first.

The second resolution 1203 is a generic waterproofing and drainage project. But specifically what this is going to be used for is for the planetarium. I spoke to Public Works. The timing is perfect for them. They've got a contractor that they can use right away and the work would start in June. This dovetails perfectly with the installation of the new star projector. The planetarium is scheduled to close August 1st. We expect equipment arrival October 1st, unless we have some unexpected news from Japan. We've checked with them. We haven't heard anything adverse, but, you know, that can change at any time.

### CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

I'm sorry, Lance, how much was that one, the second one?

### MR. REINHEIMER:

That's 1203. It's a \$100,000. It's in the Capital Program. It's a generic program -- project, but that money will be used to reroof the planetarium. We do have several leaks in there. And we would like that done before we receive the new star projector, video and surround sound system. Public Works, if it goes through the normal process, Public Works said they would be ready to reroof starting in June.

The planetarium is scheduled to close August 1st with the new star projector and associated equipment coming in October 1st and we hope to reopen in December.

### CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Thank you, Lance.

### MR. REINHEIMER:

Thank you.

### CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:

Okay, before we go any further and, of course, the Parks Commissioner is here if anybody has questions, but Legislator Romaine is here with us and I think he wanted to say a few words on

tabled resolution 2240.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yes, thank you very much, Madam Chairwoman. I've introduced 2240, which is -- has been amended, so let me speak very briefly about that.

What that 2240 would do is it would take monies that we received from the rentals of a few properties that we rent out in our parks and put it in a dedicated fund that would be used to improve those rental properties and also to improve historic properties. That was the amendment, to improve historic properties as well.

I presented this to the Board of Directors before the amendments were made. The amendments were made based on input from the Board of Directors. The County Executive had sent a representative there, of course, to speak on this issue and they were concerned that this would occur in mid-year. So the other amendment that was made to this resolution is that this fund would not start until 2012 so that it could be factored into the budget.

I'm sure most of -- maybe not the newer members of the Legislature, but the older members, if they go back to their bookshelves and dust them off, you will see a very thick report about the condition of the historic properties in Suffolk County. We have numerous historic properties and very little funding is spent on maintaining these properties. This would provide a small dedicated fund that the Board of Park Trustees could then apply not only to improve rental properties from which we get income, but if there was money left over to use that money also to improve historic properties.

I know our Parks Commissioner is here. I know he was concerned that this would come out of his budget. None of these monies go into the Parks' budget. All of these monies go into the General Fund. So the Parks Department doesn't see them anyway. By setting up this dedicated fund, we would then have money to improve our rental properties and make sure we maintain them and continue to get a decent rent for them, because we get fair market rent. It would also provide some small additional money to make sure that the historic properties, and I don't know if the Commissioner has the number off the top of his head, but I heard that --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Do you want the Commissioner to come up here?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yes, that would be --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Commissioner.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I don't want to put him on the spot. I don't want to do that. But, Commissioner, maybe you could tell us how much money was spent last year in 2010 on fixing up, maintaining and renovating historic properties? And, by the way, we have a huge inventory of historic properties throughout the County.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

I don't have that figure. But one of the things I want to say is that the Historic has its own budget, all right, which we get money from the motel/hotel. It has its own line. And that's one of my concerns, that they are funded. And we are making repairs every year. I don't have that figure, but I can get it for you.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I'd love you, Commissioner, to forward to myself and the members of this Committee how much the County has spent on renovating historic properties in 2010.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Yes.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Renovating historic properties. Because I believe that number is somewhat less than \$100,000 for the -- and I'd like to also know, and maybe you could forward to us, a list of all historic properties within the inventory of Suffolk County. And my concern -- my concern is without some small amount, whatever we generate from the rental properties, being reinvested into the rental properties and into historic properties that many of these properties will fall into disrepair. That's my concern.

I think it would be good for us to give to the Parks Board of Trustees a small -- this sum of money that -- which is collected so that they would have the ability to make whatever improvements were needed to the rental properties and whatever was leftover to prioritize the improvements of whatever historic properties we have. If we don't do that, the way the budgetary situation is, many of these historic properties, and I'm sure some of you as members of the Parks Committee have toured, or at least read that manual on the condition, the inventory -- on the condition of the historic properties, will know that many of these properties are not in the best of shape. And I'll leave it there without going into explicit detail for the record. I will simply say they are not in the best of shape. That's the purpose of this bill. I'll be happy to answer any questions.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Commissioner, do you want to comment at all?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

I just want to say that we are doing projects. We're putting a brand new roof on the Timber Point building at the golf course. We are rebuilding the mill right here in Blydenburgh. We are redoing the boathouse. All right? It's not that we're not doing anything. I mean, that's more than a \$100,000.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

In fact, Commissioner, I would say that your department tries very hard with the limited resources that it gets to do the best possible job. You ought to be commended as are your staff. All I'm trying to do is provide a predictable amount of funding each and every year that would give you and the Park Board of Trustees the ability to make some of the improvements that have been waiting for a longtime. And I believe Legislator Horsley has looked at that manual. And what would be your conclusion after reviewing the conditions of some of these properties that the County holds?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Through the Chair, I looked and -- was it 240 properties, I think, is what the book -- how the book read. And some of them are not liveable; with holes in the flooring and the -- things are out in the backyard. If the pictures were accurate, and this goes back a couple of years ago, obviously we haven't seen them in the Capital Budget so they can't be getting any better, so they've got to be in very, very poor shape and we're really -- we're relegating it to a -- to disruption at some point. And they're just going to fade away.

And this is not, Joe, this is not your -- you were talking about the Timber Point Clubhouse and things like that; those are major parks facilities. These are those houses that we've received over the years from the Open Space Program where a house comes along with it. And some of them are significant historical structures but they're --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Some of them are -- in fact, many of these would qualify for the National Register of Historic Places.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yeah.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And the State Register. But we don't rush to put them on those registers because then we'd have to maintain them.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

They're lucky if they'd be around for us to clean them up.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yeah, then we'd have to maintain them.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

How much money would go into the dedicated fund? Would that come from the leases; the money from the leases? And how much money would that be and how much would go into a dedicated fund?

**MS. MOSS:**

We've estimated that at approximately \$212,000. And it is the rents that come in from the individuals that reside at those sites.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Right.

**MS. MOSS:**

They're month-to-month leases and it comes directly out of their paychecks if they're Suffolk County employees.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So \$212,000 would -- could only be used to improve the rental properties and -- how many properties -- historic properties do we have on the list?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Probably over 200.

**MS. MOSS:**

There's approximately 215 historic properties and 35 rental units.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Two hundred fifty properties. So essentially you're -- even if you spend nothing on the rental properties, you're talking about \$1,000 a year for historic property. It's not a lot of money, but at least it's some money to address some of the most basic needs that we would have. And it would at least give the Parks Department and the Parks Board of Trustees the ability to address some of these needs that have been chronicled over many years in Suffolk County. The need is real. This isn't a lot of money, but at least a way of providing some money.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Legislator Romaine, if you could just bear with me one second, what I think I could do because we're debating this, I'm going to make a motion to take 2240 out of order. And we'll second by Legislator Horsley, if that's all right.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Sure, absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All in favor? Opposed? 2240 is being taken out of order. **(To improve the condition of County**

**Rental Properties) (Romaine)** For purposes now of discussion, I'll make a motion to approve. And would you second just for purposes of discussion?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Sure.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

All right. And, Legislator Horsley seconds it. Now it's open -- now we can continue the debate. And, Legislator Cilmi, you wanted to say something?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Thank you, Chairman. Chairwoman. Pardon. How are you, Commissioner? Question for you. Of the 200 or so structures, historic structures that we have in our inventory, how many of them do you think -- approximate number is fine -- are revenue-generating buildings for us? How many do we lease out?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

We have leased out all but two right now, which we are trying to lease out. And we have done -- repaired all of the residence.

**LEG. CILMI:**

I mean, do we have ongoing complaints from the residents or whoever the occupants of these buildings are that are in disrepair?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

I have received none to my office.

**LEG. CILMI:**

When was that report -- when was that report issued, Legislator?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

The report for historic properties?

**LEG. CILMI:**

Yeah.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

That was issued about four years ago. And it lists the conditions of all the historic properties as of -- I think it was about four years ago that that report came out, that it lists the conditions of these properties; because, again, this money, this 200 plus thousand, could be used not only for rental properties in case something came up, they had to replace a bathroom or kitchen or they want to modernize or they wanted to get greater rent and they could do it if they renovated, but it also would be money for the historic properties separate from the rental properties.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Maybe I misunderstood the answer or maybe the Commissioner may have misunderstood my question. My understanding is that there are 200 some odd historic properties?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yes.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And of them, you said, all but two --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

No, no, no, no. There's maybe a dozen that are rented out.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Ah, okay.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

We were just debating that.

**LEG. CILMI:**

That's my question. So just about a dozen of them are rented?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Yes.

**LEG. CILMI:**

And the rest of them are just sitting --

**MS. MOSS:**

I believe there's 35 rental units.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Thirty-five rental units.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

But they're not all in historic properties.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Okay. Well -- so we have something less than 30 or so properties of the 200 plus properties that we own, something less than 30 are rented. And of those you haven't had any complaints. But all of these other buildings that aren't rented that are vacant, there may continue to be problems with. The report was issued four years ago. I mean, does it make sense to do another sort of review or are we relatively sure that the properties are still in the same condition that they were?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Let me just say one thing. I do get in my budget -- like last year I got \$44,000 to repair these residence, which we do keep them up. When someone moves out, we go in and we renovate. So that's one thing. That's why they're in good condition. You know, the roofs are all in good shape.

The other buildings which you're talking about that -- this survey that they did four years ago, some of these buildings, again, we purchased that really are not, you know, it's not worth to put the money in. They should be taken down. I'll be honest with you, okay? And, yes, there is some buildings -- I mean to me it's not worth to put the money into it.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Well, who classifies them as historic buildings? Do we?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Yes.

**LEG. CILMI:**

The Legislature does. What criteria do we use to classify them as such?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Age. Age and location.

**LEG. CILMI:**

So --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Is that all? Counsel, I thought we had a criteria.

**MR. NOLAN:**

I think there's a Historic Trust Manual. And I think CEO is responsible for reviewing properties and saying whether they get that designation as a historic structure. We don't do that. We've never done that.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Because, I mean, at some point we have to come to the realization that we can't do everything. So I mean if we're acquiring these structures as part of, you know, properties that we're buying, open space properties that we're buying, maybe it's time that we just say, *let's knock them down. We can't pay to upkeep these properties, these structures.*

We don't have the personnel to do it certainly. We're laying off -- you know, we are not laying off, but we're closing or selling nursing homes. We can't afford to staff our -- we can't afford to staff our different departments that are even revenue-generating departments. And yet -- you know, I don't know how we can afford to pay for buildings that aren't generating revenue and that many of which, I would imagine, maybe, Legislator Romaine, you know something different, but I would imagine if the average person saw these buildings, the historic value of them is probably -- most of them is probably very limited.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I'm not a historic architect. I leave it to them and to those that would know that field. But I will say there are a number of historic structures that I'm aware of that could be renovated, that could be rented out, that could be self-sustaining. I can think of two in Manorville; on a lake in Manorville that I saw with the previous Parks Commissioner when I did a tour of some of the historic properties in my district. And I'm like, *"wow, these houses are not that bad."*

*"Well, we don't have the money in our budget to fix them up."*

So I said *"so what are you doing?"*

*"Well, we're going to let nature take over."*

I said, *"if you had addressed it right away when you came into possession of this -- "*

*-- "well, it wouldn't have cost that much, but we've let it go too many years now."*

And what I'm concerned with is, if there's no specific fund -- and I'm not talking about a lot of money -- I'm talking about -- maybe about 200 grand, there's no specific fund, let them all go. But you know what? Then some people will say we weren't good custodians of our historic properties and --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Cilmi, are you finished because I know -- okay.

**LEG. CILMI:**

Just one more remark and I appreciate the deference of the Committee.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay.

**LEG. CILMI:**

But I guess I would say, then, if we're going to take this money and put it aside, let's look at the

inventory of these properties that we have and determine with the Parks Department which of those structures have the capability of generating some revenue for the County. And let's make the investment in those properties and the other ones --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Commissioner, before I go on with Legislator Montano, who has a question, I just want to ask you something. If this was -- if this legislation was to pass and this money was put into a dedicated fund rather than into the General Fund, which is where it is now; am I correct? How would that change how you do business, so to speak? How would that change things for the Parks Department?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Well, the one thing is that now I would have to go to the Board of Trustees, which meet once a month and ask them -- that I have to repair something. And, again, I think that's the Commissioner's job to decide what has to be repaired. And if there's an emergency, I should be able to do it. And also one of the things, too --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Even in an emergency you would have to go to the Board of Trustees, but you'd have to wait a month in an emergency?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Well, I guess I would just have to do it. But I'm just saying they only meet --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Oh, for this particular money, oh, okay.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

They only meet once a month. And again --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Is there other money that you would be able to get to if you had an emergency?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Again, I don't know what's -- I don't know what's going to happen with my budget. Like I said, they give me \$44,000 a year to make repairs. And, also, you know, the heating and the electric in some of these rental units come out of my budget, which they put into my budget. So, you know, taking this money away, you know -- you know, it's dedicated for certain things like debt service and other things. So -- and also what I do is I buy supplies that I keep, you know, for my --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. So then what I understand is that this money right now is used for debt service for other things. And what Legislator Romaine's legislation would do is only allow you to use this money for the repairs or --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Right.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

-- approval of -- to work on historical buildings.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

The bill has no restrictions on the Parks Commissioner. He can address every emergency he addresses now. All it would say is, by the way, this rental money, this 200,000, instead of going to the General Fund is now going to be a dedicated fund. If you want to use any of that to improve

the rental properties or historic, you have an extra 200 grand, just go to Board of Parks Trustees, who we want to give a role to --

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

But that's the only thing you could use the money for. You couldn't --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Right, that's correct.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

You couldn't lower debt service with it.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

No, no.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Like you're doing --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I know that's a concern for some people and is for me, but, no. That would be it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I'm just trying to make it clear. Legislator Montano, do you have a question?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

No, not anymore.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Does anybody else have any questions? Legislator Barraga.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

I don't have any questions. It's just a question of how you feel about dedicated funds. I think historically funds are dedicated usually in flush economic times. In tight economic times, you want to give the Executive, as well as the Legislative branch, as much latitude as possible on the revenue side in how the money is spent. This is not new money. And if it is going into the General Fund now, it's being spent in the General Fund. If you want to take it out of the General Fund, that's \$200,000 that's not going to be there that's servicing something, the Health Department, Public Works. That money is being spent.

And the question is you're making the statement that this 200,000 based on need must be spent in this area. I'm not sure I agree with that when I read in the papers that our deficit over the next two years may be anywhere between 140 to \$170 million. There may be other areas where the need is much greater and you need that 200,000 here or 500,000 here or 2 or 3 million there and you don't want it in a dedicated fund because you can no longer touch it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Stern.

**LEG. STERN:**

Thank you, Madam Chair. To follow up on Legislator Barraga's question and concern, if the Board of Trustees, the Parks Trustees determine in any year that the \$200,000 or any portion thereof is not going to be spent, what happens with any monies that are left over? Does it remain in that dedicated fund? Or does it then go to the General Fund thereafter?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Does it roll over? Is that -- Budget Review?

**MS. MOSS:**

It's just like any other dedicated funding that -- Operating Budget. It will remain in that fund.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

I can't imagine it not being used. Does anybody else have any other questions of Legislator Romaine?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I just would say I greatly respect Legislator Barraga's position; however, I will say if you took -- I can think of at least two houses in Manorville that stand out in my mind, that are totally rentable, at least when I saw them three years ago. I don't know what condition they're in now, and put some money into them and fix them up -- you're not going to get the \$200,000 back, but you are going to establish a rent-roll that you currently don't have. And you will add to your rent- roll, which I think has some benefit.

I also think a County has a lot of things. And this is a County that has faced good times, bad times and a whole host of other things. We also have a history. I always feel that there is some obligation of the current generation to maintain what the past generations have created in this County. This is to pass onto future generations. I always think that's important. That's why we have the Sagtikos Manor, for example, in Legislator Barraga's district.

I understand that if we looked through everything to the present, our current recession, we would do little. I think a small amount of money to ensure that some of the more basic fix-up of these historic properties take place in the scheme of things may be a long-term wise investment. Maybe not in the short term, in the eyes of some, and I understand that. But I think long-term it may be a wise investment. And that's all I -- that's the whole purpose of this resolution. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Okay. Right now I think we have a motion and a second to approve. Are there any other motions?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I'm going to make a motion to table.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

We have a motion to table. Is there a second?

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Second by Legislator Barraga -- or Barraga. All in favor of the tabling motion?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

We're tabling?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Yeah. All in favor of the tabling motion? All Opposed? **2240 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

Okay. We'll go to **2093 - Authorizing Site License Agreement to Strawberry fields, site Town of Southold. (Romaine)** I understand that has to be tabled as well. I'll make a motion, second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **2093 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1105 - Adopting Local law No. -2011, A Local law amend the rules and regulations for the use of Suffolk County Parks. (Co. Exec. Levy)** There was a public hearing. Was it closed?

**MR. NOLAN:**

It was closed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Do I have a motion on that? I think -- could you just explain that, Counsel?

**MR. NOLAN:**

What we do is right now there's currently a \$15.00 fee for people who come to the County parks to get wood. This would eliminate that \$15.00 fee so people could come and collect it for free. I guess this is wood that, you know -- fallen trees and things like that.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

So this is the County Executive that's taken away a fee?

**MR. NOLAN:**

That would be correct.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Can I say something on that?

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Thank you, Commissioner, please.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

It's something good because, you know, with times being so hard now and the price of fuel going up more people are buying wood burning stoves and stuff like that, you know, to me it would help me in County parks.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Do we make a lot of money with the \$15.00? What is the amount we're talking about?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

I think we made \$300 last year.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Are you kidding? Well, and we went through the whole process of a public hearing and everything else? I'm willing to make a motion to approve. Do we have a second?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I'll second it.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

On the motion.

**LEG. STERN:**

Question for BRO on the revenue.

**MS. MOSS:**

The revenue is approximately 200 to \$300. It's nominal.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

But the idea from what I'm understanding is that people that have wood burning stoves and want to save money on their oil bill or it'd be gas or whatever it is have a better opportunity to do that. You know, it really does make sense to me for \$200. I think it's a good investment. IF one person puts a stove in, that saves the \$200 right there for them. My fuel bill was \$900 last week.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Also, it saves the County money because we don't have a roll-off box to dump it inside.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Do you deliver?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

No -- do we --

*{Laughter}*

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Montano, you have a question.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Yeah -- trying to pull up the bill. What was the rationale again for this bill other than, you know, we only get \$300, but what was the rationale for it, for eliminating this fee?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Well, in State parks they do the same thing. They give the firewood away free. And I happen to --

**LEG. MONTANO:**

When you say they give it away, I mean, what is it, you go there and you cut down a tree and you saw it up and you put it on your truck. Is that how it works? Or do they cut it down for you and then you come pick up the wood?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

We have to cut it down. We don't want anybody cutting down any trees.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Exactly. So you cut down the --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

They're dead.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

No, they don't cut them live.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

They're already dead.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

What was that?

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

They're dead trees, they're not live trees.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Oh, good, they're dead trees.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Seasoned firewood.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

They're cured.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. Now, these are just to individuals, you don't sell these to people that are going to come and pick it up and then resell it. Is there a limit on how much you can take? Is this a commercial enterprise or what?

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

We don't have that much that a commercial person would come in.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Okay. And then the County parks, do you have that much that -- no, he's talking about State parks, I think.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

No, before I was talking about State parks. County parks, believing we don't have that much.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Oh, okay.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

It all depends if we have, you know, how they -- how the storm season went, you know, we had a bad storm we're going to have, you know, we're going to have the wood. And like I said, the biggest thing is we'll cut it up, throw it into a pile and people can come pick it up, cut it up to their size that they want.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

And right now they're paying \$15.00 what? How much? They're paying \$15.00 for what?

**MS. MOSS:**

With the adoption of resolution number 103, they're actually paying \$31.00.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

I'm sorry, I can't hear you. I can't see you so I can't hear you. Go ahead.

**MS. MOSS:**

Sorry.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

That's all right.

**MS. MOSS:**

With the adoption of resolution 103, they're currently in 2011, they would pay \$31.00 per cord.

**LEG. MONTANO:**

All right.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yes, Joe, my -- I thought you're cutting up the trees and putting them into a pile and they're taking them from the pile.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Correct.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

You don't have them going out into the woods and picking up dead trees.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

Well, if this program works out; I'm going to have to expand it, yes. But right now --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Well, that's what I thought because that's what the State used to do. You used to go out into the property.

My only concern is and it goes almost back to Rick's statement that, you know, because we have such vast parks where we have no employees for miles around or, you know, acres around, whatever it may be, that you're going to find some joker out there cutting down the trees and we'll never know the difference. I mean, how do we monitor that? It just -- with a lack of employees it's just -- I'm just a little concerned about them wandering out with a chainsaw.

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

I agree with you. What we could do is, you know, give them a one day permit when they're there, all right, and with all the rules and everything and let them leave like a \$15.00 deposit, and you know, we'll check up on them.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

You're going to go out -- who's going to go out and do that? I mean if -- some of these locations are pretty remote. You know, *we'll check on you, buddy.*

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Legislator Horsley, they could, actually, if they're remote and there's nobody there, they could do that now and nobody would know the difference.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Good point. I can't argue, at least you can nail them once you --

**COMMISSIONER MONTUORI:**

But also, what we can do is we could designate what parks where we're going to be doing it also.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Are there any other questions? Okay. We have a motion to approve. Do I have a second? Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. MONTANO:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

**1105 is approved. (VOTE: 4-1-0-0 Opposed: Legislator Montano)**

## **INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS**

**1202 - Appropriating funds in connection with rewiring of Historic Buildings at Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7445). (Cooper) I'll make a motion.**

**LEG. STERN:**

Second.

**CHAIRPERSON NOWICK:**

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? **1202 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1203 - Appropriating funds in connection with waterproofing, roof and drainage at the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7439). (Cooper)** Can I do the same motion, same second? All in favor? Opposed? **1203 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1206 - Reappoint member to the Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreations and Conservation (Miles B. Borden). (Nowick)** And it's my pleasure to make that motion. I'll make the motion, second by Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? I'll make the motion and I'll have a second by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **1206 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

**1208 - Appoint member to the Suffolk County Board of Trustees of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (Kathleen Gooding). (Romaine)** She could not be here today so I'm going to make a motion to table, second by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? **1208 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

And with that I'll take a motion to adjourn. Motion by myself, second by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? We're adjourned.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:41 PM**

**{ }DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**