

**PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
of the
Suffolk County Legislature**

Minutes for Day 2

A special meeting of the Public Safety & Public Information 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 **May 28, 2003a**.

Members Present:

Legislator Joseph Caracappa - Vice-Chair
Legislator David Bishop
Legislator William Lindsay
Legislator Andrew Crecca
Legislator George Guldi

Also In Attendance:

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature
Alexandra Sullivan - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Greg Miglino - Aide to Legislator Towle
Anthony Figliola - Aide to Presiding Officer Postal
Jim Spero - Deputy Director/Budget Review Office
Rosalind Gazes - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Joe Muncy - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Verna Donnan - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office/Intergovernmental Relations
Carmine Chuisano - County Executive's Budget Office
Debbie Eppel - Public Information Office
Dave Fischler - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Fred Daniels - Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Warren Horst - Suffolk County Fire Marshal
Don Gackenheimer - Deputy Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy
Tom Kost - Suffolk County Fire Academy
Dr. Jeane Alicandro - Director/Emergency Medical Services
Ruth Cusack - Suffolk County League of Women Voters
Elie Seidman-Smith - Director/Community Service Program/ARC
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen. We're going to start the second part of the Public Safety public hearings with relation to this year's Capital Program. I ask that we start this meeting with a salute to the flag led by Legislator Guldi.

Salutation

Okay, first speaker for today's hearing is Ruth Cusack.

MS. CUSACK:

Ruth Cusack for the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County. In the 2004 to '06 Proposed Capital Budget, Program No. 3008 includes expenditures for planning and construction of a new replacement correctional facility at Yaphank. The planning expenditure includes the corrections system Needs Assessment Study for which a consultant company has been recommended through the RFP process. Such factors as population analysis and projection, alternatives to incarceration, inmate programs and services are to be considered.

In the criminal justice system, the League of Women Voters of Suffolk County strongly supports the use of alternatives to incarceration as much as possible. We urge this committee to make sure that the Needs Assessment Study gives adequate attention to such alternatives with a goal of limiting the size and cost of constructing the facility as well as limiting future operating costs.

In addition, we recommend that a resource committee be reconvened to follow through on the recommendations of the JSAT, that's the Justice System Assessment Team project. In particular, to, and this quotes from the study, "Review the data for both pretrial and sentenced cases for potential jail population reduction targets." The format of JSAT was for State personnel to assist local officials to improve their criminal justice system by using quantitative and qualitative data regarding utilization, effectiveness and cost. It would be regrettable for Suffolk County to miss the opportunity of following up on the information gathered in the report.

I will comment that I sat in on a good many of the meetings of the JSAT Committee as an observer and I did talk with a researcher afterwards so I have a fair amount of familiarity with the data that was presented. Now, I know the Sheriff was here in the past and said that when he came to office he went around and ask everybody, "please, please, do what you can to not send people to me," but it's -- I think you can't expect people to act alone and the point of the JSAT was people really need to take collective action and then respond to specific situations as pinpointed in the study. I will also comment that I've heard somebody say that the data is old and therefore unusable and I would say I don't think so because probably the study

did compare with local numbers and the general picture has not changed, so it is still very useful.

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I have another request. Would you also please explain how Program No. 3009 relates to No. 3008. In its various phases, funded through 2003, No. 3009, which is renovation at the Yaphank Correctional Facility, called for construction of four new dorms and renovation of existing dormitories, then construction of 250 bed modular dormitories, and then refurbishment of eight dormitories. This looks like 14 dorms and 50 beds each equaling 700 beds in good shape, yet 3,008 calls for demolition of ten dormitories at Yaphank with 504 beds. A clear picture of the Yaphank bed situation would help in understanding the funding requested. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Ruth, thank you so much for coming and expressing your opinion. I personally want to thank you on the record for your involvement over the last couple of years with relation to the Jail Needs Assessment. The League of Women Voters has really shown a keen interest in which direction the County of Suffolk will be proceeding with relation to our correctional problems and on behalf of I'm sure all of my colleagues, we do appreciate your work with us on the matter.

MS. CUSACK:

And I would be happy to continue working with whoever is looking at alternatives to incarceration. I've mentioned to some of you at other times that I happen to be the person at the State level for the League of Women Voters that has to do with alternatives to incarceration and I would like to still be involved in whatever is being followed through here.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Just as I recommended that you be on the RFP committee, if that presents itself again where we need to make a recommendation, be rest assured that you would be at the top of the list. Thank you.

MS. CUSACK:

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Any other questions of the speaker? Okay, we have no other cards. I know there are other departments here. FRES; Dave, Chief, Fred? Good afternoon, gentlemen.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Good afternoon. It's reasonably a short presentation, we're going to do it in a couple of components.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Thank you. We'll start off with -- as you know, with me is Deputy Commissioner Daniels and Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief Gackenheimer from the Fire Academy.

Briefly, just to review our current Capital Projects. The ones that are currently going forward that have been fully funded is the purchase of a new Mobile Command Post, the construction, that will occur this year, the construction of new Class A Burn Facility that we'll continue to use live fire training as this body was involved in that discussion, that construction is expected to begin mid to latter

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part of the summer, and the final one is construction of an Arson Training Facility which we look forward to completing sometime the latter part of this year. Those are the ones that are currently moving forward.

In the -- we concur with the County Exec's budget proposal with really one major exception and then we're going to talk about later on one addition. One of the projects that we submitted as a new project was for a utility vehicle to replace our current dump truck that's out there that's being well worn, it's well worn. That was not included in the Capital Budget, we're not going to -- it was not recommended by BRO and at this point we're going to probably include it in our operating budget so, you know, on that one we don't need any action from this body.

The final, really the exception that we took both to the County Exec's Budget for not including funding and BRO's report to include funding in year 2005 is a construction of a new pump test facility/vehicle storage facility. A little history, quick history was that both those projects, a new pump test facility, a new garage facility for a vehicle storage was submitted as separate projects in the past. That being said, it was recommended to us to come in combining them which made sense, reducing the projected cost, we did go move forward in combining those projects.

I'm going to let Chief Gackenheimer talk about the pump test facility, the current status of our facility which was used now, why we need to have a new pump test facility. Thereafter, I will speak on the garage component and make our recommendations to this body. Chief?

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you, Dave. Dave started alluding to a little handout that I asked to be distributed amongst the members here. Originally it was a twofold project, there were two separate

projects, I sat down with Fred Daniels and we ironed it out and we came up with one project to cover both ends of this. And as we were doing that we came up with other things that had come to the forefront and they're listed, if you take a look at the handout that you were given. There's five of them, the first one is a lack of equal but separate facilities for male/female. I have three female instructors and presently all I have is a ladies room; in today's day and age, that's unacceptable. The existing facilities I have for my male instructors, locker room and shower facilities, was built with 18 instructors in mind; it's presently occupied by approximately 30 instructors, it gets very tight in there. And it's one of those things we should correct, if we're going to build something, let's build it once, get everything out of the way and be done with it.

In addition to that, a shape-up area, my Field Supervisor's office which we use as a shape-up area every night we have field training, was made, again, for about 18 people; presently anywhere from 20 to 30 people in there in a night. It's just getting to where we have outgrown the facilities we have, we have to do something.

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My fire gear storage area, and I know Legislator Lindsay saw this area, is horrendous, it really is. In this day and age where we're putting our fire protection gear meaning the personal protection gear that the instructors wear, it's just ludicrous. It's an after thought, second floor on actually the ceiling of an existing interior instructor -- an existing interior structure; we should move that out of there, I need a new gear storage. Besides that, when you put the gear up there, that gear comes in wet, the instructors get wet every night. That gear comes in wet and it never really gets a chance to dry and the gear should be dried out before it's reused.

And last but not least -- again, the Commissioner alluded to -- the pump test facility. When that facility was built, and we really don't know the age because that original facility that's there that we're using today is now inside a structure, initially it was outside, it wasn't in the structure, the structure was built around it at an after date. But originally it was designed, from what we can figure out, probably to test maybe a 1,500 gallon a minute pumper. Presently there's not too many pumpers around smaller than 1,500 gallons a minute in the County, there are either -- well, there's some 1,250's and some 1,000's still left, but very few.

And to give you an idea where we're going with this, we estimate there's between 250 and 300 attack pumpers in Suffolk County that are 1,500 gallon or more in capacity in pumping. We can test up to 2,000 gallon a minute pumpers in there now, only because we've {jury-rigged} it to do this. But we're getting to the point where the cisterns that

hold the water that we use in the pump test which is a recoverable system have been leaking, they have leaked in the past, we have had them repaired, but we estimate they're probably 40 years old. It's just a matter of time before they completely just turn into {civs} and we're not going to be able to hold water in them, thus we're not going to be able to pump test any trucks that come in to the County or are used in the County. And by the way, pump test is an annual event supposedly for every fire pumper in Suffolk County. And it does effect the ISO rating of a fire district, whether it can pump at capacity or not, because that is included in that.

The new structure we plan is all modernized, it does away with the manual way we test pumps today which is physically holding a pressure gauge and a fire stream at approximately 150 or greater pounds of pressure to find out what the pressure is so we can judge what the gallonage is that's coming through there, and it computerizes the whole operation; that's not necessary, you don't have to do that any more. Plus, it will give us capacity to test up to a 4,000 gallon a minute pumper.

Just to give you an idea where the County and the fire service seems to be going with pumpers, presently in Suffolk County there are three 3,000 minute -- gallons a minute pumpers in service with two more that I know of on the order. Apparently everybody feels bigger is better, whether or not it is I can't tell you, but this is how the County is going. So to test these trucks presently, I cannot test a 3,000 gallon a minute pumper, I won't even attempt it; I can't supply enough water to it to test it.

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VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

A question relating to the pumpers. What's the average age with relation to any given fire district in Suffolk County pumper, or a truck that has pumping ability? Because they can't -- they're all basically brand new, they're maintained to the nines.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Usually --

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

I would assume that you haven't had a failure with relation to any of these pump tests in quite some time.

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

No, we had a failure this morning.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Really?

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

Yes.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

And how old was that truck?

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

That truck was -- I'm going to say it was either eight or nine years old.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

You have to realize when you're doing pumping, in the fire department when you use pumping they don't pump from the cleanest systems, either there's debris in the water system or sometimes they use drafting which obviously brings more debris up. The nature of the fire fighting itself puts undue stresses on these pumps versus a normal pumping system where you have clean water all the time. Therefore, you run into failures because of that unknown quantity of water and the type of water that's coming into your system. The average age, most fire departments use a 20 to 25 year replacement program.

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

That's on average. I can attest that some departments, including the local one for this building, are now dropped down on that, they're replacing it in less than that. There seems to be a push in some areas for newer and better, what they call better equipment, more electronics; whether that's going to continue or not I can't say.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

And it's also a function of responses; you know, responses have been going up.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Wouldn't there be an internal -- when I say internal, I'm talking about on the apparatus itself, the fire apparatus -- isn't there an internal test or gauge that would tell you what it's pumping out with relation to pressure as opposed to doing a test?

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COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Yes.

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

Yes, there is. But you still have to test it because that gauge --

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

You still have to do a separate test.

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

-- may not be accurate, yeah.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Right.

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

And that's one thing that does come out on a lot of tests. Their pressure gauge is not accurate; in other words, when they're reading 160, we may be reading 135. So they get -- you know, they're brought up, we make that -- make sure they know that and if a truck is failed that that's on there, we have a paper that we give them if something has to be corrected.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Also, one of the things I would like to clarify, when you talk about ISO effecting insurance rates, that effects the taxpayers, what the taxpayers are paying for their insurance, fire insurance component. So therefore, the lower a rating that a fire department can obtain, the better it is for their residents in commercial establishments, so it's a benefit to everyone.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, Item 3415 in the budget is the facility you want, that's the combined facility?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Yes.

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

Yes.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

And when we're talking about the pump test, Chief Gackenheimer obviously did an excellent job in explaining the need for it, for the pump test facility. I reiterate the issue about the facilities for women, you know, we can no longer operate, none of you would want that; it's an issue of fairness to both male and females.

But moving forward to the storage facility, part of the garage, our current garage there is some question of its structural integrity, there's major cracks in our block wall. It's not big enough to house the current vehicles we have. This Legislature two years ago approved us buying a tractor trailer decontamination unit for \$200,000, that

unit sits outside, because of its exposure to the elements we've already had to make repairs on it that were caused by the elements, therefore, it's costing us money. The wear on just the outside body is already visible.

In addition, as I mentioned before, we're moving forward with a Mobile Command Post that's going to cost us in excess of \$300,000. Again, it will not fit into any of our current facilities. It also will sit outside and we're going to take {jury-rigged} power connections and try to run them into buildings through doors, through windows to maintain it. Therefore, we're putting a lot of money in there.

In addition, this body has funded equipment for response to terrorism. We have received money from the Federal government and from the Federal government through New York State. We have sophisticated monitoring devices, other additional equipment that should not be exposed to the elements, particularly temperature deviations, yet this equipment, again, sits outside. It's not acceptable for what we want to do. When we need to respond to an emergency call, to have this equipment maybe not functioning or unable to be used for a period of time due to the effects of weather of keeping these vehicles outside. In addition, keeping these vehicles outside reduces their use for life.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

How often do you drill with those -- with the pieces of equipment you're talking about, do you -- I'm sure you have been drilling with that --

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Yes.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

-- in light of everything that's gone on.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Yes, drilling and using it. I mean, we've used the decontamination --

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

So it's working.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Yes.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

And our preparedness, we've been -- as the County Exec indicated during his State-of-the-County Address, we are leading the way, you know, in similarly situated counties in our preparedness efforts. But we need to protect the equipment where millions of dollars are being put into this, we need to protect the equipment that we're getting. Budget Review Office has recognized that but their suggestion is 2005, we need either one of two options; one, move it to 2004 or, two, if we could find money this year for an offset, do it this year. We have

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\$250,000 that this Legislature has authorized and appropriated to do the planning and design, so we're already moving forward and we just ask that, you know, either 2004 or possibly an offset this year which would work, too.

VICE-CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Legislator Guldi.

LEG. GULDI:
What's the state of the planning; how close to completion is the planning? Because if the planning is not --

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:
That's being done through DPW. Fred --

LEG. GULDI:
Because if -- unfortunately, if DPW is moving with -- even if they're moving with dispatch, if our -- if the design isn't finished and our proposal documents aren't ready to go out now, it's too late to do it in '03.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DANIELS:
You're absolutely right, that's correct.

LEG. GULDI:
So it would make no sense to use the offset for '03 funding for a project we can't physically do in '03 because we haven't done the planning yet.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:
So then we ask that you put it in 2004.

LEG. GULDI:
Yeah. Actually, I would be willing to sponsor that amendment. You want to join me on it?

LEG. BISHOP:
To what?

LEG. GULDI:

To move it from '04-05 to '04.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Right.

LEG. LINDSAY:

It's really one of the issues we're going to take up in Omnibus.

LEG. GULDI:

Oh, you're going to take it up in Omnibus? All right, it will be addressed in the Omnibus Committee and it won't need a stand-alone.

LEG. LINDSAY:

What I was just telling Legislator Guldi is it's an issue that we're discussing in the Omnibus Committee now. So why don't you hold that and see what we do with it.

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LEG. GULDI:

Well, you know, in the event -- Budget Review, in event that it doesn't find its way into Omnibus, please prepare a stand-alone for me. Okay?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Right, thank you. And just to let you know, that building is not an elaborate building, we're looking at a butler-style building, you know, to make it cost effective.

LEG. GULDI:

How many millions of dollars --

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

I'm not talking about hangars.

LEG. GULDI:

How many millions of dollars did DPW -- for a butler building in Yaphank?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Okay, thank you. I'd like to now do a second component. At this point, I'd like to -- oh, excuse me.

LEG. LINDSAY:

How big is the building that you're planning?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

I don't have the dimensions; Fred, you have it?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DANIELS:

I have it here, it's a 10,000 square foot facility.

LEG. GULDI:

A hundred by a hundred, what do you know? It should be about \$200,000.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

No, not with the pump test.

LEG. LINDSAY:

That includes -- the two-and-a-half million includes all the internal equipment?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Includes the computerized pump testing. There has to be some excavation under this because of the water holding tanks for the pump testing which is going to be and that has to be shored up. And the construction for the slab is going to be a little more extensive than normal slab work because of the --

LEG. LINDSAY:

So it isn't just a standard butler building.

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

I think just to clarify, what it contains on our end, it contains of

course a pump test facility which will be two tanks underground, both holding approximately 15,000 gallons of water, with crossover plumbing so the tanks always stay at equal height. In addition to that, I'll have a new field office, a new gear storage area, new male and female shower and locker room facilities all on the one end of it.

LEG. GULDI:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Thank you. As I said, I have a second component in addition that really is not involved here but needs to be commented on. I'm going to ask at this point for Warren Horst, Chief Fire Marshal and Dr. Alicandro from the EMS Office to join me.

What I'm going to discuss is a project that I'll give you some history on, probably Jim's been here, Jim Spero has been here with us during this historical overview. The Computer Aided Dispatch System, as we

all know, there have been various attempts throughout the County over the many years since I've been here since 1977 to establish a Computer Aided Dispatch System for emergency responders. As a settlement of the seizures project, which we obviously did not work to the needs of the County, the County received a sum of money which was inadequate for anyone to proceed. The Police Department, because of personnel that they had, numbers of personnel and people capable, we were able to go ahead forward and establish and build their own Computer Aided Dispatch System, yet Fire Rescue itself had no funding available for that project. There was a minimal small project but totally inadequate funding that we could not move forward on, I believe it was \$225,000, and that is now no longer where we could stand still.

Recent Newsday articles that we've seen -- not recent but over the last two years or so and a series concerning some EMS issues and response issues commented on the lack of a full organized Computer Aided Dispatch System for Fire Rescue. We currently have a system that is basically a record management system only, it does not have the capability to do the necessary processing of calls that would be needed for a Computer Aided Dispatch, that would be including handing the calls off, we still do paperwork, we have to write things out, the alarm sheets out on paper, we have to get up and physically carry it across the room to a dispatch. We are unable to put out over -- dispatch alarm over any Internet or computer system to computer systems within firehouses that could then bring up screens in the firehouses. We're unable to do a lot of data and review of the calls because we just don't have that system.

We no longer can sit tight. Newsday has commented on it, as I mentioned, that one of our major flaws in our dispatch system is the lack of a computer aided dispatch. We thought we were moving forward and were going to propose something with using some offset money, that's why a Capital Project was not submitted for this. But those offsets, change of times, have really not been made available and we need to look and go forward on a Computer Aided Dispatch System now.

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A committee has been established that's been working and doing the RFP. We're working diligently, we're nearing completion of the initial RFP. We are looking to -- on that committee we included people from the Department of Health EMS Division, Police Department, to have input because these are the people who will be using it.

LEG. GULDI:

But as a practical matter, what you're talking about is something we need to do in '03, we can't wait for '04, it's not in the Capital Budget, it's not something --

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

It's not.

LEG. GULDI:

-- that could be amended into the Capital Budget, it's something we should do before this budget takes effect; is that correct?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Either this -- before the budget takes effect or for 2004, that would be your option.

LEG. GULDI:

Do we have a cost figure?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

We would look approximately at \$6 million in costs. One of the reasons is that as this body had supported the Mobile Data Computers in the police vehicles, we are not asking you to supply every fire truck with Mobile Data Computers, but we are asking you as part of the project to develop the system to allow the fire departments to purchase their own mobile data computing units and then access our system. So we're looking at infrastructure.

LEG. GULDI:

Jim, is there any prospect at all for a \$6 million offset or add in the '03 budget?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Besides Jim's salary? No.

MR. SPERO:

My {SCAT} pay. No, not unless the Legislature wanted to take an existing project and defer it for one year. I mean, to come up with that kind of money would mean -- there's not that many projects in the Capital Budget this year that even have that much money in them, so it would be very difficult to come up with an offset.

LEG. LINDSAY:

On a practical measure, '03, I mean, even if you found the money you probably wouldn't have enough time to spend it anyway. There is nothing in the proposed '04 budget for what you're talking about.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

No, there isn't.

LEG. BISHOP:

How could that be?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

As I explained, we thought the money was going to be able to be found, we had indications that the money was --

LEG. BISHOP:

So you never presented it to the Executive?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

It was never presented to the Executive on that. We thought -- we had indications that there was available offset monies; in fact, there weren't.

LEG. BISHOP:

From where?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

I don't know where it was being identified.

LEG. BISHOP:

So if somebody said to you, "Oh yeah, we have six million lying around, don't put that project in," and you said, "Okay, boss. That makes sense to me."

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

We had --

LEG. BISHOP:

Your story is just preposterous to me, Dave.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

I'm telling you -- it may sound preposterous, I'm telling you what occurred in terms of from our operation I'm presenting it.

Dr. Alicandro is here because she is one of the bid components supporting that program because she needs information to review things that are going in the system. I'll let her comment on it.

DR. ALICANDRO:

I think we had spoken in the past about the ambulance response time issue and how we're trying to address that and one of the key holes we found was accurate data collection. In order to feed back to the agencies so we can help them try to manage their resources and address the gaps in service that they may have so that we can assist them, as well as efficiency at dispatch because we are missing time from call receipt to dispatch which is actually an additional component of response time, we have that. And then the quality improvement aspect, it would enhance accuracy as well because it's a computerized program for the actual dispatch of the ambulances. Link, dispatch and call receipt and allow us to QA the calls if there's a change in category,

things of that nature.

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LEG. LINDSAY:

Just a comment, that I don't think any one of the three of us disagree that there could be improvements to the system. And a lot of it has to do with communications, not with finger pointing that it's this guy's fault or that guy's fault, we've just got to talk to each other better. But in our process, if it doesn't go through the Executive's Office -- I mean, for us -- and correct me if I'm wrong, BRO, but for us to put money in at this point without the Exec's office even knowing of the project or seeing the project or getting a chance to touch it, I don't know how we would do that, unless some of my colleagues have a better idea.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

I mean, this body can put in additional money. The Exec's Office was part of our process during our planning process and we had members on our committee. Warren Horst is Chairman of that RFP Committee and has developed the first draft of the RFP's, we're looking --

MR. SPERO:

(Inaudible).

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

We probably could. Warren, phase it in? We probably could phase it in over two years, Jim just suggested that. You know, do one thing, is that doable, Warren?

CHIEF HORST:

It would be, yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

What you could do for me is the Omnibus Capital Budget Working Group meets again tomorrow, get me something on a piece of paper that at least defines the project that you're talking about with as much information --

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Sure.

LEG. LINDSAY:

-- and we'll look at it, that's about all I can tell you.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Okay, thank you.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Anything else you want to tell us, folks?

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:
That's it. Thank you very much.

LEG. BISHOP:
Thank you.

ACTING CHAIRMAN BISHOP:
Okay. Is there anybody else who wishes to address the committee? As

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the former Chairman of Public Safety, I'm assuming the { Al Hague}
roll, I'm in charge now.

LEG. LINDSAY:
He left me in charge.

LEG. BISHOP:
You're out, there's been a coup.

LEG. GULDI:
Another one.

LEG. BISHOP:
There is nobody so I'm adjourning the meeting. Thank you all.
Have a good afternoon.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 P.M.*)

Legislator Joseph Caracappa, Vice-Chairman
Public Safety Committee

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically

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