

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

**Minutes**

A regular 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 **June 17, 2003**.

**Members Present:**

Legislator Angie Carpenter - Chairperson  
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  
Doug Sutherland - Aide to Legislator Carpenter  
Anthony Figliola - Aide to Presiding Officer Postal  
Rosalind Gazes - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Kevin Duffy - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office  
Bill Faulk - County Executive's Office/Intergovernmental Relations  
Catherine Stark - County Executive's Office/IR  
Alfred Tisch - Suffolk County Sheriff  
Walter Denzler - Undersheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
James Kevins - Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Tom Murphy - Warden/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Alan Otto - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Joseph Rubacka - Lieutenant/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office  
Tedd Godek - Suffolk County Architect/DPW  
John Blosser - Lieutenant/Suffolk County Police Department  
Robert Kearon - Division Chief/District Attorney's Office  
Cindy Scesny - Legislative Liaison/District Attorney's Office  
Mike Pirone - Suffolk County Police Department  
Debbie Eppel - Public Information Office  
Vincent DeMarco - President/Deputy Sheriff's Benevolent Association  
Ruth Cusack - Suffolk County League of Women Voters  
All Other Interested Parties

**Minutes Taken By:**

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(\*The meeting was called to order at 1:11 P.M.\*)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Good afternoon. I would ask Legislator Lindsay to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Salutation

Thank you and welcome. We have no cards. And I don't know if anyone has anything they would like to address the committee on, but what I'm going to do is go right to the agenda and then if there are any discussion items we can engage in them.

### TABLED RESOLUTIONS

Okay, we'll start with the Tabled Resolutions.

1380-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Budget & Program and appropriating funds in connection with the renovation, construction and additions to the 6th Precinct (CP 3184) (County Executive).

LEG. LINDSAY:

That was moved the last time.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Yeah, there was a problem with the offset at the last meeting.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I think at the last session they found a different offset.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Yeah, I believe that it was approved.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Paul, on 1380, there was a question with the offset and it was, in fact, moved at the General Meeting.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

I don't know if at the General Meeting, I think -- I don't know if they had the resolution filed in a timely fashion, I think that may have been the only problem.

MR. SABATINO:

1380 required a corrected copy and we have a corrected copy.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The copy that I have is corrected April 24th, but I think there was a

corrected copy after that.

MR. SABATINO:

There's a May 5th corrected copy. The May 5th corrected copy was the one that dealt with the issue of the offset, I believe, so let's see.

LEG. LINDSAY:

I'm almost positive we voted on it.

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MR. SABATINO:

No, we didn't vote on 1380. If the question is did we vote on it, no. I'm just checking to see if --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

If the offset was changed.

All right, while you're checking on that, let's go to 1460 --

MR. SABATINO:

No, the offset is still -- the offset is still the red running light camera equipment, at least in the May 5th version.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Madam Chair, I'm almost positive that that offset was changed to I think pension funds, if I'm not mistaken.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right. I would ask --

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Pay-as-you-go I believe it was.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

-- someone from the County Exec's Office, if you could make a call and check on that and see if, in fact, that offset was changed or not, or you know that.

MR. FAULK:

I believe that one wasn't changed yet.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Was not?

MR. FAULK:

Not yet, they're still working on it.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Is there multiple resolutions that --

MR. FAULK:

There was one for the second floor of the Special Patrol Bureau which was changed.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Maybe that's where I'm confused, I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. All right, then we will make a motion to table, second by Legislator Crecca. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

IR 1460-03 - Modifying Universal Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Policy for State mandated reporters at Suffolk County Contract Agencies (Cooper). I'm going to make a motion to table, second by legislator Crecca. All those in favor? Opposed? Tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

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## INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 1481-03 - Enlarging East End area for placement of Medevac Helicopter (Caracappa).

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Motion by Legislator Caracappa. I will second that motion.

LEG. LINDSAY:

On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

On the motion, Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Just to the sponsor. Is this where we're going to acquire a new building in -- what happened with that one?

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Under the original resolution, it mandated us to go to Gabreski and nowhere else. Based on the troubles we're having at Gabreski and on top of the fact that we've had additional offers outside of Gabreski but still at the east end, we had to modify the resolution to allow us to look someplace other than Gabreski.

LEG. LINDSAY:  
So that's what this is.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Absolutely, it just frees us up.

LEG. LINDSAY:  
I second it.

LEG. GULDI:  
On the motion.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
On the motion, Legislator Guldi who's not on the committee.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes, he is.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
Oh yes, you are.

LEG. GULDI:  
Yeah, I thought so.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
I'm sorry.

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LEG. GULDI:  
Yoo hoo, you see that list at the top?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
You'll have to forgive me.

LEG. GULDI:  
You see that list at the top of the agenda?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
You're new to the Public Safety Committee in my world.

LEG. GULDI:  
Gee, and I thought you were the one who was new.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:  
So you haven't been here in such a long time, you didn't know that.  
But go ahead, what's your question?

LEG. GULDI:

My question on this is the only concern I have, and I've raised it before, is this obviously a response to a proposal to look at an existing structure that would need -- that is at Calverton Airport.

I certainly have no objection to looking at alternatives, but I do have an objection to the absurdity, the absolute absurdity of the County paying to buy a structure in an environment where we own an airport, yet we operate from two others. The result -- this absurdity is the result of a truly obscene pricing project that's come out of our Department of Public Works with respect to building a building to suit our own needs on land we already own. The price they came up with was only something in the order of a hundred times as much as -- actually, about 150 times as much as market value of what they were discussing should cost.

The concern I have is that we're going to compare other opportunities against that ridiculousness and at the same time fail to look at the fact that we're looking at a 20 or 30 year old building. What's its use for life, what's its five, 10, 15 and 20 year maintenance requirements going to be, not withstanding the insanity of our own bidding process. So while I have -- while I'm not objecting to the comparison, I'm certainly objecting to the absurdity that we can't build a building at our own facility at a reasonable cost because of -- for reasons that are totally -- that have never been adequately explained to me or even approaching satisfactory.

So, you know, with that said on the bill, I don't have any objection to the comparison. I do, however, strongly suggest that the comparison be done apples to apples as it were, five, 10, 15, 20 year costs with whatever the principals of estimating those costs are being applied consistently.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you, Legislator Guldi. Legislator Caracappa.

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LEG. CARACAPPA:

I agree with you, George. And you and I sit on Space and this is one of the reasons why we're doing this resolution, so that we can have an apples to apples comparison. As of right now we have no comparisons. And with the delay and the problems that we've faced at Gabreski, it can't hurt to do an apples to apples comparison on another piece of property.

So I do agree with you, it's been far too long and the proposals brought forward with relation to the Gabreski property are unreasonable and absurd, but it doesn't hurt to look.

LEG. GULDI:

We have 1,479 acres there, we ought to be able to put up a building and operate it cheaper than we ought to be able to buy land and a used building.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? The resolution is approved (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

IR 1514-03 - Appropriating 100% grant funds to be received from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for a Suffolk County Motor Vehicle Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Program and authorizing the County Executive to execute grant related agreements (County Executive). I will make a motion to approve and put on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Caracappa. All those in favor? Opposed? That is approved and put on the consent calendar (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

IR 1532-03 - Amending the 2003 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating planning funds for Jail Utilization Study/New Replacement Facility at Yaphank (CP 3008) (Postal). On this resolution, I had been contacted by the Department of Public Works and it's my understanding that they were meeting with the Sheriff's Department and that there was a request to table. So if you have other information, you may want to come forward, gentlemen. Go ahead.

UNDERSHERIFF DENZLER:

Good afternoon. On behalf of the Sheriff's Office, we would like to thank the committee and the Legislature for moving forward with the project and accelerating the schedule.

Having said that, the only concern that we have is the transfer of funds from 3009 to 3008 in that the funds being transferred are renovation funds at the Yaphank facility. The only concern that we have is that during the course of the new project we will have to continue operating that facility, so that's going to be for another five or six years, whatever it takes to do that. And having those thoughts in mind, we sat down with DPW to find out, well, what is it going to take that we'll absolutely have to do in order to still be able to maintain that facility during the new project? So with that,

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I'd like to refer over to DPW and they could explain a little bit as to the joint discussions we've had relative to what would be needed.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. But you have -- since I received that phone call, you have had the opportunity to sit and meet with them?

UNDERSHERIFF DENZLER:

Yes, we have.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. And are you in agreement that it should be tabled until you have more definitive numbers?

UNDERSHERIFF DENZLER:

Yes, we are.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Tedd, if you feel you need to explain further, please, by all means.

MR. GODEK:

Well, we're asking for the tabling so that we get a little bit more time to evaluate some of the health and safety issues that seem apparent out there. And in an effort to minimize any future obscenity in estimating the cost of these improvements, we would like the additional time to look at them closely and estimate them.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. Well, since all of you are in agreement, when I had received the phone call my only concern was that tabling this might give out the perception that we were not moving in a timely fashion, but that is not in fact the case. And I think the Legislature's demonstration of their ability or willingness to want to move forward with it during the Capital Budget process hopefully will put the Commissioner of Corrections at ease to let him know that we really are serious about moving forward. And I'm glad that you are working together.

UNDERSHERIFF DENZLER:

We have communicated that to them. The commission actually is coming down tomorrow to spend a three day -- as part of their site evaluation they're looking at Yaphank. So this tabling will also enable us --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Great.

UNDERSHERIFF DENZLER:

-- to have conversation with them, things that they see that will coincide.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Terrific. Okay, great. Thank you very much. So I will make that

motion to table, second by Legislator Lindsay. All those in favor?  
Opposed? The resolution is tabled (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).

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Is there anyone else who would like to address the committee? Then I will take a motion to adjourn by Legislator Crecca. We are adjourned.

LEG. CRECCA:

You know what? I've got to say, you've done a phenomenal job, Madam Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Put that on the record.

LEG. CRECCA:

You could add that to the record.

(\*The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 P.M.\*)

Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson  
Public Safety & Public Information Committee

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically

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