

PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
Of the
Suffolk County Legislature

Capital Budget Minutes

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 25, 2004**, to discuss the matter of the 2005-2007 Capital Budget.

Members Present:

Legislator Angie Carpenter - Chairperson

Legislator Pete O'Leary - Vice-Chair

Legislator David Bishop

Legislator William Lindsay

Legislator Andrew Crecca

Legislator Daniel Losquadro

Legislator Lynne Nowick

Also In Attendance:

Legislator Joseph Caracappa - Presiding Officer/District #4

Legislator Brian Foley - District #7

Mea Knapp - Counsel to the Legislature

Alexandra Sullivan - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Doug Sutherland - Aide to Legislator Carpenter

Linda Bay - Aide to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Greg Moran - Press Secretary to Presiding Officer Caracappa

Jim Spero - Director/Budget Review Office

Joanne Doering - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office.

Sean Clancy - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office.

Rosalind Gazes - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office.

Lance Reinheimer - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office.

Diane Dono - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office.

Gail Vizzini - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office.
Fred Pollert - Deputy County Executive
Ben Zwirn - Assistant County Executive.
Adam Santiago - County Executive's Office/Community Relations
Bob Bortzfield - Director/County Executive's Budget Office
Ken Knappe - County Executive's Budget Office
Carmine Chiusano - County Executive's Budget Office
Donald Sullivan - Under-Sheriff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Walter Denzler - Under-Sheriff/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 - Deputy Warden/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Richard Dormer - Commissioner/Suffolk County Police Department
Ed Weber - Chief/Suffolk County Police Department
John Desmond - Director/Suffolk County Planning Department
Jim Golbin - Chief Planner/Suffolk County Planning Department
Robert Kearon - Division Chief/District Attorney's Office
Lon Kochany - District Attorney's Office
Dave Fischler - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Don Gackenheimer - Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy
Thomas Kost - Deputy Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy
Anthony LaFerrera - Vice-President/North Babylon Fire Company
Suffolk County Chiefs Association
Richard Vella - President/Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's Assoc.
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(* The meeting was called to order at 2:05 P.M. *)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I will call the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Bishop.

I don't think we have any cards so we'll just go to the Police Department section of the Budget

Review Office Report, I think it will be the easiest way for us to proceed. So I guess we're starting on -- I guess 3117 really starts -- Project 3117 on page 209, but Commissioner, if you have a list in front of you of the projects you want to speak on, perhaps that's the easiest way for us to proceed.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, okay. Thank you very much. On 3117, I just as soon skip that one.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Unless anybody has a question on it.

3122, that's improvements to Police Headquarters, and we're looking for a new generator and replacing the air-conditioner, we're looking for Phase II to be included. I believe that they want to do this piecemeal and, you know, if you do that eventually it will have to be -- when it's redone they would have to tear up whatever they put in and redo it again.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I think with most of these projects -- and unless anyone else from the committee has a different opinion -- with most of these projects that the Budget Review Office concurs with the department, which I believe is the case with project 3122, that they disagree with the County Executive's omission of this project and recommend the funding of Phase II on this.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

So where there's agreement with --

LEG. LINDSAY:

This is the renovation of Quartermaster space?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

This is the improvements to Police Headquarters that will happen when the Quartermasters are located to the new building which is on track and due to be completed I believe this fall.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Heavy duty vehicles, 3135; and again, there was one vehicle included, we asked for two.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. I'm sorry on that, that was project number?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

3135.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

3135, okay.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

As you know, we use these vehicles for the DWI impounds, we have a lot of mileage and it's critical on the road 24/7.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And again, this is something that the Budget Review Office recommended funding, that it be included in 2006. What's the mileage on that, wasn't it like 200,000 or 300 --

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Two hundred and sixty thousand, something like that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah, and projected to be up to 300,000 in another year.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

3161, Firearms Training Safety Issues at the range, 125,000 not included. Again, this is a safety issue, people are out there at night loading and firing weapons and the structure footing is not secure. Again, we just go on the estimated cost of 125,000.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right. And again, this is something that the Budget Review Office concurs with the department. As you stated, Commissioner, it is a safety issue and, you know, all it would take is one lawsuit and there goes the investment. So I think it's certainly well worth it.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Helicopter hangar, the east end. I have no view on that or opinion on that, it's an expensive item, 2.4 million.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I know we've had some discussion, I guess the facility is less than adequate that we're renting. The Budget Review Office did not necessarily -- or did apparently agree with the County Executive about not recommending, however we've had some discussions, I know that the project originally was scheduled for 1.5 million and it escalated to 2.4. But it in some discussions I've had, there is a belief that we can construct for a million five and I'm hoping that we can get this included at that 1.5 million level.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

3184, that's the 4th Precinct. Again, that's -- that building is in terrible state, but again, it's a 16.7 million plus.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I know on this project, because we've had discussion on this before, there is a master plan being done for the North Complex. The conditions at the 4th Precinct are woefully inadequate, and that's being kind. And a number of Legislators have been discussing this and feel that it's important to at least include the planning monies for this project and I think Budget Review Office tends to agree with us that we need to at least start with the planning on this.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I think it will go a long way to addressing the employees in that precinct. Jim, did you want to say something, if you're agreeing with me?

MR. SPERO:

I received a call from the County Architect this morning, the estimated planning costs for the new 4th Precinct would be \$1.7 million.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Renovations to the existing 6th Precinct when the new one opens and there's no money allocated for that.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Madam Chairwoman?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes, Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Commissioner, based on the Budget Review Office evaluation, they have a suggestion there of moving the Highway Patrol Section to the 6th Precinct after it's vacated with the new 6th Precinct being completed. Being that they have to vacate their current accommodations by December of this year, does the department have any intention of moving the Highway Patrol Section to the existing 6th Precinct once it's vacated?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Space Management has the -- they're trying to find space right now for Highway Patrol as we speak. And there is a problem with the 6th Precinct for Highway Patrol in that it's way out of the area for a response to Sunrise and the Expressway. And I also should bring up the issue that that building is in need of repair, so we move one unit out to upgrade them and then we put Highway Patrol in there; I mean, what are we telling them?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Well, I believe once the building is vacated there is -- Budget Review, I think you can give me the exact number -- there's about half a million dollars already appropriated for needed repairs to the building including a new roof and windows that will be completed once the building is

vacated upon them moving into the new facility. So if they do those half of million dollars worth of repairs, it could make the building adequate for future use by a portion -- you know, one of the divisions within the Police Department, not necessarily the Highway Patrol but I just wanted to make you aware that that already is slated to take place once it's vacated.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, we would like to have a police presence in that building, not necessarily Highway Patrol. Again, they voiced concerns about not being near where they were, the Expressway and Sunrise, but we would look at certainly putting some kind of presence in there. I know we would have to share the building with somebody else, it's a big area, but if it was repaired we would certainly look at that.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Budget Review, was that number accurate, it's about half a million -- a little over half of a million dollars I believe?

MR. SPERO:

Yeah, \$550,000 has been appropriated for repairs for that facility, but another 2.9 million is scheduled in subsequent years for additional work on that building.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Right. As you laid out in your analysis, your evaluation, that you were looking at long-term needs for the Police Department in terms of their space, that you thought that it would be okay if that larger figure was put off being that it could be used for other purposes in the meantime once those repairs, the half of million dollars worth of repairs took place.

MR. SPERO:

We have an immediate need for the Highway Patrol housing that's going to come up in December, they're going to have to go someplace. I don't know if the Commissioner would be amenable to -- if this facility was not suitable for them, if other units could go in there and Highway Patrol maybe go to headquarters or something could be worked out.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I'm sure we can come to an agreeable compromise. Again, it was mainly just -- I just wanted

to reiterate the point that we were obviously seeking police presence, you're aware of that and you've just said.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I know, yes.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

We'll work on that. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

We're not unmindful of that issue and we'll take it seriously.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Just to put on the record, I know that we had progressed with signing -- I know we had passed a resolution authorizing them to go forward, the State DOT that is going to be building the new visitor's center on the LIE at Exit 51 which was also to include the construction of headquarters for the Highway Patrol. As far as I know, that is still progressing, I don't see that it's ever going to happen in a timely fashion to allow for December. And if, in fact, the Highway Patrol must vacate, has anyone been in contact with the owners of that building to see if we could extend the time that the Highway Patrol can stay in there? Because part of the deal that was put in place when the Highway Patrol went in there six-and-a-half years ago was that they could stay there for seven years and that was part of the compensation for the building that Touro took. And also, the Bay Shore Health Center was supposed to be in there, however, the health center, because of air quality concerns, had to vacate that building and move to Brentwood. So we've had a period of time when we should have had use of the building that we were not able to and perhaps we could use that as a reason for allowing the Highway Patrol to stay in place until we do have a permanent home for them.

Jim, are you catching my logic on this and can you communicate that with the Space Management Committee or whomever has to -- because, I mean, I guess it's about a year and a half now or two years that the health center has not been in there and that was part of the deal, that we had health center and the Highway Patrol in that building for seven years, that was part of the compensation; so we haven't had that so they either owe us money or let the

Highway Patrol stay in the building for a while.

MR. SPERO:

We'll bring it up at the next Space Committee meeting, perhaps that's an issue the County Attorney can take up with Touro, because it really sounds like more of a legal issue.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah.

MR. SPERO:

Certainly we have not had the use of the building and have had to close the health center for the last --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Exactly.

MR. SPERO:

-- two or three years and we're still trying to figure out where to put this health center.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right.

MR. SPERO:

So it would seem that would be certainly equitable.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right and an easy way out for everybody concerned and make it -- you know, give us a little bit of relief and not have to have us pay to move them maybe twice. Thank you. Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

On **3198, *Repowering the Police Patrol Boats***, recommended one transmission, one engine. The recommendation in there that we rebuild the engines and keep them as spares, we get reduced price on our transmissions and engines by turning in the old ones so there is a cost

factor attached to that; I just wanted to mention that.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The next one, it appears it doesn't seem to have a number, is the *Laser measuring equipment.*

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, I think that this is a very necessary tool in this day and age for our crime section, Crime Scene Section, you know, investigating motor vehicle accidents, fatals, that kind of thing, they tie up highways for a tremendous amount of time, it's an economic issue. The equipment we have right now is donated and it's one time and we can't find parts for it, it's really outdated.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Again, Budget Review Office supports the request so hopefully that will be included in whatever Omnibus we come up with.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

The next one doesn't have a number either.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

No, the *digital photography equipment.*

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Again, this is a step into the 21st Century, state-of-the-art, modern police departments have this equipment. I know it's a big item, 354,000.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Has the County Executive included this at all?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

(Shook head no.)

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Perhaps we can look at putting it in to future years or subsequent years.

MR. SPERO:

That was our recommendation.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah.

MR. SPERO:

And what we would like to see is the department, as it moves into the digital photography, that it abandon the use of film.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Perhaps phase it in.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Emergency generator for Property Section, we can pass on that one, we withdrew that.

3231, Police Headquarters Computer Operations Center Renovations. Again, I should point out that this area is a critical part of the police operations and, again, it's an old facility. I'm mindful, of course, of the cost, 840,000.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

But to Budget Review Office, and quoting from their report, "believes the safety and functional efficiency of the computer operations of the department be a high priority"; I think most everyone on the committee would agree with that. So again, hopefully this will, too, be included in whatever Omnibus we come up with.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

3235, Rocky Point Tower Site, this is the radio tower which would improve or actually bring the 7th Precinct's system up to the same capacity or capability as the other precincts.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Ms. Chairwoman?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Legislator Losquadro.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes, I haven't found anywhere we've noted a location other than just generically Rocky Point being listed; do you have a location in Rocky Point that's selected?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Rocky Point Fire Department.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

The one on King Road?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I'm not sure.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes?

MR. DOERING:

Yes, I believe that's the station.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Okay, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Is there a problem with communications in that area?

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Yes.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, they're radio -- they're dead spots -- I'm sorry. You're probably more aware of it than I am.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

I was just going to comment on that. Obviously I live up on the North Shore there anywhere from Sound Beach to Wading River up along the north shore, north of 25A and North Country Road is almost completely dead for anything from cell service to the 800 Megahertz System; very bad dead spots up there.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Uh-huh.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

3236, I believe that's included, that's okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yes, they agreed with it being included too.

The tower painting project, I thought that -- I know we had a conversation about this, if you would comment on it.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well the problem with this is that we can't do it in-house because of the height, because we were looking at that to see if we could do it without -- to have somebody paint it but it's not possible because of the physical structure itself. We have to comply with FCC and FAA rules and regulations.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Now, I'm curious, Budget Review -- you know, given what the Commissioner has said with the guidelines from the FCC and the FAA and our willingness to commit to infrastructure repairs to

prevent future damage -- why you would not recommend that we include this project.

MR. SPERO:

Typically, you know, painting projects don't -- aren't capitalized.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right, okay.

MR. SPERO:

And bridge painting, while it's been in the Capital Program for many years, we've always recommended it be a pay-as-you-go project and not be bonded.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, since we've suspended the pay-as-you-go for this year and next, perhaps we can include that this time or at the very least make sure we include it in the operating budget because, you know, this is something that left unattended could be problematic in the future.

MR. SPERO:

Yeah, we could set the project up with pay-as-you-go funding and just make sure we put the money in the Operating Budget, or we could do it in the Operating Budget itself and the department would hire a contractor to actually do the painting.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

If we were to wait -- well, if it were -- to be included in the Capital Program anyway, it wouldn't be until next year. So perhaps what we can do on this, Commissioner, when the request goes in for the Operating Budget, that this be included in it so that we can make sure that the funding is in place, because either way it's not going to be until next year anyway.

The next one I see is the encrypted radios and I think this -- even though the price tag on this is quite high, it seems in light of everything that's going on in the environment post 9/11, that a case can be made for it, including this, and perhaps you want to speak to it.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Well, it is a safety issue for the public and the police officers.

The radios that we have right now, 800 Megahertz, the patent ran out so that means that

everybody listens to the radios. This system wouldn't run out, it's the system that the military uses so nobody will be able to hear our conversations at crime scenes. And we just don't -- you know, we're not concerned -- we're concerned about burglars and robbers and that kind of thing but, you know, terrorism is a real threat in this day and age. I'm very mindful of the cost, again, it's a big item, but it's a safety issue.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. There is another project on this particular item. Legislator O'Leary?

LEG. O'LEARY:

Good afternoon, Commissioner. I'm a little bit concerned over the cuts that have been made with request to the request made by the department, the total request in the programs by 18 and a half million and what we have before us for purposes of appropriation going forward is seven million, so it's almost an \$11 million cut. Have you prioritized any of the projects or programs that you want us to address for purposes of submitting or resubmitting the allocations for those particular programs and projects, did you think that to be a priority? Rather than going through each one, what you're doing is -- are there one, two, three, four, five or six programs or projects, whatever you might deem necessary, for us to prioritize for purposes of resubmitting the funding for?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I didn't do that when I looked at this list. We -- when we sat down with this Capital request for the year, had prioritized it at that time; I mean, there are a couple of items that we've taken out of there but they're all important. I can do that, I wasn't told that we had to prioritize this, just go through each item and indicate, you know, the issues with that item.

LEG. O'LEARY:

I mean, you are aware that almost \$11 million out of your \$18 million request for the program has been cut.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Oh, yeah, no, I'm aware of that; I know that.

LEG. O'LEARY:

And what I'm asking is of those cuts that have been made, or the proposed cuts, can you prioritize that for us to address what we should be addressing on a priority basis for purposes of refunding?

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I'm not ready to do that at this point.

LEG. O'LEARY:

Okay.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, I think the fact that for the most part the Budget Review Office, I would say maybe 85 to 90% of the time, concurs with the department. So it's almost like they're all priority and hopefully we will be able to get them included.

There was one thing that was not discussed and I would ask you to talk about and that's the hoist at the Marine Bureau and the purpose that it serves and what happens if we don't replace it.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

The hoist at the Marine Bureau that lifts the boats out of the water for repair and also the DWI forfeiture vehicles have to come out of there, this thing is very old, you can't get parts for it anymore, they've patched it up over the years from junk yards and that kind of thing. If we ever drop a boat we can have major cost, that's what they tell me, the people that do this, that if it ever breaks or drops a boat we could have an expensive operation on our hands.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Do we have a project number?

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I don't see a --

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Yeah, it's 3502.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

It's 3502? Okay. But I think for the cost of the 132,000 that it is, all it would take would, God forbid, be somebody to be injured or drop a boat.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

I mean, it's still operational but it's like an old car that could die at any time.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah. Well, I think from what I heard, I think it's like 25 years old, so it seems that it's certainly lived its life.

LEG. O'LEARY:

It's only \$32,000.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right, there you go. So Legislator O'Leary for one is supportive.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

All right. Are there any other comments or questions for the Commissioner? Budget Review, did you want to add something?

MS. DOERING:

Yes, we did. Capital Project 3235, the Rocky Point --

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

The tower?

MR. DOERING:

-- tower is to be located at the water tower at Rocky Point, not at the Fire Department, just to clarify that for the record.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you. The water tower at -- in Rocky Point.

LEG. LOSQUADRO:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, thank you so much. Are there any questions or comments for the Commissioner? All right, thank you very much for coming down, we really appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER DORMER:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I had the Sheriff's Department down next, but I know that both FRES and the DA's Office had very, very little, so let us -- if you don't mind, gentlemen, I'd like to bring Dave up -- he promises that this is going to be quick, we're timing you -- and then the DA's Office, Bob.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Thank you. And thank you, Sheriff Sullivan, for deferring. With me is Chief Gackenheimer, the Executive Director of the Fire Academy. Also in the audience are representatives of the Town of Babylon Chiefs Association, Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Association and the Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighters Association.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Also, too, if I could just interrupt, Don has shared the latest statistics on attendance at the Fire Academy and the Clerk has it and it will be in everybody's box. Go ahead, Dave.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

Thank you. Just very briefly, we concur with the County Exec's Capital Program with one exception and with Budget Review's Report with one exception, and the one exception for each of those is on the same Capital Project and that's 3415 and that's the new pump test/garage facility. We have been here in the past reporting on that facility, we have expensive equipment, a DCON trailer, a new Mobile Command Post that is currently sitting outside in the elements, a great deal amount of equipment that has been received from the Department of Homeland

Security for a response to various incidents that is sensitive to temperature extremes that is sitting outside. We also -- and I'll let Chief Gackenheimer talk concerning the pump test facility and the need for both male and female shower and locker facilities.

CHIEF GACKENHEIMER:

Thank you, Commissioner. First of all, I would like to thank the committee for having us here today and allowing us to more or less talk about this project and really the importance of it.

As the Commissioner mentioned, presently I have four female instructors at the Fire Academy and I have basically just a lady's room for them; their male counterparts also have a shower area, a locker room. We're a little behind the times we're behind the curves on that, as I know all of you know, with Federal law, but I think other things have to come into consideration here besides the Federal law. I think our gear storage and instructor suiting up area, it presently is in our old what I call a pump test facility, it's a mezzanine area and the County had Risk Management come in last year to take a look at this and they took a look at it and they basically told us that, "Hey, this can't exist, it's a danger to their health." And the reasons it's a danger to their health, while they're up there in the evenings, usually between 7, 7:30, putting on their firefighting gear to go out and instruct, we also have trucks in there being pump tested. So the building does have an exhaust evacuation system but it doesn't take all the exhaust out and a lot of the fumes do get up there. Besides that, the noise level in that building, you can't hear one person talking if they're as close to you as Dave is to me. And in addition to that, we have a hot water heater and the heating system for that facility is up on that mezzanine and this is presently where they store their gear and where they change, both in the evenings when they come in and in the night time when they go home.

In addition to that, their shower and locker facilities were designed and built in 1980, 1981. It was originally designed to accommodate 18 instructors, while presently I have over 30 instructors using this facility. It's just that we've outgrown the facility and its design in the 1980's, we haven't come into the 21st Century and I think it's necessary that we do.

The student numbers will reflect how big we've gotten. Just for everybody here's information, our fire training academy, Suffolk County Fire Training Academy is one of the largest fire training academies in the United States. We do more student contacts than 32 states in this union, that's how big we are, and the demand is not dropping off. To give you an idea how good

our reputation is for the programs that we offer, today I received a call from New Jersey, a paid firefighter who wants to come to Suffolk County to take the HASZMAT Technician's course with us. Now, I explained to him that there will be a charge, "You're not a County resident, I'm not using my taxpayers money to train you, there will be a charge for doing that. But also, you have to supply me with a hold-harmless in case you get hurt while you're here training that the County is not responsible." But we do get many inquiries now from out of State agencies wishing us to either go to them, my instructors, or for them to come to us to fire train.

And last but not least, and this is as a private citizen, as a taxpayer of the County of Suffolk, every day I see a new command van, a decontamination tractor trailer and approximately eight trailers loaded with HAZMAT equipment that's necessary for weapons of mass destruction sitting out in the weather, and as a taxpayer I personally feel this is ludicrous.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, thank you very much for coming down, we appreciate your comments. I would like to ask Budget Review to prepare a stand-alone on this and if there is support I'll try to get it included in the Omnibus.

COMMISSIONER FISCHLER:

We would appreciate anything. I know that Budget Review asked to put it in 2006, we would appreciate it if you could find the funds through offsets or whatever mechanism to include it in 2005.

And the one thing additional to add to Chief Gackenheimer's report was that we are also pump testing engines which is a requirement for the insurance service organization, a yearly requirement, and we could not do the new type size pumps. We could go up to 2,000 and if we jury rig it we could go up further but not much and {jury rigging it using hand-held instruments to measure pump pressures is not the way to go when it should be computerized and have it more exact on the pump test. So anything that this committee can do to include that in 2005 would be appreciated. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much Dave, Don. Okay, Bob Creighton from the DA's Office, do you want to come up?

MS. KNAPP:

Bob Kearon.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Oh, Kearon; what did I say? I'm sorry. I apologize.

MR. KEARON:

Good afternoon. First I'd like to thank my friends from the Sheriff's Department for giving me 60 seconds worth of talk time.

We're here on one project and one project only, **1134**. For the record, we would like to state that we object to the County Executive's recommendation that this project or the second half of the funding of the project be delayed to 2007 and we concur with Kevin Duffy's recommendation from Legislative Budget Review that this project has been delayed long enough, it should move forward. There are safety issues at play here in the Dennison Building -- I'm sorry, not in the Dennison Building, in the Cohalan Court Complex on floors six, seven and eight because we have flooring that's become uneven and our employees are tripping over it.

The other part of the project addresses the space confinements in the building. Our ADA's are sometimes housed four to an office and they're trying to interview witnesses and prepare them for trial and there may be perhaps two or three other interviews going on simultaneously and this project would provide some modular office equipment so that they would have a sense of some privacy.

And the other component is that we need to rewire the building. Part of the problem with the flooring is that there are wires that run under the floor, we need to bring in enhanced wiring so that we can activate an information system that we've been working on as far as our computers go that we'll be able to access information from the Police Department as well, and we need to bring in special wiring that will come in through the ceilings and we ask that the project move forward.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Thank you for coming down. And again, Budget Review Office does concur with the department so I see no reason why it won't happen, thanks for coming down. Any questions at

all; comments? Okay, thank you very much, gentlemen.

MR. KEARON:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, next, gentlemen from the Sheriff's Department, if you'll come forward. Don't panic us, I know there's a lot of you here to speak and we have some real issues, but we also have another meeting breathing down our necks so I'm going to try and expedite this as much as possible.

UNDERSHERIFF SULLIVAN:

No, we're not all here to speak.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Just like moral support.

UNDERSHERIFF SULLIVAN:

We're all here just in case.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Just in case.

LEG. O'LEARY:

In case of what?

UNDERSHERIFF SULLIVAN:

First of all, thank you very much. I'm going to turn this over predominantly to Chief Otto who has analyzed each of the projects that are addressed in BRO's report. But I wanted to publicly thank Jim Spero and Joanne Doering for their very comprehensive analysis, they spent a great deal of time with our office and we really appreciate the job that they did and wanted to do let everybody know that out loud.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Don, I really want to thank you for saying that because I had a conversation earlier today with one of the other department Commissioners and I have been in a series of meetings, it's

incredible how professional our Budget Review Office is and how they never cease to amaze in their professionalism and their knowledge of the workings of each and every department. We had a meeting the other morning and one of the analysts was speaking to some specific situation and it was almost as if the analyst had more of a knowledge of what was going on than, you know, someone from that particular department; certainly it wasn't yours. But I just want to commend them for all that they do.

UNDERSHERIFF SULLIVAN:

You can tell by the questions you're being asked whether or not people know what they're talking about.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Yeah.

UNDERSHERIFF SULLIVAN:

And then you're driven to be up to your own game so that you can give them the right information.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Right.

UNDERSHERIFF SULLIVAN:

But on behalf of the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office, we wanted to thank these folks.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thanks. Thanks so much.

UNDERSHERIFF SULLIVAN:

With that, I'm going to turn the presentation over to Chief Otto, of course with recourse to the rest of us with regard to any questions that might arise.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Great.

CHIEF OTTO:

Good afternoon. There will be a handout that will be given at the end of the presentation, it's going to go in a lot more detail, I'm going to try to skim through our projects a little bit.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

We appreciate that.

CHIEF OTTO:

Unfortunately, though, some projects are pretty complicated and we'll start off with the most complicated project, that's Capital Project **3008, the Jail Utilization Study/New Replacement Facility at the Yaphank Correctional Facility.**

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay. And before you start, I just wanted to -- for the record, since everyone is here, and I know I've sent notices out, but there is going to be a joint meeting of the Public Safety Committee and Public Works Committee specifically to discuss the jail and representatives from The Dormitory Authority will be coming down to address the committee members as to why we should go with them for this project. So --

LEG. O'LEARY:

Or why we should not.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

And why we should not; well, they're going to come and tell us why we should, we're going to listen and then we'll decide. But in any event, I just wanted to state that so that if any of this can, you know, be discussed at a future time that would be helpful since we have another meeting that started 15 minutes ago. Go ahead.

CHIEF OTTO:

Okay. The Sheriff's office agrees with Legislative Budget Review Office on the following three points.

One, that we should schedule the remainder of the 7.9 million in planning funds for 2004. Two, since planning of the new facility has not yet started and is suspected to take more than one year, the construction funds will not be required until 2005. We, therefore, agree with the

Budget Review Office to move 45 million in phase I construction funding and 2.7 in site improvements from 2004 to 2005. With 66 million already scheduled for 2005, the new total for 2005 will be 114 million. This phase I construction is for the jail's core facilities and the housing capacity for approximately 680 inmates.

And the third point, we fully agree with BRO to construct a new facility with a greater ratio of single-cells based on the advantages that were outlined on their report, page 196. Okay, that ends our discussion on Capital Project 3008.

One of our fiscal consequences of operating overcrowded facilities is that they require renovations sooner than planned. In addition to the new construction project, our 2005-2007 Capital Program calls for improvements to existing facilities between the years 2005 and seven.

Next Capital Project, 3009, is the renovations at the Yaphank Correctional Facility. Capital 3009 addresses these renovations at Yaphank in order for it to function for the next five years. Certain portions of the building are 45 years old and during the next five years the demands placed on the structure are only going to multiply. Unfortunately, this project is no longer included in the proposed 2005-2007 Capital Budget & Program. The Budget Office recommends that this \$795,000 increase be included in the Capital Program for 2005 and we so concur.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Again, as I said to the Police Commissioner earlier on a number of his projects, I think the fact that BRO concurs with the department will be very helpful in getting all of these projects included when the Legislature deliberates and adopts the Capital Program.

CHIEF OTTO:

The next Capital Project is **3013, that was the expansion of the Sheriff's Enforcement Division space at the Criminal Court Building, Riverhead County Complex**. Since 2002 when this project was first included in the Capital Program, this project has been funded in its entirety for 2005. However, the proposed Capital Program defers all funding for this project to subsequent years, that's 2008 or later.

BRO Office recommends that this project, with its safety issues, fire hazards and overcrowding concerns be addressed in a more timely manner than in subsequent years as proposed. We concur with the BRO office recommendation that the planning funds of \$150,000 be restored to

2005 as approved for this project since its inception and that the construction funds of 1,550,000 and site improvement funds of 25,000 be scheduled in 2006.

Capital Project **3014 is the improvements to the County Correctional Facility in Riverhead**. This project is ongoing and addresses the renovations required at the Riverhead Correctional Facility so that it may continue to function for the next 10 to 15 years; notably, the maximum security portion of that facility is now 35 years old.

The County Executive's Proposed Capital Program moves 250,000 of construction funding from 2005 to 2007 and the planning funds that we requested for the next phase of improvements was also moved from 2005 to 2007. Lastly, the proposed Capital Programs moves 840,000 in requested construction funds for the newest phase of improvements from 2006 and places it in subsequent years, which we know can be any year after 2007, not necessarily 2008. Overall, this represents a two year delay from the timeframe the Sheriff's Office requested the result of having no improvements, replacements or repairs to be performed on our facility but in next year's 2005 to 2006.

We agree with BRO's recommendation for this project specifically, one, that a resolution to appropriate the 1.1 million for 2004 Adopted Capital Budget or improvements to Riverhead Correctional Facility be approved at the earliest possible opportunity; and two, the funding for this Capital Project be included in 2005-2007 Capital Program as requested by us with 80,000 for planning, 250,000 in construction in 2005 and 840,000 in construction in 2006.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

I would just -- I'm not going to read it or put it on the record now, but I just everyone to particularly read the evaluation of the facility there because I think it's indeed very telling and confirms what you're saying. As far as a resolution for doing this in 2004; Jim, do we need to do that at the quarter when we can amend the budget?

MR. SPERO:

The funds are in the Capital Budget for this year. Capital Budget amendments can be laid on at any meeting of the Legislature and this project can be funded without an offset.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Okay, great. Then I'd ask that you prepare that resolution, I'd like to see this move forward and would ask anyone else from Public Safety who would like to cosponsor it. Given what has been said here, I think we need to move forward quickly and make sure that we don't find ourselves with another Yaphank in a couple of years.

CHIEF OTTO:

There is a point of information I should put on the record. The 2004 Capital Budget designated 1.1 million for the necessary improvements to the correctional facility, but on January 2nd we started the process to move the resolution along to get this funding as early as possible. Once we received a SEQRA determination, we also submitted a draft resolution to the County Executive's Office in March. After numerous inquiries on the status of that resolution, we were informed that the resolution was being held as a possible offset for funding of Capital Project 3008.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you.

CHIEF OTTO:

The last Capital Project, Capital Project **3035 is the Construction/Reconstruction of the Correctional Facility**. Originally, this project provided 3.2 million of funding for the construction of a 10,700 square foot addition to the existing administrative area of the Sheriff's Office in Riverhead. In our 2005-2006 Capital Program submission we requested that the project be expanded in scope to also include a second supply storage building, 10,000 square feet in size, for the storage of prisoner uniforms, cleaning supplies, paper goods and prisoner bedding. We also requested a 30 foot by 50 foot concrete pad to ease the unloading of deliveries. The County Executive has proposed to use this project as an offset in IR 1418-2004 for the construction of the new replacement correctional facility.

Both the Sheriff's Office and BRO agree that the 3.2 million for the expansion of the Riverhead administrative office can now be used as an offset proposed by the County Executive since an opportunity now exists for the Sheriff's Office to reorganize and increase the administrative space in the new correctional facility in Yaphank. However, the Sheriff's Office and BRO also both agree that the two storage structures and the concrete pad must be included in 2005-2007 Capital Program and funded at \$1,125,000 in 2006 as requested by our office.

And that concludes our 2005-2007 Capital Program budget request.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you very much. Are there any questions or comments? Thank you for coming, thank you for being prepared and thank you for being brief.

Okay, next we'll go to the Probation Department, John Desmond. Hi, John. How are you? Nice to see you.

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

Good afternoon. With me is Dr. James Goldbin, our Chief Planner. We want to make our time here very brief today, we just wish to address **3102, the Children's Shelter**, and just bring the committee up-to-date on a couple of occurrences that have happened.

I believe you are aware that there were two -- the project has been out to bid twice, we have a cost overrun of \$1,500,000. The County Executive's Office is currently exploring a few options in order to fund that overrun out of the 2004 Capital Budget, we'll get back to you on that as that develops, but what we wanted the committee to be aware of are two things on the State level. The first one was that the Governor, in his State-of-the-State Address in January, proposed a moratorium on secure detention construction in the State. Since Suffolk County is the only County in the State that is in the process of such a proposal we are the only ones that will be affected by that; to date, nothing has happened in the Legislature but we wanted you to be aware of that.

In addition, on 5/14 I received a letter from the Office of Children & Family Services questioning the County's need for a new detention facility. With that letter they included a group of figures, data as to the number of children we've had in non-secure and secure detention for the last three years. My people have been busy working on that data since we received it and we conclude that the State has under counted the census each year by a factor of 25 to 35%. A response to that letter from the State is currently in the County Executive's Office and upon approval we will distribute to each of you a copy of the letter from OCFS and our response. That pretty much brings us up-to-date on the shelter.

LEG. LINDSAY:

A quick comment.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Thank you. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Mr. Desmond, I haven't seen this letter yet but I've heard about it and find it absolutely bizarre. We have no children detention center now, we're shipping people out-of-County, have been shipping people out-of-County; how could they possibly say there isn't a need for it?

DIRECTOR DESMOND:

We have the same response. Considering that we have been under encouragement, shall we say, from the State for decades to build a facility, and now that we are doing it, thanks to the action of the Legislature and the County Executive, I am frankly amazed at the fact that this letter comes down at this point. Not only do we not have a facility in the County, the two emergency holdover facilities that we have with a total of six beds, both those buildings are slated for demolition in the next couple of years so we'll have absolutely nothing in which to house children even on an emergency basis in the County and that's also contained in our response to the State.

CHAIRPERSON CARPENTER:

Well, the State has been known to do some bizarre things; I'll leave it at that. Any other comments or questions? Thank you so much, gentlemen, for coming down.

Did anyone else wish to address the committee? I thank everyone one for coming. We're adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M. *)

***Legislator Angie Carpenter, Chairperson
Public Safety & Public Information.***

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