

***PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE &
CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
Joint Capital Budget Meeting***

A Special Joint Meeting of the Public Safety Committee & the Consumer Protection 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 19, 2010, 2:00 p.m., to discuss the matter of the 2011-2012 Capital Budget.

Members Present:

Legislator Jack Eddington - Chairman/Public Safety
Legislator Ric Montano - Chairman/Consumer Protection
Legislator DuWayne Gregory - Vice Chair/Public Safety &
Member/Consumer Protection
Legislator Kate Browning - Member/Public Safety
Legislator John Kennedy - Member/Public Safety
Legislator Tom Cilmi - Member/Public Safety

Also in Attendance:

Presiding Officer Bill Lindsay - District #8
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Terrence Pearsall - Chief-of-Staff to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Bill Schilling - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Bobby Knight - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Bob Martinez - Aide to Legislator Montano
Tom Ryan - Aide to Deputy Presiding Officer Vilorio-Fisher
Ali Nazir - Aide to Legislator Kennedy
Gail Vizzini - Director/Budget Review Office
Lance Reinheimer - Assistant Director/Budget Review Office
Rosalind Gazes - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Diane Dono - Senior Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Jill Moss - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Ed Hennessy - County Executive Assistant
Carmine Chiuiano - County Executive's Budget Office
Robert Moore - Chief of Department/Suffolk County Police Department
Ed Webber - Chief/Suffolk County Police Department
Robert Scharf - Lieutenant-Police Headquarters/SCPD
Marianne Scheschowitz - Budget Director/SCPD
Pat Sitler - Administrative Services Bureau/SCPD
Michael Sharkey - Chief of Staff/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Joe Rubacka - Deputy Warden/Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Robert Kearon - Division Bureau Chief/District Attorney's Office
Joe Williams - Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
John Searing - Deputy Commissioner/Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services
Warren Horst - Suffolk County Fire Marshall/FRES
Dick Stockinger - Executive Director/Suffolk County Fire Academy
All Other Interested Parties

Verbatim Transcript Prepared By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Reporter

(*The meeting was called to order at 2:09 P.M. *)

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

If I could get everybody's attention, we're going to start the Public Safety Capital Budget meeting, and Legislator Browning will lead us in the pledge

Salutation

Okay, thank you. Be seated. All right, I'd like to start with the Suffolk County Police Department. And if they could come forward, the Chief, Chief Robert Anthony Moore, Chief Weber, and give us -- I know, "We already worked it out, everything is fine," you don't need anything, you'll deal with what you got; but if you did have a request.

(*Laughter*)

CHIEF MOORE:

You mean I don't get to introduce myself?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Yes, I love to hear you say it.

CHIEF MOORE:

Good afternoon. I am Robert Anthony Moore, I'm Chief of Department of the **Suffolk County Police Department**. Thank you for having us.

I'd like to call your attention to item 3111, *Firearms Shooting Range*. And as you can see, we had requested \$330,000 and going over to the BRO recommendations, it's \$330,000. There has been a change; \$300,000 was removed as an offset for the C-A-D system, the CAD system. So we didn't get a chance to sit down with Mr. Ortiz before in order to get this changed, but the actual number in 2010 is \$30,000 and not 330. And the only reason we bring that up is because we're concerned that when we come back in 2011 making the request for the 300,000, you might inadvertently remind us that that money was already earmarked and, in fact, it hasn't been. Other than that, the Police Commissioner has no recommendations or requests.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Other than the fire range.

CHIEF MOORE:

Other than that, yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Legislator -- what's your name again? Sorry.

LEG. MONTANO:

Just say that again very quickly. The 300 in 2012, you want it moved up to 2011; is that what you said?

CHIEF MOORE:

No, sir. Under item 3111, the Firearms Shooting Range, if you're looking across -- and I'm assuming that you have the same spread sheet?

LEG. MONTANO:

Yeah, I'm looking at it here.

CHIEF MOORE:

Oh, okay. We had requested \$330,000, and the BRO figure is \$330,000; again, this is for 2010. However, very recently 300,000 was removed from that line as an offset for the CAD system. As a matter of fact, I think that may have happened at the most recent Public Safety Committee meeting. And I'm just putting out to the committee that the number that you have, 330,000, is actually 30,000.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you, Legislator Montano. Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

I didn't know if -- I'm sorry. Mr. Chairman, thank you. I didn't know if you were going to refer to this, it looks like you're looking at the same page that I am. But if John Ortiz would just comment on your page 175 in Budget Review's review of the Capital Budget and program; it looks like it takes that into consideration.

MR. ORTIZ:

What happened was there was an offsetting resolution that used that funding and the funding is put in 2011, so there shouldn't be an issue. If we put the \$30,000 in for planning, we can always appropriate the extra 300,000 in '11.

LEG. CILMI:

So we're all on the same page then? That's kind of what my question is.

MR. ORTIZ:

I believe so, because these are like late developments, this happened kind of as we were developing the Capital Program.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. Okay. Thank you. Thanks, Chief.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Any other questions? Legislator Gregory.

LEG. GREGORY:

Since the County Executive is going to veto or has vetoed the trailers for the sex offenders, are you guys going to have to do any infrastructure improvements or changes to the sewer --

LEG. BROWNING:

The Sheriffs.

LEG. GREGORY:

Is it the Sheriffs or is it part of you guys? We're talking about the same range, right? This is on the range property.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah, I'm afraid you're going to have to discuss that with the Sheriffs. That is the purview of the Sheriff.

LEG. GREGORY:

Okay. All right, thank you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, I have a question about the Marine Bureau. At one time there were four four-wheel vehicles, I think, and then there were four vehicles but two of them were four-wheel, and I don't remember the quads. But what is our status right now? Because as I ask, informally I get like eyes crossing. So I'm going to ask you and then I'm going to ask for a time when I could come to the beach and view the vehicles.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yeah, why don't we do that, sir. As you know, because of the nature of public safety, the numbers of staff and equipment changes on a near daily basis. I have in front of me right now a sheet that indicates that there are five four-wheel-drive vehicles currently in service. I don't have any information with me today on the number of quads, but we can get that to you.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. I'm just wondering. I mean, I could see a difference -- you said daily, I could see seasonal, but, I mean, in June, July, August and September it seems to me like you would need a full compliment of this.

CHIEF MOORE:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

So I don't understand the daily change, when you say it's a daily. I mean, if I go over there now, am I going to see five four-wheel vehicles, or you mean tomorrow it could be different?

CHIEF MOORE:

I would hope that if you went over this minute you would see two, four, five or six, six four-wheel-drive vehicles currently being deployed by the Marine Bureau, yes.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. All right, thank you. I won't do it this minute, but maybe in the next week I will.

CHIEF MOORE:

Okay, sure.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay? All right, thank you. All right, guys. Thanks very much for coming. If you think of anything else, by all means, get to the committee.

CHIEF MOORE:

Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

If we could have Chief of the *Sheriff's Department* Sharkey come forward?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I understand you're building a jail; how's it going?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

It's coming along swimmingly. We'll have to have another trip out, but things are moving along quite well. We seem to be fairly on target, we're still for opening late Fall of 2011, I believe.

As far as the Capital Program, we reviewed BRO's recommendations and at this point we're fine with the Capital Program the way it's proposed and we're here to take any questions you might have.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I have a question on your vehicles. Do you need any more assistance with -- you know, like the highway vehicles or anything that would help the officers do their jobs safely?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Those vehicles are accounted for in the Operating Budget. We have some heavy duty vehicles in the Capital, but that's for, you know, a prisoner transportation bus and, you know, towing vehicles.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay, great.

LEG. BROWNING:

I have a question.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Legislator Browning has a question.

LEG. BROWNING:

We were sitting in our working group before we came up here and we see that the County Executive put the \$500,000 for the video conference in, I believe, 20 -- hold on. Okay, do you remember what year it was, Gail?

LEG. CILMI:

Page three of your document.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, I'm trying to find it.

MR. REINHEIMER:

It is scheduled in 2012.

LEG. BROWNING:

Oh, for 2012. BRO's recommendation is?

MR. REINHEIMER:

To reprogram it back to 2013 for the equipment, leave the planning in 2012.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. Mike, do you have any comments on that?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

We had originally put off that project because the expansion was probably going to take place in the new facility and we didn't feel that we were ready to move forward with that until we saw the final product. So we're okay with the money where it is.

LEG. BROWNING:

You're okay with BRO's recommendation?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Yes, because we would like to have the planning ahead of the construction year.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. And I don't know if you want me to continue to ask. I don't know -- we talked about the Juvenile Detention Center, and I know that it's more of a Probation comment, but it's a detention center that would be built at the jail, I'm assuming it would have been Yaphank, for juveniles. And I'm not sure whether -- is there somebody here from Probation? Because the question was I know that, Lance, you had said it was about 12 years ago that the Commissioner for Corrections denied the ability to build one at Yaphank?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Actually, Legislator Browning, I just had Legislator, I think, Montano asked me and I said I was going to get to Probation next. But I did ask that question to BRO, I forgot the young lady's name that deals with it, but she said it was done within the last six years and that the State disapproved it. So it wasn't 12 years ago like we thought, it was within the last six years.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yeah, because there's a couple of questions. You know, we have juveniles currently in -- I would assume they're considered juveniles if they're, what, 16 -- in Riverhead Jail.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Well, there would be a technicality between juveniles and minors.

LEG. BROWNING:

So what is a juvenile? I don't know anymore.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Probably a behavior and minor is an age-related thing.

*(*Presiding Officer Lindsay entered the meeting at 2:22 p.m. *)*

CHIEF SHARKEY:

We don't house anybody that's under 16 in the correctional facility.

LEG. BROWNING:

So a 16-year old is considered a minor and not a juvenile.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

For the purposes of housing, I believe that that's what they're looking at, it's going to be for people that are under the age of 16.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. That answers --

CHIEF SHARKEY:

A person that's over 16 can be -- you get into juvenile offender versus juvenile for housing purposes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay, that answers that question. And I guess, you know, it's building a juvenile detention center in Yaphank, I know that there was a proposal to build one at one time and it was rejected. So I guess has there been any efforts to try and revisit that to do it again?

CHIEF SHARKEY:

I'd have to defer to someone else. This is not our project, so I'm not familiar with it.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Just before you go, I wanted to compliment you on your Deputy Sheriffs because I've been to a couple of fund-raisers in the last month, three actually, where they provided escorts, and I think it's Deputy {Feiser}? He has a twin brother on Highway.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Yeah, Deputy Gary Pizer.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Pizer, Pizer; awesome job. You guys have been doing a great job and the fund-raisers for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was a real success this last weekend and you guys made sure that there were no accidents. So please, thank your staff.

CHIEF SHARKEY:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thanks for coming, guys.

If we can get Commissioner Williams up from FRES and your staff, please. Commissioner, you're going to talk to us about communications; is that on the list there?

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

Yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Go right ahead.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

This afternoon I have with me, I have my Deputy Commissioner, John Seiring; my Chief of Fire Rescue, Warren Horst; and the Director of the Fire Academy, Dick Stockinger.

Reviewing the budget and looking at the budget request, FRES is able to operate with the current budget request we put in and the budget that came down. The only thing we'd like to go on record as stating, and I'll let Director Stockinger talk about the Fire Academy, there were two projects that we had requested that we realized the budget restraints of the County, that we would like to look at to make sure they're in future years, and that is the upgrading of our Emergency Operations Center which was built in the mid 60's. The County has grown a lot, we have a lot of activations.

The second thing would be into looking at the upgrade of our radio system for VHF Radio System. What that is it's a high-band radio frequency, a lot of the departments in the County are switching over to this due; to the volume of calls we're having, they're on their private frequency. Right now we have interoperability in the County, we can talk to every agency, we have a Statewide frequency. These are their own frequencies that they go on when they operate at their own fires. The difficulty we have is that giving them support sometimes, most of them we cannot even listen to their radios until they come back to us asking for that.

So the other thing I would like to do is on the Emergency Operations Center and upgrading of that, we have several big projects going on right now, we're upgrading our radio room, along with the Police Department. That I don't think would hinder moving this back past the 2'13 date, but I just wanted to go on record that I think next year's review we should be looking really hard, and I've spoken to the County Executive's staff on this and I've said the same talk to them. I would like to turn it over to Director Stockinger for a minute.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Could Presiding Officer Lindsay ask you a question?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yeah. Joe, the County-wide radio system, is that project 3241 you're talking about? It's the 800-Megawatts Radio Communication, no; is that it?

MR. HORST:

It is. The project, what they're talking about is 3416, Phase III of it.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I have 3416 as the CAD system, right; is that it?

MR. HORST:

That is correct. The title is probably CAD, but it had the three components to it. The first was the CAD system procurement and installation; the Phase II aspect, which we're undergoing at this moment, is the rehabilitation of the Communications Center in Yaphank; and Phase III was providing UHF frequency capability to our Communications Center.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Warren, you guys are okay with how the Executive put it in subsequent years; didn't you want some of that money moved up? What did you want to do with that?

*(*Legislators Schneiderman & Stern entered the meeting at 2:27 p.m. *)*

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

We're okay with what the Executive put it in, and the reason for that is right now we're taking on a big task of doing our radio room over. That project, we had kind of hoped to be starting that in September this year; after reevaluating that and looking at it, we may not be starting that until November. And the reason why we're doing that is that we did -- we're going to be going into our backup radio room when we're renovating the old radio room. We reevaluated by looking at it, we did not want to be doing that work during hurricane season. Hurricane season runs through first week of November, so right now the project, we've been talking about the last couple of days of moving that project back which would bring us into possibly March, April or May of next year for completion of both projects, between us and the Police Department. We kind of felt that the next part of this project could be held off until right after 2013 and start getting the planning money that way.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Good?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yep.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Thank you, gentlemen, very much for your information. Don't forget, if anything does come up, please come back to the committee.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

If I could just trouble you for a minute to have Director Stockinger --

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Sure.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

-- talk about the Fire Academy, sir.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Oh, sure. Go right ahead.

DIRECTOR STOCKINGER:

Thank you. The proposal that we had put in for, the two new burn buildings, you know, we understand that with the economic times that that can't be looked at right now. We actually started that project three years ago, we had come to this body before and asked them again because of the economic times.

Some of the alternatives, and I want to bring you up-to-date what we've looked into, and these were some of the recommendations that came from BRO, was we actually contacted our counterparts in Nassau County to see if they had any available time to use similar buildings like we're looking to construct. And unfortunately, they're in the same circumstance as everybody else is, you know, with budgets, and they were very limited to the time. They had told us last year that they could give us possibly five dates that we could allow the departments from Suffolk County to travel to Nassau. The caveat for that, though, was there would be a charge because of the inter-County relation. So, you know, we didn't feel that taking five slots and trying to pick five departments out of 109 fire departments here in Suffolk County probably wouldn't be fair. So, you know, we thanked him for helping us out that way and we said we'll look into other things in the future.

What we're doing this year is, starting in June, we're going to be going to a seven-day a week operation to try and accommodate the training that's being requested from all of the fire departments. We've been doing some creative things to allow us to act within our budget to be able to do this, but there's still the requests that are coming from the departments. And a lot of that comes through the recruitment effort that the County has been supporting for the last several years. The recruitment is up in the fire departments and, you know, we're at the point where we're almost unable to meet all of the training requirements, and that's part of why these new buildings we're looking for is to add those so we could be able to do that.

In addition, we're also -- some of the buildings are starting to get on in age and, you know, we'd have to look long-term. Obviously, if we put the money in 2013 and 2014 for planning and development, by the time that those buildings are actually constructed we could be looking another three or four years past that. So we're concerned with some of the older buildings that we have on the property. We have -- we just learned that there's been a change in the standards now, that we have to have these buildings inspected once a year by an engineer to certify that the buildings can be used continually for what we're using them for. And we'll be looking at -- two of the older buildings next year will be somewhere in the area of 45-years old. So, you know, we've continually been burning in these buildings for 45 years and they are starting to show some signs of wear. We don't want to get to the point where the buildings are condemned and then we have nothing and then we have to start a project to try and rebuild these things, which is not going to happen for several years.

So that's why we're just asking you to look to this and act on it, you know, as soon as possible. If we can put this into 2013 or 14, that would at least help us get that started.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

I have to say, you're burning a building and it's lasted 45 years; I wish all our buildings would last that long. My God.

*(*Laughter*)*

Anybody else have a question? Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:

How much is it to construct a building like that?

DIRECTOR STOCKINGER:

I don't believe that DPW had come up with an estimate. Originally three years ago they did come up with an estimate and they were basing that on the construction of the building that you had allowed us to build three years ago, and they came up with a \$16 million figure. What we've done is we've looked into alternate construction, methods of construction. In fact, up at the State Fire Academy in Montour Falls, they just built a new burn building, similar to one that we want to build, and they had it constructed with using different types of exterior construction but the interior in the burn rooms was constructed the same way as our new building is, and they were able to construct that for \$2.3 million. Now, obviously that's -- you know, that's up in Schuyler County, so the labor rate is a little bit lower up there. But DPW is going to use that figure to come up with an estimate on this, and we had kicked around some rough figures and we felt that it could be done for somewhere in the area of about six to \$8 million for the two buildings.

LEG. BROWNING:

Is there any Federal or State funding that helps to build it?

DIRECTOR STOCKINGER:

Unfortunately there's not, no.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Thank you very much, gentlemen, for your presentation.

DIRECTOR STOCKINGER:

Thank you all.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. How about -- I'm sure there'll be no questions, but from the DA's Office, Bob Kearon?

MR. KEARON:

Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to address you. We have two projects in the Capital Project. We have a space request for the 4th Precinct, it's to be renovated next year. There's money in this year's Capital Budget for planning. And the idea or the goal is to remodel the precinct into an office structure, and we will move a substantial portion of our operation into that building.

And the second project that we have is a -- it's a case management system that's been under development for a few years. I had the opportunity to review Mr. Ortiz's report to you and I concur with his findings and recommendations.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Somehow, you know, I'm a visual person; the picture I got when you said that is Assistant District Attorneys/Officers in the cells.

*(*Laughter*)*

I don't know why, it just put a smile on my face.

MR. KEARON:

The cells apparently will stay there. We can make use of the cells.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Good. And I think that's already been discussed, if I remember correctly, that was discussed.

MR. KEARON:

Yes, it was. We made a presentation to the Space Committee earlier this year and received their approval for this.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Okay. Great, great. Okay, thank you very much. We'll look into it for you.

MR. KEARON:

You're welcome.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Anyone else in your committee?

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

No, I don't -- is there anybody else who wanted to address the committee?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Anyone want to address Consumer Protection? Hearing none, I guess we're adjourned.

CHAIRMAN EDDINGTON:

Sounds good to me. Thank you for coming.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 PM*)*