

**PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
of the
Suffolk County Legislature**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Public Works & Transportation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **December 11, 2002**.

Members Present:

Legislator Joseph Caracappa - Chairman
Legislator Brian Foley - Vice-Chair
Legislator Andrew Crecca
Legislator David Bishop
Legislator Angie Carpenter

Members Not Present:

Legislator Fred Towle - Excused

Also in Attendance:

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature
Kellianne Sacchitello - Aide to Legislator Caracappa
BJ McCartan - Aide to Presiding Officer Tonna
Neal Capria - Aide to Democratic Caucus
John Ortiz - Budget Analyst/Budget Review Office
Nicole DeAngelo - Intergovernmental Relations/County Executive Office
Charles Bartha - Commissioner/Suffolk County Public Works Department
Richard LaValle - Chief Deputy Commissioner/SC Public Works Department
Leslie Mitchel - Deputy Commissioner/SC Department of Public Works
Bob Shinnick - Director/Transportation Division/Dept of Public Works
Bill Shannon - Director/Highway Division/Dept of Public Works
Ben Wright - Director/Sanitation Division/Dept of Public Works
Laura Conway - Director/Finance Division/Dept of Public Works
Ed Lariccio - Finance Division/Department of Public Works
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

(*The meeting was called to order at 11:40 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

We'll start the Public Works & Transportation Committee meeting with a Salute to the Flag led by Legislator Bishop.

Salutation

Before we get into commentary with the Commissioner on the resolutions and other matters, are there any committee members who would like to discuss issues within their district that the Commissioner can address at this point in time?

LEG. FOLEY:
Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:
Of course, right? Just to on the record thank the Commissioner, and please have him thank the Highway Division for the fine work they did last Thursday; the plowing on County Road 51, the timing was impeccable. So I just wanted to put that on the record. And that was a late night I'm sure for much of your department and by the following morning the commuters had safe roads to travel on. So please extend that to your colleagues.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
I certainly will. Thank you on their behalf.

LEG. CARPENTER:
Could I say something to that, too? I have to tell you, when I got home from Riverhead we had occasion to go out around 7:30 and we're driving down Union Boulevard and could see pavement and passed two plows between West Islip and Bay Shore and I was like a kid saying, "Wow, yes, they're our guys, they're out there." And of course all of the adjacent roads were not plowed. So really, kudos to the department, we really appreciate it.

LEG. CRECCA:
I came on all State and town roads, so I have no idea where the County was because I didn't hit a County Road that day. Although I was looking for the County plows, I figured they would do my street but it was the Town of Smithtown, so I don't know. No, the roads were pretty good.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Well, I had to go over County Road 83 at Bald Hill going home and I won't say anything else.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
That's a challenging location.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

No, obviously, I can honestly say that's a challenging road for safe conditions, especially in a storm like that. And usually 99% of the time it's -- you never see even an accumulation of snow on that roadway based on the work done by the Highway Department.

Okay, anything else by committee members? I would like to ask, Commissioner, what's going on with Raynor Beach Park? I know the Park's Department is handling some of it, but I know the Department of Public Works is involved as well through design. Are we moving forward, do you know what's going on with that?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

I don't have the latest on that. Tedd had a family emergency. Richard, do you know what's going on?

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAVALLE:

No.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Just get back to me on that.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Yeah, I'll get back to you.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Commissioner, we're going to go directly to the agenda. Is there anything you would like to discuss prior to or relating to any of the resolutions?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

I'm ready for the agenda. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Is there any member of the public that wishes to speak before the committee? I have no cards. That's fantastic, it really is.

LEG. CRECCA:

I'm pushing you for Chairman next year.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Legislator Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Yeah. As much as people want to move on with the agenda, but whether it before or after we get to the agenda, Mr. Chairman, I think we should hear from the Commissioner, as I will do in the Health Committee, what direction did the Commissioner receive from the County

Executive vis-a-vis this 10% cut directive to be effective early next year. What is being developed, number one. What can he tell us today about it and in what areas of his budget is he looking at paring? And I think we need to know that even I'd say -- well, even today as to where things stand. And through the Chair's sufferance, I believe that should be part of this committee meeting's agenda.

3

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

No problem, Vice-Chairman Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

What we are reviewing is all of our equipment and supply accounts in the Operating Budget for next year and we are evaluating how we will be able to proceed without any additional hiring as to what programs we'll be able to continue, what programs we'll have to restrict. Primarily, since we -- the bulk of our work is Capital Program work, I expect to be able to continue to prosecute that and the supply and equipment accounts will certainly have an impact on the operations and services we provide to the County. But we're still formulating that and we've been given discretion within that 10% to identify where the cuts will be.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just through the Chair, when is the date by which you need to submit that to the Executive office?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Ten days from the meeting we had which was last Wednesday; that would be late this week, early next week.

LEG. FOLEY:

If it's ten business days then it would be early next week. Again, through the Chair, I think it would be important from the perspective of an intergovernmental relations, Mr. Chairman, that we should receive a copy of that particular -- Mr. Chairman, that particular list; once the Commissioner sends it to the County Executive's Office, I think we should have a copy of that as well immediately. And if it's in place by next Tuesday, I think, you know, it's going to then, it should be a topic at the General Meeting.

Is the intention, Commissioner, that these cuts be made immediately on January 1 or is it something that will unfold over the year?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

With our budget I would say it would be things that would unfold during the year.

LEG. FOLEY:

Is there a number? I mean, for instance, is there a number that they have asked for your department to reach a savings of a million dollars, five million, ten million?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

The way we understand it, applying it to the different accounts, it comes to \$631,000 for our department.

LEG. FOLEY:

So overall a \$631,000 savings; not savings but a cut.

4

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Cut, that is not counting the savings that would associated with not hiring people, that's the reduction in equipment and supplies and consulting contracts that are in our Operating budget.

LEG. FOLEY:

But there must -- with that said, you know, what happens sometimes is an answer creates another question, so that's as far as those accounts, but what is the overall number that the County Executive has requested of your department for a savings between cuts in those budget lines as well as not hiring certain positions? There must be some figure.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

No, there's not.

LEG. FOLEY:

There wasn't.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

What the County -- we got the same All-Department Head Memo that the other departments received and it had general guidelines that 10% cuts and they identified different accounts, 2,000, 3,000 and 4,000 I believe. When our budget staff went through that, that came to a total of \$631,000.

LEG. FOLEY:

Mr. Chairman, if we can go to the Budget Review Office, John, is there any light that you can shed on what BRO knows of this process?

MR. ORTIZ:

Like the Commissioner stated, we saw the memo, we weren't given any

direction on specific areas that were going to be cut in that department.

LEG. FOLEY:

Now, one of the things that I had read in the paper, and hopefully it's not true, but what I read in the paper -- it may have been true at the time that it was in the paper -- was there was talk of a freeze on the purchase of, for instance, vans and vehicles; is that part and parcel of what you have been asked to look at?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

That's correct.

LEG. FOLEY:

So if there are -- all right. Now, vehicles within your department -- well, this is more of a question for Purchasing, I'm wondering about vehicles for senior citizens vans and other similar purchases.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

I believe all but possible -- I believe the budget that was adopted has eliminated funding for everything except --

LEG. FOLEY:

Some were very generous, 90 or 80/20 Federal funding, some projects.

5

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

There will be very little purchase of vehicles in 2003.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

I'm sure all this also will be discussed in the Finance Committee, correct?

LEG. CARPENTER:

And the Health meeting.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

And the Health Committee. Legislator Foley, thank you for bringing that up. And Commissioner, you do -- you did hear the request from the Vice-Chairman, that as you formulate your plan to meet the County Executive's memorandum, maybe if you could share your plan with the committee, it would be appreciated.

LEG. CRECCA:

Yeah. Mr. Chairman, just to the clarify the record, too and to let the

other Legislators know, too, is at the Finance Committee yesterday we formally requested from the Budget Director that what each of the departments proposal be presented to the Finance Committee and I believe I asked that all 18 Legislators get a copy of it, so.

LEG. CARPENTER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Great.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
We have some hot information, the very able Chief Deputy Commissioner has a response to the Raynor Park question. We received bids on December 5th --

CHIEF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER LAVALLE:
No, no.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
I'm sorry. The bids were advertised December 5th, they will be opened, received on January 7th and we expect construction to start late spring of next year.

LEG. CRECCA:
Very good.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Thank you. Going directly to Tabled Resolutions.

Tabled Resolutions

1504-02 (P) - A Local Law to reform process for Public Works Changeorders (Towle). I believe the six month rule here, Counsel?

6

MR. SABATINO:
Mr. Chairman, that's now expired, correct.

LEG. CRECCA:
Do we need to table it or it just goes off of the agenda?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
It's expired.

LEG. FOLEY:
Off the agenda.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Bye bye.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

1765-02 (P) - Transferring escrow account revenues and transferring assessment stabilization reserve funds to the Capital Fund, amending the 2002 Operating Budget, amending the 2002 Capital Budget & Program and appropriating funds for improvements to the facilities in Suffolk County Sewer District No. 18 - Hauppauge Industrial (CP 8126) (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Crecca. Now, there was a corrected copy; was there a corrected copy on this one, Paul, was this the one that just came to my office yesterday?

MR. SABATINO:

Let me just look.

LEG. CRECCA:

Yeah, but I still haven't had the opportunity --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Motion to table, second by myself. All in favor? Opposed?
Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

LEG. CRECCA:

Is there any type of time limit on this?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Well, this won't impact us. Hopefully next time we'll be able to act on it provided you have the corrected copy.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

2215 -02 (P) - Amending the 2002 Capital Budget & Program and appropriating funds in connection with roof replacement on various County buildings (CP 1623) (County Executive).

LEG. CRECCA:

Motion to table.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Motion to table by Legislator Crecca, second by Legislator Carpenter.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

I would like --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Go ahead, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Questions were asked at the last meeting as to which routes we were talking about, we identified them at that meeting. I've looked at the history of those routes over the last couple of years and two of them alone, Board of Elections and Bomarc where the archives are, we spent \$45,000 out of the Operating Budget, eight separate repairs. If we don't go ahead with these repairs, this replacement, we can expect the need for more repairs next year and we have the potential for not being able to make repairs and wind up in a situation like we had in the late 80's, early 90's, and as you've seen pictures in Nassau County where they have drop cloths collecting water from roof leaks and going into buckets. So I would urge you to approve this roof replacement money.

LEG. CRECCA:

What's the cost on this, on the bond on this?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Four hundred thousand dollars, that it was in the -- it's in the budget, this is a transfer of it from -- John could address this better than myself, but it's a transfer for a type of funding from --

MR. SABATINO:

It converts it from pay-as-you-go to bonding.

LEG. CRECCA:

I guess my questions is is it just the two buildings, Charlie, is it just Board of Elections and the Bomarc Building?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Also the Labor Department and Public Works.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay. Can you tell us what the status is of the Labor Department and Public Works Buildings? I think what one of our concerns was, and certainly if you could address that, was that maybe we didn't need to do all four of these buildings, maybe two of them, maybe the other two could be put off but I don't know what the status is of those.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

They also have leaks. I don't have -- they have had leaks over the past couple of years. You're looking at roofs that are 30 years old, we have been having problems with the roofs curling I think was one of the specific questions that was asked last time with the --

LEG. FOLEY:
Right.

8

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
At the Public Works Building and the Board of Elections Building. At the labor department, it's a flat roof which is problematic.

LEG. CRECCA:
Yeah, that has its own problems.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
And the Bomarc Building, I would like to point out there are improvements scheduled, monies have been appropriated for the interior of the building; we would be reluctant to go ahead with those improvements without a roof repair.

LEG. CRECCA:
Mr. Chairman, I'm going to withdraw my motion to table. Now I'll change it to a motion to approve with the Chairman's --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Duly noted.

LEG. FOLEY:
Second the motion.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
There's a motion to approve by Legislator Crecca, second by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BISHOP:
Opposed.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Opposed, Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BISHOP:
It's 5-25-5, right?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Yeah, I'm going to abstain. 3-1-1, it's approved. (VOTE: 3-1-1-0 Opposed: Legislator Bishop - Abstained: Legislator Caracappa).

LEG. FOLEY:
Just to --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

My abstention is based on the funding source, I'm very uncomfortable with it.

LEG. FOLEY:

Just through the Chair, is it the over part of the Public Works Building or the newer part?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

The older part, fortunately.

9

LEG. FOLEY:

Where Bill Shannon works, so we've got to make sure that the roof over there is working all right. Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

2230-02 (P) - Authorizing execution of an agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer District No. 3 - Southwest with the Developer of New York Power Authority Brentwood Facility (County Executive).

LEG. CARPENTER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Motion to table by Legislator Carpenter, second by myself. All in favor? Opposed? It's tabled.

LEG. BISHOP:

Why, are we waiting on something?

LEG. CARPENTER:

I had some questions.

LEG. BISHOP:

I know, we tabled it last time.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I just spoke with Ben Wright and I had some questions about who actually was involved with this project and he's going to get back to me and this doesn't affect anything if we table it.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

There's a motion and a second. Resolution 2230 is tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

2240-02 (P) - Amending the 2002 Capital Program and Budget and appropriating funds in connection with emergency dredging of Napeague

Harbor (CP 5200) (Guldi).

LEG. FOLEY:
Explanation.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Well, this is -- we tabled this last.

LEG. FOLEY:
Tenfold.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
Yes. This is obviously, according to Legislator Guldi --

LEG. CARPENTER:
Still an emergency.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
It's Legislator Guldi's resolution.

10

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
There was a Dredge Screening Committee or there's one coming up?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
This has been dredged in the past and meets the public benefit criteria. It's already been approved by Dredge Screening; you only go through Dredge Screening once, fortunately.

LEG. FOLEY:
There's a question, Mr. Chairman, of why the tenfold increase and what has occurred there that causes emergency?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
I'm not sure why you're measuring it as a tenfold increase.

LEG. FOLEY:
Well, if you look at the backup it goes from -- if you look at the backup, the first RESOLVED clause the project -- the amount was \$40,000. Okay, I stand corrected, that's the local share of it; I stand corrected, okay. But why is it an emergency?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
There's been shoaling in the area, there's no question about that. Again, it's Legislator Guldi's resolution.

LEG. CARPENTER:
When was it last done?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:
When was it last done, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
Bill, do you know?

MR. SHANNON:
I don't have the records on that. But Commissioner, I just want to point out something with regards to the emergency situation.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
We don't have the information as to when it was last done, I can get back to you on that. We have an aerial photo here which shows where some of the shoaling is occurring.

LEG. FOLEY:
But it's a -- just through the -- it's a serious navigational issue?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
We support this, we believe it's needed, absolutely.

LEG. FOLEY:
Okay.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
And before we actually went ahead with the dredging we would have a survey done to identify the exact area to be done and we would pay based on quantities that were actually dredged.

11

LEG. FOLEY:
Do we know where the dredge spoils are going?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
Do we have a spoil disposal area? Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:
If we could hear from Mr. Shannon, Mr. Chairman, or the Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:
There's a bird nesting area that we're looking to preserve, it's an area called Hicks Island that we're working with the town; the town has identified it and it is a suitable disposal area.

LEG. FOLEY:
Right. That's in keeping with the department working also with Parks and Fish and Wildlife where you're trying to use dredging projects as

a way to also restore and enhance habitat for Piping Plover and {Lease Terincollies}; is that not correct?

MR. SHANNON:

That's correct.

LEG. FOLEY:

And this falls into those multi-categories?

MR. SHANNON:

That's correct.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Engineers are environmentalists at heart.

LEG. FOLEY:

That's right, we like to see that here. All right, I'm going to make a motion to approve, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ORTIZ:

Can I make a quick comment?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Yes.

MR. ORTIZ:

The fourth RESOLVED clause states that there's \$40,000 from the Town of East Hampton; they're not required to contribute and DPW informed me that that 40,000 won't be realized.

MR. SABATINO:

Then the second RESOLVED clause is going to be a problem then because this is changing the method of financing.

LEG. FOLEY:

Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

It's a 14 voter.

MR. SABATINO:

The point being that the 40,000 is not part of the package, then the second RESOLVED clause and the third RESOLVED clause --

LEG. FOLEY:

Was it going to be an in-kind 10% or this is -- well, the way it reads here was that this was an actual outlay of local funds, it wasn't an

in-kind contribution. I mean, that's the way I'm reading the resolution.

MR. SABATINO:

The point is that from a technical standpoint, I mean, it's going to have to be consistent with the facts.

LEG. FOLEY:

So we can't move on it today then, correct? We can't vote on it.

MR. SABATINO:

No, the corrected -- first of all, you need to find out what the changes are that would have to be made. But then secondly, the corrected copy deadline was Monday, so that's the only --

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

And we have to find out if what John just said and as concurred on by the Commissioner is actually true, that the Town of East Hampton is not participating; is that --

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

I hadn't heard that and I spoke to one of the Council people recently, but I will go back to Legislator Guldi and see.

LEG. FOLEY:

Was the intention to dredge this area this coming season?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

We're still getting permits, so we would hope to be able to but we're not sure we would be able to depending on the environmental windows.

LEG. FOLEY:

Well, as much as I would like to have it reported out of committee, hearing what the Budget Review Office says, we need to keep it in committee until we can -- if we can get some answers by Tuesday and perhaps if there's a CN from the County -- if everything is worked out by Tuesday and a CN by the County Executive, we could approve this on Tuesday.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Well, without it we won't see this again until very possibly February.

LEG. FOLEY:

Correct.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Which would be too late. So we'll make every effort to speak to legislator Guldi and get to the bottom of it.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Okay.

LEG. FOLEY:

I'll withdraw the motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Yes, based on the information provided by both Counsel and Budget Review, we will make a motion to table with the hopes that this could be resolved prior to Tuesday.

LEG. FOLEY:

I'll second that.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? It's tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).

Introductory Resolutions

2291-02 (P) - Amending the 2002 Adopted Operating Budget and the 2002 Capital Budget & Program and appropriating funds in connection with the purchase and installation of sewer billing software and hardware (CP 8182) (County Executive). Could you explain this to us, Commissioner? This is quite expensive.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Sure. The Department of Public Works also has a very large revenue generation operation. We issue 400,000 sewer bills a year and receive the revenue from that, approximately \$25 million from revenue that we receive. To process this in a most efficient manner, we would like to have a new -- and actually MIS recommended this to us, is to purchase and install new sewer building software and hardware that would allow electronic payments as well as payments by credit cards and funds for this would come from the Assessment Stabilization Fund.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

You know that you're changing the method of financing so it would be a 14 voter on the floor of the Legislature?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

I didn't realize that, but I would hope that we could get 14 people to support this.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Okay, I just want to make it clear before it comes out of this

committee.

LEG. FOLEY:

And also, Mr. Chairman, can the Sewer stabilization monies be used for this purpose?

14

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

I believe so.

LEG. FOLEY:

I know it was for capital improvements to either offset rates or --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

This would be a capital improvement.

LEG. FOLEY:

-- capital improvements to the sewer --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Plants.

LEG. FOLEY:

Plants, facilities and pipes themselves.

LEG. CRECCA:

The way it's set up, too, the Sewer District can actually fund its own. As long as it's related to the Sewer District, it can not only fund administrative costs but also my understanding is -- and correct me if I'm wrong, Counsel -- but it can also take care of things like this and billing.

MR. SABATINO:

Legislator Crecca is correct. The methodology is fine, it's just that it's a change in the method of financing so -- it's an appropriate use of the money but it will take a three-quarters vote instead of the regular two-thirds.

LEG. FOLEY:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. FOLEY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Second by Legislator Foley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
It's Approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Not Present: Legislator Bishop).

Legislator Carpenter?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Just a comment to make. The purchase of vehicles, is it done through your department?

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Regardless of what department it's for?

15

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

That's correct.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Okay. So we had a memo from Budget Review regarding the hiring freeze and the 10% reduction in discretionary spending and it seem that there has been a moratorium issued on the purchase of vehicles for 2003. Now, the bulk of the vehicles that were to be ordered were intended for public safety, marked cars with approximately one half of the Police Department. And it's Budget Review's feeling that not purchasing the vehicles in 2003, there's a window when you must order these vehicles off the State bid and it's March and April and if we don't order them this March and April that we then won't have vehicles until the summer of 2004.

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

I would have to check if that's the window. And there certainly are windows, I'm sure that their information is correct, and there is a freeze on purchasing vehicles at this point. And part of our review and submission to the Executive's Office will include a savings from not purchasing vehicles but also a cost that we expect because we will be servicing vehicles that are older in our garage.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Exactly. And you know, we've made progress over the past few years as far as trying to maintain the fleet in a more appropriate manner than had been done many years ago and I'd hate to see us, you know, going backwards in those initiatives. So if you could check on that, check on those windows and see what we need to do and let us know, that would be helpful.

LEG. CRECCA:

And since we won't be meeting again, Commissioner, until early next year, if you could definitely have that for the at Public Works Committee at the next meeting I would appreciate that, if that's all right with the Chairman. Because there's a concern here because of the window and I certainly don't want to see us have to wait a year and a half or eighteen months before we can purchase vehicles.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Certainly, we'll discuss that; well, depending on who the Chairman is and the makeup of the committee. So I really can't meet that request but the Commissioner I'm sure will be here to provide that to that committee.

LEG. FOLEY:

Well, just along those lines, it was mentioned that by early next week is when the different departments are submitting their plans to the Executive. But I would think by Tuesday of next week that information will be available and we can discuss that at our meeting. Because for instance, in our budget I know that there are monies set aside for police vehicles; is that not correct?

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yes.

16

LEG. FOLEY:

All right. So the money is there and whether or not -- well, I think some of us would take great exception to the fact of cutting an area that's going to not only cut monies but it's also going to cut on the effect of this and the efficiency of our public safety agencies.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

If my memory serves me correct, though, in our budget process we spared public safety vehicles and the County Executive is recommending that public safety vehicles be --

LEG. CRECCA:

Not recommended, correct.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

He is directing them to eliminate them as well. Okay.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Zero, zip, nada.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Very good, okay. So hopefully the Commissioner will address that to the next makeup of this committee; if not, at Tuesday's meeting.

Any other business to come before this committee? The last one --

COMMISSIONER BARTHA:

Before you -- I would like to say that the department has very much appreciated working with this Public Works Committee and the Chairman and all the members this year, so thank you. And I hope the committee stays in tact.

LEG. CARPENTER:

So do we.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Commissioner, I appreciate that. And this being my possible last meeting as Chairman, I appreciate our working relationship in this capacity and I wanted to thank my committee members for working in conjunction with myself and my office and having very smooth and fast-moving meetings.

LEG. FOLEY:

And I would like to thank the chair, too, for a job well done this year. And I think one of the signature accomplishments has been the time line charts for all the Capital Projects which the former Chair had endeavored to do over a period of time and you were able to do it one year. So congratulations and I think -- I know that you have done a marvelous job in a bipartisan fashion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Thanks, Brian. We stand adjourned.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 P.M.*)

17

(*The meeting was reconvened at 12:14 P.M.*)

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

The Public Works Committee is now reconvened.

LEG. CRECCA:

Actually, Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion to reconsider Introductory Resolution --

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Motion to reconsider Introductory Resolution 1765, second by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? 1765 is now before us. There's a motion to approve by Legislator Crecca, second by Legislator Carpenter. All in favor? Opposed? Abstained? It's approved (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 - Not Present: Legislator Bishop).

LEG. CRECCA:

You want to do the reason, the reason why?

CHAIRMAN CARACAPPA:

Nope, no need to. We stand adjourned. Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.*)

Legislator Joseph T. Caracappa
Chairman, Public Works Committee

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically