

***CAPITAL BUDGET MEETING***

*of the*

***PUBLIC WORKS and TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE***

The Public Works and Transportation Capital Budget Meeting was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Smithtown, New York, on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Jay Schneiderman - Chairman  
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chairman  
Legislator Wayne Horsley  
Presiding Officer William Lindsay - Ex-Officio Member

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Gil Anderson - Commissioner - DPW  
Legislator Ed Romaine - 1st Legislative District  
Legislator Kate Browning - 3rd Legislative District  
Legislator John Kennedy - 12th Legislative District  
Legislator Jack Eddington - 7th Legislative District  
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Eric Kopp - County Executive's Office  
Vito Minei - Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Chris Colahan - Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Vicki Fleming - Cornell Cooperative Extension

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano - Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:39 A.M. \*)

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I'd like to welcome everybody to this morning's Capital Budget Public Hearing. If everyone could please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SALUTATION**

Do we have any cards? There's no cards. Would anyone like to get up and address the working group? Go ahead, Vito. Just go to the mike and identify yourself.

**MR. MINEI:**

Good morning, Legislator Lindsay, Members of the Committee, staff. My name is Vito Minei, I'm Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Suffolk County. And I'm joined today by three of my colleagues. To my right is Chris Colahan, he's our Director of the Peconic Dunes 4-H Camp out in Peconic in the Town of Southold. Next to Chris is Emerson Hasbrouck, he's Director of our Marine Program. And next to Emerson is Vicki Fleming Who is Director of 4-H Youth Development and also our Farm Director at the County Farm in Yaphank.

Today I'm going to talk about three Capital Programs that we've requested. And we come here in full recognition of the terrible economic situation the County is in. We know it firsthand. Our 2012 Budget, according to the County Exec's recommendation, would totally eliminate the funding for two of our programs. And we've also been informed that we should expect a possible 5% cut to our 2012 Budget.

In addition, more recently, we were cut over \$300,000 for the 2011 Budget, even though we don't have a contract yet, as part of the \$20 million Medicaid disallowance. We're not quite sure where Cornell fits in, but we've already incurred a \$300,000 cut. So we come, again cognizant of the economic situation. But I think these are modest proposals, and I'd like to go through them quickly for you.

These three Capital Projects are -- one is located out at the County Farm in Yaphank. The other is up in Peconic Dunes County Park up in Peconic. And the third project I'll be talking about today is down at the Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center down at Cedar Beach on Great Hog Neck. In the packages we gave out, there's a brochure about Cornell Cooperative Extension, it goes through all of our programs. And on the right-hand side are packages with the photos you'll be seeing for the three Capital Programs. I'll essentially be following the narrative on the two-pager in the left-hand sleeve of the handout.

The first one is CP 1796, the title to that Capital program is Improvements to the County Farm, but specifically I want to talk to you today about replacement of the staff offices and the visitors center. If you been out there -- and I know several of you have taken the tours with us -- you know that the current buildings are 1960's era mobile homes. They are in extremely poor and deteriorating condition and replacement is literally critical and long overdue. What I'm not mentioning is there is a third building also on the site that we anticipate replacing.

The plan, earlier this year we discussed it with the Department of Public Works, and they came up with the idea that maybe the County -- it's time for the County to have its first totally green building, both environmentally as well as energy efficient. And they also propose that we move it closer to Yaphank Avenue to improve access and visibility. This is an aerial photo of the County Farm. You know it's at Exit 67, when you come south past the old infirmary and the entrance to the County Farm and you turn down the farm road and you come into the center portion of the buildings. I think the overall site is about 250-270 acres. But the core of the buildings is in the center part of this photo. And the trailers we're talking about are right off that access road, there's a staff parking lot as well. Again, if you've been on the tours with us --

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Vito, a question. The dotted line is what on the map?

**MR. MINEI:**

I believe the dotted line is property that used to be part of the farm that was donated to soccer fields about ten years ago. To the south you'll see the dotted line there.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Yes.

**MR. MINEI:**

Those are soccer fields now, but they're technically part of the County Farm.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

They're technically part of the County Farm.

**MS. FLEMING:**

They were given as a lease to the soccer fields for 10 years. It wasn't formally given over and designated that way.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Okay. Thank you.

**MR. MINEI:**

And again, these photos show both the exterior concerns as well as the interior deplorable conditions. And I know, again, several of you took the tours with us last summer and you saw firsthand. And if I could borrow your characterization, Legislator Horsley, you referred to it as a dump.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I have a way with words.

**MR. MINEI:**

It was a concise evaluation of the situation. But, again, you can see, the ceilings are falling in, the floors are uneven, the staff sometimes sits there during rainstorms. And the concern is, again, that this is a visitors center; literally, 30,000 or more people come. I was at Baby Animals Day on Saturday, and there were probably in excess of 600 people at Baby Animals Day. It's an incredible resource for the County right at Exit 67, an historic farm. And we have these conditions as our visitors center as well as housing our staff for 4-H and farm supervision.

So in essence, we're requesting about \$120,000 for planning, design and supervision and a construction cost that was estimated at DPW for this green building. If I can just break from the Power Point for a second to show you this graphic. This is the two-story barn-like structure that one of the architects from DPW has proposed. Again, a totally green building, super-insulated, solar panels, a green roof, not painted, it would be a vegetative roof, and again, close to Yaphank Avenue at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

Now, I've read the BRO report, and from my take on the report, they agree with the absolute need to replace it, they're just concerned with this kind of an approach of going to this type of building. And they suggested that we settle for just replacing portables with portables. Well, I would disagree with that on a number of reasons. Number one, we had an estimate from DPW a few years ago that said just for those two portables, it would be about a half a million dollars to replace them.

And logistically, you would have the situation of replacing the mobile homes one at a time, displacing the staff for months at a time, and then putting them back in portables. So that would be a 30 year plan to replace portables with portables. It also wouldn't replace the other small shack that I didn't have photos for. And third, it wouldn't have the classrooms and exhibit rooms and other places for the visitors center that are envisioned for this new building.

So what I would in these economic times is that we don't pick either plan. I would ask that you just approve the planning funds, 35,000 existing in capital and 85,000, and we'll do a full evaluation of the alternatives and come back to you in a year or so and layout the plans and ask the County to make a decision from the planning document and not commit either way to replacement of the portables.

If there aren't questions, I'll move on to the next one. This is Capital Project 7050. This is improvements to Peconic Dunes county Park. And we have about \$656,000 existing in capital. So we have a list of projects. You'll see that in the smaller print. But I'm coming today with the centerpiece and the request to replace the dining hall and kitchen area. The current building is probably more than 70 years old. A 2001 report from Parks and DPW referred to this building as "in extremely poor condition recommendation." Their recommendation ten years ago was to demolish the building and replace it.

The building would, again, be a LEED certified, that's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The costs would be managed. We propose to have a smaller building. Campers would continue to eat in two shifts. And also, the smaller building would be insulated and heated for more year-round use for the community. And then we would cover a deck and have the campers outside where they prefer to be in the first place.

Here's the aerial of Peconic Dunes Park. This graphic is also in your package. And again, in the center, you see the roadways. It's about a 60 acre park with a freshwater pond right on the property, and then easy access to Long Island Sound. So those are two main attractions; the ease of access to the Sound for swimming and the dining hall in the middle of the property. The kids enjoy staying in the rustic houses that they stay in, but the dining hall is in trouble.

Again, here's some photos. And anybody who's been out there will attest that this doesn't exaggerate the problems on the building. There's problems with the floor, there's problems with the space, there's problems with the facility in serving the children. So again, this is long overdue to be replaced.

What we're suggesting, again, is a planning/design cost of about \$150,000. Now, we believe with the fees that we have been collecting -- and, again, Chris Colahan had some very progressive programs, both with the typical 4-H Camp and also with the Ecology Camp, which the costs are underwritten by the State DEC, that we could provide the cost to undertake the planning for the project. The construction estimated again by DPW would be about one and a half million dollars of construction. There would be other money for furniture and also for demolition.

But again, we think that if there was a long-term commitment from the County for Cornell Cooperative Extension to operate the camp, that we would help defray the costs of the bonding to the extent of about \$80,000 a year. And my quick math with a formula given to me by Chris Kent, so take that for what it's worth, would be about \$120,000 total would be the 20 year repayment of a 4% bond. So we would accept about two-thirds of the bond repayment and ask the County to take a third.

But it goes hand-in-hand with a long-term commitment for Cooperative Extension. Right now, we're working on a waiver to maybe get five years with the Parks Department. And in reading the review from the Budget Review Office, again, they came up with the same proposal. They acknowledged that the dining hall and kitchen need to be replaced, it's long overdue, the building is

in sad shape, but they are concerned about this tenuous situation of our operating of the camp. And also, they were concerned about the, you know, sequence of projects we have proposed.

So once again, acknowledging the economic situation, I would ask you to please allow us to move forward, contract with the Parks Department. I think we most likely should have a Request for Proposals -- I believe that's in the BRO report as well -- this way we could ask for a longer period upwards of 20 years rather than the five years. And we would undertake the cost of doing this planning to the extent of about \$150,000. So that's Peconic Dunes. Any questions on that project?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Vito, how much revenues does this camp bring in to the County by its operation, or is there a net cost to Suffolk County to have it?

**MR. MINEI:**

Well, because we are operating as a contractor, these fees don't get turned over like they do at the farm. As I understand, we're operating as an independent contractor with access to Peconic Dunes Camp.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I guess my question is -- it's really twofold. One, who does the camp serve? Is there an income base, you know, to qualify to be at the camp? But, you know, typically if we started from scratch and we had this facility that we owned, a bunch of buildings on the water -- we have something similar out in Montauk that's not operating as a camp, it's just sitting there -- but I would think that we would RFP it to see which group could come in and run a camp and how much revenue -- you know, I certainly would want it to self sustain, that whatever group was running a camp there would be able to maintain the buildings, etcetera without any contribution to Suffolk county, which isn't really in a position to subsidize anything right now except for maybe the things that are of most extreme needs.

So maybe the question is for BRO if they have this information. Do we make anything toward our General Fund from this camp, or is it a net loss to the County?

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Well, the County owns the site and the structures. We receive no revenue from Cornell from their summer camp program.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And then Cornell receive revenue for their operations? It must be a net profit. It's hard to use the word profit with a non-for-profit situation, but does operating the camp help supplement some of your other operations? You know, summer camps are great, it's wonderful, they're enriching. We have very difficult decisions in front of us.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Right. Vito wants to amend one of the statements.

**MR. MINEI:**

I inadvertently gave Gail some bum advice. We do provide some capital money to the County to the extent of about \$10,000 a year. I'm going to turn this over to Chris, because you asked multiple questions about what constituency do we serve, and now you've asked a question about revenues. So I'm going turn it over to Chris Colahan who is the Director of the camp.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I see this as this kind of thing should at least be self-sustaining, it shouldn't cost the County. We

own the place, we're not making anything, but we shouldn't be losing money off of it either.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

If I may answer some of your questions, sir. The present license agreement requires Cornell to invest a minimum of \$10,000 in Capital improvements annually, \$5000 in maintenance and to run a number of programs free to the public in Suffolk County parks. We recently received verbal commitment from the Parks Department to increase our capital commitment to \$20,000 a year and -- at our request, because we felt that the amount of capital that we've being asked to invest in the property was not adequate to keep up with the deterioration of the facility. It is a 78 year old facility.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Do you know how many kids are housed at that camp?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Annually, 1500.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Fifteen hundred, but at any give time?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

At any given time. A hundred and sixty campers and 45 staff.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And do you know what the gross revenues are?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

The gross revenues are -- they range, this past year, the gross revenues, I believe, we \$680,000. I can say that in the past five years -- when Cornell Cooperative Extension first took over Peconic Dunes in 2003, the enrollment for the camp was in the neighborhood of 600 campers a year. And in the past few years, we've increased our enrollment to maximum capacity to 1500 campers per year.

**MR. MINEI:**

Legislator Schneiderman, you also asked about the economic levels of the families that sent their kids to the camp. I'll ask Chris to respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Can I just ask too, you said you had a \$680,000 gross. Do you know what your operating expenses are?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

The challenge in answering that question is how much we need to invest annually both in strategic improvements to the facility and the strategic improvements to the program. So over the course of the years --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

If we could take out your investments into the property. In terms of just operating the camp and covering the utilities -- the County doesn't cover any of that, right?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

No. There's no operating cost to the County. We pay for all utilities, garbage removal, everything.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

So roughly your -- your yearly operating expense is not with a contingency fund for improvements.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

We're obligated to include that in our budget.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Count the 10,000 then in your operating. Do you know what your operating expenses are?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

At the end of the year -- at the end of the past two years, we have had anywhere from 20 to \$40,000 in excess revenue that we have then reinvested into the program. And that's where some of that -- that money that Vito is saying that we can invest into -- into the planning and design is coming from.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

All right. So 20 to 40 in excess. So you're somewhere in -- it's costing you 640,000 to run the camp?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Between -- salaries are the largest expense, food is the second largest expense, and then all of the capital maintenance and program supplies.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm going to set this aside for now.

**MR. MINEI:**

Again, Jay, you asked about the income level of the kids at the camp, and maybe, Chris, could quickly answer that one.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

On the same line of thought as the last question, how many staffers and what type of salaries are you paying these people to get to that \$600,000 operating level?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Absolutely. We use -- the America Camp Association does a study every two years to find the average salaries for camp staff per region, and we set our salaries according to that for not-for-profit camps in northeast, overnight camps.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

This is basically just a summer camp, right?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

This is a summer camp -- we have four full-time staff, and one of those staff member's salary comes from the DEC, the arrangement that we have with them. So my salary, Administrative Assistant and Facilities Manager.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You are the head administrator for it.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Correct.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And what is your salary? Your salary?

**MR. MINEI:**

It's public record.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Sixty-two thousand dollars.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And that's for how long of a season?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

How many -- how long do we have programs?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It's a summer camp, right? It's not a year-round facility.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

This is a misnomer. Everyone asks me -- everyone asks me, "What do you do the rest of year?" Everyone asks that question. The amount of planning that goes into ensuring the safety, the efficiency of all the operations, the program planning, the facilities planning, the marketing, the budgeting, ensuring that -- our camp has grown in leaps and bounds in the past four years. Like I said, we went from less than 800 campers the first summer to 1500. We've added an Environmental Science Program, we've added an Expressive Arts Program, sailing, we have off-campus trips.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Just because I want to cut this short, what months does the camp operate?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

We're in the process of planning year-round programs. We've been planning a spring break program.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I just want to know what months the camp operates right now.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

It's a challenging question to answer. How many months do we offer programs?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

When do you open the doors for kids to when you shut it? Seasonal, right, you have to drain the pipes, etcetera?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

We have to drain the pipes, but we do still run programs in the off-season. This year we had an alumni gathering --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

When do you turn on the water?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

March 1st to October 31st. We also have user groups that come in. We have Operation Military Kids coming in this weekend.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I'm going to turn it over to my colleagues.

**LEG. O'LEARY:**

Just to go back, because this is a little troubling. You are a full-time employee, year-round that runs a camp. Is there any other full-time employees?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Yes, sir. Our Administrative Assistant and our Facilities Manager.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

And one of those salaries is picked up by DEC?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

That would be the fourth person who is the Environmental Science Program Director.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. So there's four full-time employees that run the camp operation.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Yes, sir.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

I think that's all Legislator Schneiderman was looking for.

**MR. MINEI:**

You did ask again about the economic level. And we've had that discussion before, that with the DEC money comes a requirement for providing, I believe, 90 scholarships to a camp that costs, I believe, \$570 per week. So we're working not only with DEC to provide those scholarships, we're also working with the Department of Social Services to defray a part of that \$570. The remaining families pay that full 500 -- almost \$600 a week.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

How many buildings are there? I know you said there was, like, a mess hall cafeteria.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Approximately 30 buildings.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thirty buildings?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Yes, sir.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Most of them are, like, sleeping quarters, right?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Thirteen of them are sleeping quarters. Some of those sleeping quarters are just basic log cabins, some have bathrooms; toilets and sinks, and there are two buildings that we refer to as the sandcastles that the County build in the '80s.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

And this is places on the water, all waterfront?

**MR. COLAHAN:**

Yes, sir.

**MR. MINEI:**

Just to make sure it's clear, Chris' salary and the other staff are paid for from fees. There's no County money going towards the payment of the salaries, whether it's seasonal or full time.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I get that. But I'm also looking at a camp that, you know, costs 600 plus -- 640,000 to operate as a County facility. You know, from what I'm hearing, it seems like we should RFP this to see at the end of the day, there might be a group that would come in and pay the County \$100,000 to operate this.

**MR. MINEI:**

We would agree. That's the Catch 22. Even as you read the BRO Report, they're saying there should be a long-term commitment for Cornell or go to an RFP. And the only way we can get a long-term commitment is go RFP. We got this waiver because of the overlap in our seasons, but we would agree with you that there should be an RFP.

**MR. COLAHAN:**

I'd also like to point out in 2007 when I took over operations of the camp, the annual Operating Budget was -- revenue for the camp was \$380,000. So it's been in the past five years -- when I say the camp has grown in leaps and bounds, it's hardly the same camp. We've doubled our enrollment, and in the process, it increased our -- the number of staff that we hire annually, number of support staff in order to ensure a safe and what I would classify as an excellent camp program.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

You fellows have anything else?

**MR. MINEI:**

I have one last project. Now we've moved out to Cedar Beach in Southold.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Hold on, Vito, Legislator Romaine has a question.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Before you start, as you know, I want to give my colleagues an opportunity to weigh in on this matter. So -- as far as the camp is concerned and as far as the other project, which we're about to talk about, the building that we built for classrooms for our marine life rescue that we stopped building and did not put a HVAC system in, I'm going to be putting in a Capital Budget amendment. At least my colleagues will then have an opportunity to weigh in on this matter and vote on this and make a decision. But if you're saying that a long-term would RFP benefit you because your management of the camp is on a short-term lease?

**MR. MINEI:**

Yes. It was year-to-year. We think we're getting an RFP waiver for five years. We're still working on that. We're still working on the contract with Parks. In fact, we haven't even placed this sort of request to Parks yet. We wanted to get a response from the Legislature before we went there. But the only way to get a long-term commitment would be RFP, as far as I know.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And by long term, what do you mean by long term?

**MR. MINEI:**

We hope at least ten with a ten-year renewal, a 20 year commitment.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I'll submit the legislation for that purpose then. I'll draft legislation for that purpose, and I will submit it for that purpose to have a camp of this nature that serves this type of a situation. It can be on a year-to-year -- I mean, the last time I was out to the camp, there's holes in the kitchen floor, there's holes in the mess hall floor. I mean -- thank you.

**MR. MINEI:**

So we are in the agreement, an RFP would serve both the County's interest as well as the Cooperative Extension and I believe the children that would be served for the next 20 years.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I don't see our Legal Counsel here, so I'm going to ask Gail in Budget Review to prepare that, because that's a type of resolution you usually work with Legal Counsel in preparing.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

Just for my own clarification, is this to move forward in regards to an RFP?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Directing that an RFP be issued with a ten-year lease with a ten-year renewal possibility.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

You recognize that if we move forward with an RFP, there's the potential for other bidders besides Cornell.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yes. And Cornell has asked for that. I think the Chairman of Public Works, Legislator Schneiderman, has asked for that.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You know, RFP makes sense proving there are multiple bidders. I don't know that -- you know, Cornell has been running it for years so they know the operations, they know, you know, how to approach the situation. I don't know that there are -- it can be really competitively bid.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Well, I've asked Gail to do the draft.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

My philosophy here, if I may.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Sure.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You have quite a facility; you know, 30 buildings, a camp that grosses almost \$700,000 a year. It ought to be run in a way that it doesn't cost the County anything, that we shouldn't have capital projects here. Whatever entity is running it, ought to be able to set aside enough from that to maintain this. Once it starts costing the County funds, I think we really have to take a careful look at it, particularly who it's serving, you know, does it make sense in the County's current fiscal situation.

So if you're going to do an RFP, I think the conditions would be that it's fully self-sustaining, that's the main thing. And right now, it's not. They're here asking us for more money to fund the Capital Program for it.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Go ahead, continue.

**MR. MINEI:**

We are moving forward with RFP waiver, five years. We will work on the planning that we'll help pay for, and then we can work on responding to an RFP.

Moving to the last project, we are out at the Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center in Great Hog Neck at Cedar Beach. Back in 2006, a building was constructed under capital funds for \$250,000. There was a lot of support for a wildlife rescue building, in particular {Middleman Environmental} that does a lot of environmental cleanups in Suffolk, pointed out there's no such facility, certainly in Eastern Suffolk County, but it was to be multi-purpose; classrooms, offices, etcetera.

In 2006, the building was constructed, but the interior was not completed; no heat or hot water. And it's currently used for equipment storage. So what we'd like to do is finish the interior with the classrooms and also the offices, but put the infrastructure in; the heat and hot water.

This is the aerial down at Cedar Beach. And to the lower center of the graphic is the wildlife rescue and classroom building. There's Cedar Beach. And if you move further south, you can see Shelter Island on the property for the Suffolk County Marine Environmental Learning Center. This is some pictures inside. And as I indicated, because there's no infrastructure and because the classrooms weren't completed or the offices or the bathrooms, it's used almost exclusively for equipment storage.

And the point is that for planning design of about \$25,000 -- originally, there was \$100,000 in the Capital, but we were unable to get a resolution to appropriate the money last spring, and then there was a resolution to move that 100,000 for a resolution for downtown beautification. And then by the time that was withdrawn, it was too late for us to get the money appropriated. Meeting with DPW earlier this year, they said their estimates from about seven eight years ago of \$100,000 really increased to about 175,000. Putting a septic system in near the shoreline, putting in the classrooms and putting in the heat and hot water would cost about \$150,000.

So the request to you would be to complete this building or else leave it as is as a storage building. I read with interest the BRO evaluation, and they indicated that finishing the building would be worthwhile and certainly in the spirit that the original building was intended, that because we have other classrooms and offices, that they didn't see the operational need for it at this time. And I would suggest maybe at this immediate moment that it correct, but all plans for expanding the programs, all plans for possibly moving some of the marine staff out of our Riverhead Office out here to Marine Environmental Learning Center and also to have it for logistical set up for a lot of monitoring programs, as well as the original intent of wildlife rescue would not be implemented if we just leave the building as is.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Any questions? Yes, Legislator Romaine.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Quick question. When was this building originally constructed?

**MR. MINEI:**

2006.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And was the original intent to leave out the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems?

**MR. MINEI:**

No. There was \$100,000 originally proposed for those purposes.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

That got side tracked for downtown beautification?

**MR. MINEI:**

Yeah, but that was only in 2010. I don't know what happened from 2006 to 2010, why it wasn't completed.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

How much did this building cost the County to build?

**MR. MINEI:**

Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

It cost us \$250,000, but we did not spend the rest of whatever money was around to finish off the heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. So the building could be usable, I mean, other than raw storage. Two hundred and fifty thousand is a lot of money for a storage shed.

**MR. MINEI:**

If you look to the middle top graphic, that was supposed to be bathrooms.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay.

**MR. MINEI:**

So bathrooms, classrooms, offices and heating and ventilating.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Has anyone from the administration ever explained why they decided to start the building and not finish it?

**MR. MINEI:**

I've only been posing questions since April of 2010.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

And you haven't got the answers yet. The question is always more interesting than the answers sometimes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Do you have other storage facilities? You guys have a lot of equipment to store too, right?

**MR. MINEI:**

You know what happens to empty buildings. They becomes a vacuum and an enticement to do this kind of storage. Yes, there would be other uses -- there would still be some room for storage as a wildlife rescue building. There would still be a large open space in this building, but it would have multiple purposes.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I think you understand the situation the County is in right now. We're trying to close \$150 million roughly size hole in the budget. We have really difficult challenges ahead. And we're just basically -- you know, if I or my colleagues ask some tough questions, it's because, you know, some things maybe can wait until we get back on our feet. I think this might be one of those situations. It might be great to finish this building and add the HVAC, but this may not be the year to do it.

**MR. MINEI:**

I acknowledge that you arrived a little late, and I gave a compelling preamble about Cornell knowing firsthand the situation, because we're already being cut. But we understand the situation. I'm asking to complete the building.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I understand.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Does anybody have any other questions? No? Thank you very much.

**MR. MINEI:**

Thank you. I'll be in the afternoon committee as well.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I have one question about the farm, maybe you talked about this earlier. I saw you built the fencing at the farm. Are we doing the rotational grazing yet?

**MR. MINEI:**

I'll turn this over to Vicki.

**MS. FLEMING:**

We are very close. We just have to put some gates up, and that's part of the issue, is getting those capital funds -- you know, I mean, they're appropriated, but we have to get the bids and move forward.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I may be the only Legislator who ever visited the slaughter house there. You know, one thing that struck me -- not just visited, but actually, watched the slaughtering and observed the entire process. You know, one of the things that bothered me most about that was that the cows were spending their entire lifetime on a concrete slab. So they're being slaughtered at two years old. I understand that's not unusual, but they're sitting there on a concrete slab for the two years proceeding that, staring at this wide open field where they should -- you know, they never get to really be cows, and it's unfortunate. They never get to touch the ground. You know, for a County that prides itself on ethical treatment, we are not really treating these animals ethically.

**MR. MINEI:**

We're heading in that direction, Jay. I mean, the point is --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I don't understand why it's taking quite so long though to get to that point.

**MR. MINEI:**

Well the perimeter fencing had to go in first. We didn't want cattle wandering on the right-hand lane of the LIE at Exit 67. The fencing by all accounts is fantastic. The inmates, the oversight from DPW, we did it in a very cost effective manner. We purchased all of the materials for the rotation grazing. They'll be on the grass. I swear to you, we'll treat them humanely. As I indicated to you before, we'll play Kenny G music the night before they're slaughtered.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

You don't have to do that.

**MR. MINEI:**

They'll be rotation grazing. I've seen the movies about humane treatment. We plan do it as long as we're in the meat production business.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

I appreciate that. There's a lot of academic work in this field that's been done. I'd certainly like to see the County following the best practices in terms of ethical treatment. You don't have to, you know, makes jokes about Kenny G music. Okay. You know, the County maintains a slaughter house, we ought to follow in the best practices in the industry. What date do you think is a realistic date for those gates and the rotational grazing to begin?

**MS. FLEMING:**

We'll have them out within the month. You know, it also has to do with the fact that the grass hasn't grown high enough to put them out. So, you know, we've planted it. This is the time of year where your grass really starts to grow and it will be ready for them to go out.

**MR. MINEI:**

And we had other projects, Jay. If you remember, that concrete slab right by the troughs for the food had to be slugged so that we would have a pit for the waste material. That's going to be used as fertilizer for the grass as part of this rotational grazing concept. So the materials are purchased.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is that slab the grooved slab or is it a flat slab?

**MR. MINEI:**

I'm sorry?

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Is the slab they're on grooved or is it flat, the slab that the cows are on, the cattle is on, is it grooved or it is flat?

**MR. MINEI:**

The cattle aren't on a slab. The slab I'm talking about is in front of the trough where the run off comes from the silage area and from the other areas. Again, we had a cooperative arrangement with Soil and Water Conservation, with DPW that was built. And we have everything in place now to start the rotational grazing.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

That's good. Is there a shady area for the cattle?

**MR. MINEI:**

They're inside that barn-like structure.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

There's an overhang there?

**MS. FLEMING:**

We do have a designated area. When they're on rotation grazing, we have a designated area with trees. Absolutely.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

No. Currently, though, that slab that they're on, is there an area for shade?

**MS. FLEMING:**

Yes, the housing.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Do you, is that a grooved platform or is it a flat platform?

**MS. FLEMING:**

I believe it's flat.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

It's flat. All right. We can talk privately on this. But there's an awful lot written on the treatment of these cattle prior to slaughtering and during slaughter procedures. All right. Thank you.

**MR. MINEI:**

My last point on the farm is we've been working down about a quarter of a million dollars of existing capital for fencing, for roads. We're working with DPW for signs, for replacing the flooring in the hog house, for replacing the roof. So we've been working continuously to improve the conditions at the farm. The one big one is the offices and visitors center is what we're asking to move forward for. But we are implementing a request a rotational grazing.

**MS. FLEMING:**

And we'll invite you the day we let them out.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you very much. Is there anyone else like to testify? Commissioner Anderson, do you want to say anything? You don't have to.

Would you like to weigh in on the cattle going down the Expressway?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

No. Specific to Cornell, we have no statement, obviously. But given the fiscal constraints the County is faced with, DPW understands the need and the desire to pare down the Capital Program. Having said this, we would advise this body that delaying Capital Projects will delay maintenance needs that are needed be our varied infrastructure. By the time we get rid of this cycle, the projects will likely cost more due to further deterioration.

As such, we accept both the County Executive's proposed budget as well as BRO's recommendations. But I wanted to make some statements on certain projects that we feel are absolutely necessary just for further discussions, those being as follows: Capital Project 1133, we agree with BRO's recommendation to replace the money, The fact that's in the subsequent year than we requested is fine; a number of smaller projects; 1623, which is the roof replacement; 1710, which is Fire, Security and Emergency Services; 5037, which is a stripping; and 5180, which is guide rail are very important to us and a critical need with regard to public safety. And we would request that that funding remain in the program.

A couple of items, 8153, the Smithtown/Kings Park Sewer District 6 Study, in both instances we feel more money is needed. We need about 80 to 100 million to undertake the actual construction of it. With regard to 8170, which is the grit system at Sewer District 3, we recognize and thank you for agreeing with the 20 million in 2012. We do recognize that we do need the \$20 million in 2014 or in subsequent years to at least have the funding in there for the grit program, which does need to be done.

The other project, 5196, that was originally requested without being a Federally-aided project, but since that time, we have get Federal aid for it, which is recognized in BRO's report, and we agree with their statement of putting the funding back in there for that project.

Other than that, we come to the outfall, which is always an issue of concern. And removing the

funding in there -- the funding needs to be in there, to what extent, I would leave up to you. We do need more money than was recommended under the proposed budget. But given that the actual work we don't anticipate until 2015 -- you know, to begin until 2015, you know, we could hold off given the challenges that we are faced it, maybe reduced for the next two years, that type of thing.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

But, Gil, we are in study and planning phases there. Have we selected a method of replacement? I mean, that was a core issue there.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Correct. We still, unfortunately, haven't received the final report yet from our consultant. We expect it within the next month.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Won't that determine how much money we actually need for construction?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Correct. That will give us -- based on five options, that will tell us the most recommended option, what that could be and such.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Do you have enough planning money?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Planning money right now we are okay with. In fact, we just appropriated money --

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. And that's what we really should be concerned with right now.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Correct.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Horsley.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Hi, Gil.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Good morning.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I understand. So basically what you're saying is the actual construction is 2015; however, in the plans over the years, we've talked about replacement pipes in case there is a problem. Where are we at with that? What's the latest?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

That right now is being -- we just got the final specs, and we're actually putting that out to bid right now for the pipe itself.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

For the pipe itself.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

For everything needed within the emergency program, I believe we have in place. It's just getting the pipes on hand. We are going out to bid very shortly, within the next few weeks.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I guess without sounding sarcastic and critical all that, I've heard this all before. You know, we've said that we are going to have the -- I remember Ben Zwirn two or three years ago saying, "Oh, it's going to be on the property within the next couple of months." That goes back two or three years ago. Is this really going to happen? Are we going to get it there? I mean, you know, what happens if, you know, we have a problem.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

We have a big problem. But right now -- like I think I stated at the last committee meeting, the pressure itself that we maintain in the pipe is such that it's well below the levels where these fail, we do monitor it on a constant basis. Even in the storm that occurred last year, the pressure was only, I believe, 20 PSI, which is well below the levels that have been indicated when the pipes have completely failed. So, you know, we're confident that, you know, we're in good shape right now. Like I said, we are going out to bid. We will have that pipe on hand as quickly as we can.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

When?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Well, that one I might have to defer to Ben or John. I'm not sure exactly how long it takes to manufacture the pipe or if they have it in stock.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Ben, why don't you come up, if you would, and just tell us about the emergency plan in case there is an accident.

**MR. WRIGHT:**

If we had everything in place, it would probably take at least a month to get the right contractor here. The contractors that are big enough to do this kind of work are mainly down in the Gulf. So we'll have in place a contract with two or three of those contractors that have the available equipment to actually do the work. But they would have to get here. We would have the pipe on site. If there was a catastrophe, it might take as much as a month before we have them on the site and then take a couple of weeks to repair it.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

That, of course, would be if you had the pipe itself. What if you -- because obviously, what Gil is saying is that it's going to be a while before we're -- it's only in the RFP stage now, and they don't know if they're going to even have to construct the pipe or not, because it may be on hand. We could be talking, you know, on the out month -- how long do you think it would be if they don't have a pipe to be made?

**MR. WRIGHT:**

Well, I think in the BRO report, we agree with what's in there that says that we will have everything in place by January of next year. We have the CDs -- it was more than just a pipe. It was the contractor, having a contractor, and also bypass pumping, which is a difficult thing, because we have to put in a number of pumps on this plant site to take care of all the flow that comes in.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Excuse me. What do we do if we have -- I mean, we dealt with this a couple of years ago, and we were very, very concerned by your initial reports that the pipe was deteriorating. I mean, we appropriated, I thought, the money that everybody needed. I am a little bit disturbed too that we haven't moved beyond that point. Say we have all the repair pipes, we have a contract, what do we

do for the month? I mean, do we shut down the plant?

**MR. WRIGHT:**

You can't do that. I mean, you have to recognize that this is treated sewage. I know it's not something that the environmental regulators would want to go into the bay, but it is treated and disinfected.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

So we would just continue releasing into the bay while -- instead of the ocean for a month?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Well, the flow would probably continue in both directions. But if I may, one of the things I'd like to just point out is we have been in direct and constant communication with DEC, and they were a significant factor in the preparation of the emergency report that we had to put together, had to their approval. So that's one of the main reasons it took as long as it did. It wasn't just a matter of coming up with a report. We had to get their blessing on it, and that is not always as timely as we'd like.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Blessing on what, Gil, to get repair pipes?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Well, to come up with an emergency plan; what would be required. As Ben mentioned, there is bypass piping. You know, we took a look at a couple of different options on how it would happen. You know, essentially, we want to have a report that can handle the options that might occur.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

If I may, Bill. So you are saying that the water itself is going to come in as well as it's going to go out. How does that work? Are you seeing some sort of backfill, the water is actually going to back up into the plant itself?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

I think what I meant was it's going to still continue towards the exiting outfall out in the ocean. There will be some leakage depending on the size and -- you know, it could be as big as a fist, it could be bigger, we don't know. At this point, you know, you still have six to eight feet of material on top of the -- on top of the pipe, and I'm not trying to make this sound like it's insignificant, but there is -- there is some factor of safety here.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

If the pipe does go, which you've already said is in a state of failure -- that's on the report, if I recollect the language -- and a hole is blown in the pipe itself, does that then like -- does that deteriorate faster then? I mean, does the hole starts to get larger because it's -- we have a hole and the pressure then start to bubble up? Does it deteriorate quicker because of that, or is it just that we have one hole? Engineering wise, how does that occur? Is it like an inlet? You know, we open up an inlet, the thing widens to 100 yards within a night. Is it the same thing with a pipe?

**MR. WRIGHT:**

It's probably hard to project, but I would expect that it probably would get worse over time.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

Right. Because of the flow going through it, it's just going to make it deteriorate quicker.

**MR. WRIGHT:**

Yeah. A lot depends on the pressure. And as Gil indicated, we're -- you know, we've been lucky enough to have that pressure pretty low.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

You guys are making me nervous. Okay.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Thank you. Anything else you want to say, Gil?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

No, that's it.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Thank you, Gil. Wait a minute. Legislator Schneiderman and Legislator Browning.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Gil, I don't know if you've been following the debate at the Legislature over the Long Wharf in Sag Harbor. At the last meeting, it got tabled. If the Legislature decides not to give this to the Village of Sag Harbor, obviously then, I need money in the budget to maintain it. It's not down right now as a capital project. So what is the minimum cost to maintain that structure? I know it needs to be painted, right?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Well, yeah, there was painting but it wasn't an eminent need. I believe we had some time involved, but Jimmy can answer that a little bit better. I know that the rehab of the project isn't needed for a number of years, and I would --

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

The major rehab.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

The major rehab.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

But my fear is that if we don't put some paint on it, the metal will continue to oxidize and we'll end up with a more expensive project down the road. Maybe Jim could comment on this.

**MR. PETERMAN:**

Jay, I'm sure you are aware we gave the set of plans and specs to the village for that job, the painting project. There was about 420,000.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Four hundred and twenty thousand. In your mind -- I believe -- I'm hoping the Legislature will give it to the Village of Sag Harbor. If we don't, if the County decides to try to maximize revenues in some other way, we are going to have to have something shown in the Capital Program to address those situations. So what year -- is it something that's needed in 2012?

**MR. PETERMAN:**

Yeah, I would put it in '12.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Put it in '12, 400,000. What was the total?

**MR. PETERMAN:**

I'd put 450 in. The exact estimate is 420, so 450 with a little rounding.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Good morning. A couple of questions. County Road 36, it's Capital Project 5541. I know that part of the project was started, and I see that part it is just not going to happen any more from what I see in the Capital Budget. Can you tell me what's going on with County Road 36?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Let me turn to Bill, if I could. I mean, we are starting another phase of the project this year, putting in the drainage, I believe, and completing the actual work. But beyond that, I don't know what other phase there would have been.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

It's just that I see it's not in the budget any more. I was just wondering why.

**MR. HILLMAN:**

I would imagine because of the hard economic times. But the phase that you are talking about is from the eastern edge of the village line up towards Beaver Dam and Montauk Highway to the east. That was -- again, it's a water quality project. I think it has six direct discharges into Patchogue Bay and -- or Bellport Bay. And we have been trying to get water quality funds. And as you know, the quarter percent monies, because revenues are down, are not there. So we envision when we are able to apply for water quality funding again, we hope it will be put back into the Capital Program.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay. But it's not even in the out years. I mean, I have to check with BRO, but I'd certainly like to see -- I don't want to see that disappear off the face of the Earth, because I think once you lose it, it's gone forever. Another project is 5116, that William Floyd Parkway Project that we had spoken about. I know that there was a desire to try and move it up for next year. You know, that's a stormwater remediation project also, correct?

**MR. HILLMAN:**

Stormwater, sidewalk replacement and median enhancements, yes.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Right. Because I think we know how the drainage has been going into the Uncachogue Creek, and that's an ongoing problem, especially since there's no dredging going on there either. And it's just not helping the situation. So I'd like to look into continuing to put it in the capital project for next year.

I see that the Village Square Project, I understand tough economic times, I'd like to talk to Gail about that also to see if there's something we can do to at least keep it on the radar. Sewers, I'd like to know how we are doing on the 8134. If Ben could give me an update on the creation of the Shirley/Mastic Sewer District. I know what happened with Congress, they wound up pulling all of our matching funds for our sewer project. How are we doing?

**MR. WRIGHT:**

That nine hundred thousand dollars, we were going to proceed with requesting that this year. It's only for part of the project, as you understood, with the 55% going to come from Federal. But what we had to confirm was that the airport property with the Town of Brookhaven was the site where a wastewater treatment facility could go so we could complete the RFP and also start the SEQRA process. We meet with Brookhaven a couple of weeks ago, there has to be a letter between our

administration and theirs to confirm that. And once we get over that hurdle, then we'll complete the RFP and then go forward with requesting the money.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Romaine.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I want to go back to the Southwest Sewer District for one second. We are going to essentially purchase a replacement pipe for the current piping there, because as you stated, it's in failure. Are you going to build that pipe adjacent to the pipe that's failing?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Again, we are waiting for a completion of the final report that would estimate that we're going to tunnel below the existing pipe, but in the same -- we anticipate that the selected option will be tunneling --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Below where the pipe is now.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Well below -- not under the existing pipe, but over to the side, yeah.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay. Okay.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Legislator Romaine, we talked about that before. We're still waiting for the consultants to tell us how is the best way to replace it, and that will determine how much money we need for construction costs.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Do you have an emergency plan in place if the current pipe begins to fail?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

We just went over that too.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay. Great. Thank you.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

We should have the replacement parts on site by January and a contractor that's capable of doing this. It's going to take a month, though, to repair the pipe. That's the problem. Am I correct in saying that? That's the recap of what we said.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Yes.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

We have the pipe itself.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

We're concerned. We're concerned. Go ahead, Legislator Browning. Legislator Schneiderman, you wanted to say something.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

On a different subject. Are you on the outfall pipe?

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

Okay. Then I'd like to ask a question about the tower at Gabreski Airport, which has been eliminated from the program. One is, is that a needed project? And two, to what extent is that funded by the FAA? And the impacts of not repairing that, are we going to have problems with the Air Force Base there?

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

I would defer that one over to Tony Ceglie, the Airport Manager. I don't know if he's here.

**CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:**

None of you can answer that question? Okay.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

I can ask Tony to get a response to you by two o'clock.

**MS. VIZZINI:**

They typically show at Economic Development.

**LEG. HORSLEY:**

I was going to say he might show there.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Okay. Legislator Browning.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

I don't know if this is a silly question, but I'm just curious. You know, with the tough economic times -- and I know the Montauk Highway Project actually came in a little less than what initially was thought to be. Because of the economy, are some of the bids coming in lower because they're trying to get the work? You know, because I'm wondering if we're getting the work done cheaper now and we wait, you know, three or four years from now for some of those projects, the prices are going to get higher.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

Correct. That's always a chance, yes. As I mentioned earlier, the condition of the roadway or the building or whatever we are doing is likely to continue to deteriorate. So it could be an additional cost on that.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

So the bids are coming in lower now because they're all trying to get work.

**COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:**

They have been for two years. Since about '08 they've been really dropping.

**LEG. BROWNING:**

So in the long run, we could possibly be saving money.

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

There's really three considerations that we have to consider in these deliberations. And our attempt to save money as far as long-term debt, right now, numbers are down, our interest it still very, very low. And like Gil said, some of the projects that we defer, whatever we save, we'll wind up spending in maintenance costs to keep an old facility or an old road usable when it really should be replaced. You know, so that's things that we have to weigh.

Okay. Thank you very much, fellows. I appreciate it. Is there anyone else in the audience that would like to discuss anything about capital projects? No? Okay. With that, this committee is adjourned.

(\*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:46 A.M.\*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY