

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Public Works 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 December 11, 2012.

Members Present:

Legislator Schneiderman - Chairman
Legislator Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Barraga

Also In Attendance:

William Lindsay - Presiding Officer
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Michael Pitcher - Aide to Presiding Officer Lindsay
Catherine Stark - Aide to Legislator Schneiderman
Robert Lipp - Deputy Director - Budget Review Office
Laura Halloran - Budget Review Office
Craig Freas - Budget Review Office
Paul Perillie - Aide to Legislator Gregory
Kevin LaValle - Aide to Legislator Muratore
Rick Brand - Newsday
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken and Transcribed By:

Gabrielle Skolom - Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m.)*

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Good afternoon. I'd like to call this meeting of the Public Works and Transportation Committee to order on this 11 day of December 2012. Please rise and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance led by our legislative counsel, George Nolan.

(Pledge of Allegiance)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Very good, George.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Madam Clerk, do I have any yellow cards?

MS. ORTIZ:

No.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

If anybody wishes to be heard who's -- any members of the public, please fill out a yellow card. Seeing none, we can move to the agenda.

We have some very lengthy presentations. I'm just kidding. We're going to go right to the agenda. Got everybody scared there for a second.

All right. We're going to go, first, to **Tabled Resolutions.**

Let me state for the record, too, that Legislator Muratore has an excused absence from today's proceeding.

1997 -- I'm sorry.

1802, Eliminating impact assessment fee (Cilmi). Gil, this is something I sat in a meeting on, I know Legislator Cilmi was working with your department on. Do we have a revised bill?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I sent over recommendations based on that meeting last week under 1402 when it should have really been eighteen -- 1408 was the name of the e-mail that I sent. I copied everybody on the Committee, but it really should have been 1802. Legislator Cilmi has that information. I assume he's going to make the revisions to his --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Then I'll make a motion to table since it hasn't been amended yet.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions. **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore).**

IR 1997, Directing the Department of Public Works to make common sense changes to Bus Routes 1A and 1B (Gregory). I think this, too, is not ready, correct? Or it's something you don't need, if I recall, we're already doing?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This is one where we're working with the Legislator with. I've reached out to him and asked him to table it again.

LEG. STERN:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion to table by Legislator Stern. Second by myself. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1997 is **tabled**.

1998, Directing the Department of Public Works to conduct a traffic study on a portion of County Road 28 (Gregory).

LEG. STERN:

Motion to table.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Same motion, same second, same vote. **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore).**

2027, Adopting Local Law No. -2013, A Charter Law to strengthen monitoring of sewer plants operating in Suffolk County (Schneiderman). I'm still in discussion with Legislator Horsley on amending this bill and hope to have an amendment shortly, so I'm going to make a motion to table this.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore).**

2167, Directing the Department of Public Works to consider rising water levels and storm surge when planning projects (Hahn). I'm working a little bit with the sponsor on modifying this so --

LEG. STERN:

Motion to table.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

-- we're going to table this, I think. Motion to table by Legislator Stern. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore).**

And, Gil, just so you know, the discussion kind of surrounded capital projects of a certain magnitude. We don't know what that threshold would be, like a \$25-million project. And some of the larger capital projects in those higher velocity flood zones that, you know, the DPW would issue some kind of analysis or report. Or it could be a simple that you know -- some of those projections, in terms of sea level and how it might affect the long-term life of that capital project. Kind of limiting in its scope. I know you're already looking at these types of things, but maybe something a little bit more formal on some of the bigger capital projects. I think that's where my discussions with Legislator Hahn left off.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

If you would like us to be part of the discussion, let us know.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Absolutely. Legislator Horsley.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Yeah, hi. Commissioner, on the hardening -- we've discussed just briefly, the hardening of the Bergen Point Plant. Now, do you see that the -- that some of these FEMA monies are going -- because there was talk on the State level, that some of it would go to hardening of critical facilities. Is that something that you would see as actual real money? Is that going to come down, do you think, or where would that come from?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Again, right now we're looking at this internally as a rehabilitation or an effort that the County would make, anyway.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

It would be on our dime?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah. We put in the application, amongst the other things, that we've sent up to the State, but I think -- I have to be frank -- I think the feds are going to have a hard enough time paying for everything that we're doing now.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

I was wondering that myself. So you're thinking when we actually do do the hardening, we do do the study to harden, whatever that may be, it will be on our dime?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So did we vote on that, on 2167? I'll make a motion to table. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MS. ORTIZ:

Oh, we did. I'm sorry.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Oh, we did, okay. So 2167, we tabled.

All right. So now we're moving onto **Introductory Resolutions.**

2180, Permitting the Incorporated Village of Westhampton Beach to purchase fuel from the County (County Executive). This, I believe, is an extension of an ongoing contract; is that right, Gil?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. So I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved.**

2192, Studying efficiencies during sewer infrastructure improvements or expansion (Horsley). Wayne, you're still adjusting this one, right?

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Let me just speak to the Commissioner. We didn't have a chance to talk today.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah, I didn't have a chance to look at it again, but, again, I think it's something, just for the record. When we -- as we spoke yesterday, we do this as a matter of course when we go through our capital program, not only for sanitation but the recommendation I made last night was to include highways into this. Any time we do a project of this size or of a size that's going to cover a large area, we advise LIPA and National Grid and all the utilities that were coming in to do the work so that if they want, they can plan for an improvement project. And while we're opening up the road, they can replace or upgrade their facilities as needed. This way, they don't have to worry about repairs to our infrastructure, and we don't have to worry about them screwing up our infrastructure, and it works out very well.

Beyond that, as I spoke to Legislator Horsley, if we can get LIPA to the table to discuss this, I think it's, if nothing else, this bill can provide that.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

So are you thinking that -- and I tend to agree with you. I certainly don't want to be redundant or even codify. I'm looking to stir the pot here. I'm looking to get a conversation going, that when we get the streets open, let's put the cable and the electrical underground. At that point in time, it makes sense. If I table it this time, if I can get a hold of LIPA -- God knows where they are going to be, in what state and whatever -- you'd be game to see if we can put some teeth to this?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I think if nothing else, we -- yeah, let's bring them to the table, bring National Grid to the table, bring all the utilities to the table because it's not -- I mean, again, I'm going back to my -- back in the '70s when I was doing work with Ma Bell, they were bringing a lot of their utilities underground. That program seems to have stopped. So that discussion may be worth having too, is why did they stop. Was it just the money, or were there other issues that came up?

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

You hear the constant refrain that, Oh, it costs too much to dig it up again and find it -- there's negatives to putting it underground, whatever. But it seems to me that in an era where you have PVC piping and things like that that it's not going to deteriorate as it did, say like the underground wiring, which I'm very familiar with, on the parkways that go back to the 1930s and whatever. It could be done. It could be protected. It could be much more long lasting, and it could be safer.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Like I said, I think the discussion is worth having, and we'd like to be a part of that.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

What do you want to do with this? You want to --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Why don't we table it for a cycle? Let's see if we can get them to the table and maybe we --

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

And see where we go with it at that point. Okay. I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

We had a motion to table by the sponsor. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Tabled.** That was 2192.

2193, Appropriating funds in connection with improvements to the Suffolk County Farm (CP 1796)(County Executive).

I actually have questions on this one. Gil, do you want to provide for us some information?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Sure. The Suffolk County Farm and Education Center is a century-old working farm that provides meat for some of our County institutions, such as the jail, as well as educational programs for residents. The current offices at the farm are in deteriorating and poor condition, and are in need of replacement. Rather than refurbish existing trailers, it's prudent to build a new building.

The building we are proposing will be located near the offices already located on Yaphank Avenue. They would create a complex of education, visitor services buildings visible from the road, and would increase visitor access, have exhibits to promote agritourism, as well as provide additional opportunities for education.

The new building would maintain and expand existing office space for both staff instructors as well as administrative personnel. It's our desire that it would be a showcase for the County in its being the first net-zero building. All efforts will be made to make this a green building, including, but not limited to, solar panels, wind power, geothermal heating, sustainable flooring and siding, and a green roof. We're looking to appropriate \$85,000.00 for the planning of this project.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Is that you saying "net," Gil, or is that Vito?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This is coming from my office.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Very good. Thank you.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So, Gil, I have some questions. I mean, I don't know if this is the right --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Actually, I take that back. I just stole it from Vito.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

It was Vito.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

It sounded more like Vito. It did.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This could have been written by my two guys upstairs. This is exactly what they have been trying to push me for a couple years now.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I know people want a new building there, and I've been to that old building. It is a mess; I don't disagree with that. But it's also economically a challenging time for the County, and some of my colleagues may not want to hear this because I have said this multiple times: There is a building there that is being used in the meat production, which, you know, the sheriff has told me he would actually like to purchase the meat for the jail direct from the factories that produce that meat and not through Cornell Cooperative Extension.

We have a \$900,000 budget that goes towards that slaughterhouse facility. And the building, it's a pretty nice building, I have been in it. It's in pretty good shape. For the life of me, I don't understand why the County is in the business of slaughtering cattle. But, you know, we're getting out of nursing, we're getting out of things that seem to make a lot more sense, and we're staying in this crazy business in an era of mad cow disease and E. coli. You know, just the liability alone to me seems like we ought to get out of it.

But if we did get out of it, can that building be repurposed? And that's really, that's my question. It's a fairly large building that a lot of it's freezer compartments, like this room right now that they are trying to warm up. Can somebody take a look at that before we go ahead? I know it's only 85,000 and it's planning, but once we go and spend the money on planning, the next step is we're spending the money on construction. I don't think we should be overlooking the fact that we may have a building that's perfectly suitable for them already.

The only, I guess, other question is if we don't appropriate this money by the end of the year, is it lost?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

That's my concern. I don't really know. I would defer to BRO on that, but I believe it would be.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Could the money be used for studying alternatives?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

It could be part of the -- I think if the money is approved, we could use that as part of the -- again, that's part of the discussion that we could have.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm questioning whether that has to be in the resolution. Maybe it could be discharged without recommendation and it could be -- have we passed the amended copy to that?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

You can have my commitment that we will look at that before we will go after, you know -- however you want to handle it.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

(Inaudible) have that conversation with the sheriff because that's what Sheriff DeMarco told me. BRO, any comments on whether we could pass this out and then, not necessarily permit ourselves to designing a new building, but maybe using some of these funds for looking at repurposing the slaughterhouse building?

MS. HALLORAN:

Well, it's serial upon funding, so are you asking whether it could be used for something else?

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Rather than planning and designing a new building, maybe planning a redesign, rental fit of the existing building.

MS. HALLORAN:

I might have to defer to someone else.

MR. LIPP:

Me.

MS. HALLORAN:

Robert.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Or George.

MR. LIPP:

See, you would have to appropriate the money; otherwise, it would die at the end of the year. You would only have the one meeting left. If you couldn't amend it, obviously, then potentially you could revise, I guess, perhaps next year a correcting resolution. I'm not sure, though, about that. I'd have to think about it. What do you think, George?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

If you look at the first resolved -- I don't mean to cut George off, but if you look at the first resolved, the last portion of the senate -- sentence, it does state that, "As it involves planning a structure consistent with the principles of an ongoing farm." It doesn't really go into any other detail other than that as to the actual building itself.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think it --

MR. NOLAN:

I really -- I think it may depend on the description that's in the accompanying bond resolution because I think that's more going to lock us into what we're doing with the money. And then if we start deviating from what's in the bonding resolution, that's when there may be a problem. So, you know, I think it --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Could I, Jay?

MR. NOLAN:

Maybe a conversation with bond counsel would be part of this as well.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

But, I mean, the amended -- is it too late to amend the resolution to add language?

MR. NOLAN:

We're past, yeah.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Bill.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, I don't understand why we can't approve this now so that the money doesn't die. This was part of the capital budget, right, as I recall?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I think that's the basic question. Can we approve it now and then if we decide to move in a different direction --

P.O. LINDSAY:

Well, until we vote on the bond, we've approved resolutions to change the purpose of what the bond was for.

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah, we've done that.

P.O. LINDSAY:

We've done that many times, so I don't see why we can't do it here.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Is there an accompanying bond?

MR. NOLAN:

Yep.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It will be on Tuesday, George?

MR. NOLAN:

Right. The bond resolution will be with this on Tuesday.

P.O. LINDSAY:

So we can't approve the simple resolution and delay the bonding resolution?

MR. NOLAN:

We have done that in the past, but I was also thinking that if you voted this out of committee, I could have a conversation with bond counsel about this very issue in terms of how they draw up the bonding resolution.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Why don't we do that? Why don't we get it to the full floor rather than lose the money in the appropriation.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm with you. Should we do that with a regular discharge or without recommendation?

P.O. LINDSAY:

Whatever you want, just as long as it gets to the floor.

MR. LIPP:

Just to clarify, I think what George said before was right on, that as long as you make the bond general enough that it doesn't tie you in, you're okay. And, alternatively, there's always the option of adopting the resolution and not adopting, which is sort of a disconnect, the bond resolution and then coming forward at a later date for next year for that one, but I think the more generic version of the bonding resolution could work subject to George's conversation with bond counsel.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. So since there still are some questions and tabling it is not really a viable solution, I'm going to make a motion to discharge it without recommendation. We'll let it go to the floor, and then we can have this discussion at that point.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Presiding Officer. All in favor of discharging without recommendation? Any opposed? Abstentions? Approved -- or I should say discharge. **Discharged without recommendation (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not present: Muratore).**

2194, Appropriating funds in connection with building for Wildlife Rescue and Education, Marine Science (CP 1766). Gil, this is that building that basically has been sitting there they're using as storage. There's no, I guess, HVAC system or something, and they want to use it for courtrooms, et cetera.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And they want how much on this?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

25,000 for planning.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

\$25,000 for planning where the walls go, ventilation systems.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah, basically to put the plans together to be able to go out to bid.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'll make a motion. Approve it.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion to approve by our Presiding Officer.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

What's the ultimate construction numbers on this; do we know?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Right now, we're looking at \$250,000 construction cost assuming it's 10 percent of the construction cost.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And they can't live with what they got?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

They're looking to essentially complete the building to make it usable as classrooms, which right now it's not.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'm not going to hold it. I'll second it. Any other conversation?

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

On the motion. It's with storage now?

P.O. LINDSAY:

It's not usable for classrooms. The only thing they're using it for is storage.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

It's just a storage building right now.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Is it a sound building, or is it a butler, or what is it?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

The structure itself is fine. It was just never completed. We never put in the HVAC; we never, you know --

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

So this could be for a little amount of money in comparison?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah. I mean, you're looking at 250 to do interior work, to do -- bring in the HVAC, to upgrade it so that you can bring kids in there and people, and you could hold classes, which was the original intent of the building. I don't know why we never completed it.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

I understand the purpose and going forward and listening to what some of the costs are, but this is for 25,000 in planning, so I guess my question is when the building was originally designed, if it was designed for this purpose, wasn't it designed with those elements in mind as well originally?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct, but you would still have to up upgrade the plans. There have been some minor alterations to the building. You know, if you're going to put out -- essentially, we would have to prepare construction documents, so you would have to either markup the old ones or -- and preferably, you would want new plans that show the existing facility plus the new work that comes in. 25,000 isn't much.

LEG. STERN:

That number is, from a general rule, 10 percent; could it be less?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Oh, yeah, it could be less. Once we get proposals, it certainly could be less than that.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. So where are we now? We had a motion and a second. Any more discussion? All right. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not present: Muratore).**

IR 2195, Appropriating funds in connection with Fuel Management/Preventive Maintenance and Parts Inventory Control System (CP 1616). Gil, any more info?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This requests appropriating \$700,000 to continue the upgrade of our fuel management systems. Specifically right now, we're looking at Westhampton Beach and our Commack fuel facilities. They

are the priority, but certainly if something -- an emergency came up, we might use that towards it, but right now it's our plan to upgrade both fuel facilities, you know, make sure they are up to standard; that type of thing.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can I ask you? It's frustrating on the east end. When I am in the County car, I have to fill up occasionally, and there's really like no facilities out there. Hampton Bays, there's a little thing at the yard, and there's one over at Gabreksi Airport; that's the one you're talking about, and there's a single pump at Cedar Point Park. It just seems to me we just, with all other County parks, et cetera, and other functions out there, there ought to be additional facilities. Have you looked at all into anything in the Town of East Hampton or East and Southampton where we might be able to put a County facility? And I know that we've been doing these arrangements with fire departments and schools. Maybe we could work together with some other entities.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

(Inaudible) to look at the towns.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yeah, the town has something. Maybe we can make an arrangement with the Town of East Hampton.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I'll reach out to East Hampton to see if there's a, you know, a facility that we might be able to reach an IMA.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

There is a pump behind town hall that could work.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah. Because, then, rather than install -- we're kind of trying to get away from having so many facilities everywhere because of the control issues, monitoring things like that. So if we could reach an agreement with East Hampton, that would be preferable method.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

That'll be great.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Okay. I'll reach out to them.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you. I appreciate that. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Gil, you said that the priority would be the Westhampton and the Commack facilities; those are the ones you would be focusing on. Do you anticipate that the appropriation here would cover all of the facilities throughout the County, or do you anticipate that this appropriated amount would only cover those two?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This is specific right now to those two. We leave an option that in case something happens and we need to be able to use this funding for an emergency elsewhere, but right now, we're looking at those two facilities, and that's the cost for those two facilities. Otherwise, our normal maintenance and operations are covered under the operating budget.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can I ask, Gil, about these facilities, and I know they're all electronic, and that seems like a great thing to control. You know where the gas is going and how much is going out, and they won't turn on unless they get the right signal. I have had numerous experiences, including today, where I went to go fill up the County car, and it was the third pump before it actually dispensed gasoline. I often go in and there's the hoses just sitting on top of the pump, I guess, from the last user who is trying to signal that "this one's not working," so I skipped those and I still had to go to three others before I could actually find one that dispensed gas. Do we have a problem with these machines?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I mean, they are machines. They are -- they will malfunction (sic). In many cases, there's an issue that the fuel level is low, so that's why the pumps are harder to draw from the tanks. I have two really great young staff members that that -- this is their function. They go from pump to pump and make whatever repairs are needed. Each -- and the fleet management, our fleet guys are great. They monitor all the fuel levels. So I don't know why and I have to say, in fairness, I have seen it a lot less now than I have ever since I've been with the County but it does happen.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

You're okay with the type of equipment we've been buying?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yes. We've been upgrading everything wherever we can. Similarly to what did at Yaphank, if you come and see our new facilities at Yaphank, this is what we're looking to do here at these two sites.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I guess I'm bringing it in the context of we're about to maybe upgrade some facilities. Do we want to go with the same vendors or same type of equipment when they could be problematic?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Well, again, it's an upgrade. I would invite you to stop by the Yaphank yard, look at that facility. It's significantly better than either of them, even in this complex here.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I just wanted to ask you a question. On the levels of government for example, rather than having designated pumps within their municipality, they often issue credit cards, and you can go to a Mobil or any well-known gasoline company that has stations and use the credit card and it's automatically recorded. There's accountability. But yet, at the County level, we seem to have these designated areas that we have to go to fill up our cars, and I'm just wondering why we never went to the credit card scenario. It seems to make a lot of sense. It's a lot easier.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

In many cases, you're right. There are times when it is beneficial, but, you know, again as we've seen under Hurricane Sandy, we had control over the gas during those emergency situations. We were able to bring gas in during the entire storm. We never had to wait for the Federal Government to provide any gas. You know, we -- it gives a level of control, and it reduces the amount of security and oversight that's needed.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Well, your control stations were already established; that's not going to change. So if you had a future hurricane, you'd have those stations. All I'm saying is that for ease and convenience, you may want to take a look at utilizing credit cards with a major oil company, making it a little more

convenient for people to get gasoline. I mean, sometimes I may have to go out of my way a couple miles just to get back to a facility at a precinct, for example, to get gasoline while around the corner there's a Mobil station.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Can I just raise a couple questions? I think that, from a cost standpoint, we may lose a lot of savings because we're paying significantly less per gallon than we would at a private vendor like that, and plus I don't think we'd pay all those taxes that are also paid, so I think it's about at least 30 percent less per gallon that we're paying this way, so that could add up a lot.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Well, the other thing --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Let me just say one other thing. With the credit card thing, I don't know how you'd control what vehicle the gas is going into, and that could be a problem too, so somebody could go in with a credit card and put gas in a non-County vehicle.

LEG. BARRAGA:

The State of New York does that. The individual receives the credit card, and you use it when you pump the gas. As far as the contract with, say, Mobil, you negotiate a deal. You know, you have all of your County vehicles using Mobil, they give you a better price on the gas. I'm sure the State of New York does that.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I know that in the past, it's been looked at and I can't give you specifics, but it was decided at that time, and it seemed to be around the time I started back in '06 that they decided, you know, to proceed or continue with this one.

LEG. BARRAGA:

It seems like an old-fashioned way of doing things. I mean, I understand your concept with reference to Sandy, but that's the first storm in 25 years, but you still have your facilities available.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Right.

LEG. BARRAGA:

It just seems that in many of the cases where you have County automobiles traveling all over the place, the convenience of a local station with the appropriate credit card and it's all recorded makes a lot more sense, especially if you can negotiate a better deal with, say, a particular oil company.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

We can look into it.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Just a suggestion.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Yeah. Thank you. Gil, during the storm and its aftermath, how many of our County pumping stations still operated under the original power source as opposed to how many of them went without power and relied on backup generator?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I don't know exact numbers. I can tell you that the three main lots, which at the time were the Commack yard, Yaphank, and Westhampton, those ran under generators at one point or another. We have -- I believe that every one of the facilities was operational during the entire storm including police products as well as other sites during the storm, but I couldn't tell you whether one was running off of electric or generator, but we were able to keep operational.

LEG. STERN:

Do all of our sites have the ability to run on backup generator?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I don't know if all of them do, but I know the majority of them, especially, like I said, the three larger ones which we did, because they are manned, those were the ones we used as much as possible throughout the storm.

LEG. STERN:

I mean, maybe we can discuss, but it would be interesting to find out --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I can get that information.

LEG. STERN:

-- how many of our stations are wired and have the capability of running on backup generator if necessary.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I'll get you that.

LEG. STERN:

All right. Thanks.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So I don't think we've had a motion yet on this one. Motion to approve. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore).**

2196, Appropriating funds and accepting Federal Aid (80%), State Aid (10%), and Serial Bonds (10%) for the purchase of new fareboxes for the Suffolk County Transit Bus System (CP 5648)(County Executive). All right. I will make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore).**

2197, Appropriating funds and accepting Federal Aid (80%), State Aid (10%), and Serial Bonds (10%) for the purchase and installation of bus shelters (CP 5651) (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Stern second by myself.

We're up to 2207, Authorizing the conveyance of County-owned right-of-way commonly known as C.R. 81, Long Wharf having Suffolk County Tax Map Identification Numbers of District 0302 Section 001.00 Block 01.00 Lot 002.000 and District 0903 Section 002.00 Block 03.00 Lot 026.000 for public highway purposes pursuant to Section 115-B of the New York Highway Law (Schneiderman).

Before I motion, let me just say that this has been with us for several years now in terms of what to do with the Long Wharf. Our prior county executive suggested selling it, which can't happen as a

road. Then there was an effort, also by the prior county executive, to give it to the Village. That was met with some resistance. There was also an effort to fund 300,000 of the 600,000 that DPW asked for in terms of capital repair. That failed. We formed a committee to study what to do with the Long Wharf. That committee has finished its work and filed its report. The ultimate conclusion would be that the County would be better off if it were to get rid of the Long Wharf -- that's not the words I was looking for.

MR. NOLAN:

Transfer.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Transfer Long Wharf, thank you, to the Village of Sag Harbor and so this would allow that to occur. Commissioner, do you have anything you want to -- you have DPW people on that committee, I know.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yes, and -- just glad it's moving in this direction. Again, this has been a long process. We initially initiated this -- trying to initiate this conveyance. Certainly, we agree with it wholeheartedly and looking forward --

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

The Wharf is actually considered a County road, is it not, not a CR but a system road?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yes. When it was brought into the -- when it was purchased by or turned over to the County, it was given a road designation, but it's not an official road.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And it was once -- I guess the Village owned it and gave it to the County and this is actually the County giving it back to the Village.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Actually, it was a private dock that was, essentially, during the Second World War and prior to that, it was basically to load ships through. It was through emissions or during, I believe, whaling times, ships would basically supply up at this dock. And when the railroad or previous owners basically said the business was done, they turned it over the village who couldn't afford it, and then they in turn turned it over the County in '47 or '49.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Back in the days when there was a Board of Supervisors, not a Legislature, and probably most of those supervisors were East End supervisors -- look, it made sense when the County had deep pockets and the Village didn't. It was a big piece of infrastructure. But today, our average yearly cost for capital's around \$100,000. By your numbers, the Village also has a loss. Though they get some revenues, they also are spending at least that much on leasing it, collecting garbage, fixing potholes, trying to collect revenues, administrative costs, et cetera.

This has been kind of beaten to death a little bit, and we've gone back and forth, but here we are, so we have another opportunity. All I can say is if the County is going to keep it, it really has to fix it. It can't have it both ways where we just let it collapse and fall apart. So either we give it to a village that's willing to take it off our hands or we start taking responsibility, as we do with every bridge and every road, in terms for its maintenance.

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second by Legislator Stern. No discussion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **Approved**
(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not present: Muratore).

That brings us to the end of our agenda. Is there any other issues, anything for the Commissioner while he's here? Commissioner, I know your work is ongoing with Super Storm Sandy, so I appreciate all the hard work your department has done in helping put the County back together.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN SCHNEIDERMAN:

We are adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.)