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OFFICE OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
BUDGET REFORM COMMISSION MEETING.

April 22, 2008

Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium of the  
William H. Rogers Legislative Building  
Hauppauge, New York

RICARDO MONTANO  
Chairman of the Committee

Kathy J. Drossel - Court Reporter

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2 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Everyone, I'm  
3 going to ask you to stand. We're  
4 going to start the meeting, the  
5 Budget Reform Commission. We'll  
6 start with the Pledge of Allegiance  
7 lead by Angie Carpenter.

8 (Pledge of Allegiance).

9 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: I don't  
10 believe we have any public portion,  
11 or, at least, anyone, but if there  
12 is anyone in the audience of four  
13 that wants to make a statement  
14 you're more than welcome. With that  
15 I'm just going to, we have the  
16 minutes from the 2/7/08 meeting, I'm  
17 going to ask Gail to comment on the  
18 minutes.

19 MS. VIZZINI: I just want to  
20 make a few comments. I have had the  
21 opportunity to review the minutes.  
22 Generally, I think they represent  
23 the business that was transacted in  
24 the commission with a few minor  
25 words that are words that sound like

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2 what we said but are not exactly  
3 what was said.

4 Unfortunately, the minutes were  
5 presented in a pdf.file that was not  
6 searchable. So, I have addressed  
7 that issue with the clerk, and it is  
8 my understanding that in the future  
9 the minutes will be presented to us  
10 in a searchable file. So, I would  
11 make a motion that we accept the  
12 minutes with the proviso that a few  
13 of these words, that are not quite  
14 on target, will be identified. I'll  
15 be happy to identify them myself,  
16 and then they can be corrected  
17 shortly thereafter.

18 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Thank you,  
19 Gail. With that I guess we'll ask  
20 to approve the minutes. Any  
21 comments on that? All right, I'll  
22 take a motion to approve the  
23 minutes. Second, all in favor,  
24 opposed, absentia; okay. We're  
25 going to probably have a short

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2 meeting today. I want to thank  
3 Gail, and, also, BRO for the work  
4 that they have done between the last  
5 meeting and today in terms of  
6 putting together the survey. I know  
7 they have spent a lot of time  
8 working on that. Also, attached to  
9 the agenda is a self-evaluation  
10 form. Let me see if I have that  
11 page, which Gail will go into later.  
12 So, I guess we'll start with the  
13 discussion.

14 By the way, before we do that,  
15 I'm going to ask everyone in here to  
16 introduce themselves for the record.  
17 If you're here on behalf of an  
18 elected official or an appointed  
19 official just state that. Let's  
20 just do that formally so the  
21 stenographer doesn't have to read  
22 all the names, and we put it on the  
23 record officially.

24 Jeff Vilanchiel (phonetic  
25 spelling) - Deputy Treasurer

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2 Representing Angie Carpenter of the  
3 Treasury Department.  
4 Loren Houghten representing  
5 Angie Carpenter.  
6 Fred Pollert - the Deputy County  
7 Executive for Finance.  
8 Angie Carpenter - County  
9 Treasurer.  
10 George Nolan - Counsel to the  
11 Legislature.  
12 Ricardo Montano - Legislator,  
13 Chairman of the Committee.  
14 Gail Vizzini - Director of  
15 Legislature, Budget Review BRO.  
16 Joseph Sawicki - County  
17 Comptroller.  
18 Jeff Davoli - Department of CPA  
19 firm.  
20 Christina Capobianco - Chief  
21 Deputy Comptroller representing  
22 Comptroller's Office.  
23 John D'Amico - Director of  
24 Accounting on behalf of Joseph  
25 Sawicki.

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CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Thank you.

At this time we're going into the discussion, and I guess we'll start with point A which is the County Survey Questionnaire for Approval. I'm going to state if anyone on the panel would like to chime in please just let me know, and we'll recognize you and rather than have just have a formalistic, you know, process if there is anything that you want to discuss on any of the points let's feel free to chime in. With that I'll turn it over initially to Gail. Gail, you want to just bring us up to date on where we are with the County Survey Questionnaire?

MS. VIZZINI: Okay, based on the consensus of the commission at the last meeting the Budget Review Office actually developed this municipal survey. It has been kicked around within the Budget

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2 Review Office. This is probably the  
3 fourth draft, kicked around to make  
4 it less owneress, more user  
5 friendly. It includes some checkoff  
6 boxes. We've gotten input from the  
7 Budget Office in terms if there was  
8 anything else the Budget Office  
9 wanted to ask. We included those  
10 questions. So, we think that it's  
11 in a pretty useful form. I sent it  
12 to the members of the commission.  
13 It went out on Thursday. This would  
14 be your opportunity to concur, yes,  
15 this is the document that we will be  
16 sending out.

17 What we would like to do is get  
18 any input in terms of any additions  
19 or deletions from the document, if  
20 not, preferably today, so that we  
21 can move forward with it. If not  
22 I'm amenable to a grace period if  
23 you feel that you want to look it  
24 over or see if there is anything  
25 else you want to add or change in

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2 any way, in light of our coalition.

3 The very next thing I would hope  
4 to accomplish, in regard to this  
5 survey, is to identify a  
6 subcommittee who will actually do  
7 the sending out and the analysis of  
8 the responses as they come back and  
9 report to the commission.

10 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Gail, if I  
11 may then, what I would ask is if  
12 maybe we after we have all looked at  
13 it, but if there are any substantive  
14 changes that somebody would like to  
15 recommend maybe we can set an  
16 unofficial date of Friday, close of  
17 business Friday. If we don't have  
18 any responses in by Friday we would  
19 approve it as is. Is that okay with  
20 everyone? I think Friday gives us a  
21 couple of days to make one quick  
22 look over and see that we're in  
23 concurrence, or at least we agree,  
24 that there are no changes that  
25 individually we would like to make.

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Is that fine? Joe?

MR. SAWICKI: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Okay, so  
we'll do that.

MS. CARPENTER: Mr. Chairman one  
question.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Go ahead.

MS. CARPENTER: I understand it  
is going to the County Legislature's  
office; correct?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Correct.

MS. CARPENTER: I see this in  
paragraph. Are you planing on  
sending it with a little more  
history of the commission perhaps to  
kind of engender a feeling of --

CHAIRMAN MONTANO: You mean like  
a cover letter? I believe so.

MS. CARPENTER: Yes.

MS. VIZZINI: Yes.

Jill, do you want document to  
put the cover letter on the screen?  
We planned on doing it e-mail. They  
can fill it out as soon as they open

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2 it out, just fill it out just like  
3 registering through the website or  
4 something like that. And then send  
5 it back to us. There will also be  
6 an attachment which very briefly  
7 explains that we have a budget  
8 reform commission, and that we're  
9 looking to see how they do business  
10 so that we can learn from them, sort  
11 to speak.

12 MS. CARPENTER: And I think we  
13 probably need to make it clear that  
14 the Budget Reform Commission is for  
15 our county so that they're not  
16 feeling it is going to have them  
17 change what they're doing.

18 MS. VIZZINI: I'll be happy to  
19 send the commission members a draft  
20 of the cover memo for you as well,  
21 and perhaps we can, by Friday, have  
22 any changes at all, sentence  
23 structure or whatever. We're having  
24 a little technical difficulty, so --

25 MS. CARPENTER: That's fine.

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2 CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

3 Good suggestion. We'll get that  
4 out. If we get the technical issues  
5 resolved we'll have it now.

6 Anything else?

7 MS. CARPENTER: I thought we  
8 should have the County Seal on it to  
9 make it look --

10 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: You mean as  
11 opposed to the legislative seal?

12 MS. CARPENTER: I think both,  
13 and I'm talking about on the first  
14 page of the document questionnaire.

15 MS. VIZZINI: Could you repeat  
16 that?

17 MS. CARPENTER: I would suggest  
18 putting the county seal, the Suffolk  
19 County Seal and the legislature  
20 seal, just put them on that cover  
21 front page of the survey so it looks  
22 that much more official in wanting  
23 to get filled out.

24 MS. VIZZINI: Are you talking  
25 about both seals?

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MS. CARPENTER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO: I think it suffices to use the legislature seal since this is the legislature committee.

MS. CARPENTER: Okay, fine.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO: It is also going to be part of the letter. Gail, go ahead.

MS. VIZZINI: Any other suggestions or comments on the survey? Okay. We'll get you the memo. We have until Friday. You can certainly e-mail your suggestions or contact me directly, and Jill Moss, of my staff, is doing a lot of the leg work. So, at a minimum see her or deal with her directly if I'm unavailable.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Would you also send me a cc of the e-mail that goes out?

MS. VIZZINI: Sure.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO: This way I

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2 have one in my office.

3 MS. VIZZINI: Is it the  
4 consensus of the committee to send  
5 these surveys to counties within New  
6 York State? There was some  
7 discussion in the minutes of going  
8 outside of the state to see what is  
9 going on in other areas.

10 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: We have how  
11 many counties in the state, 62, 63?

12 MR. D'AMICO: I was going to  
13 suggest we go outside of New York  
14 State, because Suffolk County is  
15 such a large county, and many of the  
16 other counties in New York State are  
17 not comparable. There are a lot of  
18 Florida and California counties  
19 which they are more similar to  
20 Suffolk in size and size of the  
21 budget.

22 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: I believe  
23 you're right. There are also some  
24 counties in Maryland, and Fairfax,  
25 in Virginia that I think the

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2 demographics there are uniquely  
3 similar to the demographics of Long  
4 Island. So, that might be something  
5 that if you would recommend to Gail,  
6 or my office, some counties that you  
7 feel are demographically or  
8 politically similar to Long Island  
9 we can include those. You know,  
10 then it begs the question should we  
11 eliminate some counties from New  
12 York State that we know really have  
13 no relevance to what we do. You  
14 know, it is a good point. How  
15 should we deal with that? I mean we  
16 can mail it out, we can, it is the  
17 cost of a stamp. We don't know what  
18 we'll get back. But we don't want  
19 to be going through, as you suggest  
20 responses, from counties which are  
21 dissimilar. How would you recommend  
22 addressing that? Do you have any  
23 ideas on that? Does anyone have  
24 any ideas on that? It's a very good  
25 point.

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2 MR. D'AMICO: What I did was I  
3 went to the GFOA website and they  
4 have an award system with budgets.  
5 They get an award for excellence in  
6 budget preparation, and many of the  
7 budgets are available on line if you  
8 go to the municipalities website.  
9 So, I just kept going through,  
10 picking out counties that I thought  
11 were comparable to Suffolk. We can  
12 really compose a list like that from  
13 those budgets. You know they got an  
14 award for excellence so you you're  
15 probably looking at a top notch  
16 budget.

17 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Sounds good,  
18 Gail?

19 MS. VIZZINI: That does pair  
20 very well with the next item of the  
21 agenda. These are all good  
22 suggestions. I think what we should  
23 do is designate a subcommittee. I  
24 would like it to be, I would like to  
25 get volunteers I think budget

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2 control, a budget review volunteer  
3 should be on it. I'm hopeful one of  
4 the other financial officers will  
5 volunteer to be on it, so we can  
6 narrow down the population send it  
7 out, and start analyzing the  
8 responses.

9 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: I don't want  
10 to make this like the army, if you  
11 offer a suggestion you get drafted,  
12 but if you would be willing to I  
13 think you bring a certain particular  
14 expertise to that, and if you would  
15 be willing to work with Gail and my  
16 office we would greatly appreciate  
17 that. Gail, we have some sounds.  
18 Take that down, quick.

19 MS. VIZZINI: Jeff Davoli and  
20 Christina Capobianco. Actually, I  
21 would like to designate Christina to  
22 be the lead person on this. We'll  
23 support you and we'll work out -- so  
24 the subcommittee consists of John  
25 D'Amico, Christina Capobianco, as

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2 the lead, Jeff Davoli, Loren  
3 Houghten. Fred, do you want anybody  
4 from the budget office?

5 MR. POLLERT: We're going to be  
6 hard pressed to do this. When I had  
7 mentioned four years of Budget  
8 Review Office we used to do this  
9 scheduling for the New York State  
10 Comptrollers Office of, the  
11 department of, it is called,  
12 um (inaudible) repairs which lists  
13 major expenditure and revenue  
14 categories across all 57 counties  
15 in the State of New York. For years  
16 we used to compare ourselves to the  
17 ten largest counties as far as total  
18 expenditures, likewise for the  
19 county's operating budget as  
20 targeted for largest counties  
21 because, as John had talked about,  
22 the county is so large we do have so  
23 many different things we have so  
24 many local requirements that if you  
25 start to compare yourselves to each

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2 county it is not really too  
3 reasonable. What I would recommend  
4 is that we go to the State  
5 Comptroller's Office, come up with  
6 the 10 or 12 largest counties across  
7 the State of New York and send them  
8 the questionnaire.

9 Likewise, wehn I was in Budget  
10 Review Office we used to compare  
11 ourselves to George's County to  
12 those counties that had more GFO  
13 awards in the past. There is a lot  
14 of data which is available on line.  
15 So, we could probably come up with a  
16 good list relatively quickly of the  
17 counties, and probably it would be  
18 no more than maybe 20 or 25 counties  
19 the questionnaire would need to go  
20 out to.

21 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: So, we have  
22 the first subcommittee. I guess we  
23 are on Point C, Gail, the Government  
24 Finance Association Criteria for  
25 Distinguished Budget?

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2 MS. VIZZINI: Yes.

3 In your packet I have attached  
4 what the GFOA prepared. It is  
5 actually a self-evaluation. Based,  
6 again, on the presentation at the  
7 first commission meeting it kind of  
8 gives you some mild stones to  
9 achieve in terms of the budget  
10 presentation, itself, as to the  
11 extent it meets the GFOA criteria as  
12 a policy document, a financial plan,  
13 an operations guide, and a  
14 communications device. To further  
15 determine whether this assessment  
16 tool was going to be useful to us I  
17 did the self evaluation myself, and  
18 I'm very pleased to report that we  
19 are not quite halfway there, but we  
20 have a lot of these mandatory and  
21 minimum criteria in our budget  
22 presentation as it exists, both  
23 capital and operating. However,  
24 consistent with the tone of this  
25 commission there are always areas

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2 for improvement.

3 So, again there is some work to  
4 be done. I would recommend that we  
5 have a subcommittee specifically for  
6 the self evaluation to do the self  
7 evaluation. Once we have concluded  
8 that yes, we're good in these areas  
9 we don't really need to devote any  
10 more time to those areas. I think  
11 the subcommittee should devote  
12 themselves to those areas where we  
13 need improvement in, and then  
14 actually make recommendations or  
15 prepare those documents that could  
16 be submitted to the budget office to  
17 either consider incorporating over  
18 time in the budget document or be  
19 addressed.

20 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Gail, just so  
21 I'm clear. This document is  
22 actually a document prepared by  
23 GFOA, this is their standard form  
24 that we would use to evaluate, to do  
25 a self evaluation of our budget

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2 policies; is that what we have here?

3 MS. VIZZINI: Yes. As we  
4 discussed at the first meeting, and  
5 as John referenced and has Fred, the  
6 Government Financial Office  
7 Association has these criteria for a  
8 distinguished budget presentation.  
9 They actually give awards, if you  
10 fulfill these criteria, not that we  
11 are necessarily seeking an award.  
12 We're just looking to use this as an  
13 assessment tool that is already  
14 there, as to what constitutes a good  
15 budget presentation. A lot of it  
16 has to do, you know, is it  
17 transparent to the public, can the  
18 public glean from this document what  
19 the process is, are there  
20 definitions of what different funds  
21 are. And, you know, those happen to  
22 be areas where we could, those are  
23 areas of improvement for us. We do  
24 have a calendar of the process. In  
25 recent years there's been a glossary

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2 added in there, in terms of  
3 terminology, what have you. There  
4 have been many improvements made.  
5 But if we use this assessment tool  
6 this will give us a direction where  
7 we can concentrate our efforts. The  
8 commission can then make  
9 recommendations, either in my  
10 opinion more helpful is maybe they  
11 can start preparing a draft of what  
12 these improvements might look like  
13 in the budget.

14 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Again, are we  
15 calling for volunteers?

16 MS. VIZZINI: I would volunteer  
17 for this one.

18 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: My office  
19 would, you know, be available. Any  
20 other, I don't want to make everyone  
21 responsible, but again, Angie, or  
22 Fred, how do you feel?

23 MR. POLLERT: Just generally a  
24 broad comment. The budget was  
25 really changed to include the budget

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2 calendar, how we had come up with  
3 the estimates and an explanation of  
4 the budget process. We started to  
5 issue it on cd's. We put it on the  
6 website. We send it to the  
7 libraries. We try to make it as  
8 transparent as possible. What we  
9 generally found is it is a document  
10 that we've invested a tremendous  
11 amount of time and effort on. We  
12 have sent it to the League of Women  
13 Voters. We sent it to interested  
14 parties, but generally we get very  
15 little feedback. It is a dense  
16 document. It is already almost user  
17 unfriendly because it has so much  
18 detail between the organizational  
19 charts, mission statements,  
20 workloads. It is almost a thousand  
21 pages at this point in time. We  
22 have simplified the budget process.  
23 Wehn I became the deputy for finance  
24 there were five budget documents to  
25 find out what had happened with

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2 reclassification. We had to go to a  
3 different volume. You had to try to  
4 tie different things together. So,  
5 clearly we're attempting to make the  
6 budget as transparent, as user  
7 friendly, as possible. The trade  
8 off is the more user friendly you  
9 become the more cumbersome in a lot  
10 of respects the documents can  
11 become. It's a lengthy document.  
12 There's a ton of data that is  
13 included, and one of the  
14 difficulties is it is almost at the  
15 cusp of not being user friendly to  
16 the point where we're starting to  
17 look at creating a higher level of  
18 use of the budget system. So, we  
19 currently do the data by department,  
20 by line items, also, by functional  
21 area.

22 So, you know, clearly we're  
23 happy to try to improve the budget  
24 and the budget process, but I think  
25 there is a trade off as you start to

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2 include even more data, because it  
3 is to the point where it is  
4 unwheelding as it is.

5 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Just so I'm  
6 clear. We're really looking at  
7 the self-evaluation process so  
8 before we even get to your point  
9 seems to me that what we're looking  
10 to do is to take a step back and  
11 look at our process and see where we  
12 stand. It is quite conceivable at  
13 the end of the self evaluation  
14 process that we can evaluate  
15 ourselves quite high, and without  
16 going through that process I  
17 honestly don't know. We can fall in  
18 the middle. That's how I understand  
19 this document. Gail, do you want to  
20 comment on that?

21 MS. VIZZINI: In my role  
22 reviewing the budget documents I  
23 have seen the improvements that have  
24 been made. I'm not clear if you're  
25 saying we'll make our own

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2 improvements or if you're saying,  
3 yes, I'll take your help.

4 MR. POLLERT: What I would like  
5 to do is clearly to improve the  
6 document where ever possible. What  
7 I would like to avoid is having  
8 legislation that says you have to  
9 defend five or ten new type of data.  
10 So, internally working with the  
11 legislature, working with the  
12 Budgetary Review Office, if there  
13 are things that you like to see  
14 improved, we're more than happy to  
15 make the improvements. One of the  
16 difficulties, the budget process is  
17 a crazy time with the staff working  
18 seven days-a-week. We have already  
19 incorporated a tremendous amount of  
20 improvements. Making it more user  
21 friendly at this point seems to me  
22 that we need to start to take out  
23 some of the data which we're  
24 currently using. So, I'll be happy  
25 to participate in the self

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2 evaluation. But at this point we  
3 have actually almost overkill on the  
4 budget.

5 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Let me just  
6 say, we really, at this point, we're  
7 simply looking at the self  
8 evaluation. We're not talking about  
9 legislation, we're not talking about  
10 changing any process. As I said,  
11 I'm condescend of the fact that  
12 there have been changes, and maybe  
13 those changes will bare out, you  
14 know, the point. I hear you on  
15 that. We understand that. We'll be  
16 working cooperatively. We're not  
17 looking at, we're not looking to get  
18 two steps ahead of ourselves. We're  
19 really at this process here. We're  
20 going to continue here until we  
21 finish. We want to go step by step  
22 in this. We don't want to make  
23 conclusions, assumptions. We don't  
24 have any set path. We're just  
25 looking at this as it comes up to

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2 see where we're at, and then we can  
3 determine if and where we need to go  
4 anywhere else. With that I  
5 certainly, Gail, my office will  
6 partake in this process, but I also  
7 think that those that have more  
8 expertise like your office and maybe  
9 the treasurer's office. Again,  
10 really this falls on two main bodies  
11 as I see it. We've got the  
12 treasurer, we've got the  
13 comptroller. I'm here as the  
14 legislature representative. But we  
15 would like to go through that  
16 process. Joe, anyone from GFAO, can  
17 we draft you?

18 MR. DAVOLI: Yes. I have no  
19 problem with that.

20 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Good, been  
21 drafted.

22 MR. DAVOLI: I think what this  
23 attempts to do is essentially  
24 checklist to put the most efficient  
25 data in the documents, not more. I

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2 think probably some stuff could come  
3 out, probably some stuff needs to go  
4 in.

5 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: We need to  
6 analyze the document, first, before  
7 we determine if we need to take  
8 stuff out or put stuff in. I agree  
9 with that.

10 MS. VIZZINI: Can we get a  
11 subcommittee to conduct the self  
12 evaluation and make recommendations  
13 from that?

14 MS. CARPENTER: If I could,  
15 Gail, it seems to me that this  
16 particular part of the exercise  
17 people that really work on the  
18 budget, the Budget Review Office,  
19 the County Executive's Budget  
20 Office, and the chairman of the  
21 budget committee are probably the  
22 appropriate people. As far as the  
23 treasurer's office and the  
24 comptroller's office apart from our  
25 individual departmental budget,

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2 where my people work on preparing  
3 our part of it in the request  
4 process, I don't know that we can  
5 bring that much to the table as far  
6 as the knitty gritty of the process.

7 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: I agree with  
8 that.

9 MS. VIZZINI: I've got  
10 legislator Montano's office, Jeff  
11 Davoli, myself, Fred. Okay, good.

12 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Next item D,  
13 Designate Budget Presentation  
14 Subcommittee and Responsibilities.

15 MS. VIZZINI: The other thing is  
16 to designate a lead person for self  
17 assessment so that everybody is not  
18 waiting for the next person. I'll  
19 do that.

20 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Okay. The  
21 next item D, Designate Budget  
22 Presentation Subcommittee and  
23 Responsibilities, done.

24 The next item is E, Designate  
25 Fiscal Policy Subcommittee and

1 April 22, 2008

2 Responsibilities. Do you want to  
3 address that Gail?

4 MS. VIZZINI: This really  
5 pertains to part of the core of our  
6 mission in terms of our fiscal  
7 policies, the fund balance, the  
8 division of our expenditures and  
9 revenue mandated and discretionary.  
10 I'm going to pass around for the  
11 committee a summary of our cap  
12 legislation and other things which  
13 it's my hope that we'll designate a  
14 subcommittee to work on this aspect,  
15 and part of what the responses from  
16 the questionnaire will be filtered  
17 through this subcommittee as well as  
18 the subcommittee is going to be a  
19 little bit of a learning curve with  
20 people outside of the Budget Review  
21 Office in terms of what we already  
22 have, and if there are  
23 recommendations for improvement in  
24 that regard. Let's take a moment to  
25 pass this out.

1 April 22, 2008

2 While we're doing this I also  
3 have the draft cover memo of that  
4 goes with the questionnaire, a hard  
5 copy. This was put together just to  
6 give a history and brief explanation  
7 of some of the fiscal policies that  
8 we have, some of the fiscal  
9 restraints that we have exercised  
10 and continue to exercise, so that  
11 the commission understands what it  
12 is when the information comes back  
13 from other counties. Similar to  
14 what we've done on these other major  
15 issues I would like get a  
16 subcommittee to work on improvements  
17 of what we have or alternatives to  
18 what we have.

19 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Any comments  
20 on that? Fred?

21 MR. POLLERT: No.

22 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: We have one  
23 volunteer.

24 Okay. Budget Review is a vital  
25 component of what we're doing here.

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2 Again, you know my role as Chairman  
3 of the Budget Committee anything you  
4 need we would be happy in our  
5 office, and I would be happy to work  
6 with you on that. I'll let you take  
7 the lead on some of these items  
8 since you have a more technical --  
9 go ahead, I'm sorry.

10 MS. CAPOBIANCO: I'll volunteer.

11 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Another  
12 volunteer?

13 MS. CAPOBIANCO: Yes.

14 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: And the  
15 treasurer's office. I think that  
16 stands for most of these committees.  
17 I think we're going to be working  
18 together, and that really is the way  
19 it should be. I guess that solves  
20 that.

21 The next issue, I told you we  
22 were going to have a brief meeting  
23 and I'm going to keep my word. We  
24 want to go onto the agenda.  
25 Consideration of guest speakers on

1 April 22, 2008

2 special topics. Gail, do you want  
3 to take the lead on that?

4 MS. VIZZINI: Gail, I put this  
5 is on the agenda in the event we  
6 wanted to discuss whether the  
7 commission wanted to hear from other  
8 budget officials or experts, you  
9 know, or is this something that we  
10 want to wait until we get surveys  
11 back to flush out, kind of want to  
12 get a feeling from other people. I  
13 don't have any specific  
14 recommendation that, you know, I  
15 think so and so should come and  
16 address us.

17 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Let me say  
18 this on this issue. I think it was  
19 two weeks ago, Bob, and I went into  
20 New York City. We were a guest of  
21 the chairman of their budget, what  
22 they call the finance committee. It  
23 is not their budget and finance, and  
24 he's going to be coming out here at  
25 some point in the future to partake

1 April 22, 2008

2 in one of your budget committee  
3 meetings. I think it is good. We  
4 sat in on their budget committee.  
5 We discussed how they present their  
6 budget, and we even got to, we went  
7 into the chamber. We also got to  
8 speak with some of his staff  
9 members, and we basically did an  
10 informal analysis of how we budget,  
11 what our schedule is, how they  
12 budget. They have a much bigger  
13 budget. I think their budget is  
14 something like 57 billion. But the  
15 process is much longer. It starts  
16 earlier, it ends later. I'm not  
17 saying that they did a great job  
18 because they, also, if you read the  
19 New York Post you see how they  
20 screwed up their budget in terms of  
21 allocating monies to agencies that  
22 don't even exist. So, even though  
23 it looks good on the surface you  
24 never know. The idea is, I think,  
25 is it is important to have an

1 April 22, 2008

2 interchange with some people who do  
3 this.

4 What I'd, also, like to suggest  
5 maybe there are other people in a  
6 county exec's office or the BRO from  
7 other jurisdictions that would be  
8 willing to come in and talk about  
9 the process. If we can have a  
10 meeting geared towards their  
11 presentation, get them in, get them  
12 out, ask the right questions, and,  
13 maybe, have some lead time to review  
14 their statute, review how they  
15 present their budget, time frame, et  
16 cetera. I would imagine that is  
17 where you're going or maybe I  
18 missread that?

19 MS. VIZZINI: Well, I was  
20 looking for a consensus from the  
21 commission if that is what we want  
22 to do.

23 MS. CARPENTER: I would agree.  
24 I think as we get more and more into  
25 the process it will become apparent

1 April 22, 2008

2 that the people out there would help  
3 us by coming and appearing.

4 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: It never  
5 hurts.

6 MS. CARPENTER: Maybe the  
7 committee, as a whole, can be kind  
8 of researching who might be helpful  
9 in this exercise and bring it back  
10 to the committee for consideration  
11 as to whom we might want to invite.

12 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: I think that  
13 is something that we can talk about  
14 amongst ourselves. We can suggest  
15 any names or topics. Gail, you and  
16 I will speak on that, and maybe send  
17 something out to the committee  
18 members in terms of do we want to go  
19 down this path, and if we do how  
20 about so and so on this issue.  
21 Let's come up, I think that every  
22 commission should have an  
23 opportunity, either to hear from the  
24 public or hear from, since we're  
25 evaluating how other jurisdictions

1 April 22, 2008

2 do their budget we may want to have,  
3 in addition to this questionnaire,  
4 some verbal give and take as to what  
5 really goes on. Not everything can  
6 be put on a form.

7 MS. VIZZINI: I would certainly  
8 suggest that the commission give it  
9 some thought. I know the Budget  
10 Review Office, at least, once if not  
11 twice a year gets together with  
12 other budget review offices or the  
13 like to do something very, very  
14 similar, you know, how do you, and  
15 we cover a variety of subjects, and  
16 fortunately we have a variety of  
17 contacts through that. So, we'll be  
18 able to use that in the subcommittee  
19 when we send out the survey  
20 questionnaire to get the legislative  
21 prospective on things. So, we'll  
22 leave it at that. If you have  
23 specific suggestions or a guess  
24 speaker on a particular topic you  
25 can e-mail me, and I'll present it

1 April 22, 2008

2 to the group for the group's  
3 concerns.

4 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Are there  
5 any, before we adjourn I want to  
6 thank everybody for being here. I  
7 like to thank the Treasurer, Angie  
8 Carpenter, and Comptroller Joseph  
9 Sawicki. I know you have a busy  
10 schedule. We want to thank you for  
11 coming here as well as your staffs,  
12 and the other members.

13 Are there any comments,  
14 criticism, anything that you want to  
15 lay on the table before we adjourn?  
16 As I said, the meeting was 45, 50  
17 minutes which I think we'll try to  
18 keep these meetings to run quickly  
19 so that we don't over extend the  
20 staff, because I know they have  
21 other responsibilities.

22 Anything you want to lay on the  
23 table? Gail, go ahead.

24 MS. VIZZINI: Just that the lead  
25 individuals for the subcommittee,

1 April 22, 2008

2 please, do your due diligence. Get  
3 your subcommittee together, arrange  
4 to meet, identify your scope, and  
5 we, the commission needs to allow  
6 the subcommittees some time to do  
7 the work.

8 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: Yes.

9 MS. VIZZINI: We need to take  
10 that into consideration when we are  
11 considering the date for the next  
12 meeting.

13 CHAIRMAN MONTANO: I would just  
14 say, if you can keep, for those  
15 things, not internal stuff, that you  
16 can keep me either cc'd on some of  
17 the other important documents so  
18 that we have a file in the office,  
19 so we basically have a handle on how  
20 things are going. As I said, my  
21 staff and I look forward to working  
22 with you on this and we're available  
23 on any issues that come up.

24 (Whereupon, the meeting was  
25 continued on the following page).

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With that I'm going to adjourn  
the meeting, again, with my thanks.

Adjourned.

(Time ended: 10:52 a.m.)

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April 22, 2008

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK        )  
                                      :ss  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK        )

I, KATHY J. DROSSEL, a Notary Public  
within and for the State of New York, do hereby  
certify:

That the meeting is hereinbefore set  
forth, is a true record.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set  
my hand this 24th of April, 2008.

KATHY J. DROSSEL