

**SENIORS & CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

A meeting of the Seniors & Consumer Protection Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on February 1, 2016.

Members Present:

Legislator Sarah Anker - Chair
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chair
Legislator Tom Cilmi
Legislator Al Krupski

Not Present:

Legislator Tom Muratore - Excused Absence

Also in Attendance:

Amy Ellis - Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature
Sarah Simpson - Assistant Counsel to the Legislature
Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office
Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn
Robyn Fellrath - Aide to Legislator Anker
Catherine Stark - Aide to Legislator Krupski
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern
Rick Brand - Newsday
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

(The meeting was called to order at 11:47 a.m.)

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Welcome to the Seniors and Consumer Protection Committee. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Cilmi.

(Salutation)

Please remain standing for a moment of prayer and silent meditation as we think of those in the military protecting our freedom.

(Moment of Silence Observed)

Thank you.

I see no correspondence or cards. We're going to go right into our presentation portion. Today we have Anna Senatore. Go ahead and come on up. Anna is with the Department of Public Service -- that's the Long Island office -- and she's here to speak about our senior community programs. I have to say how helpful your department has been in addressing the issue that I have in my district pertaining to our senior all electric rates. Some of those folks over in the Leisures pay up to \$1,000 a month, unfortunately, because they have all electric. In other words, they don't have oil, they don't have gas, and they don't have renewable electricity. So again, I want to thank you for coming here to talk about what your department is doing in these regards to our seniors.

MS. SENATORE:

Thank you. Good afternoon. Thank you for inviting me to come today. I'm here to basically increase awareness about our presence here in Long Island, so I'm just going to go over a few slides, and I'll try to get through the presentation as quickly as possible.

So for those of you that have not really heard much of our department, the Department of Public Service provides a variety of services to protect and assist utility consumers. We regulate investor-owned utilities such as electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and steam. However, our office was established by the LIPA Reform Act here on Long Island, and we are here focused on electric service. Our priority is to ensure that customers have the same level of service, same level of rights and protections as the rest of the state, so we are known as the electric service watchdog, and what I have here are some of our responsibilities such as the rate-setting process. For the first in over 20 years, we had a rate case to review PSEG Long Island's three-year rate proposal. We also handle complaint investigation. In 2014, we opened 1,770 cases and approximately recommended to over 200,000 in credit adjustments to customers. In 2015, we've opened 1,484 cases and had over 200,000 in credit adjustments, and we're getting started this year already. I don't have numbers for you, but we're on track with similar numbers.

Another area of our responsibility is outreach and education, which is what I'm doing today. I reach out to groups, organizations, and communities to educate them about our agency and to ensure everybody is aware of the resources they have available here in Long Island. Total personal interactions we've had thus far is actually over 4,000 now. We are also responsible for reviewing the emergency response plan, which is filed every year, and we make sure that there's improved communication with local state officials and other organizations. One of the highlights of last year was the installation of the outage management system, which improved outage information, live outage information as well as an installation of new interactive voice response system, which improved communication with customers. We also oversee the long-range plan for the electric grid. However, and one of the priorities -- excuse me -- is to make sure that they are aligned with New

York State's reforming energy vision, which I'll speak about a little later.

Today, though, I really want to focus on consumer protections, talk a little bit about the rate-setting process, and what just happened this past year. But first I'm just going to give you a quick overview of the PSEG Long Island bill to ensure that everybody knows there is two components of the bill, the delivery and system charges, and then there's also the power supply charges. The delivery and system charges is the cost to deliver the electricity to your home to maintain the network and also for administrative services. The power supply charges is the charge to purchase fuel and power. PSEG does not profit from the power supply charges, and they're set by the market and based on supply and demand. That's what you see right here.

The rate case. This year -- excuse me, last year, PSEG filed the first rate proposal. It was a three-year rate proposal. We held public statement hearings throughout Long Island and accepted over 6500 verbal and written communications -- excuse me, comments. In June, we held evidentiary hearings, and in August the administrative law judge drafted a recommendation to cut the increase by 30 percent. The department's final recommendation -- excuse me. The department's review resulted in a 26 percent reduction of PSEG initial request. So it was a victory on our part because we were able to cut back on things that we didn't feel were necessary.

Another very important area is consumer rights and responsibilities. DPS oversees PSEG customer right and approximates including providing affordable reliable and safe electric service, that they're doing timely customer billing and that it's accurate; proper handling of service applications and determinations; that they are offering affordable deferred payment agreements in case customers fall behind on their bills; and also that there are special protections for individuals with medical emergencies, life support, elderly, blind, or disabled, and that we want to make sure that customers are aware that there is a formal complaint process. In case they are not able to work out an issue with PSEG, they can contact our department and file a complaint, and there's a process in place to investigate and ensure that they're being fair.

Another very important part about customer outreach that I didn't mention is making sure that customers are aware of the programs that are available to them by PSEG. So in my research, one of the most important things that I focus on is the low-income communities, and recently I contacted PSEG to ask about their household assistance rate, which is available to customers that are in a low-income community, and one of the criteria in order to qualify for that is to be a recipient of another program, another existing program such as HEAP or SNAP or other programs that are available. So I did a little research and what I found was that in Suffolk County, there's over 38,000 households that have been approved for HEAP benefits as well as 21,300 in Nassau County. I didn't get numbers for you on Rockaway, but that's already over close to 60,000 customers or households out there that are recipients of HEAP benefits. That was the report that I got from OTDA for December 2015. So what I did is I inquired how many customers are enrolled in the PSEG household assistant rate -- and I apologize, I don't know why that number doesn't show up but I have it here in my notes. So of the 59,656 customers that are authorized for HEAP benefits, 14,839 are currently enrolled in the household assistance rate, which is a discount. It'll help them out with their bill, so that's tells me there's some sort of disconnect. The information is not getting to them. I do know that over 3,000 of them are automatically enrolled because they do have electric heat. For others that do not, they are not automatically enrolled so PSEG really relies on the customer to contact them to make sure that they are enrolled manually.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

I'm sorry, let me just clarify. HEAP, just in case for people who don't know, it's the Home Energy Assistance Program, and -- just real quick before you continue -- and that basically is for -- you have to meet a income qualification, correct?

MS. SENATORE:

Correct, yes, and the administrator is the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, so yes, in order for them to qualify, they have to provide proof that they are recipients of HEAP. So we are working right now with PSEG to ensure that they ramp up their outreach, that they're getting out there to communities to ensure that customers are aware of this discount, and I'm also here to make sure that you and your staff, whenever you do have interactions with your constituents, that if you could please inform them of this program that's available to them because, obviously, there is a gap and we need to make sure we get the word out. So we should work together but we are asking PSEG to collaborate with the other agencies, such as Department of Social Services, to make sure that this information is getting out to them.

So in the short term, what we're asking asking customers when we go out there is to ensure that they're being energy efficient, so we ask for energy conservation, and these are some of the savings tips that we offer them: install energy efficient light bulbs, insulate your homes, unplug. It's one of my favorites. People don't realize that even though your devices are plugged in, or appliances, they are still consuming energy even if they're not on. So if you're going on vacation and you're leaving your home, unplug those devices you're not going to be using, of course not your refrigerator but all the other things such as your television and any other things that you have plugged in, you can unplug. You can also look into a power strip, a smart power strip, which automatically turns off when the device is not in use. Look at Energy Star appliances if you're looking to purchase new appliances for your home. You could caulk your windows and definitely look into the income eligible programs that I mentioned. This information, by the way, is posted on our website, and I'll give you our website at the end of our presentation, but we have fact sheets on there about all of these programs that are available to customers. These are two websites you could also look at to be more energy efficient. One of them is unwasteNY.org; the other is PSEGLINY.com/efficiency.

Long term, what we're looking at is the REV initiative, which I mentioned earlier, the reforming energy vision. Today, our power, we have a centralized system. We depend on power plants to transport our energy to our homes. The future may look like this. What you see is more of an integrated system that integrates the old system with powerplants and new technologies. That's what we hope to accomplish including battery storage, solar, wind power, et cetera.

REVS goals are for 40 percent reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and 50 percent generation of electricity from renewable energy sources. So this is the long term, we're working on this initiative, and hopefully soon we will all see benefits from it.

One last thing I like to mention when I go out to communities is to make sure that customers are aware of this scam and imposters. There are e-mails and phone calls being made to customers to ask for a payment of their electric bill or they will disconnect their service. They're asking for prepaid cards to pay their service such as this Green Dot MoneyPak card, and they basically scan them for their money because it's not a true representative from PSEG. The other one that's a little scarier, the imposters that come to your door and ask act as utility representatives and ask for money as well or sometimes they distract you at the front door and go in through your back door and can steal or do other things. So if you are suspicious of this behavior, do not let them in your home, do not speak to them. Contact PSEG at their 1-800 number immediately.

And this is your contact information. These are the two key brochures that I want to make sure people are aware of. Go to our website. You can download them, and we are also available to mail them out to you if you are having an event and you'd like to share this information with your constituents, we can go ahead and get this information out to you. I think that's it.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Thank you, Anna. I also wanted to mention, too, you spoke about the HEAP program, again, Home Energy Assistant Program. Now this is a federally-funded energy assistance program, and it usually opens up in November, and there's a certain amount of time that applications are accepted. So again there's additional information that people need to know, and I was recently at Leisure Village, probably the largest senior community on Long Island, and a lot of those folks didn't know about HEAP. A handful, there was probably over 100 people, maybe 30 percent, 25 percent use HEAP, you know, so -- and again, you have to qualify. There's an income qualification with that. There's also REAP. Now that's Residential Energy Affordability Partnership. There's some other -- you mentioned SNAP. These are other programs that are available, and if anybody's interested or if your constituents are interested, they can contact, you know, your office. Legislator Stern had a question for you.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you. Welcome.

MS. SENATORE:

Thank you.

LEG. STERN:

I had a question for you. Going to your slide number three in your position as electric service watchdog, down the list, the item regarding the emergency response plan.

MS. SENATORE:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Tell me about the emergency response plan. What does that plan look like? Who files that plan? Who is filed with? And are you aware of the elements of the emergency response plan? How would you characterize that?

MS. SENATORE:

Well, this year, actually, for the first time, I was part of the review team, and first, to answer your first question, PSEG files the plan on an annual basis and it's filed with the Department of Public Service. It is a public document, so the public can access their plan and take a look at it. We have a team of experts in our department that reviews the plan including engineers, attorneys, outreach staff such as myself and others. It is a comprehensive plan, so I'm very familiar with the outreach section of the plan. I'm not as familiar with the other areas. Again, as I said, it's a very comprehensive plan so it's pretty lengthy, but we do spend a good amount of time reviewing it, and then we provide comments to the department -- excuse me, to PSEG if we feel they need to make improvements, and it's then filed publicly as well. Our comments are filed. We accept comments from the public if they find that they have an issue with anything on the plan, and then PSEG files their final draft in June of every year.

LEG. STERN:

And after you make your comments and the plan is issued, do you do a final analysis or summary of the plan, or is it just the plan as filed and then it's up to everybody to review it?

MS. SENATORE:

No, we do review it once again to ensure that all of the recommendations we filed with them are implemented.

LEG. STERN:

When you say "comprehensive" and "specific," how comprehensive and specific might it be? Is it just in terms of a general outline as to who might have priority in an emergency situation, or does it get down to some specifics of a particular area and what the utility might need to look at in the event of an emergency, natural disaster, et cetera, as to where their priorities might be? Is it just in general, well, this particular category might get priority on restoration, or is it as specific as some of the critical infrastructure or communities or facilities that might be in a specific area?

MS. SENATORE:

By just glancing over some of the other areas of the plan that again, I'm not very familiar with so I don't want to give you wrong information, but what I've seen, it is a very comprehensive plan, and it does spell out every step of the way what needs to happen in case of an emergency. But our office of engineering staff would be the better people to ask and give you more detail about exactly what that detail is. Again, it is available, though, online for you to review.

LEG. STERN:

Your analysis of it is available online?

MS. SENATORE:

Our recommendations are available online. The plan itself, the initial draft, is online, and then our recommendations will be available as well as the final draft.

LEG. STERN:

And that's at your website?

MS. SENATORE:

That would be available on the DPS, which is the department, the New York State Department, website on the DMM page, which is the data management -- it's a specific page on our website that hosts all the filings.

LEG. STERN:

How would you say, in determining a plan, what does the procedure look like? Do you know whether PSEG or members of your staff will have conversations with some of the first responders or the police department in a particular municipality to help develop that plan?

MS. SENATORE:

Yes, they do collaborate with other organizations, other agencies to ensure that they are speaking to each other and they do have all of that spelled out in the plan as to who's responsible for what.

LEG. STERN:

This graph that you provided, HEAP benefits that are authorized in household assistance rate enrollment and the differential there, which you pointed out, is very disappointing to see. I know you share that disappointment and you talked about outreach efforts that need to happen. If I have it correct what you had said, of course there is a disconnect and there's a need to raise awareness but that PSEG relies on the consumer to find out information and to make the application, correct?

MS. SENATORE:

Well, what I meant is that they need a manual application by the consumer, so they do, essentially, either they contact PSEG or they are referred by another agency like the Department of Social Services to enroll in the program. They're not automatically enrolled like the other HEAP recipients that have electric heat in their home, and what they are doing now, though, is that they're collaborating more with Department of Social Services to ensure that they have advocates there

present and available to answer any questions when customers do come in and inquire about the program.

LEG. STERN:

"They" being who?

MS. SENATORE:

PSEG Long Island.

LEG. STERN:

PSEG -- you're saying that PSEG has members of their staff who are consulting with DSS staff?

MS. SENATORE:

Yes, they are collaborating with them, they're providing information about the program, and I know that they have an advocate that's available to them to educate the public.

LEG. STERN:

Okay. So that's informational. My question to you is do you think that PSEG has some type of a responsibility not just to provide information and education but to help in some way with the outreach effort and to identify those who are eligible for these benefits?

MS. SENATORE:

Absolutely.

LEG. STERN:

In your opinion, what can and should they be doing?

MS. SENATORE:

We are asking them -- we hope to meet with them, actually, within the next couple weeks to find out what their new outreach program will look like because we are asking them to improve their outreach.

LEG. STERN:

I know my colleagues would probably agree, we look forward to seeing their suggestions.

MS. SENATORE:

Absolutely.

LEG. STERN:

Thank you.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

And we are going into our senior communities being proactive. You know, Legislator Stern and I have been working with our Vets committee, and, you know, we have some amazing vets services available, both within the county and also outside with not-for-profits, but you have to find the people. They don't come to you; you actually have to go to them. So we are -- we'll be working together to make sure the information is out there. You do have to, again, meet criteria, which is a lower income, and some folks are embarrassed, especially if they're taking SNAP, food stamps. They are, at this point, working with DSS, we are able to find some of those folks that may qualify, but, again, it's not always easy. I also wanted to mention, too, I mention after Superstorm Sandy, we had our concerns, and especially, I'd, say particularly in my district because of the number of trees that really brought down a lot of the power lines, and so the question was how is the electric company getting notification that the lines are down, that these folks don't have electricity. You

know, this was years ago. There was nothing that the electric company had that they were able to know when the power was out. There was nothing connected to the grid. There was the other utilities of the cable, the phone, they were able to receive notification when their lines were down. So I'm just curious, has there been any advancement into notification when electricity is down? And I will put in a good plug is that I did receive notification when I signed up. You sign up for text messaging, and they'll let you know -- or phone messaging, and they'll let you know if the powers are down if they are working on the lines, but what advancements have been made with that with notification when electricity is not available?

MS. SENATORE:

So I know that because they've improved their communication with elected officials, town officials, et cetera, they are able to communicate better with them and get information from them whenever customers contact them about an outage in their community. I know that the new technologies that are now available to PSEG staff is outage management system, which is a map that gives them live information about outages throughout the Island. I know that's been another improvement. Of course, I can't really speak in too much detail about that technology. I'm not an expert or very well-versed on that, but I can tell you it has improved significantly and also they are able to communicate with customers, as you've said, via text if they have access to computer or through their phones, they can send messages or contact them and give them information. So I know that they're getting reports more quicker and faster than they were in the past.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Yeah, I know, again, the senior communities, I want to say maybe 30 percent have computers, they use computers; the vast majority, they don't. So is there a particular outreach department that could perhaps come to my committee and let us know, give us an update on that situation?

MS. SENATORE:

Absolutely. I can look into that for you, and we can either have PSEG staff that's in charge and responsible for that who can come here and talk to you about that.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

That would be great. Legislator Krupski has a question for you.

MS. SENATORE:

Sure.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

The question is actually on that slide, and you had said that the household assistant rate, they do receive a discount on the electric rates. What is that discount, and is it the same for everyone?

MS. SENATORE:

I don't know exactly what the amount is, but I have a little description here about the program and it says that the reduction is in the delivery and system charge portion of the electric bill, and I don't have the eligibility criteria available here, but I know that it is an income-eligible program. If they qualify, they get this discount, and I don't think I have an answer for you as to the amount exactly or if it's the same for everyone, but we can definitely find out and get back to you on that.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thanks, Madam Chair. Thank you for being here.

MS. SENATORE:

Thank you.

LEG. CILMI:

I have some questions related to your agency, but before I ask, I guess I should probably ask you how long have you been with DPS at this point?

MS. SENATORE:

Two years.

LEG. CILMI:

Two years. And what's your title? I'm a utility consumer programs specialist.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. So in terms of the electricity provision picture, 30,000-foot overview, are you well-versed in that or not really?

MS. SENATORE:

No, not really.

LEG. CILMI:

All right. I guess I'll hold off on most of my questions, then. You know, here in New York State, of course, we have the public service commission, and we have DPS, and we have, to a certain extent, we have LIPA, and we have PSEG, which provides the electricity. You mentioned in your initial introduction that one of the roles of the Department of Public Service is to ensure that we are receiving competitive electric rates throughout the state. Do you know, has DPS done any analysis on, say, a county-by-county basis throughout New York State as to what each county is paying in general for electricity? Not that I'm aware of, but it's very likely that our rate design team, our accounting staff, has done that type of analysis, especially during the rate case. I know that they did a lot of work, but I wouldn't be able to answer you as far as whether it was actually done or not. I'd have to get back to you on that.

LEG. CILMI:

Because I have to tell you, hanging your hat on -- and this is not for you personally. I'm sure you put in an honest day's work at DPS, and I'm sure you're of great value to the agency. But to hang your hat as an agency on reducing the increase that's requested by 30 percent, therefore the increase is allowed to be at least 70 percent of what was requested, in the economic environment and electricity environment here on Long Island where we pay some of the highest electric rates in the country, it doesn't say a heck of a lot for your agency. You know, I'd like to know what your agency is doing to reduce our electricity rates, not just to relatively insignificantly stem the increases in electricity rates that residents are paying.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

I'd also like to interject too, though, that we have, unfortunately, a unique situation but we have the Shoreham nuclear plant debt.

LEG. CILMI:

I understand that, Madam Chair, but nevertheless, the debt from Shoreham, my understanding is that it's still what it was years ago. I mean, it's billions of dollars. That's the information that I'd like to see come from your agency: What is being done to reduce our electricity rates here on Long Island? Because, quite frankly, if DPS just winds up being another layer of government that insulates the real decision-makers from the public or the public from the real decision-makers and disseminates information, I mean the information that you're providing is good information. HEAP

is a good program, some of the other things that you talked about, how I can reduce my electric usage is all well and good, but I'm sure you can find the same sorts of information on -- with some of the other agencies.

So if you could take that back to the powers that be in your agency and maybe at some point -- I'm not sure that -- this is probably not the appropriate committee to do it in. It's probably more appropriately done in the Public Works committee, I would imagine, it will start soon. But a broader presentation on the role of DPS in the whole scheme of electricity provision here on Long Island would be appreciated.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

And I think that's where I would like to go with this. We had our concerns, of course, with Superstorm Sandy, and I sat here and I listened to all the utilities and then LIPA came up, and, you know, what was happening when there was an electrical outage and how did you know, and they didn't know. What's frustrating, too, on the north shore in my area, there is no cell service, so not only do we not have a phone line or cable line or electricity, we don't even have -- you know, and then people couldn't even get out of their cars because there were trees on the road. It was pretty extensive, but it would be nice to have a more detailed focus on certain aspects of our energy realm, so that's something we definitely will bring forward, and we'll work with you.

MS. SENATORE:

I think I can definitely propose that to our director and see if maybe some of our rate staff, our energy efficient or energy supervisor staff can join and bring you a presentation that's a little bit more informative and focuses more on the long-term plan.

LEG. CILMI:

And specifically with respect to the Shoreham debt, there's somebody within the agency that can talk in some detail about that, because, frankly, it seems to me that we're never going to get out from under that, and that does not bode well for our residents and for electricity rates and for our commercial customers as well.

MS. SENATORE:

I'm happy to take your comments and make the suggestions to Julie, and then we can decide how we present this to you.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

I think another very important point, I think, that has been amplified over in the Shoreham area is the solar farms and how important it is when we increase the availability of solar on these large solar farms that are owned by companies in other states and that we need to make sure that we have a local benefit to those communities. It's just like bringing a big development into a community, and there is a responsibility, I feel, that the local community needs to benefit not just the large companies that are providing solar. And I understand why the solar fields are being created and solar farms are here is to help with the peak demand of electricity and also reduce the pollution from the oil-burning power plant. It's very involved and very intricate, but I do appreciate you coming here basically focusing on the basic idea of what the Department of Public Service provides.

Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Just one more question. With respect to renewing the energy vision and some of the goals, increased use of renewables and whatnot, I recognize that the only -- that it's not the only goal of that program to reduce the cost of electricity, because I believe that's one of the goals of the

program, right?

MS. SENATORE:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

So how is it that PSEG on one hand encourages folks to lower their usage of electricity but then as we become more efficient with our electric usage, they came back to us and say, Well, because you're not using as much electricity, we need to increase your rates and they get approved for that; how does that happen? Ultimately, what's the incentive, then, for us to become more efficient?

MS. SENATORE:

I'm going to refer this question to Daniel, my colleague, who actually can speak on that a little bit. I'm assuming you're referring to the --

MR. MALESARDI:

I think you're referring to the revenue decoupling charge, which was in Newsday a couple weeks ago, so it's not actually a one-to-one split, so it's not like every dollar you save, they charge you a dollar to run the system. The charge is something that was approved during the rate case because we want to keep LIPA and PSEG in line with the rest of the utilities in New York State. What LIPA used to do is, if they had a shortfall, they had to make up for their salaries or what it costs to run the system, they would just issue more debt, so we're trying to get LIPA away from issuing more debt and trying to get them in line with the rest of the utilities in New York State. Does that kind of clarify it for you?

LEG. CILMI:

Definitely not.

MR. MALESARDI:

So it costs "X" amount of dollars to run a system, administrative costs, salaries.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MR. MALESARDI:

So the revenue decoupling charge is trying to make it so that, you know, sales are not directly related to revenues. So this charge, it costs this much to run the system this month but we had a mild winter and we didn't make the appropriate amount of income for that month, so we're just making the company whole in a sense, LIPA whole. It's a closed-loop system. PSEG and LIPA is not -- you know, there's no investors to go to. You are the investors. There's no one to penalize for a mild winter except the ratepayer. It's a closed-loop system in a way.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. So again, I go back to my initial question, then. If ratepayers are being encouraged to save electricity on one hand, but then the rates go up to compensate for the loss of electricity of revenue on the other hand, then what's the point?

MR. MALESARDI:

Well, again, it's not a one-to-one dollar thing.

LEG. CILMI:

Where does the rest of it come from?

MR. MALESARDI:

Where does the rest of what come from?

LEG. CILMI:

If it's not a one-to-one thing.

MR. MALESARDI:

If you save \$10 in a month, it's not LIPA then charges you \$10. It's not like that.

LEG. CILMI:

Well, they spread it over the rest of the system, though.

MR. MALESARDI:

Right, so it still encourages you to save money. It's not like, Why get solar? Because I'm just going to get banged with the revenue decoupling charge. It promotes energy efficiency, in a way, because LIPA can then promote programs that are energy efficient, not be burdened with a loss in revenues.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

It sounds like this could be a really intense discussion, and I would love to have you guys back again. Is that okay, Legislator Cilmi? It's a very involved situation --

LEG. CILMI:

It's a scam. It's a scam is what it is.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

-- and there's so many pieces to this moving engine, and I do appreciate you coming here. We're looking to do what we can to help protect the consumer. It's part of our committee's efforts, and we look forward to speaking to you and working through some of these problems that we have. Thank you very much.

Okay. We are going to move forward. We have no tabled resolutions. I'm going to move to the introductory resolutions.

1164, Accepting and appropriating 100% reimbursable new Federal grant funds from the New York State Office for the Aging for a Fully-Integrated Dual Advantage Program (FIDA) (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved/Consent (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore)**

IR 1227, Appoint member to the Suffolk County Animal and Pet Advisory Board (Sarah K. Alward, DVM) (Spencer). I'll make a motion to approve. Is Sarah here? I'll take away my motion to approve. Motion to table. Can I get a second?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'll second.

CHAIRWOMAN ANKER:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore)**

IR 1229, Adopting Local Law No. -2016, A Local Law amending Chapter 563 of the Suffolk County Code to permit use of a government issued passport as acceptable personal

SCP 3/14/2016

identification (County Executive). I'll make a motion to table for a public hearing. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Tabled/ Public Hearing (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore).**

I see no further business. This meeting is adjourned.

(The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.)