

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 August 29, 2016.

Members Present:

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

Not Present:

Legislator Tom Muratore - Excused

Also in Attendance:

Amy Ellis - Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Benny Pernice - Budget Review Office
Andrew Tarantowicz - Budget Review Office
Robyn Fellrath - Aide to Legislator Anker
John Morafino - County Executive's Office
Holly Rhodes-Teague - Director, Office for the Aging
Kevin Macleod - KPS Solar
Ray O'Rourke - Department of Labor
Russ Calemno - Chairman Suffolk County Electrical Licensing Board
All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken By:

Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer

Minutes Transcribed By:

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

(The meeting was called to order at 1:25 p.m.)

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Okay. We're going to go ahead and start. I apologize for being late, so we're going to proceed. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Cilmi.

(Salutation)

Please remain standing for a moment of silent meditation and prayer as we think of those in our military serving our nation; and also for a very dear friend, Scott Marsala (ph), who passed away this week; and also for those that are dealing with the earthquake devastation in central Italy.

(Moment of Silence Observed)

Thank you. Okay. We have one card for public portion. Kevin Macleod, you want to go ahead and come on up?

MR. McCALLISTER:

Kevin Macleod, president of KPS Solar, Bay Shore, New York. I gave out a handout. Did everybody get the handouts? What I want to quickly -- I know we're pressed for time here -- is just briefly mention about the makeup of the solar industry on Long Island here as far as what's licensed and what's not. Most of that, I'm going to leave you with the handout, but I want you to understand 60 percent of the solar industry, the work's done by home improvement contractors with licensed electricians working hand in hand to do the electrical component. Recently in the industry, we've had the loss of rebates in March. We're going to lose our solar loans here September the 1st, so the industry right now is at a very delicate balance. Anything, any new regulations or laws or anything that could come about could upset the industry, and I want the board to understand that.

Some of the things that I've been hearing that possibly may come about could upset that balance. We don't need new regulations. We don't need new laws. We don't need any other restrictions that could upset that balance, and this sheet basically gives you some of the acronyms that might have been questioned about within the industry, the qualifications. NYSEDA, who has actually been the governing agency for the industry for the past two years, with the ending of their rebate program and the lessening of the solar loans is kind of like losing control of the industry now, so where we've had that balance of home improvement contractors and licensed electricians doing the solar work, we now can have the outside contractors coming in who basically have no licenses for requirements doing solar in Suffolk County. And that's where our focus should be not on actually restricting and regulating those who work within the laws of Suffolk County but those who are coming from the outside that are building the solar farms out east from California, New Jersey who don't live or work in Suffolk County that could upset our whole system out here in Suffolk.

So this is where our focus should be, not on those who are actually law-abiding contractors here in Suffolk, so I appreciate if you'd look at this. I know I'm going to meet with some of you in the future on some of these questions, and I thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Okay. Thank you. Okay. Again, we don't have any official presentation. I know, Holly, you're in the audience. Any updates for our senior department, anything? I will comment, though. I am currently working -- speaking of energy and uses of energy -- I am working to provide a more reasonable rate for our seniors with all electric. Right now, some of our seniors pay over a thousand dollars a month, so we're working with the Department of Public Service to see if they can

come up with a special rate. In addition, my office is working to create special rebate programs for the plan-to-retirement communities. Unfortunately right now, they do not qualify for residential audits because they're attached units, so now we're moving forward and hopefully by 2017, there will be programs. That's what we're hoping for. Good afternoon, Holly.

DIRECTOR RHODES-TEAGUE:

Hello. I just wanted to ask for your support on the money -- this funding in front of you for a reso caregiver -- a balancing incentive program for caregivers, and it's 241,000. At this point, I believe it's just one-time funding, and we've applied for it, and we'd like for you to accept it so that we can move forward with trying to get additional funding into our nutrition programs, so that's what that money is for. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

Okay. Thank you. We'll move forward. I see no tabled resolutions. We'll move to the introductory resolutions.

We have **IR 1700, Accepting and appropriating 100% reimbursable new federal grant funds from the New York State Office for the Aging for a Balancing Incentive Caregiver Support Program (BIP) (County Executive)**. I will make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved and placed on consent calendar. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore)**

IR 1743, To approve the lease of two (2) replacement fifteen (15) passenger vans for the Suffolk Works Employment Program in the Suffolk County Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs in compliance with Local Law No. 20-2003 (County Executive). I will make a motion to approve. Can I have a second?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

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

IR 1744, Accepting and appropriating additional Disability Employment Initiative (DEI) funds from the New York State Department of Labor for the Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act (WIOA) (County Executive). I will make a motion to approve.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

And also place on the consent calendar. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved and placed on consent calendar. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore)**.

IR 1746, Accepting and appropriating additional funds for a 100% State funded Summer Youth Employment Program (County Executive). Again, I will make that motion to approve

and place on the consent calendar.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I have a question about that.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

On the motion.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

It's a summer youth employment program, but does the state have to pay their own minimum wage? Are they subject to that?

MR. O'ROURKE:

Ray O'Rourke, Labor Department. Yes, we are paying minimum wage.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ANKER:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved and placed on consent calendar. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Muratore).**

I also want to mention Legislator Muratore has an excused absence.

I see no further business. This committee meeting is adjourned.

(The meeting was at adjourned at 1:33 p.m.)