

**VETERANS & SENIORS COMMITTEE
of the
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Veterans & Seniors Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on **March 6, 2003**.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator William J. Lindsay - Chairman
Legislator Cameron Alden
Legislator Andrew A. Crecca
Legislator Martin W. Haley

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Paul Sabatino - Counsel to the Legislature
Terrence Pearsall - Aide to Legislator Lindsay
Ray Zaccaro - Aide to Legislator Bishop
Art Lozeau - Director, Veterans Service Agency
Holly Rhodes-Teague - Director, Office of the Aging
Alexander B. Sullivan - Chief Deputy Clerk, Suffolk County Legislature
Joe Muncey - Budget Review Office
Nicole DeAngelo - County Executive's Office, Budget
Deborah Weiner
Other Interested Parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Ana Grande- Court Stenographer

1

(THE MEETING CAME TO ORDER AT 11:45 A.M.)

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Let's call the meeting to order of the Veterans & Seniors. Legislator Haley will lead us in the pledge.

(SALUTATION)

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

We have one card. Why don't we get that out of the way and then we'll go to reports of the two committees. Deborah Weiner, please come forward. If you would be more comfortable at the table, just have a

seat.

MS. WEINER:

Only because I'm usually too short to be seen over that. Good morning, Chairman Lindsay, Legislators Haley, Crecca and Alden. I'm here to thank you for considering Sense Resolution 9-2003, supporting RSVP to become a self-sponsored grantee.

And just as a very brief background of what this is all about, Suffolk Community Council wrote and received a grant thirty-one years ago from the Federal Government to sponsor RSVP. Now, they have been incubating us for thirty-one years and we have in the interim designed and developed our own Board of Directors with their own 501-C-3. Suffolk Community Council has given their blessings to our Board to become a stand-alone agency and we have received support from everyone in the County.

And just as an aside of what we do, we have a thousand volunteers doing community service at a hundred and forty-five agencies. They served a hundred and fifty thousand hours last year. And at the rate that the independent sector gives the value of a volunteer service, sixteen dollars and fifty-four cents, it means that their service to the community has been over two hundred and forty-eight million dollars last year. So, we really do a great job.

The reason that we would appreciate a Sense Resolution of support is that because the Suffolk Community Council has relinquished their grant, the Federal Government looks at us as a new agency and we will have to put in a new application for the funding. The applications are due March 19th and they have to be back by April 18th. And so the stronger support we get from the community, the better our case is to the Federal Government.

We have the support of the Office for the Aging, who actually turned over all the contracts to our new Board, and we have the support of the towns who have turned over their contracts to the new Board. And so now it's just for the Federal Government to give us the grant that we've been working under for thirty-one years.

And so I just wanted to explain a little bit about this before you voted on it and I want to thank everybody for your ongoing support.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you very much. Does anybody have any questions? Okay.

2

LEG. HALEY:

I'm going to agree with it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Do we get the report from our Directors? Holly, do you want to go first?

MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:

I just want to clarify what Deborah said, the contracts that they have, that Suffolk Community Council had with us, we're trying to transfer over to RSVP. However, I believe there's a resolution that will be laid on the table to allow that funding to go over to RSVP, because they're pseudo-coded, so that should be coming up. It's not here, I mean I think it should be laid on the table. I don't know which Committee that would go to, but the pseudo codes have to be switched. So, just so you're aware of that, that will be coming down the pike if it's not already there.

The office, we're just moving along right now. There isn't a whole lot to report on at this point. We're monitoring the State budget, we're looking to see where we're going to be on that.

We've got the senior celebration May 15th. And we're just busy. I don't have a lot to offer this month. Any questions?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you, Holly, for coming out in this bad weather to inform us of --

MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:

Nothing. Sorry. I could have done it on a phone call, if you had asked, but --

LEG. HALEY:

It gets you out of the office anyway.

MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:

Whatever. We're just busy moving -- right now it's the State budget, we're just keeping an eye on it to see where we're going to be. I think everybody is doing the same thing. Okay.

MR. PEARSALL:

Holly, where do we stand on HEAP funds?

MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:

I just heard that the HEAP funds are supposedly going to be around for a little while longer than we thought, but I haven't seen anything definite on that.

LEG. HALEY:

Do you need them?

MR. PEARSALL:

Certainly, my dog is chilly.

3

MS. RHODES-TEAGUE:

We keep getting this cold weather, everybody is going to need them.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Anybody have any questions for Holly? Thanks, Holly. Art.

MR. LOZEAU:

Art Lozeau, the Director of the Veterans Service Agency. You should each have a copy of the mailing I made out to the Veterans Post announcing our ceremonies for the upcoming year. You will each, as Legislators, get an individual invitation, but this is just for planning purposes.

I don't have anything else to add. Business is going along as usual with claims, etcetera. Do you have any questions?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Anybody got any questions of Art? Thanks, Art. Okay. Let's go to the agenda.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

I.R. 1098-03. "Authorizing the transfer of certain property of Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (South Holbrook Development Civic Association, SCTM #0500-108.00-02.00-016.000)."

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Introductory Resolution 1098. I'm the sponsor of this bill and what it is is we had a small pocket park that belonged to a Civic Association in the Holbrook community. The Civic Association went bankrupt and the property would be scheduled to be auctioned off this spring if we don't do anything about it.

On the property is a small pocket park with a monument to Vietnam War Veterans that have lost their lives in this part of Suffolk County. It was built with private funds from one of the families of one of the young men that were killed, that was killed in Vietnam.

And what we're trying to do with this is a 72-H to, in effect to the Parks Department, the Parks would take it over and we have, the local VFW has agreed to maintain the park. So that's what the resolution is about.

LEG. HALEY:

Why would it be a 72-H?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I'm not sure, it doesn't --

LEG. CRECCA:

Wouldn't it or would it?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Well, 72-H would be to transfer it to another government agency, we're going to incorporate it into the Parks system.

4

LEG. CRECCA:

72-H, yeah, right, exactly.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

72-H was if we transferred it to the town or the school district.

LEG. HALEY:

Our own parks, I'm sorry, not Islip parks.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Right, our own parks.

LEG. CRECCA:

Who owned it before this, the Civic Association?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Civic Association, right.

LEG. CRECCA:

They got it from us originally?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

No.

LEG. CRECCA:

Okay.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

They had a couple of pieces of property along this stretch, they had a civic hall and they had this pocket park that was a memorial park too when they lost everything.

LEG. CRECCA:

So a deed would go from the Civic Association to the County?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Well, actually the County owns the property now, because of them not

paying their taxes. It goes back about three years now. It's come to the point where it's scheduled to go on the auction block.

LEG. CRECCA:

So we're transferring the designation of the property?

LEG. HALEY:

I'll second the motion.

LEG. ALDEN:

On the motion. This is going to be dedicated as parkland?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

It goes that way through this motion then, right?

5

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Good.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yes. All in favor? Approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-0) APPROVED

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Would this be eligible to be put on the consent calendar?

MR. SABATINO:

Yes, it would be.

LEG. CRECCA:

I make a motion to put on the consent calendar, if that's all right with the sponsor?

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Yes. Second. (VOTE: 4-0-0-0) APPROVED CONSENT CALENDAR

SENSE RESOLUTIONS

Sense 6-2003. "Memorializing resolution requesting Federal Government to ensure same rates for HMO for Senior Citizens in Suffolk County as in New York City.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Sense Resolutions. Sense 6-2003. I'll make a motion.

LEG. CRECCA:

I'll second the motion, Mr. Chairman, and ask the Clerk to list my name as a co-sponsor on that resolution.

LEG. ALDEN:

With me too.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Would the entire Committee like to be listed on it?

LEG. CRECCA:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Would you please do that? All in favor? (VOTE: 4-0-0-0) APPROVED

Sense 9-2003. "Sense of the Legislature resolution supporting RSVP in its bid to become a self sponsored grantee."

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Sense 9.

LEG. HALEY:

Motion.

6

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Motion by Legislator Haley.

LEG. CRECCA:

Second.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator Crecca. All in favor? (VOTE: 4-0-0-0) APPROVED

LEG. CRECCA:

And I'd also ask the Clerk to mark me as a co-sponsor.

LEG. ALDEN:

Co-sponsor.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

The whole Committee. No other business, motion to adjourn is in order.

LEG. ALDEN:

Motion to adjourn.

(THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:55 A.M.)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY