

WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Ways and Means 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 Wednesday May 9, 2007.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Lou D'Amaro - Chairman
Legislator Elie Mystal - Vice-Chairman
Legislator Tom Barraga
Legislator Kate Browning
Legislator Edward Romaine

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Gail Vizzini - Director, Budget Review Office
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office
Nicole DeLuca - County Clerk's Office
Penny Wells-LaValle - Director of Real Property
Todd Stebbins - County Executive's Office
Cheryl Felice - President - AME
Jacqueline Caputi - County Attorney
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano- Court Stenographer

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:53 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. I apologize for being late. I ask everyone to rise and join in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Counsel, Mr. Nolan.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. The committee doesn't have any cards this morning for anyone who would like to address the Ways and Means Committee. Is there anyone here who would like to address the committee during the public comment section of our agenda? If not, we'll go immediately to the Section Five on the agenda, which is Tabled Resolutions.

MR. ZWIRN:

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Yes. Mr. Zwirn.

MR. ZWIRN:

If I might. There's one item on here if we pull out of order so -- there's a representative here from the District Attorney's Office. It is IR 1415, approving the appointment of a relative of a Supreme Court Judge in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, one Peter Mayer. If they could pull that it, we can get everybody back to work.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Motion to take IR 1415 out of order.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. Motion by Legislator Romaine, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. IR 1415 is now before the committee.

1415-2007, Approving the appointment of a relative of a Supreme Court Judge in the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office (Peter Mayer).

MR. ZWIRN:

It's just a formality. It's part of the County Law that anybody who is a relative is being appointed to a County position, that it would come before the Legislature so that there's -- there's public notice. Peter Mayer is going to be appointed to an Assistant District Attorney position. So we just bring it to the attention of the committee and ask them to consider it favorably.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. I'll offer a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. The resolution is **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

MR. ZWIRN:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Back to the beginning of the Tabled Resolutions. I'll call the first resolution.

2188-2006, Authorizing conveyance of parcel bearing Suffolk County Tax Map Number 1000-015.00-05.00-025.003 to the Town of Southold pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law.

This has been a continuing resolution that's been tabled. I know that sometime ago we were talking about the parties coming together and talking about cost. Mr. Zwirn, is there anything you would like to add at this time on that?

MR. ZWIRN:

I have nothing new to report. I haven't heard from anybody in the community that there's a problem. Legislator Romaine, I don't know if you've heard from anybody as well. I think it's all moving forward, but they just haven't come to us asking for a final resolution.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Roads remain in the same condition that they have remained in for many, many years.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Motion by Vice-Chair Mystal to table, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

2413-2006, Adopting Local Law No. 2006, A Charter Law creating a program for public financing of County campaigns and the banning of certain donations to curb potential conflicts of interest.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Motion to table.

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion to table.

MR. ZWIRN:

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Mr. Zwirn.

MR. ZWIRN:

At the appropriate time, I'd like to have an opportunity to just speak to this.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Sure. There's a motion by Legislator Browning to table, seconded by Legislator Mystal. On the motion -- and also, Mr. Zwirn, did you want to comment?

MR. ZWIRN:

If I may. This will expire if it's not moved to the floor. And the County Exec would ask that it could be discharged to the floor and then -- I know there are -- a majority of the Legislators may not be ready to support this at this time, but in order for us to not have to refile it, at least if we get it to floor as a discharge, then we don't have to refile it and it will sit there. It could be tabled on the floor without -- without any problem. I know yesterday in committee we did this with Legislator Alden's bill on the Sewer District. It would have expired. There was a motion made to discharge just to get it to the floor so it didn't have to be refiled. We would ask for the same courtesy with respect to this one.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Yes. Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I remember Legislator Schneiderman's bill for campaign finance reform that was far simple and far more direct that simply established campaign contributions limits on those doing business with the County of Suffolk. No such courtesy was extended to Legislator Schneiderman. His bill was allowed to die from being repeatedly tabled.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you, Legislator Romaine.

LEG. BROWNING:

I withdraw my motion to table.

LEG. MYSTAL:

I make a motion to discharge without recommendation.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Vice-Chair Mystal makes a motion to discharge without recommendation. Legislature Barraga is seconding the motion. I'll call the vote. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. ROMAINE:

I abstain.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Legislator Romaine abstains. The motion carries. **DISCHARGED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION (VOTE:4-0-1-0 - Abstention - Legis. Romaine)**

MR. ZWIRN:

Thank you very much.

2593-2006, Naming the new Supreme Court Building in Riverhead the "Distinguished Military Veterans Supreme Court Building".

I'll offer a motion to table.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Second.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

1306-2007, Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law to integrate Real Property Tax Service Agency and County Clerk Subscription Service Fee Program.

The public hearing has been closed, and this resolution is ripe for a decision. I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.
APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).

1324-2007, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 589-2006.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Just a brief explanation perhaps from either Counsel or BRO.

MR. REINHEIMER:

This is a technical correction pertaining to budget. The original resolution appropriated the funds to Fund 528, which was incorrect. It should be 527, which is a Sewer Capital Project Fund.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you. I'll offer a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chair Mystal and put on the Consent Calendar. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**

1327-2007, Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Charter Law to strengthen and streamline the process for adopting local legislation.

Requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table for that purpose, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

1337-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Eve Lynn Nathanson a/k/a Eve Bohrer Nathanson a/k/a Eve L. Bohrer Nathanson executor of the estate of Melvin I Bohrer, as surviving tenant by the entirety (SCTM No. 0300-024.00-06.00-008.000).

This is a redemption as a matter of right. I will offer a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

1338-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Edward McGowan (SCTM No. 0500-118.00-01.00-084.000).

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**

1339-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Shelley Dillon (SCTM No 0500-315.00-02.00-033.003).

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**

1340-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Patrick A. Serube and Deborah L. Serube his wife (SCTM No 0800-138.00-05.00-011.003).

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

1341-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Eugene J. Kastner and Diane Kastner (SCTM No. 0100-189.00-04.00-029.001).

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1342-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Donald Deveau (SCTM No. 0500-267.00-02.00-012.003).

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1343-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Edward Licalzi (SCTM No 0500-118.00-01.00-063.000).

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1344-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Donald Butler a/k/a Donald R Butler (SCTM No. 0200-973.70-06.00-029.000).

I'll offer again the same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1345-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Mujo Adovic (SCTM No. 0100-191.00-01.00-029.000).

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1348-2007, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No 877-2005.

Once again, a technical correction. Counsel.

MR. NOLAN:

This resolution corrects the name of an owner on a planning steps resolution.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar. Is there a second?

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

APPROVED and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1349-2007, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 144-2007.

One again, a technical correction. Mr. Nolan, if you would.

MR. NOLAN:

This is similar to the earlier one, which changed the Capital Project number on an earlier approved resolution.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Thank you. I'll offer a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

Okay. The next two resolutions are similar in nature. I'll call the first.

1350-2007, Establishing a Taxpayer Friendly Health Care Benefits Policy for Suffolk County Water Authority.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

There's been a request, I believe by the sponsor, the Presiding Officer, Legislator Lindsay, to table this for one cycle. Also, the same explanation for 1351, which I'll call in a moment, for the purposes of allowing these boards to take another close look at their own policy and see if they want to act on this issue on their own initiative. So with that said, Legislator Mystal has offered a motion to table, I will second the motion. On the motion? I'll call the vote, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1351-2007, Establishing Health Care Benefits Policy for Suffolk County Off-Track Betting Corporation.

Legislator Mystal offers a motion to table, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1352-2007, Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Charter Law transferring certain functions of the Department of Human Resources, Personnel and Civil Service, Division of Human Resources, to the Department of Audit and Control.

LEG BROWNING.

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

This motion -- this resolution requires public hearing. Legislator Browning offers a motion table, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1354-2007, Authorizing conveyance of parcels on CR 19, Patchogue-Holbrook Road to the Town of Brookhaven (Section 72-h General Municipal Law).

I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Second.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Mystal.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Quick question. For what purpose is this being transferred to the Town of Brookhaven?

MR. NOLAN:

For the construction of a park and gazebo.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

The property involved, the resolution indicated it's being transferred for a municipal park and a gazebo. There's a motion to approve and a second. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

1365-2007, Authorizing the Department of Information Technology to develop list of appreciation and awareness designations on County website.

This is a resolution that deals with, I believe, posting all of those types of dates on the County website. I'll offer a motion to approve.

LEG. MYSTAL:

I'll second the motion. Any objection from the Department of Information? Any comment?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Good morning. Sharon Cates-Williams, Commissioner. The only question that I have is who would be the provider of the information I would be posting?

LEG. MYSTAL:

Good question. Who would be?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

I'll post it if someone gives it to me.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Legislator Romaine, please.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I know Counsel is getting ready to answer that question. I assume this operates like an events calendar, Counsel. And if it does the posting of different events on the calendar, who determines what is the criteria that is established on who can call in events. Can I call in an event for my Cub Scout Pack down at the end of some road somewhere? Can I call in -- because if that's the case, an events calendar for Suffolk County might be clogged with, well, three or four or 5000 possible events per month.

Calling that in, what's the criteria for establishing it? I'm calling it in, does it have to be faxed in, is there a contact person, you know, all the types of questions, because to ask Ms. Sharon Cates Williams' department to handle all of this -- I mean, I understand Legislator Cooper thinks it's a good idea. And, of course, on first blush, most of the resolution he proposes sounds like motherhood and apple pie, but quite frankly, to legislate that and to turn that into governmental action sometimes becomes very difficult. And this might be one of those times. Without a set criteria of what we're going to post, who we're going to post from, and how much effort and employees are going to be involved in maintaining this website, is something that -- you know, before we leap, we should look.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Legislator Romaine, I have a slightly different reading. You had mentioned an events calendar. I don't read the resolution -- the first Whereas Clause says the County of Suffolk designates appreciation and/or awareness days, weeks or months. So anything that we officially designate

would then just be available via website.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Then I don't have a problem with it.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Nevermind. Nevermind.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

But we did enjoy listening to you.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Ms. Cates, I think the provider would be either the Suffolk County Legislature or the Administration in terms who will contact your department to say we are appreciating this day. Therefore, you know, it would be on your calendar. Either, I guess, the Office of the Clerk --

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

The resolution -- the First Resolved Clause directs that your department would be directed to compile a list of appreciation and/or awareness days, weeks or months. So it would be incumbent upon yourself to not only publish the list, but to compile the list.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

But where would I get it from? You know, we're the tech people, we're not --

LEG. BROWNING:

County Executive's Office.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Clerk of the Legislature.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Right. I mean, are we -- would you like to create a mailbox for all this information to just come in, and then I just pull it out of there? I think somebody has to be responsible for creating the content.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay.

LEG. BROWNING:

Don't we have -- the County Executive's Website comes up with a lot of those "Clean Beaches Weeks"?

LEG. ROMAINE:

You mean this website would compete with the County Exec's? I thought he was the only purveyor of news.

LEG. BROWNING:

Well, I'm just saying, you know, aren't those weeks sent to us through e-mail, various weeks, appreciation's days?

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

I mean, I'm sure that whether it's been done by Executive Order or legislation, the information -- the first place I would start obviously would be with the Clerk's Office to determine what information is available. But are you saying that you are not in a position to be able to compile this information?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

No. My concern is that -- I don't want any events to not be posted just because I didn't --

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

They're not events though.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Appreciation days, I mean, how would I found out about the appreciation days? How are they announced?

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Well, that's why we need the list. I think it would take probably a little leg work to go to the various departments who are probably each notified and also the Clerk of the Legislature to say, okay, what events or appreciation days are designated through your departments and then begin to compile that list.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

It just doesn't seem to make any sense to me to have the networking people doing that type of work since it's not technical related. It's more of an advent function, which we don't really do.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

That's what I'm getting at.

MR. NOLAN:

I think this will not be hard. My office would be glad to assist you in terms of getting the information from the -- it's Legislative resolutions that designate days and weeks and months. And we would be glad to assist you in trying to put that together. I think there may already be a partial list or a complete list over here of what we've done by resolution. And then the County Executive by Executive Order designates days or weeks and months, and I'm sure there's somebody in the Executive's Office who you can interface with to get that information. So I don't think this will be a difficult task at your end.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yeah. I just don't want anything to not be posted that, you know, we may have missed, and then you come back and say, "Well, how come you didn't post that?"

MR. NOLAN:

We don't do that.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Don't believe him.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Got that on record, right.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Legislator Barraga is opposed. **APPROVED (VOTE:4-1-0-0 - Opposed - Legis. Barraga).**

1372-2007, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law Town of Huntington (SCTM No 0400-094.00-03.00-048.001).

This is a 100 foot street frontage site in the town. Mr. Zwirn, do you know the purpose that it's being conveyed to the Town of Huntington for?

MR. ZWIRN:

Not off hand. I'll check.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay. The Town Board Resolution says it's establishing a park. Okay. I'm offering a motion to approve, is there a second? Seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

1376-2007, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No 16-1976 of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Barbara Mouk a/k/a Barbara B. Mouk a/k/a Barbara E. Mouk, Executor of the estate of Igor Buketoff (SCTM No. 0200-015.00-03.00-032.000).

This is as a matter of right, so I'll offer motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

1386-2007, Amending the 2007 Capital Budget and Capital Program and appropriating funds in connection with the acquisition of a new mainframe (CP 1799).

I assume this is an extremely vital system for the County of Suffolk. Commissioner, would you like to come up and chime in, as they say?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes. The current mainframe that we have is nine years old, and we have -- over the past two years, we've been migrating all of the applications off of the mainframe except for the most critical application that's still running on there, and that, of course, is the payroll app. Payroll app currently produces \$950 million a year in payroll. And we have quite a few, you know, payroll, such as the disability payroll, budget staffing, personnel payroll, we run welfare management off of that as well.

So this piece of equipment is necessary simply because we need to keep this payroll system, of course, still running, up and running. In addition to that, the Police Department has a mainframe system, and this new mainframe that we're going to install will act as a redundant system for the PD. And the Suffolk County PD is currently running all of their criminal justice applications, their arrest system, their vehicle tracking apps and things of that nature. So I think that since the County does not have an alternative right now to our existing payroll system, we have to purchase this new mainframe at a reduced cost from when we originally first got the quote. It's running around 833,000. I think you probably have the correct number there. The original quote was 1.2 million.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Legislator Mystal.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Ms. Cates, from what I remember, the archaic system that we have, is this mainframe still going to use that same proprietary software with the same proprietary archaic language that we use for the mainframe?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Our payroll system is still written on Cobalt. And we have staffed up our payroll group so that we do have succession planning in place.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Are we making plans some how to migrate from Cobalt to an object-oriented language?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

With the current staff that we have now, we are looking at migrating off of Cobalt into another language, yes. I have also explored the possibility of getting an off-the-shelf package to take care of payroll and HR functions as well, but that's very, very expensive. You know, if you go to People Soft, you're talking, you know, quite a few million dollars, which is the top app out there.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Are we also talking about when we do migrate to a new language, will we have to replace the mainframe?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

No.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Are we going to be able to --

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

We'll stay with the existing -- the same staff and everything.

LEG. MYSTAL:

Okay.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

It's not the best solution, but we've got to keep payroll going.

LEG. MYSTAL:

We've been talking about migrating from Cobalt for ten years now.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Well, I'm amazed that I can still find Cobalt people.

LEG. MYSTAL:

I think I am one of the few last ones.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Legislator Romaine.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Good morning.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Good morning.

LEG. ROMAINE:

1998 we bought a mainframe; is that correct?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

I only go back nine years.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Right. And that mainframe, why do we need to replace that mainframe?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Parts. Parts and also the software running on that is no longer being supported.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. Let me ask you about the mainframe architecture. Is that the type of thing that a government decides normally would be involved in for maintaining records, such as payroll, etcetera, at this day and age?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Unfortunately, it's not unusual, no.

LEG. ROMAINE:

It's not unusual. And you believe that buying a new mainframe for the payroll -- what else is used for --

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Redundancy for the PD.

LEG. ROMAINE:

For the Police, which also interestingly enough only has its own mainframe. And how old is their mainframe?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

That I don't know. I'm sorry I don't have that answer.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. Thank you. And mainframe architecture for payroll is better than an open architecture-type system; is that correct? Is that what you're saying to us?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Well, I'm saying that because of the complexity of our payroll system and the fact that it is written in Cobalt, in order to migrate to something else would be very, very expensive for the County to do.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Will the day come when we will be forced because the mainframe architecture is outdated that we will have to migrate?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

I don't see that day --

LEG. ROMAINE:

And are we postponing the inevitable --

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

I don't think so.

LEG. ROMAINE:

You don't think so. You think that mainframe will be around --

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

I think this mainframe will be around --

LEG. ROMAINE:

For more than nine years?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Than the last mainframe?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes. Well, I would hope we wouldn't keep it for nine years. I think when you look at the trade-off between what we could do versus this solution, it's very expensive.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Well, expense is only one component, productivity is another component.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

But if you invest in your staff and you do succession planning, which I've tried to do and have been very successful in doing that. As I mentioned, I've been very successful in getting Cobalt programmers, young ones, coming in, training them on how to continue to maintain our payroll system. We're surviving.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Have you run this past the Information Steering Committee or whatever it is?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes. Yes, I have.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Who serves on that committee currently?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Allen Kovesdy is the representative from the Budget Office, Allen Fung is the representative from the Legislature, Jeff Houghtalen is the County Executive's representative.

LEG. ROMAINE:

He replaced Doug Miller.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Jeff Houghtalen, yes, he did.

LEG. ROMAINE:

What is Doug Miller doing now in County Government?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Doug Miller is now my Director of Information Technology.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. Thank you. And who else serves on that committee?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Fung, Kovesdy, Houghtalen and --

LEG. ROMAINE:

Yourself.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Well, actually, I don't have a vote on that committee, but I do sit in on the committee.

LEG. ROMAINE:

So there's three people on that committee?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

There's actually four. You have a representative from the Clerk's office as well.

LEG. ROMAINE:

The County Clerk's Office?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes. Oh, okay. No, I'm sorry. The Legislature. Your office.

LEG. ROMAINE:

And who is that representative.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Bobby -- Bobby Knight.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. And They have recommended a mainframe architecture?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes, they have.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I have grave concerns, because this is an outdated technology that we really -- you know, to be investigating in this at this age instead of making the decision to migrate that data off an outdated technology to a technology that would work better for Suffolk County in the future raises a lot of concerns for me. But I won't go on because I know it's -- my colleagues have their viewpoints. I would just raise that for the record.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

I would just add the old adage, if ain't broke, why fix it. It's not broke, we're fixing it.

LEG. ROMAINE:

That's one way to look at it. I think opportunity lost and opportunity cost from economic analysis of this would be another way to look at it. And I think we're seeing opportunity lost and the opportunity cost, if you do this, you can't do that, and that may be much better than what we have. And anyone in this business will tell you that we're dealing with an outdated technology. But thank you.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Okay. Anything else?

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Commissioner, this committee that vetted this proposal or made this recommendation, I assume used all the different criteria, whether it was cost analysis, the benefit versus cost of using an older technology, that type of thing.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yeah, we did.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

And viewing that in total, felt that it was still cost effective and made sense to go in this direction with this technology?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

You had mentioned earlier that it would be more expensive --

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

To use, I guess, a newer way. I don't know the nomenclature, but --

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Right. To use something off the shelf like a People Soft Software.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

And so how much more expensive would that be, I think is the question in my mind.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Well, where you would pay your money is every time we change one of the bargaining units, you would have to go back to that vendor, whether it be People Soft or ADP, you'd have to go back to them, bring them in, and they would have to make that change for you. And that's where your expense is going to come into play. If you're going to buy something, you want to be able to maintain it in-house. But the way that these applications work, once you buy it from them and they customize it, they -- they generally expect you to stay that way. But our payroll system here in the County is so complex, it's not like, you know, any other.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Right. So by using this older technology, you are able to maintain is strictly in-house except for repair, I would assume.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes. And we're able to make the changes very quickly because we've trained our staff to do that.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

And then you anticipate that having a life expectancy, the new equipment, of about nine years?

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Okay.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

I would hope the equipment would last that nine years, yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Right. And I'd be willing to bet --

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

And it's equipment and staff too. The two go together.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

So the new system, just to be sure, is going to function up to your expectation as well as be a less costly way of providing payroll service to the County.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

And then nine years from now, who knows what the technology will be out there.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Right. It may be something else. And in between, we're still looking at doing tests to see if we could put it in a different language, take it out of Cobalt into something else. We'll still continue to do that.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

I understand.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

It's just that, you know, the whole timing of the whole thing. This equipment is nine years old. I'm concerned that if it goes -- you know, if it breaks, then we can't do payroll and that would be bad for the County.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Point of information.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Yes. Legislator Romaine, please.

LEG. ROMAINE:

I see that we're amending the 2007 Capital Budget in mid year. What are we using as the offset for this?

MR. REINHEIMER:

I can answer that question. It's amending the current Capital Program. It's reprogramming \$100,000 for planning for equipment. So it's within that project. It's rescheduling funds slated for planning and putting them into equipment.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Planning for?

MR. REINHEIMER:

That same project. It's within the project. There was \$100,000 scheduled for planning and \$733,000 for equipment. This resolution reprograms \$100,000 from planning to equipment to provide 833.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay. So there's really no offset, we're just pushing it all together?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No. It's within the project. Correct.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

I'll offer a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. ROMAINE:

Opposed.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Legislator Romaine is opposed. Abstentions? Motion carries. The resolution is **APPROVED (VOTE:4-1-0-0 - Opposed - Legis. Romaine)**.

MS. CATES-WILLIAMS:

Thank you.

1391-2007, Consenting to a certificate of abandonment of a portion of Browne Avenue, Ronkonkoma, New York.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

I took a look at the backup on this resolution. It appears -- it's an abandonment of a part of a paper street. I believe the paper street has already been sterilized, and the condition of the abandonment is that this parcel would remain undeveloped. Is that basically it, Mr. Zwirn?

MR. ZWIRN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

All right. Okay. I'll offer a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1407-2007, Amending Resolution No. 2-2007, Rules of the Suffolk County Legislature.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

There's been a request by the sponsor to table this resolution. I will offer a motion to do so. Motion to table, seconded by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0)**.

1425-2007, Authorizing the County Clerk to file an application for additional State mortgage tax reimbursement.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

It appears to be a pro forma resolution, but I'll ask our Legislative Counsel to just give us a brief synopsis of what this provides.

MR. NOLAN:

This is a resolution we do at least every year where the Clerk's Office makes an application to the State for necessary expenses for collecting mortgage tax.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

I'll offer a motion to approve. Is there a second.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

APPROVED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).

1426-2007, Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Charter Law transferring certain selected functions of the Department of Human Resources, Personnel and Civil Service, Division of Human Resources, to the Department of Law.

Requires a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to table.

LEG. BROWNING:

Second.

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Seconded by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

MR.25, Memorializing resolution in support of New York State Legislation to provide statewide voting system using paper ballots and precinct-based optical scanners.

Motion by Vice-Chair Mystal to table, I'll second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE:5-0-0-0).**

There is going to be an Executive Session, a brief Executive Session of the committee. So we'll adjourn to that at this time. There's a motion to go into Executive Session and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

(*AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD FROM 10:38 A.M. UNTIL 10:52 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:

Motion to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Barraga. We're adjourned.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:50 A.M.*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY