

**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 August 1, 2007.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Legislator Lou D'Amaro - Chairman  
Legislator Elie Mystal - Vice-Chairman  
Legislator Tom Barraga  
Legislator Kate Browning  
Legislator Edward Romaine  
Presiding Officer Lindsay - Ex Officio Member

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature  
Gail Vizzini - Director, Budget Review Office  
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature  
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office  
Jacqueline Caputi - County Attorney  
Kathy Liguori - Tutor Time  
Edna Guarino - Family Day Care  
Ann Druckenmiller - Gerald Ryan Outreach  
Peter Barnett  
Phyllis Henry  
Edna Newton  
Sondra Bachety  
Thomas Pugliese  
Jim Olsen  
All other interested parties

**MINUTES TAKEN BY:**

Donna Catalano- Court Stenographer

(\*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 9:47 A.M.\*)

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. So good morning, everyone. Welcome to the Ways and Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature. To start the meeting, I'm going to ask if everyone would please rise and join the committee in the Pledge led by Legislator Mystal.

**SALUTATION**

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Once again, good morning. The committee does have some cards that have been submitted for individuals wishing to address us this morning. And we thank you for that. When you come up to address the committee, we ask that you identify yourself on the record, give us your name, let us know who, if anyone, you're representing other than yourself. And you will be given an opportunity to address us for a total of three minutes. So we ask that you think about what you want to say and perhaps summarize your remarks before you come up. The first person I'd like to call this morning to the podium is Jim Olsen. Mr. Olsen, good morning.

**MR. OLSEN:**

Good morning, sir. How are you?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Fine. Thank you.

**MR. OLSEN:**

This is a short notice response by me to be here today because only heard about the sale of the property that contains our right-of-way to the beach. And I see it's on the part of your agenda to be tabled today, which is a good thing, because I had no idea this was transpiring because as any property purchaser, you buy a piece of property and it says you have a right-of-way and all of a sudden you find out if went into tax default. So we have taken care of the property on a regular basis over the years as different members of the 60 lots that are involved in this. And there have been things done to the property, and we're going, okay, who did that, why was this done.

I'm questioning personally, you know, with the sale of the property that there seems to be some type of restriction being placed on the property. And different improvements over the years that have been made have been removed; benches down by the bulkhead. So I'm glad you are tabling the motion, because I think we need to look into this as the people involved with the right-of-way that we are securing this right even if the property is sold.

It came as a surprise to me that there was no notifications. Apparently, this is 20 years ago that it went into tax default. I mean, an action could have been taken back then by the property owners in the area. But we understand why the property was being offered to the two adjacent land owners. I mean, I can understand that part. But we just wanted to make sure that we're securing our rights through the property as a right-of-way. So thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Sir, thank you. Okay. Next speaker is Thomas Pugliese. Good morning.

**MR. PUGLIESE:**

Thomas Pugliese. I've been a resident of Southold for ten years. And the property that Mr. Olsen was talking about is like a way of life for us. You know, we bring our kids down there, we put our fishing poles in there. And lately, we've been restricted, even though it's County property, from going on that property. And just two days ago, there was a gate put up. You know, this is like a way of life. All the neighbors go down there. And we're not saying that nobody should buy it or the fellow next door shouldn't buy it, it's just that we could see what's going to happen when he does

purchase it.

Now, we understand that the right-of-way is for right-of-way, but once you're enjoying that property from his property to the next property that he's going to purchase, he could do what he wants to it. It's his property. And then we have to fight for the right-of-way. And I think we should -- we should at least discuss this before it goes any further and try and make some kind of, you know, agreement that there won't be a gate there, the benches will be put back and our right to the Bay is the ladder, which was taken down. And there's a lot of complaints from four different County agencies plus the DEC that's involved. I don't even think it should go that far. Okay. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay, sir. Thank you. Next is Kathy Liguori please. Good morning.

**MS. LIGUORI:**

Good morning. My name is Kathy Liguori. I'm here today to represent myself as a owner -- business owner of Tutor Time Child Care Learning Centers of Medford and middle island. Also, I've accepted the appointment of position, a non compensated position, of chief advocacy officer for the Early Care and Education Advisory Group of Long Island. They will be a business organization that assists child care providers in business advisories.

I also am the Vice-Chair of the Welfare to Work Commission of the Suffolk County Legislature. My point of informing you of all of that is to let you know of the tireless efforts for child care that have only just begun. And I'm here today also to be sure that Resolution 1510, Prompt Payment Law, follow its path to be tabled to be written in the proper form for child care. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Thank you. Next speaker Edna Guarino.

**MS. GUARINO:**

Good morning. My name is Edna Guarino. I represent Contracted Family Day Care in Suffolk County. I'm here to likewise do what Kathy did, to encourage you to table IR 1510 so that it can be worked out appropriately to better day care in Suffolk County. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Thank you. Next is Sondra Bachety. Ms. Bachety, it's my pleasure to welcome you back to the auditorium.

**MS. BACHETY:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

You're one of our former Presiding Officers of this body. Welcome this morning.

**MS. BACHETY:**

Thank you very much. Good morning. I'm here on behalf of the Outreach Center of our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish in Wyandanch. We have a very active center that does a great deal for the poor. We have a very large number of people that we supply clothing and food, and it's kind of an overreach of all the people from the Social Service Center down the block. We have been told that you're going to close that or that there's a resolution here to move it to Bay Shore. We have received absolutely no information. We have not seen a plan, although I was just told there is a plan.

It reminds my of what happened back in the '80's when I sat back there, and they wanted to move all the people from Wyandanch up to Huntington. And we got all these wonderful plans about they were going to have buses and they were going to be able to take trains. Anyone who knows the

Town of Babylon knows you can't get from Wyandanch to Huntington easily, and you certainly can't get from Wyandanch to North Bay Shore easily. And I don't know what the plan is, I haven't seen it. And so I'm respectfully asking you if you could table this so that those of us who work with the poor in Wyandanch and who are concerned about this would have an opportunity to look at it and perhaps help you with it or offer suggestions, because the thought of these poor people, women with children, trying to get to North Bay Shore for aid seems to me to be unreasonable and short sighted.

I understand your fiscal problems. I understand that they're going to consolidate. And I heard a line before that I've heard many times. "When we consolidate, there's going to be so many more wonderful services." I have never seen that happen. I was here for 11 years, I was a Councilwoman in Babylon for 12, I never saw that happen. I'd love to think it would be different here, but I don't think so. And meanwhile, on the backs of the poor, we're talking about sending them to North Bay Shore. It is very inconvenient. If you've ever driven there, I would ask you to do it. I'm sure there's going to be a line in there, because I've heard it before, so many people -- a percentage of people have cars. The price of gas, as you all know, is outrageous. So they're going to spend what little money they have try to drive or get a cab to this place in north Bay Shore.

So you have the resolution on. I understand it has never gone before the Human services Committee, which I'm confused by, because that would be the kind of thing that would come in front of them. So since we have to speak prior to hearing any information about the plan, if there's any way that you could -- this is July. We would really have a lot of people from Wyandanch here -- it's August. Today is August 1st? Yes. We really would have brought down a lot of people, but although we announced it from the pulpit on -- it was announced from the pulpit on Sunday, it is very difficult to get everybody organized.

So I would be remiss in not telling you that there are so many people who will be affected and hurt by this. And our outreach center, which is funded by private donations -- and I'm here with Jane Devine, another former Legislator -- we help to raise money for our outreach center, and we're having a terrible time. It's very difficult to raise money. And if we have to take on an added burden of more and more people that are not being serviced by Social Services, we are really going to see a larger problem with the poor.

So I would ask you to think of the least -- those people with the least among us and do something to at least put this off so there can be some input, some involvement with the community, some way to way to help those who really do need it. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Thank you. Next speaker is yet another former member of this body, Jane Devine. Ms. Devine, welcome to you.

**MS. DEVINE:**

Thank you very much, Legislator D'Amaro. Someone said when they saw Sondra and me today, "You both wore white, are you being angels today?" And I said, "Yes, we are. We are here as angels for the poor." I guess you could call us that. I'm not going to talk about the poor. I'm going to talk about how this -- by the way, I only found out about this at 11 o'clock last night when Sondra called me.

I have questions, and these are professional questions, of why this is before Ways and Means frankly. When I saw Ed Hernandez, with whom I've worked for the poor for a long time, I asked him that. And he said, "well, it's at the lease, we're at the lease stage." Si it sounds as if this is being treated as a fiscal matter, when it really is not a fiscal matter. There are fiscal asides to it, but this is really a matter of human services. Government doesn't always have to be cost effective. Sometimes the benefit, the benefit is worth more than the cost -- than reducing the cost in order to be more efficient.

And I would just like to draw your attention to the fact that we're now at, I find out, at a lease point

-- and I'm on the board at Wyandanch -- and I'm not here necessarily as a board member of Wyandanch, I'm here to support the notion of local service -- Social Service Centers. I fought for one in Huntington, and I was successful when I was a Legislator. And as soon as I left, it was closed. So there has to be some people on this board who are still interested and who want to -- who want to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. And that's true. It sounds like an old saw, but it's true. They don't -- they're not organized, the people who receive Social Services, they don't know the system. They don't know to come here and talk to you and say this is what we need. But you and I know that they use can't. The people who use the Martin Luther King Center cannot get to Bay Shore. Mothers with little children can't get there.

It makes no sense to take the services out of the community. I agree with Sondra that those who say we're going to provide more services because we're closing three centers are really obscuring the real purpose here, which is to reduce cost. If the purpose is to reduce the overall budget for next year and this is the move, and the timing certainly looks like that, then let's be honest about it and say that's what we want to do. But there are a lot of other ways that we could reduce costs in this County, and we all know that. To reduce human services to the poor, I don't think is the way to go.

So I would ask you to refocus this and refocus it to Human Services and take the focus to some extent away from the fiscal attributes of this. This is just more than just a lease. The resolution caption says a lease, it's more than that. We all know that. Human services are buried in that caption, and the lack of human services are buried in that caption. And I ask you to please take a look at that and remember that government is supposed to serve the poor even if it cost a little. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. Ms. Divine, before you leave, I believe Legislator Romaine had a quick question for you if you don't mind.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Actually, I just want to welcome you back. I served with you and I served with Sondra over there. And I just want to mention that in I believe it was March of 1968 -- '86, when Sondra took many Legislators, myself included, on a tour of what was then to be the Social Service Center in Wyandanch. And I remember us, as a Legislature, coming together to vote for that. And that was a very important thing. I know this is a County Executive resolution, and I would encourage both of you -- because I'm going to hold off my support based on your appearance today --

**MS. DEVINE:**

Great. It's nice to know that you still listen to us, Ed.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I still do. And they say that people grow old only by deserting their ideals. And in my eyes, neither of you will grow old, because you've advocated so well for so many of the things that you've believed in for so long. I'm going to hold off any support for this resolution. But I would encourage you, since this is a County Executive resolution and a County Executive initiative and not something springing from this Legislature, to speak with our County Executive about this. So I'm going to withhold my support for this resolution based on your appearance until you have had time to consult with the County Executive. And I'd be happy to entertain any comments from you thereafter. You all know where my office is, it's out in Riverhead. Give me a call, I'd be happy to take your calls.

**MS. DEVINE:**

Be assured we will make a visit across the street. We definitely will. We ask you today to please table this so that the people from the Wyandanch community, both from Martin Luther King and from Our lady of Miraculous Medal, which would be overburdened if this is closed or moved, so that we can do the work that we need to do. And so those Legislators who support what we're saying will also come together and help us achieve what we need to achieve, which is to serve the poor of

Wyandanch. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Jane, before you go, just very quickly, when did you get notice of the pending move?

**MS. DEVINE:**

I heard about this last night.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

You just heard about it last night as well?

**MS. DEVINE:**

And I'm a board member.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

One of the things that always concerns me in any position in public office is that folks have an opportunity to be heard and that any issue gets fully vetted. And people need to walk a way from the process win or loss feeling that they had their fair opportunity to speak and be heard on an issue. So when the bill comes up later during the committee hearing, that is one of the issues that I'm going to be asking, if there's any representative here who can to speak to it, as to why there wasn't better notification in the community. That's something that concerns me.

**MS. DEVINE:**

Legislator, can you tell me if this was assigned at any point to the Human Services Committee?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

I don't believe so, no.

**MS. DEVINE:**

Does that make any sense to you?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Well, it's done at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

**MS. DEVINE:**

Well, we're going to make a visit there too.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Whether it makes sense or not, I'll leave between you and him.

**MS. DEVINE:**

Okay. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Thank you. Okay. Next speaker is Ann Druckenmiller.

**MS. DRUCKENMILLER:**

Good morning. My name is Ann Druckenmiller. And I come to you with the same feelings that Sondra and Jane have just expressed. I served as the Executive Director of the Gerald Ryan Outreach Center for 21 years. Having recently retired, I was appalled to see a notice in Newsday or an article saying that the Wyandanch Center was to be closed.

The first thing I thought of was here we go again. We did this before. Years ago, there was a picture in the same newspaper with a couple of folks in this room with hardhats on digging the dirt for the Wyandanch Center. And I sat next to Ed Romaine on that bus, on the bus tour. So we've been there, we've done that. It's time to do something more creative, new and beneficial to the

people that are poor. When we had to send folks to Huntington, I had to spend \$350 a month on bus tickets. I didn't have \$350 a month. And I ended up having to take it out of my budget or just stop buying them, because I just couldn't afford it anymore.

So I say to you no matter what kind of transportation you set up, if it isn't the soles of people's feet, it was going to be prohibitive to the poor in Wyandanch. We have no idea how poor is poor. When you are poor in Wyandanch, you can't get out of Wyandanch, you just can't. And we really don't know. It reminds me also of Marie Antoinette, no, let them take the bus. No, they don't have the money. So I ask you please to table this motion if that's what it takes and send this to Human Services if that's where it belongs. And Jane said, to put some gentility, some concern for the common good, some empathy for the least of us and for some generosity that we often show in your words, but let's do it in our deeds. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Thank you. Ann, you know, just one other thought on what committee it should go to. It's standard procedure that leases that the County desires to enter into come to the Ways and Means Committee. That's part of our jurisdiction on this committee. This particular resolution supports the lease, it doesn't really have anything to do with closing the center in Wyandanch.

Now, I'm saying just from a resolution standpoint, trying to answer the question why this resolution is pending before this committee as opposed to Human services. It's not to say that it doesn't belong with the other committee, perhaps it does, but we here today are just simply looking at the lease as we do all leases before the County enters into them. And it's not really -- the issue before this committee is not directly whether or not the center in Wyandanch needs to close, although that may be the practical affect, of course, of approving this resolution.

**MS. DRUCKENMILLER:**

Well, that's our concern. I mean, would why we look at a lease if we weren't planning on using it?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

And I agree with you. But I'm just -- I don't want to speak for the Presiding Officer. That may have been part of the thought process though that went into that in putting it in this committee.

**MS. DRUCKENMILLER:**

It's the cart before the horse it seems to me. Thank you.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I just wanted to answer you, Mr. Chair. The question is -- we are at the lease division right now from the Real Estate Department to us, the Ways and Means Committee, because a policy decision has been made already. And that's basically what they're addressing. We've already -- they've made a policy decision -- the administration made a policy decision without informing anybody in the community, without informing anybody else. And what they are addressing, if we are already at the lease process, that means you already have it to be -- for the Wyandanch Center to be closed. And they want to do is to come back and go back to the policy decision, not the lease decision.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Very good. All right. Thank you. Next speaker is Ms. Edna Newton. Good morning. Welcome.

**MS. NEWTON:**

Good morning. I'm here strictly because of the fact I have lived in Wyandanch for over 45 years. I live there and I was part of that group to open the center. It's puzzling me. I know many have spoken about the poor in Wyandanch, and, yes, there are poor, but we all are basically just a paycheck away from being poor with the prices of gas and everything that's going on today.

However, I really would like to state as Beautification Chair, having been there over 45 years, why is

it that we did not know that this was being brought to the Legislature for the center to be closed? Now, you shed a little -- some light on it a bit while I was sitting there. And I'm a little bit more understanding, but to state my feelings, they cannot get where they need to be with closing Wyandanch Center. I was told that it would be one-stop shopping. I want to know will it be a one-stop shopping and will it be better for the residents of Wyandanch? Thank you for listening. If it's not a one-stop shopping, I would certainly work towards not having it closed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Ms. Newton, thank you very much. And I'm sure those are some of the question that we also have and that we'll be looking into through this committee process. Thank you. Next is Phyllis Henry. Ms, Henry, good morning.

**MS. HENRY:**

Good morning. Phyllis Henry from Wyandanch. Not only do I live in Wyandanch, I work in Wyandanch. I work out of the Martin Luther King Health Center. I'm a resident for 34 years in the community. When I heard originally -- and I had heard some time ago about the closing of -- the possible closing of the Wyandanch Center. In fact, I had had meetings with Legislator Mystal and the Commissioner of DSS. And the take that we had was that it would be like the model of Nassau County, which would be one-stop shopping. That was something that was -- that they were talking about doing and possibly have two centers, because -- because Suffolk County is so large that we couldn't do the model that Nassau was doing.

But I'm hearing a little differently. I'm not quite sure of what's going on and what the process is going to be and how these people are going to be served. I don't necessarily think that it's a bad thing that we close the center in Wyandanch due to the fact that there's been some problems at the center with -- you know, with hanging around and different things, whether it's an appropriate place for the existing center. And that's been something that the community has been discussing for some time now. But there is some underlying concern as it relates to the patients that come to me that I see, because a lot of the people who I see come to the center thinking they have an appointment for, say, their food stamps. They get there and say, "Oh, no, it's not food stamps, you don't have an appointment with us." And they say, "Okay. I was there." And then they get a letter in the mail three weeks later stating that their Medicaid has been cut off because they don't show up to their -- their appointment.

So DSS as it relates to the clients is that they don't talk to each other. One program doesn't talk to the other program. But if it's all under one roof, when the person comes in, hopefully, if they have an appointment, somebody on the computer would be able to tell them, "Oh, yeah, it's food stamps, it's Medicaid," which is in the best interest of the people. But I'm concerned whether or not this is something that's really going to benefit our people. Yes, transportation is a major issue. Hopefully they'll be bussing, hopefully people can work a lot of this out. But one of the biggest and the main question that a lot of people have is why wasn't there a public hearing in Wyandanch. People are hearing about it, people are -- you know, there's conjecture, people are calling people, "Did you see the newspaper article, did you see this?"

And to be honest with you, the people who are going to utilize the center are the people who don't know that it's being closed. So my concern is -- now whether this is the proper venue for it or not -- is why wasn't there any hearings in the Wyandanch area to at least explain the complete process and what kind of service that they would be getting if this center moves. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Thank you very much. Okay. I'd like to thank all speakers who filled out a card. Is there anyone else here this morning who would like to address the committee on this issue? Sir, please come forward.

**MR. BARNETT:**

My name is Peter Barnett from Wyandanch Homes and Property Development Corporation. And I

come to talk about this also. I think it should be tabled. We did not have proper notice. We need to hear the exact plan that is going to be produced. And if -- perhaps, it could be good, perhaps it could be bad. But until we see the plan, I think the community deserved the right to have this tabled, discuss the plan and then come back to you. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. Thank you very much. Is there anyone else who would like to address the committee this morning? Mr. Zwirn.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might, Mr. Chair. Social Services is here today along with the Real Estate Department to present the plan that is going to go into effect. And perhaps while some of the people are here, they can hear it. You know, while they're still in the meeting, we can maybe advance that up on the agenda.

And just for the people from Southold that were here, if I might just address them briefly. We are going to ask for that to be tabled. The County Executive's Office has sent people out, we've been out to the site, they have photographed it. Chris Kent is here from Real Estate with photographs of what the -- that particular locations looks like today. And we are going -- we're not going to move forward at this time. There are also -- there are five other properties in the Town of Southold that are in a similar situation that the County holds that people waterfront access and that would open it up for everybody in the County to be able to use that -- those particular sites to get down to the water.

I would just say this. The language that was in there, at the present time, if this had gone through, there's 62 families that have a right-of-way, an absolute right to a right-of-way over that property that cannot be extinguished. And that property would be property would be purchased subject to that. But even before we move forward, we're going to make sure that this is strengthened to such a degree and that the language is written in such a way that they will be guaranteed, without any questions, they will not have to go out and get an attorney to have to go fight this somewhere down the road. We understand their concerns, and we're going to meet them. I just wanted to let those people know that that's -- that's the County Executive's position on that and the Real Estate Departments. With respect to the presentation, Janet DeMarzo and the rest of the crew is here to maybe bring -- - enlighten some of the people about what they had planned.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Very good. I would recommend that we can take that resolution out of order this morning. Does anyone want to speak to that?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Yes. I'd like to take 1666 out of order for the purpose of discussion, so we can get Ms. DeMarzo --

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. There's a motion by our Vice-Chair Legislator Mystal to take Resolution Number **1666 of 2007, authorizing the lease of premises located at South 2nd Street, Bay Shore, New York, for the use by the Department of Social Services.** I'll second the motion to take that out of order and put it before the committee at this time. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

All right. Resolution 1666 of 2007 is now before the committee. And I appreciate -- Commissioner, good morning. And thank you for being here. This is an important issue, of course, to the Wyandanch community and the surrounding community of the present center. I do know that the resolution pending before this committee is for a different center. It's not necessarily advocating for the closing of the Wyandanch Center, but I believe that is something that has been stated publically, that is the intent of the Department and that is the practical affect, of course, of opening up the new center. So I appreciate you coming down here today to inform the committee as to the department's position and to provide us all some more information. Would you like to go ahead and start and make a statement?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Yes. Thank you very much for giving the department the opportunity to speak on the issue, because a lot of thought has gone into this process, and I welcome the opportunity to share what we have done over the last two years, I would say, on this process. With me, I have Traci Barnes, the Assistant Commissioner, who is the representative of the department on the space process in the facilities and Ed Hernandez, who is the Deputy Commissioner.

What you should be aware is that we didn't come upon this decision quickly. We really looked at it over a long period of time. And I do the hear the community. And there as wasn't a specific community hearing process, but I want to assure them that there was never an effort to hide this. It's been discussed and it's been mentioned in my budget presentations for the last two years. The Space Committee process has members of various County Legislative Committees as well as the Presiding Officer. I've indicated -- you know, last committee meeting for Health and Human services, I indicated to Legislator Mystal and he made a public statement that we should really address the -- especially the transportation issue.

So I want to let everybody know it wasn't a knee-jerk reaction. There was a real long process, and a number of people were involved in this process. But unfortunately, the community wasn't fully briefed on the process. And one of things I wanted to also say is that the lease allows us, you know, 18 months basically before -- well, I guess it's about a year before we move in. So there's a lot -- a lot of education that would go on through the next year with the Wyandanch community.

But let me give you some background on how we got to this decision. The Department of Social Services has been evolving over many, many years. I mean, back in the '80's, there were nine centers throughout the County. In 1989, we only had six centers. After that, in 1996, when the Mastic Center closed, we had five centers. So we're down to five centers. As we look at population and we looked at what we're doing to provide services to the individual, and we all know that welfare reform and the way in which we provide services and the computerization efforts have really changed the way in which we deliver these services to individuals.

In '06, our lease for the South Shore Center came up for consideration. We started looking for a South Shore-only site -- the South Shore-only site. Then our lease for Wyandanch was coming due. And Wyandanch had a number of physical limitation problems that made the current site pose problems for the community. I've received numerous loitering and littering complaints. We've worked with the Police Department on that. And one of -- one of the reasons why there is that loitering and littering problem there more than anywhere else is the capacity to serve that population of people. When we closed Mastic, we redistributed.

So the Wyandanch Center had a higher -- you know, it was redistributed across from six to five, redistributed. So Wyandanch didn't really have the capacity absorb it. And then with computerization efforts, staff used to sit at a desk, then everyone needed a computer because of the State computerization effort. So the staff, the clients, the computers really push the space capacity of Wyandanch so that it wasn't really an efficient site for continuing to serve the clients that were there. And we clients who couldn't -- we have a lobby capacity of 79 who couldn't fit in the lobby. So we often had them outside. I had fielded -- you know, my staff had fielded a number of phone calls from the community. We really worked hard to try to keep it cleaner with loitering.

So when we didn't -- when we had both leases coming up, we looked at, you know, keeping them separate, the pros and cons of each, and we at Wyandanch -- you know, one of the things I wanted to say is the Wyandanch community is one of the friendliest communities to the Department of Social Services. And it is nice, because many communities do not want Social Services. You recently considered 200 Wireless in Smithtown and had people complain about us coming into that community. So we really looked in Wyandanch, we looked at expanding the existing facility to see if we could stay there, we looked for other sites. We weren't able to meet that. Then we looked at the benefits of a consolidation. And we looked at the changing world in which we live in -- and

someone spoke earlier about the Nassau one-stop shop. I'd love a one-stop. Nassau's is actually called No Wrong Door. And they put everybody together in Nassau; they put health and mental health and vets and aging.

We don't have a County like Nassau. We're not small, we're not dense, so we can't have one No Wrong Door Center. Throughout the State, the State Department of Office of OTDA has been advocating really getting more services together. When clients walk in, instead of a cash benefit, look at other services you can give them; food stamps, EITC, some employment access, some child care assistance. And right now, the way our system is structured, our clients go to Wyandanch for one set of issues, but, you know, to get their child care, to get their employment, they're coming over to Hauppauge.

So we looked at what is it that a person does when they access our services and how do they move through the system and what is it that we're giving to the clients that come in and can we make more efficient. One of the things we recently did was we went totally "telephone recertification" for food stamps so you can do a food stamp application in most situations over the phone. The Governor is trying to make it all of them, but the recert is totally by phone. So we're really looking at a model that keeps the client from having to go to the center, but when they go to the center, to really have an array of services that will stop them from going there and then next week having to go to Hauppauge to get their child care and their employment screening.

So we have -- you know, we have put a lot of thought into this. And throughout the process, you know, one of things I know is that the Space Committee, when they got this proposal and when they discussed it, these were considerations in the process. I know that it's basically space, but there were many Legislative representatives as well as Budget Review, and the issue of consolidation was discussed. And, you know, I have -- I have talked generally about it in many of the Health and Human Services Committees. We've looked at it. I do understand Wyandanch's concerns. We looked at transportation. We can share some transportation. There are people that walked to this center, they are people that drive to the center.

One of the things that I need to state is that the two centers -- we're taking the South Shore Center and the Wyandanch Center and we're consolidating them, and we're added about 2000 square feet so that we can have some additional services in there. We did a call letter for the whole catchment area. We got a number of responses. The committee went through a very deliberate process in looking at all the sites. The proposed new center is 5.1 miles from the existing Wyandanch Center. There is a -- they will -- we did do a review of both the bus and train capacity. One of the things that's unique here is that this is -- we actually rolled a line -- it's 959 feet from the bus -- from the train station in Deer Park to the new center. So the Deer Park Train Center, which is one stop from Wyandanch, could be a resource individuals to these individuals from the Wyandanch community. We have talked to the MTA about buying bulk tickets to give to individuals that want to use the railroad as an option.

We've looked at the bus system, it's about, based upon our analysis of an early morning route, it's 42 minutes. While that's, you know, a problem for some, I want you to recognize that with only five centers, many of the individuals that go to the various other centers -- I mean, currently the individuals from Amityville travel one hour and five minutes -- no, that's Huntington -- travel one hour and 21 minutes. Those are the people that live in Amityville that currently have to go to the South Shore Center. So they've been doing that for many years.

The people that go from Huntington to their existing service center travel one hour and five minutes. Not that I want to -- not that I'm trying to say that that's a good thing, it's just that that's part of the services. So I knew that one -- the best thing I had to offer was some efficiency. So it's 5.1 miles, it's 115 feet from the bus stop, it's 959 from the railroad station. You know, I think it's a good model. As I've said to this body before, you are the policy-making body. I reviewed the situation, I have, you know, talked to a number of individuals, I've talked about the concept here at the Legislature before. So I'm prepared to answer any questions, either the logistics of how we, you

know, got to this spot or what our vision is.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Commissioner, thank you for that overview. We appreciate that. As the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee, I am on the Steering Committee, and either myself or a representative attends that. And in fairness to you, the location and the process that we went through in trying to find alternate sites and the outreach that was done, I thought was rather thorough. And I think the Space Steering Committee did a good job in not only weighing location issues, but also, you know, getting on to some of the policy issues as well; consolidation versus convenience and issues like that.

I hear what you are saying. The present site that we're talking about in Wyandanch is maybe not the most efficient, perhaps it's somewhat too small. There are benefits, of course, to consolidation. In my mind, part of the process was if people are going to the Wyandanch location and really still have to take or find some transportation, whether it's their own transportation or public transportation, to another facility for some other services anyway, it's not that -- I don't think the imagine should be out there that the Wyandanch Center presently is all-inclusive where you go there and the people who use that facility don't have to go anywhere else. But I don't know -- I don't know the real numbers. I mean, what percentage of people that actually use the facility in Wyandanch, if you have any idea, use that as a one-stop location? Do you have a sense of that?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

I'm trying to see. There may be some -- we have a variety of programs. You know, we have the Home Energy Assistance Program, we have the Food Stamp Program, and we have basically, Temporary Assistance, which is the cash benefit piece. If you receive the cash benefit, it can't be one stop. There are other steps you have to take to do preemployment screening. So generally the individuals on Temporary Assistance, the individuals -- and many of them are women with children -- have to go to secondary site in Hauppauge, which is the Labor Department and the Child Care Unit.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Well, let me ask you this. If the new center is adopted and opened, would that dramatically cut back on the number of the trips that a user of the facility would have to make? Or are we, you know, perhaps, you know, it's hit or miss, you go to the new center, maybe you can finish it all in one stop, but maybe you cannot?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

You know, that is what we are planning. I mean, you'll always have to go -- like, once you get to -- we're not going to have a full Labor Department one-stop shop. So, you know, you might have to go to training in Hauppauge for, you know, if you're a temporary assistance resident or you might have to go to vocational training somewhere else or you might have resume writing at the Labor Department. But for a great number, it will be reduced. There will always be secondary for the ongoing assistance, but the first --

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

You're looking at a dramatic reduction of the number of people that would have to go to more than one facility.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

In the first instance. And I'm looking at bringing in services that we haven't had there. I mean, I've talked to the State. I really think earned income tax credit, which I know you all hear about, is something that we should have right there. We should have a {VITA} site so when people walk in -- and there -- a lot of the people we serve aren't necessarily only looking for cash assistance. Some of the individuals, as you've heard today, are one pay check away. So what is it that we can do to keep them from the point in which they're seeking temporary assistance?

So we're going to have Child Support there so individuals who aren't receiving child support can get child support assistance, that they can get child care information, that they can get earned income tax credit, they can look at food stamps and HEAP applications. So we're hoping to make it a center not only for those people that are looking for traditional cash assistance welfare grants, but those that are on the edge. And if I can put them all there, I think it's a resource not only to the people that currently come to the center, but a resource to the community, the greater community.

And this center will serve all of Huntington, all of Babylon, and a great part of Islip. So while the Wyandanch community will have a travel issue, the enhancement of services aren't exclusive to the Wyandanch community. It's my goal -- that, you know, a very large percentage of the population, it's about 40% of the people that receive welfare in the County. It's my goal to try to mimic the one -- the No Wrong Door there. I mean, we talked about whether age -- whether Aging and Vets could come one day a week so that there would be that resource for the community to come to a centralized location. I mean, it's a big vision I have. You know, I'm going to need your -- I'm going to need your support as we move forward. But my goal is really to take those three townships and try to provide a real service center, not a welfare center only.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Now, I know my colleagues have some questions also, but I had one other thought or question I wanted to ask you. Of course, as Commissioner you know where your centers are, you know that this center in Wyandanch is utilized, it's something that the community relies on or at least a segment of the community relies upon. I happen to drive by that facility at least four or five times a week when I go to work, so I've seen firsthand in the morning, afternoons, at different times of day, and I know it is heavily used.

Let's put aside the merits. Let's talk about procedure for a moment. One of the things that I always want to avoid being in any position in government is I don't want anyone to ever feel like they didn't have their opportunity to be heard. And that's something that I hold very dear for as long as I've been in public service, and I'm sure you do as well. What efforts were made by the department knowing that this facility was subject to closure? What efforts were made by the department, if at all, to reach out to the community serviced by the center to be closed in Wyandanch to say, "Hey, this is what's happening and what's your input, how do you feel about this, and here's our proposal"? Were any efforts made by the department at all to the Wyandanch community?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Not directly to the Wyandanch community. I did share with the Legislature, and I did share in public documents, but, no, I did not reach out to a specific Wyandanch community. I recently shared with Legislator Mystal's Office that, you know, perhaps my thinking was a little off in that I kind of saw we had this time to have this conversation about all the things that were going to change once we had the lease and we knew we were going forward, which is, in retrospect, a bad decision, because instead of getting to the point where the decision is made if they were included in the process.

So I understand that while I -- you know, I did speak about it and there was a process, the specific Wyandanch committee or Wyandanch community was not involved in the process. And I've indicated that the department will be more than happy to have a community forum to explain what we're looking to do. I understand it's going to impact them, so yes -- and you know, quite honestly, we need to look at that as part of the overall space moves.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. You know, again, the purpose of the question is not to say that you were not being considerate of the issues. And, you know, part of the problem that we have is that we often can have the best of intentions, but if we don't have the dialog and we don't talk to people who are directly affected, those people, and rightfully so, feel like they were left out of a process that directly affects their lives. So I appreciate your candor and your response. And I would have no objection, of course, or would encourage the department to listen to what the community has to say and engage in that dialog. And I appreciate you answering in that way. Next for questioning on my list

is Legislator Mystal. Go ahead, please.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good morning, Ms. DeMarzo. I'm going to try to limit amount of verbiage in terms of talking and I'm going to try to limit the amount of dissertation that you're going to give me. So I'm going to ask you a pointed question, and I want yes and no answers. I don't want to continue a whole bunch of things. You stated in your presentation that we are the policy-making body, yes or no, this Legislature?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Yes.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Thank you. Did this body make the decision to move the center?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

No.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

So much for an open dialog.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Exactly. The resolution we have in front of us is only a lease.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Correct.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Correct. So you are only asking us to consider the lease for the new center. But question number three, you have -- by you I mean the administration and your department -- have already made the decision to close the center in Wyandanch, yes or no?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

It was made at the Space Committee as part of the consideration of the lease -- that's my understanding.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Policy, the policy has been made to close it.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

It's my understanding that as part of the process of the BSR to look at this large center, it talked about the lease of Wyandanch closing -- the lease of Wyandanch expiring and the lease of South Shore expiring --

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

-- in concept, yes.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Thank you. In concept, yes.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

It was presented.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Okay. If we were policy-making body of the County Legislature for the County of Suffolk, when did we have -- by we, I mean the 18 Legislators -- when did we have an input as to whether or not the Wyandanch Center would close? When did we have that input? Let's make the question easier. Did we have that input?

**MR. ZWIRN:**

It was the Space Committee.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Mark Twain, I'll get to you in a minute.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Maybe this is an assumption on my part, it is my belief that the issue of consolidation -- and Traci can speak to that, because she has been at the committee -- was discussed at length within the process of the Space Committee, and that --

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Time, time, time. See, you discussed at length with the Space Committee. You're talking about the Space Committee. I'm talking about this body, 18. It was discussed at length by any other committee you can give me, that's fine with me. I'm asking you, this committee, this body, this 18 Legislators, when did we have a say-so into the closing of the Wyandanch Center? I know you discussed it, Ms. Barnes discussed it in the Space Committee, Ed Hernandez discussed it with whomever. You could talk to the Pope, I don't care. I'm asking one thing. When did we have a decision-making process from this body?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

That is the lease vote that would be taken today.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Oh, but that's the lease. Okay. See, that's a lease. That's the lease of a building. I am going talking about a policy to close a center, which is located in the poorest community in Suffolk County with the least amount of money to do anything. I'm trying to focus -- now I'm out of focus. I'm trying to find out when did we, as a Legislature, have any time to say whether or not we will close the Wyandanch Center?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Right now is the vote that I believe would -- I don't think the vote -- I don't think the policy and the lease are separate, and maybe that's just my perspective.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Yes, it is -- you see, that is your perspective. But it is not separate. I'm sorry, Janet, I'm not jumping at you. You are making -- you are making the lease -- you are making the lease of a building a policy. See, that's what you have to separate. You see, you are saying the lease and the policy to close the center are one in the same.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Well, I think Basia is going to speak to that. But when you submit to the Space Committee a request for a building, you say what you are looking to -- are you looking for that building and is the service already being provided. And it was in that Space Committee process where we said it's the Wyandanch lease, it's the South Shore lease, these two leases are expiring. Therefore, we're coming to the committee saying we're looking at taking these two separate sites and making one lease for one building and these two -- these two sites would, therefore, be closed. Now, Basia, has something to add.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I understand. Commissioner, I understand that. I understand you take this -- see, I think what you are missing in that in considering -- in considering ending leases and opening new leases, in considering those kinds of very economic things, what you did was to mesh a policy statement into it. It's like making a cake. You took the ingredients and you put it together without consideration for the fact that what you were doing in having a lease being signed, you are also making a policy change, which this body had absolutely nothing to do with. We had no say-so whatsoever on that policy. That's what I'm addressing. I'm addressing the fact that you didn't come to this body and say, "You know, the lease in Wyandanch is expiring and we are thinking of expanding, therefore, we're going to close the lease." I know, you want to give a dissertation. I'm going to stop. I don't want a dissertation.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

I think Basia has a perspective to add that might help you in why we see this slightly different.

**MS. BRADDISH:**

I don't even know if I think it's a different perspective. The fact of the matter is the Administrative Code establishes the procedures for space requests. Pursuant to the Code, which historically, if you go back, there was concern that there was not Legislative input when these types of decisions were made. So the Code was developed to include Legislative and Executive participation.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Time. You must be crazy.

**MS. BRADDISH:**

If you just let me finish.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

Please, Mr. Chairman, can she just have the opportunity --

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

You see, this is what's happening right now. You are talking about code, you are talking about leases, I am taking about a simple policy statement that --

**MS. BRADDISH:**

Well, that's what I'm getting to. The procedure that's established has a flaw in it. And that's all I was trying to say is everybody followed the procedure that's set forth in the Administrative Code. And ultimately, no decision is made before it comes to the Legislature. Should it have come earlier, obviously that's a different issue. The answer is, though, nothing has been done yet.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

The only thing you are asking me to do right now is to approve a lease to a new center in Bay Shore. That's what you are asking me. On the surface, that's what it is. It is a simple matter, that's why it's in Ways and Means. But underneath, I think Ms. Devine said that before, underneath that, inherent in that lease, once you sign that lease, it means that the Wyandanch Center is closed. See, this is the inherence between the two. You want to talk about lease, I want to talk about a policy statement. Once you sign the lease, it means, Wyandanch is closed.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I might interject. One of the reasons that we have all these people here today is because we understand it's not just a simple lease, that we're going to explain why -- what went into the thought process as to getting to this stage. This was put into this committee. We don't have control over where it goes. Maybe it should have been in Health. Wherever it was placed, that's where we would have showed up to make the explanation. And we came here today with all these people to explain to the committee.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Ben, I want to interrupt you. I absolutely agree that this should have been put in Ways and Means, because we are only talking about the lease. And that's the difficulty. The lease is Ways and Means. The process to close the Wyandanch Center before we got to the lease, and that's what I'm trying to address, before we got to the lease should have come in as a policy statement or as a resolution saying we are going to close the Wyandanch Center. That's the one -- you know, that's what I'm talking about. The lease should be here. This is where it belongs. This resolution belongs here. But what's behind this lease is the policy to close the center. Because once you sign this lease, once we approve this and Ms. DeMarzo goes and everybody goes and signs it and have a lease in North Bay Shore, guess what? Wyandanch is closed. And I'm going to stop to let some other people speak.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Legislator Barraga, please go ahead.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Good morning, Commissioner. I want to get to the meat and potatoes of this, because your opening statement, I think, really gets to the core of this. You had indicated that the community had not been fully briefed. All right. And the Community in this particular case are the people of Wyandanch. And I would hope that if this resolution is tabled that not only being here to address us and addressing the few that are in the audience from Wyandanch, that I think what you should do is take yourself and your people and go to Wyandanch and sit with those individuals and get their input, advise them exactly of what you want to do, and then at the next meeting of our committee, come back along with the group and tell us what you found out; whether or not this is feasible to go ahead with the lease. Maybe things have come up, maybe Wyandanch will go along with this, but maybe they won't.

Now, let me finish my thoughts. There is confusion associated with this, because I remember when I first heard about this, I got a phone call, I think, from the Clerk of the Legislature indicating that this lease was going to go into affect, and they were calling me because it was in my County Legislative District. And initially received an incorrect address. And I've been around long enough to know that this is a very sensitive issue any time Social Services wants to put anything into a community. And I was told that the normal practice is to hold a public hearing, and the public hearing would be in my office. I said, "No, it's not going to be in my office. It's going to be in a County facility in the hamlet," all right? Because historically, there's usually a rather large outpouring of people who have an interest establishment of one of these centers.

So the address I was give was incorrect. And then -- if I recall correctly, I picked up the phone and spoke with you, I had your staff on the phone. You had the correct address, but there were two streets, very similar streets. In the end of our conversation, I think it we agreed that it wasn't in my County Legislative District, that it was in another members. Then a received I received a phone call later on that said, "Mr. Barraga, no, it's yours." So I said, "Look, where is the street?" They gave me the street address, they gave me the location, I got in the car and I went up there. It was in the north west quadrant of Bay Shore almost in Deer Park two blocks south of the Deer Park Railroad Station in a heavy industrialized area. And I was told that one of the two facilities that were going to be closed were in that area anyway.

I have to be candid with you. When I went in there, I said, "You know, how the hell is anybody going to find this place? It's a heavy industrialized area. You know, how are the people from Wyandanch or anybody else, because of their economic status, how are they supposed to get from there to here?" So I came back, I said to my staff person, "They have to have a public hearing." I was eventually told the hearing could not be in the Hamlet of Bay Shore around Montauk Highway, there was no facility available, there would be a hearing on the Western Campus of Suffolk Community College.

So I said to my staff person, "You know, there's something about this. You attend the hearing." I normally don't send staff people to hearings. So when she got back, I said, "How many people showed?" She said, "No one, not a soul." I also knew at that point there was something wrong. Even though there was an official public notice, public hearing, you do your advertising, somebody hasn't gotten the word. I would think that if you were going to close a center in Wyandanch, those people would have an interest in that and would want to come to the public hearing. No one showed. I'm not saying you did anything incorrect. What you are saying, though, is that you didn't brief those people. And maybe if you had, they would have showed at the public hearing. All I'm saying is that the past is the past. Between now and our next meeting, if we table this, I would hope that you would meet with those individuals, completely brief them on what you want to do, and the next time we do meet, you all show up again and we get your input.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Yes. And I have indicated I'll do that. I just really want to make a point which is that there are many people that will be served at this new center and that the services that we're looking to put in the new services -- in the new center will benefit the communities of Huntington, Babylon and most of Islip. I do understand that Wyandanch will have a negative consequence with a gain and that other individuals will get pure gain. And, therefore, one of the pieces of the puzzle that I ask you to consider in making your decision is the services to the larger community, the whole community.

And we will work -- I mean, we will work with the community. I have indicated to Legislator Mystal's Office both to have meetings, to come up with initiatives that may mitigate some of it. You know, quite honestly, the perception sometimes and the reality are a little different. You know, when I met with Legislator Mystal's Office, they thought it was much further that 5.1 miles. You know, so that's why I came with facts and figures to say, you know, we have looked at issues. I will meet with the community. I think it's going to benefit a lot of people. I do believe it will benefit Wyandanch, but they are the individuals that will have the -- have a trade off others really won't experience.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

But as you pointed out, the difference between perception and reality, all right, maybe there's certain perceptions in Wyandanch in terms of that constituency that are not totally correct. That's why you have to go there. You have to go there. Okay? And when you come back, if you feel that particular hamlet, there's going to be a negative consequence, you can at least tell us what provisions you're going to put in place to make it less negative, maybe from a transportation perspective, you know, whatever it may be. We want to hear that before we go ahead with this lease.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Thank you, Legislator Barraga. Legislator Browning, did you want to chime in?

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Okay. I have a couple of concerns about this. I get one-stop shopping. It's not a bad idea. However, the Wyandanch residents and my district -- I'm meeting with residents on a dog park and getting their opinion. Why aren't the residents in Wyandanch being approached and having that public hearing for something like this? This is a lot more serious than a dog park. So I'm very supportive of what Tom said. They have to have an opinion, you have to listen to them.

You are talking about buses. Forty-two minutes on a bus is a long time. How much is it going to cost them? And I can guarantee you, some of them probably don't have the money for a loaf of bread some days, and now you're going to ask them to pay for a bus. You know, you are taking food off their table possibly by making them pay for a bus. So besides that, you know, you have -- having it at the Community College -- it needs to be in Wyandanch. It needs to be in Wyandanch, and it needs to be at the local church, at a local school and give them the opportunity to have their voices heard no matter which way you go.

And the other -- one other question I do have is if you're closing two facilities and merging, one of

the things I hear often is about staffing at DSS, okay? When you close two facilities and merge into one, is all of the staff from both facilities going to the one, or are we going to see cuts in staff again?

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

That's not our plan. There is some duplication of center managers, but that's really -- there's, like, three or four staff that would be duplicative in nature, and they may be, you know, reclassified to other titles. And I just want to make a point. The public hearing is not my public hearing, it's the Legislators public hearing, and it's set by BRO. And the other thing is I just want to -- at the last Health and Human Services Committee Meeting, I make a public statement that we were doing a lease at the next Ways and Means Committee Meeting. And legislator Mystal put on the record that we were going to be dealing with the issue of transportation.

So I do understand, and, you know, I understand that you as the Legislature set that meeting up. I am -- I will work with Legislator Mystal. I did inform him at the last Health and Human Services Meeting that we were moving. So I will, over the next month, meet with him to set up a community meeting. I do think that, you know, with the support of the Legislature we can address this and have a good exchange of information. But, you know, please be assured that the choice for the public hearing and the -- a lot of the processes aren't mine. And even as a Commissioner, you're not quite sure, when the Legislature has a process that's run by the Legislative Clerk's Office, how as a department you can influence that. And that's why I wanted to make it very clear at the last Health and Human Services Committee Meeting that there be no surprise that this would be coming up in August.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Thank you. Legislator Romaine, please go ahead.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Thank you. While many of the comments of my colleagues, I think, reflect what has been said here today, I was part of this process 21 years ago to open this center because so many people in need -- and I give great credit it Legislator -- then Legislator Bachety for her initiative. She got us all on the bus. We went there. She marshaled support and she got a Social Service Center for that community that desperately needed it. There were many people of extreme limited income that were on Social Services who needed services from the County of Suffolk that availed themselves of these services in their local community.

My very strong recommendation is government tends to have an ability to over plan, plan over the heads of the citizens that they represent, not reflect the desires of the citizens, instead talk about the organizational charts, benefits, consolidating staff, reducing costs, providing more services. And in the end, the people that are served are scratching their heads. I would strongly, strongly recommend, although it's not a requirement of law, that your department hold a public hearing in Wyandanch and solicit the opinions of the clients you serve.

I would strongly recommend that you put a huge sign at that center advertising the date and time, hopefully in the evening, of a public meeting where clients who use that and people who live in the community can comment on the closing. I'm not interested in the -- what is it -- 42 minutes on the bus. I'm not interested in the consolidation of staff that could be come accomplished. I'm interested in how this impacts on a community that needs all the help it can get. I am very interested in listening, and I may even make the attempt, although I represent the other end of this County, to come and listen, as Ms. Bachety had invited me to do and I did 21 years ago, because I also have an obligation to ensure that we exercise proper oversight over the government.

And that's what my colleague, Elie Mystal, was saying so eloquently. We have an obligation. Legislators essentially have three jobs; one is to legislate, and that's an important function; the second is to do constituent service, and that's a very important function; and the third, which is sometimes neglected, is we have oversight over this government. We do not have one branch of government that exercises policy control in this County. We have two branches. And I would

strongly recommend, and I will end with that, that you have that public hearing, you advertise it for the clients that serve the center, and you advertise it in the community. Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. Thank you, Legislator Romaine. If there are no other questions from any of my colleagues on the committee, Mr. Zwirn, is there anything else that anyone on your end --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

The only thing I would just say is that when the Wyandanch Center was opened years ago, other centers were closed for it to come along. So this is not a new situation. Do you remember which centers were closed, Ed, back when you voted to open -- open the Wyandanch Center? Well, that's a long time ago, so I won't -- that's a trick question. But the fact is that the process is working, you know, I mean, despite some of the complaints. I mean, this is why we do have, you know, the committee structure, which I think is an excellent idea. This is a chance to vet a lot of these issues at this stage. So this bill will be tabled today and your recommendations are well taken.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. Thank you. Legislator Mystal.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

One simple statement, Ben. You know, the reason why we are being so adamant about Wyandanch, Wyandanch happens to be the most disadvantaged -- economically disadvantaged area of Suffolk County. So naturally you have most of the people who are in need of Social Services come from that community. That's why the center is important to them. Yes, you may have closed other centers somewhere, let's say, in Smithtown or other places or even in North Amityville, where we closed the center in about 1990, I think we closed it, which was at "The Corner" at the time when we closed it. And they have been going to Bay Shore since then.

But Wyandanch, the reason why we are sensitive is because this is the poorest economic -- economic area of Suffolk County. So it is very, very important to have services for them located at close proximity and not put them through a lot of changes to get to that service. And as Ms. Druckenmiller said, what happens is other outreach centers and other programs, there will be overflow of what the County cannot take care, and they get overburdened and they can't provide the services.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

Can I just make a closing statement?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Yes. Commissioner, go ahead please.

**COMMISSIONER DEMARZO:**

It is really my intent -- and while the process for communication may be flawed, I want to assure you it is my intent to seek to enhance services and to get the community there in such a way that while it will be further, it will be more services. We did look in Wyandanch, and unfortunately, the -- this is really not saving money. You know, I just want to say it's not really a big cost savings thing. It was that the lease were up and that's why we looked at it. We are looking for better services.

We have extensions on our leases, but quite honestly, the model that we look at can just not be done there. So it is wrapped up. We will have a community meeting. My staff and I will be there. I will work with your office, Legislator Mystal, to find the appropriate facility. We will do the advertising that necessary. I've got to it early enough so that they can take the buses but late enough so that they're done with dinner. So that's going to be a personal challenge -- I mean, that's going to be a transportation challenge. And I appreciate you listening, and I thank you for your consideration.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. Commissioner, the committee thanks you as well. We appreciate that you came down and shared all of this with us. And my hope, as Chair of this Committee, is let's make this the beginning of this dialog that should take place. And where ever it takes us, we'll find out soon enough. So thank you and to your staff as well. I appreciate it.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

I make a motion to table 1666.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

There's a motion by Legislator Mystal to table 1666, which is before us.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Seconded by Legislator Barraga. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries, and the resolution is **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0 - Presiding Officer Lindsay was present and voted on all resolutions)**.

All right. That resolution had been taken out of order. We'll go back now to our agenda in the order it was published, starting with Tabled Resolutions.

**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. (Co. Exec.)**

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion by Legislator Mystal to table.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Seconded by Legislator Barraga. On the motion, Legislator Romaine.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Yes. This is a Charter Law to create a program for public financing of campaigns and the banning of certain donations to curb potential conflicts of interest. It's my understanding that embedded in this resolution is a request -- a requirement for a referendum. I'd like to ask Counsel, if this is not acted on today, does this fail in terms of the fact that the referendum could not be held this year?

**MR. NOLAN:**

To get this particular one on the ballot this year, it would have to be approved and up to Albany by the end of this month, August, or the very beginning of September. They need 60 days.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

You need 60 days. So if we table it at this session, do we have an opportunity -- is there a sufficient time element if we pass it at the next committee for it to be put on the ballot?

**MR. NOLAN:**

It would be very, very tight, because -- probably not, because the County Executive would have to hold a public hearing on it, it would have to be advertised. It would be very tight.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So this committee now is looking at whether this bill should be before the public for a public referendum or not. If we table this we're saying it should not be put for public referendum in essence.

**MR. NOLAN:**

If it is not approved and up to Albany and filed by the end of this month, it's not going to be on the ballot.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Legislator Barraga.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

To Counsel, the type of referendum, is this permissive or mandatory?

**MR. NOLAN:**

Well, this is made a mandatory referendum. If we pass it, it would go on the ballot in November. I would state that I think it's questionable whether it needs to be passed by referendum. I think it's the type of law that wouldn't necessarily have to be put on the ballot to be put into affect.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

What does the resolution say? Does it say mandatory referendum or not?

**MR. NOLAN:**

It's subject to a referendum. It would not go into affect without a referendum. What I'm saying is you probably could take out the referendum requirement.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

Right now it's in.

**MR. NOLAN:**

It's in right now.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

It would take us to take it out.

**MR. NOLAN:**

The sponsor.

**LEG. BARRAGA:**

The sponsor.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. And this is a resolution that was offered -- we have had it pending now for several sessions -- meetings of this committee. We've discussed it at length in the past. The last time it was tabled I believe was at the request of the County Executive's Office. Mr. Zwirn, is there anything you would like to add at this time.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We would support its passage.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. There is a motion pending before the committee to table the resolution. On the motion? If there's no other -- no other speakers on the motion, I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

One opposed, and the motion carries. The resolution is **TABLED**.

**(VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Next is **1350, Establishing a Taxpayer Friendly Health Care Benefits Policy for Suffolk County Water Authority. (Lindsay)**

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion by our Presiding Officer to table the resolution, I'll second. All in favor? Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

**1407, Amending Resolution No. 2-2007, Rules of the Suffolk County Legislature. (Montano)**

**LEG. BROWNING:**

Motion to table.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion by Legislator Browning to table, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries and the resolution is **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

**1496, Amending Resolution No. 1258-2006, authorizing sale of Brownfield property tax liens at public auction. (Co. Exec.)**

This, again, is a County Executive Resolution. Mr. Zwirn, would you like to comment on this. Mr. Kent, go ahead.

**MR. KENT:**

This resolution is now ready to be released from committee. All the issues have been. There was a tax certiorari case that brought against the Town of Babylon that has been settled by stipulation and now reduced to a court order. The amount of taxes based on the reduced assessed value has been computed by the Treasurer. And we have received a 20% down payment on the amount due and owing. The 20% down payment is \$113,000. We've entered into an agreement with the petitioner from the case that they are going to pay the balance of the taxes due by October 29th. So we gave them a 90 day period to close. And they'll pay the balance due to the Suffolk County Treasurer. So this has been resolved. We did get full back taxes due on this parcel, and we are asking that it be taken off of the Brownfield Auction list. And that's what this resolution does.

**LEG D'AMARO:**

And it also authorizes the sale of this property. Very good. I'll offer a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice-Chair Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

**1510, Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law to establish a prompt payment policy. (Viloria-Fisher)**

Public hearing remains open on this particular resolution. I'll offer a motion to tabled, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**

**MR. NOLAN:**

The public hearing of this resolution was closed. Since it was closed, there have been substantial changes to the bill. So we're going to reopen the public hearing, which will take place at the second August meeting.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Thank you.

**1558, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Local Law 13-1976 Emanuel Arturi and Marie Clarke Arturi, tenants by entirety (SCTM No. 1000-126.00-11.00-014.000). (Co. Exec.)**

We did have some comments made at the public portion concerning this resolution. And I believe Mr. Zwirn had indicated a preference to table. I'll offer a motion to table, second by Vice-Chair Mystal. All in favor.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Comments.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Legislator Romaine, please go ahead.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

This was table at our last meeting, it's being tabled now. It really should be tabled subject to call. The parcel of property in question is a ten foot wide piece of land that is 60 foot long and leads from the roadway down to Peconic Bay. Here's the problem with that. In the deeds of the surrounding property owners is an absolutely right to use that access to the Bay. And here's the problem also, because I sent the County Attorney a correspondence, and she responded to me that she isn't in possession of any title documents and couldn't comment or provide any information to me at the time. I see we have a representative from the County Attorney's Office here. Please be aware that you have a computer in your office. If you press the right button, you actually get the County Clerk and you can go right on either to the County Clerk or the Real Property Tax Service Agency as we all do in our offices to get whatever information you need about ownership, title or whatever.

**MS. BIZZARRO:**

We've received some of the documents since. We have them.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

There is a phone you can pick up, the County Clerk will fax over -- because as County Clerk for 16 years, I would do that on an every day basis with the County Attorney's Office to provide them the information.

**MS. BIZZARRO:**

The County Attorney responded to you immediately just to let you know that she was looking into it, and we have been doing that.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Because I do expect a response to my question, because one of the things I alerted to the County Attorney is that the gentleman next door who is trying to buy piece of property and exclude his neighbors --

**MR. ZWIRN:**

He cannot exclude his neighbors. He cannot.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Okay. Let me ask you, Ben, what are you going to? Because let me tell you what this guy did. He went in there and tore down the County bulk head.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

We have pictures of the property we're passing around now. So we've been out to the site.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

He tore down the County bulkhead, he removed the sand from the beach, put his own bulkhead, extended his own bulkhead, he removed the grass that was there and extended his own sod lawn, then you put up a fence, and then he put up a sign "Private" to bar people from going there. Are we going to take action to defend our property rights and move against this gentleman? Because if someone did that to my property, I'd be a little hot under the collar.

**MR. KENT:**

Okay. If I could speak to that. Immediately upon receiving notice by e-mail from some of the residents, I sent out representative from my division out of the Inventory Unit who went to the property and took photos. We did not find a gate there. We did find the property somewhat altered, but we would say improved at their expense. It's a beautiful right-of-way now[.|.|.] the current situation is that it's owned by the County, meaning that any County resident could venture down this right-of-way. I actually think the neighbors might have an improved situation if we convey it to this property owner. I'm not making the decision for you, but if we did convey it, it would be subject to the rights of others who have a deeded right to cross over this right-of-way to access the bay.

There are roughly 62 property owners who have deeded rights to use this right-of-way to access the Bay. There is no beach at this -- at this location. The right-of-way dead ends to a bulkhead, which is about three to four feet above the Water. The water there is -- ranges between two feet and four feet depending on the tide. So I do have photos --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Who bulk headed the property?

**MR. KENT:**

The property was bulk headed.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Was the County bulkhead removed and replaced with this bulk heading?

**MR. KENT:**

I would say it may have been. I don't have the answer to that question.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I think that's for the DEC to look into.

**MR. KENT:**

Even if that is the case, if there was an existing bulkhead, you can replace a bulkhead in kind without getting a new -- without requiring new permits. But even if he did, again, at his expense, I'm not that sure we should be that upset about it, because -- we'll look into some more about the bulk heading issue, okay? But I do not see -- I do not see a sign that says "No Trespassing." I do not --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

It says, "Private."

**MR. KENT:**

I don't see that. I would think right now, anybody in the County can go to that property, walk down that right-of-way and sit there and enjoy the view. If we want to keep that situation, we can not go forward with the direct sale. If we want to sell the property, he would be buying it subject to the rights of others to keep that as an open right-of-way for those people who have the deeded rights.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I just think it's a mistake to sell this property particularly when there are deeded rights for other surrounding homeowners to use this parcel and that we're selling that and saying, "Well, he knows that other people can use this parcel." I mean, you're just going down the wrong road. I'm going to out there Friday about 2:30. I'm going to walk with the residents. I hope I'm not told to get off the property as some of them have been told. I intend to walk on County property at 2:30 on Friday with the residents, and I'll be bringing my camera as well.

**MR. KENT:**

Okay. We have photos here that were taken -- I think they're time stamped Monday July 30th, 2007. Those photos were just taken two days ago. One last point on that, I would like the opportunity, there are some deficiencies, I believe, in the resolution that should require an amended resolution to be presented to the committee.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

I'd like to table this subject to call. I'll make a motion to table this subject to call, which I believe takes precedence to the motion to table.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

If I just might add, there are other properties that would meet the similar situation in the Town of Southold. And the County in the past has offered them via the 72-H procedure to the Town of Southold, and they have again, not accepted. So we tried to turn them over to the town so they could maintain them for the residents of their communities, and that's not the case.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Ben, may I make a very strong suggestion to you? If the Executive Office or Real Estate or the County Attorney's Office, whoever, in those particular issues would reach out to my office, we will do due diligence with the local neighbors and residents and then we'll do due diligence with the town and you make get a different outcome. So if you want to reach out to me and my office, make me involved, I'll take the time, effort and energy to determine -- because there's some that you're right, we would have any problem, we should put on the market and sell, but for the \$8000, we're opening a can of worms with this particular situation. And that's why I'm making a motion to table subject to call.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. A motion to table subject to call has been made. Is there a second on that motion? Okay. There being none, I had a question for Real Estate as well. When did the County acquire title to this property roughly?

**MR. KENT:**

I believe it was acquired in 1987, February of 1987.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

So we've had it since 1987?

**MR. KENT:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

And has there been attempts -- to your knowledge, have there been attempts since then to sell the property other than this attempt?

**MR. KENT:**

To my knowledge, I'm not aware of that, no. I'm only aware of this most recent effort.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

And who owned the property prior to 1987? Was it privately owned?

**MR. KENT:**

It might have been part of a subdivision map, but it was never put into an HOA. So what happens is frequently in those situations, nobody ever pays the taxes and they go to the -- that piece will go to the County. It happens in a lot of subdivisions where --

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

So it was laid out on a subdivision map, but deeds were recorded with reserving a right-of-way over property. So the intent was always, of course, for the folks in the subdivision to have this right of access.

**MR. KENT:**

That's correct.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

But there's no Homeowners Association associated with that subdivision?

**MR. KENT:**

Not that I'm aware of.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Can I speak to that question?

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Sure.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

One of the purposes of my going there Friday is to meet with all the surrounding neighbors that have rights, strongly suggest to them that they form a Homeowners Association. And believe me, for the \$8000 that the County is so interested in, \$8000 for this parcel, that these folks could come up with that and we could transfer the property to them, which -- that's why I'm saying if the Executive would get involved with the various pieces of property in Southold Town, I'll make the due diligence to go out there and see what we can so we don't create community conflicts, which this is going to create a huge conflict. There are many homeowners that would be impacted by the County sale of this property. And it may even create a lawsuit, which is another added expense we do not need.

**MR. ZWIRN:**

That's one of the reasons we'd like -- we look to sell these properties so we don't get subject to a lawsuit. It's a property the County does not maintain. Somebody gets hurt on that property, the County is responsible. So that's the whole idea behind these programs trying to transfer the properties to adjoining homeowners. If there was a Property Owners Association, that would have been -- you know, perfect. I don't know -- you know, there are a lot of times people don't want to set up homeowners associations for whatever reason. So this is just a normal course of business. But again, we're going to strengthen the language, because we want to make sure that the people who have the right-of-way privilege and right maintain and that's not taken away by the landowner.

**MS. BIZZARRO:**

And if I may, transferring the property does not extinguish the covenant or restriction on the easement on there to allow access to the other homeowners to get to the water. I won't even call it a beach, because my understanding is it is not a beach. But we will just make that clear in the resolution so there's no question.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Is there a motion to table pending? Yes.

**MR. KENT:**

One other thing on the Homeowners Association. I'm not sure then the conveyance procedure, but we'll look into that, because it wouldn't be a direct sale, because there's no surrounding property owned by a Homeowners Association. So we'll have to look into the mechanism by which the County could convey that property to the Homeowners Association.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Right.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Maybe a 72 -- H to the town and from the town to the homeowners.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. There's a motion pending to table the resolution, that has been seconded. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries, resolution is **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

**1598, Authorizing the reconveyance of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 215, New York State County Law to Thomas J. Haynia. (Schneiderman)**

**MR. KENT:**

This has to be tabled also because we don't have the document present yet to extinguish the corporate interest in the property.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Very good. I'll offer a motion to table, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries, resolution is **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

**MR 25, Memorializing Resolution in support of New York State Legislation to provide statewide voting system using paper ballots and precinct-based optical scanners. (Viloria-Fisher)**

I'll offer a motion to table, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

**TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

That concludes the Tabled Resolutions. I'll turn next to the Introductory Resolutions.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

**1636, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 342-2007. (Co. Exec.)**

Motion to approve and put on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carried. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

**1637, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 447-2007. (Co. Exec.)**

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. D'Amaro)**

**1640, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 357-2007. (Co. Exec.)**

Same motion.

**MR. NOLAN:**

Elie, this one should actually be tabled, because I think there's an error in it.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Okay. 1640, motion to table by myself, seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. D'Amaro)**.

**1641, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 316-2007. (Co. Exec.)**

Motion to approve by myself, seconded by Legislator Barraga to put on the Consent Calendar. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. D'Amaro)**.

**1644, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Nataliya White (SCTM No. 0400-081.00-07.00-022.000). (Co. Exec.)**

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. D'Amaro)**.

**1645, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Anthony Webb (SCTM No. 0100-083.00-01.00-117.000). (Co. Exec.)**

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. D'Amaro)**.

**1646, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Dorothy L. Alessandrini, a/k/a Dorothy Alessandrini and Andrew R. Alessandrini, a/k/a Andrew Alessandrini (SCTM No. 0900-031.00-03.00-002.000). (Co. Exec.)**

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. D'Amaro)**.

**1647, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Linda M. Francis a/k/a Linda Francis (SCTM No. 0600-105.00-02.00-040.000). (Co. Exec.)**

Same motion, same second, same vote. **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. D'Amaro)**.

**1649, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 482-2007. (Co. Exec.)**

Motion to table, seconded by Legislator Barraga. I'll call the vote. Yes? No? Abstentions? Motion

carries. **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0-0-1 - Not Present - Legis. D'Amaro).**

**1655, Requesting legislative approval authorizing the Chief Deputy County Executive be the representative to act on behalf of Suffolk County pursuant to a contract for groundwater monitoring in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. (Co. Exec.)**

Motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Romaine. Vote yes? No? Abstentions? Motion carried. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Thank you, Legislator Mystal. **1663, Authorizing certain technical corrections to Adopted Resolution No. 1153-2006 to provide funding for Skills Unlimited. (Alden)**

Motion by Legislator Mystal to approve, I'll second and place on the Consent Calendar. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries, the resolution is **APPROVED** and placed on the **CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

**1664, Amending Resolution No. 2-2007, Rules of the Legislature regarding order of business. (Pres. Off.)**

**P.O. LINDSAY:**

Motion.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Motion by Legislator Lindsay to approve, is there a second? I'll second. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0).**

**1668, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Local Law 13-1976 Hancock Lot 23 LLC as to an undivided 75% interest and SWS Mt. Sinai LLC as to an undivided 25% interest (SCTM No. 0200-163.00-02.00-005.000). (Co. Exec.)**

This is a Local Law 13 conveyance proposed. It's a 40 by 100 lot offered, I guess, to the neighboring or adjoining lot owner for a cost of \$3500. I'll offer a motion to approve. Is there a second?

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Second.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

One opposition, Legislator Romaine. Motion carries **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-1-0-0 - Opposed - Legis. Romaine).**

**1669, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Local Law 13-1976 Mt. Sinai Industrial LLC as to an undivided 75% interest and SWS Mt. Sinai LLC as to an undivided 25% interest (SCTM No. 0200-162.00-05.00-008.000). (Co. Exec.)**

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Again, this is Local Law 13 to an adjoining owner -- neighbor rather for \$2000, a 20 by 100 lot. I'll offer a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed?

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Opposed.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

One in opposition, Legislator Romaine. Any abstentions? Motion carries and the resolution is **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-1-0-0 - Opposed - Legis. Romaine)**.

**1670, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Local Law 13-1976 Stephen Aurigema (SCTM No. 0200-973.80-01.00-011.000). (Co. Exec.)**

Again, a Local Law 13 to an adjoining or adjacent lot owner, 35 by 100 parcel for \$3500. I'll offer a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries and the resolution is **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

**1674, Adopting Local Law No. 2007, A Local Law correcting technical error contained in Suffolk County Code Section A42-4. (Co. Exec.)**

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

This needs to be table for a public hearing. I'll offer a motion to do so. Seconded by Legislator Mystal All. In favor? Opposed? Abstentions? And the motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

**1678, Amending the lease of premises located at 200 Wireless Boulevard, Hauppauge, NY for use by the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health Services. (Co. Exec.)**

It's my understanding that these amendments are required based upon a letter agreement received from State Alcohol and Substance Abuse Department. I'll offer a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

**1695, Review of auction rules for the disposition of surplus property acquired under the Suffolk County Tax Act. (Co. Exec.)**

For the purposes of discussion, I'll offer motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Mystal. Mr. Kent, is there anything you want to --

**MR. KENT:**

I would defer to Ms. Lolis.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Okay. Ms. Lolis, welcome and good morning.

**MS. LOLIS:**

Good morning.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

We're being asked now to amend the rules, or have there been changes to the rules?

**MS. LOLIS:**

There have been changes to the rules, yes. And if the Committee likes, I can give you a brief synopsis of what the changes are.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Brief being the key word.

**MS. LOLIS:**

Yes.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Thank you.

**MS. LOLIS:**

There are basically three changes. The first change being preregistration before the auction will be mandatory versus being optional. The second is that it clarifies the language as to actually who the parties were. In the past, terms were used interchangeably. Now it specifically states who the purchaser will be, who the third-party bidder is, who is required to preregister, who is allowed to sign the memorandum of sale.

And then the last part is it expands the grounds that the County could use to refuse to permit somebody to even walk into the auction and bid. Before, it had to do with, you know, County employees, you were in tax arrears. It's expanded that to people that are convicted of environmental violations, building code violations and predatory and discriminatory lending. And that's basically it.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

Any questions? Legislator Romaine.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Predatory and discriminatory lending. Would they have to be charged or would they have to be convicted or both?

**MS. LOLIS:**

Convictions is what the auction rules state.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

So if someone is charged with that, that would not --

**MS. LOLIS:**

It would not necessarily result in --

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Or if some son is charged it would not deny the father a right to bid. I know why you put that in there, I'm just trying to -- I don't think that solves the problem you are trying to do.

**MS. LOLIS:**

This is just what will disqualify a person from even walking into the room. If there are other circumstances that the Legislature feels they do not want to approve a sale, that's completely within the Legislature's right.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

We've done that also. Okay. Great. Thank you so much.

**CHAIRMAN D'AMARO:**

All right. Thank you. I'll call the vote. On the motion to approve, all in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? And the motion carries.

The resolution is **APPROVED (VOTE: 6-0-0-0)**.

That concludes the public portion of the Ways and Means Committee. We are going to adjourn very briefly into Executive Session, and we'll be back. Thank you. I'll offer that motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Legislator Mystal. All those in favor? Opposed? Motion carries.

**(\*AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD\*)**

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

Back in session. Motion to adjourn.

**LEG. ROMAINE:**

Second.

**LEG. MYSTAL:**

We're adjourned.

(\* THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11: 58 A.M.\*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY