

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, April 18, 2012.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Ricardo Montano - Chairman
Legislator Steve Stern - Vice-Chairman
Legislator Robert Calarco
Legislator John Kennedy
Legislator Lynne Nowick

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Gail Vizzini - Director - Budget Review Office
Robert Lipp - Deputy Director - Budget Review Office
Renee Ortiz - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Ben Zwirn - County Executive's Office
Dennis Brown - County Attorney's Office
Paul Perillie - Aide to Legislator Gregory
Robert Martinez - Aide to Chairman Montano
Pam Greene - Director of the Division of Real Estate
Justin Littell - Aide to Legislator D'Amaro
Debbie Harris, Aide to Legislator Stern
Dot Kerrigan - AME
Rick Brand, Newsday
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano- Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver - Legislative Aide

(*THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:15 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

We're going to call the meeting to order on that note. Good morning, we are going to call the meeting of the Ways and Means Committee to order with -- starting with -- all right, do over. We're going to call the Ways and Means Committee to order led by -- starting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Lynne Nowick.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Thank you, you may be seated. Okay. I think we should be able to have a fairly smooth meeting. There is going to be one Executive Session; Bob?

MR. MARTINEZ:

Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Or Executive Session with one item on it. Are there any cards? Would anyone like to address the committee? Hearing none, we're going to move onto -- we're going to go right into tabled resolutions.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

IR 1005, To Reduce the Printing Costs Associated with the County's Direct Deposit Payment System. (Cilmi)

I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. Any other motions? All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Bill is tabled. **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1012, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Charter Law To Make Transparent The County's Rule Making Process. (Cilmi)

That needs to be tabled for a public hearing.

LEG. STERN:

Public hearing's closed.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Oh, it is closed. Oh, yes, closed on 3/13. I'll make a motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern.

LEG. KENNEDY:

On the motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Go ahead.

LEG. KENNEDY:

1017?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

No, 1012.

LEG. KENNEDY:

1012.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You want to make a motion?

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, I'm sorry. That one we'll leave tabled. I thought you were on 1017.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. We will be in a second. So on 2012, all in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries.

TABLED (VOTE: 5-0)

IR 1017, The public hearing was on 2/7/12. That was closed. Okay. **Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Charter Law to Promote Openness and Participation in Legislative Business. (Cilmi)**

A motion by Legislator Kennedy. Do we have a second? Second by Legislator Nowick. Any there any other motions on this? Motion to table by Legislator Stern, I'll second that. Anyone would like to discuss it? Well, then let's take a vote. Motion to table goes first. All in favor of tabling? I'll table. It's your motion.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Oh, okay.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You want a motion on it to table; I'm opposed.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

That's where we're at. We're at the -- tabling goes first so all in favor of tabling? Let's just raise our hands. You'll vote to table? All right. It's going to go though anyway. Exactly. So it's tabled with one opposition. Legislator Kennedy is opposed. Is that correct; Legislator?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. **TABLED (VOTE: 4-0-0-1 Opposed: Leg. Kennedy)**

IR 1132, Authorizing the transfer of certain properties to Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. (Co. Exec.)

Has to be tabled and there is a late exhibit, I believe. I'll make the motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0)**

Now we're at **IR 1186, Authorizing the Issuance of a Certificate of Abandonment of the Interest of the County of Suffolk in Property Designated as Town of Islip, Suffolk County Tax Map No. 0500-120.00-04.00-024.000, Pursuant to the Suffolk County Tax Act. (Montano)**

I'm going to make a motion to table.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1196, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Charter Law to Extend the Deadline for Reapportionment Commission to Propose New Legislative Boundaries. (Kennedy)

Legislator Kennedy do you want to withdraw that bill?

LEG. KENNEDY:

You know, do I want to with it; no. No, I don't want to withdraw it. But, I guess, you know, based on our --

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

If we could table it subject to call. I think either one. We just really should knock it off the agenda.

LEG. KENNEDY:

It's just going to clutter the agenda. I'll ask the Clerk to withdraw.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, thank you.

IR 1258, Appointing Member of the Suffolk County Board of Ethics (John C. Gallagher). (Co. Exec.)

I believe that -- well, I read publically that Mr. Gallagher had chosen to not continue in lieu of his service. Ben, do you want to make a comment? You want us to table it or you want to withdraw it? I haven't seen anything from John, it's your bill. I haven't seen it, that's why I'm asking. Is it withdrawn?

MR. ZWIRN:

It hasn't been withdrawn yet, but you want to table it subject to call then we could always bring it back if something changes.

LEG. CALARCO:

I'll make the motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

What was that?

LEG. CALARCO:

I'll make the motion.

MR. ZWIRN:

So at least it's off the agenda.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Tabled subject to call. I'll second that. Any other motions? All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Thank you. **TABLED SUBJECT TO CALL (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1291, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to Modify Requirements for Contract Agency Funding. (Calarco)

LEG. CALARCO:

Make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. The public hearing was on 3/27/12 and it was closed at that time. Right? Well, we have a motion -- Counsel, you want to give an explanation? You want one; right, Lynne?

MR. NOLAN:

Under our current law any County contract with a non-profit human service provider to be for a minimum amount of \$5000. This bill would reduce that minimum amount to 4,750. There are a number of groups that were funded in the 2012 Operating Budget under \$5000. Those contracts will not be able to be executed because of the existing law. So by reducing the threshold amount for these type of contracts to 4750 those groups can get their funding.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I thought there was a reason that we did that, the \$5000. I thought that was so much work put into effectuating these contracts and we didn't have the manpower and I thought that's why we made the \$5000 limit. And that wasn't that long ago. Was it?

LEG. CALARCO:

You are correct. That's exactly what this body did about three or four years ago. We put in the \$5000 limit as per direction from the administration about how much effort there is to process these contracts.

However, this body also found it -- to lower the amounts of grants for about 19, 20 different organizations throughout the County to 4750 last year. Most of these are food pantries

throughout -- that service all of the different communities here and they're not going to be able to obtain that funding if we don't lower that threshold.

So basically what I'm trying to do is make the law compliant with the budget that the County Legislature passed last year.

LEG. NOWICK:

You know, I'm just afraid that it just opens up another Pandora's Box and we've gone backwards instead of forward on that.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

I think your mike was a little off there; Rob.

LEG. CALARCO:

We can always raise the limit back to 5000 for all these agencies, but we're talking about 20 different organizations. Sag Harbor Food Pantry, Saint Patrick's Hospitality Center, Saint Peter's Parish Outreach, Saint Elizabeth's Parish Outreach, Babylon Interfaith Clergy, Babylon Rotary Club, East Hampton Food Pantries, Salvation Army, Saint Francis de Sales. These are all food pantries that I think what had happened in the budget process last year, the Legislature decided to cut these agencies by a certain percentage. They were all only receiving 5000, which put them at the limit, by cutting that percentage they're now under the limit.

So we have a choice of either amending the law so they can get their funding that we allocated in the budget or we can increase their amount -- their allocation by the 250, get them back to the 5000 level. But that's -- that's where we are at. I thought this was a better way of going about it for the year. If it makes people happier I'll be happy to make it a one year provision. I understand the reason we want to keep it 5000, I just want to make sure these organizations can access the funding that we approve for them.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yeah, I would have to concur. What the Working Committee did was appropriate a less amount and, I guess, the Committee lost sight of the fact that there was a \$5000 minimum.

LEG. NOWICK:

If I may.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Go ahead.

LEG. NOWICK:

You know, I would hesitate to pass this and make a new law for a certain group of people. That opens up -- that sets a precedent. But I wouldn't mind the one year -- would be just for what; 2011? Because it's -- excuse me, the 2012 budget that we already did. Is --

LEG. CALARCO:

Is that something we can do; George?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Not for this meeting.

LEG. CALARCO:

Well, not for this meeting.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Oh yeah, no, what I was going to suggest was to table it.

LEG. NOWICK:

Because I just -- I wouldn't want to change a law for ten people.

LEG. CALARCO:

We'll table it and I'll ask the -- you know, I'll make the motion to table and withdraw the motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yeah.

LEG. CALARCO:

And ask Counsel to make the amendment to put a one year provision in there.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Yeah, I think that would work. And we're really only waiting two weeks. Okay.

LEG. KENNEDY:

On the motion I would also as a matter of fact --

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Well, that -- is that a sub -- I'm sorry, John.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, go ahead.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Counsel, would that be a substantive change if we did it for a -- if we changed it for one year? Would we have to reopen the public hearing?

MR. NOLAN:

Off the top, I would say probably not.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Ben, would you like to say something?

MR. ZWIRN:

I would agree with Legislator Nowick, Legislator Montano and -- we agree, I think if you did it for one year we had the same concerns, Legislator Nowick and I think Legislator Montano was about to raise.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right. Well, the intent of the bill is very clear that it's for one bill, but you're absolutely correct.

MR. ZWIRN:

Absolutely.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

The way it is now it's open-ended so we might as well clarify it before we pass it. I don't like to pass bills to say that we're going to change it later cause we did something wrong.

MR. ZWIRN:

Because the reason we passed it where, as stated --

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right.

MR. ZWIRN:

-- to avoid all the paperwork that had to be done, but these are good organizations. We're not going to certainly cut food pantry allocations in this economy.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right. And with our fiscal problem it may be academic next year anyway.

MR. ZWIRN:

Yeah.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right, so we have -- Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, just everybody should keep in mind that this could easily go the other way next year as well. If you put a time limit on it and you put a specific dollar amount on it, this is the kind of thing that most likely is going to have to be revisited again and again and again because perhaps that number changes, perhaps the class of organizations that are affected by it changes. By doing this, just keep in mind, that we are probably setting a precedent of sorts that this is going to have to be considered every single year.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Right.

LEG. STERN:

Because that number is going to change and the particular class of organizations may change and the organizations within that class particularly when it comes to food pantries could be changing as well. So, I'll support it.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You mean as amended? In other words, we'll table it now and then --

LEG. STERN:

Yes, and go through the amendment. I think Legislator Nowick is on the right track and I think that the sponsor agrees, but keep in mind this is something that as we sit down for Operating Budget going forward, number one, we're going to have to be mindful of it. And, number two, that number, you know, it was done and I remember it when we had done it, setting the \$5000 number because you didn't want these very small contracts taking up all of that manpower. But at the same time to come up with an arbitrary number like we are this time around for this year coming up, that number's going to change and the organizations are going to change as well. We may be setting a precedent that this is going to be year by year threshold that we're going to have to set.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. So, Legislator Calarco, you'll make your motion to table.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. I'll second that. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Tabled to the next meeting and we'll be able to amend in the interm. **TABLED (VOTE: 5-0)**

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

IR 1312, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to Make a Technical Change to Tax Map Verification fees. (Lindsay)

I guess this needs a public hearing; Counsel?

MR. NOLAN:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. I'll make the motion table for a public hearing. I need a second.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **TABLED for PUBLIC HEARING (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1318, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Local Law No. 13-1976 Brookhaven Eastern Holdings, LLC (SCTM No. 0200-663.00-03.00-012.001). (Co. Exec.)

What's the value of this? And this is adjacent property. Right?

MR. NOLAN:

1500.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

\$1500. Okay, I'll make a motion.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1319, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Estate of Florence Leonard f/k/a Florence Bennett (SCTM No. 0100-155.00-01.00-087.004). (Co. Exec.)

I'll make a motion to approve and place on the Consent Calendar.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries.

APPROVED and PLACED on the CONSENT CALENDAR (VOTE: 5-0)

IR 1320, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Local Law No. 13-1976 Kenneth J. Powers and Barbara Powers, his wife (SCTM No. 0103-007.00-02.00-012.000). (Co. Exec.)

Again, what's the value on this?

MS. GREENE:

\$300.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

\$300, okay.

LEG. KENNEDY:

This is another adjacent parcel?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Is an adjacent parcel. Pam, you want to give us some particulars on this?

MS. GREENE:

This is a piece of property located in the Village of Lindenhurst. It is actually the backyard of a successful purchaser but for some reason it was never part of their property, it actually abuts village property and they were also solicited but chose not to enter an eBid so they were the only bidders and they are paying the appraised value.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. How much property is this?

MS. GREENE:

Twenty-five by fifty.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Twenty-five by fifty.

MS. GREENE:

Would you like an aerial?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Excuse me?

MS. GREENE:

Would you like an aerial?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

No, no, I get the picture. Okay. Do we have a motion? Do we have a motion; if not I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE 5-0)**

IR 1323, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law - Town of Brookhaven - (SCTM No. 0200-975.90-01.00-027.000). (Co. Exec.)

Pam, you want to give us some particulars on this?

MS. GREENE:

This is a 50 by 100 piece of property located in the Hamlet of North Bellport. It has been requested by the Town of Brookhaven to be used for highway purposes. There is a reverter clause that if it is not used by the municipality for the intended use it will revert back to Suffolk County.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

And what's the sale on this? The sale price?

MS. GREENE:

They're paying the County investment of \$9712.57.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

That's what we're owed in back taxes.

MS. GREENE:

Correct.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Legislator Calarco.

LEG. CALARCO:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Motion. Need a second.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1330, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 657-2011. (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to -- at the last meeting?

MR. NOLAN:

At the last general meeting we adopted it by CN.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, so we're going to knock that off the calendar.

IR 1341, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to Amend the Prompt Payment Policy for all Not-For-Profit Contract Agencies. (Co. Exec.)

I guess that has to be tabled for public hearing. I'll make the motion.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. Just quick thing, Counsel, what's that about in lieu of our prior conversation? If you have it.

MR. NOLAN:

It's basically going to suspend the prompt payment law --

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay, that's what I thought.

MR. NOLAN:

-- for the balance of the year because the County Executive has declared a deficit so what this says while there's a deficit declared by the County Executive we won't not adhere to the prompt payment law.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. We have a motion on the floor. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. All right, we had a motion to table -- let's do it again. Motion to table for public hearing, seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **TABLED for PUBLIC HEARING (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1342, Adopting Local Law No. -2012, A Local Law to Amend Advertising in the County Tax Map Album and Set Advertising Rates. (Co. Exec.)

That needs to be tabled for public hearing. I'll make the motion.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **TABLED for PUBLIC HEARING (VOTE: 5-0)**

IR 1347, Authorizing the County Clerk to file an application for additional State Mortgage Tax reimbursement. (Pres. Off.)

LEG. KENNEDY:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Motion by Legislator Kennedy, I'll second it. Just put on the record a brief explanation, Counsel.

MR. NOLAN:

These are monies that are owed to the County for administering the mortgage tax. We do this every year.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Any other motions? All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion to approve is approved.
APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)

IR 1348 --

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm going to make a motion to approve, Mr. Chair, but I'd like to make a statement on this.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

On which one; 1348? Let me read it first. **IR 1348, Appropriating funds in connection with the Optical Disk Imaging System (CP 1751). (Pres. Off.)**

All right. You want to make a motion to approve?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

All right. We need a second.

LEG. NOWICK:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Nowick.

LEG. KENNEDY:

On the motion if I can.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

On the motion, yeah, go ahead.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You know, we've had a week of very sobering news that's been a month full of sobering news and here we are with, you know, another -- a bonding item. This is only 150,000, but nevertheless, you know, we're looking at a revised layoff list that we're going to see in two days from now.

I make the motion to approve here because I know firsthand the equipment that is being requested for replacement as it goes back to the optical imaging program that I worked on when I was the official examiner of title. And what this is is the actual platter repository for what must be now, I believe, somewhere in excess of 60 to 70 million land record images and it allows the industry to access deeds, mortgages, assignments and what have you so that abstracts of title and title searches can be done in a remote manner. It actually supports the proprietary aspect of the County Clerk's Office.

So without this we will not be able to continue to market the subscriptions that the land records industry, land title industry, utilizes to access records. So I believe it's prudent to bring that forward at this time.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

If I may, do we have any idea what's the fiscal impact on this? There's no one from BRO? Other

than the -- no, we're spending 150 but are we -- we're bonding it, but are we making any money by passing this?

LEG. KENNEDY:

The subscriptions that land record title businesses, the title insurance companies, the abstract companies, individual attorneys vary in range, they can take a full County-wide subscription that I believe is, I think it's now over \$1500 a year, I would have to check, Mr. Chair. Or they can elect to subscribe in increments for a particular town, but the subscription is a revenue generating function. It is not only utilized by land title, but surveyors, architects, anybody who actually is involved with use, development, redevelopment or financing of transactions where real property is the basis. Has to go to the County Clerk's Office. And what it does is it allows for an abstract company in Manhattan to access the material without even having to drive or subcontract for an outside contractor so there is a consistent -- an expanding stream of revenue generated off of providing the function. And the existing equipment that is there it is an HP rack of platters has reached its useful life, it has been a very successful operation now for the better part of ten years, I believe it is. And it needs to be replaced. It's aged out.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. Any other comments?

LEG. STERN:

Through the Chair, I just wanted to ask Legislator Kennedy who has tremendous experience with this and the technology. Where would you say this technology is right now? By making this appropriation are we just keeping up with what was cutting edge five years ago, is this something that we're going to need to replace in a couple of years or does this really bring us up to the standard that is practiced across the board in the industry?

LEG. KENNEDY:

My conversations with our IT people out there indicate that, you know, while this may not be at the level that we see for some applications out there, it is a very resilient and solid technology. As a matter of fact, it is driven off of some servers and the platform is a very robust and resilient platform. As a matter of fact, atypically we have never sustained a crash of the technology where the system there other than if we have a County-wide failure. There have been times where we've had power outages and things along those lines.

It is in line with acceptable technology. Responses are fairly quick. It will accommodate multiple demands or, you know, simultaneously and, you know, we're not getting a Maserati, we're probably getting, you know, a Chevy that's pretty standard, but it's working well. And it is within the realm of what we can afford and also we've enjoyed good support from the manufactures. We're in a pretty good working relationship with them.

So all things being equal I think it's a prudent expense and I think we're keeping current with what we as an entity can manage from receiving the equipment and interaction with the manufactures.

LEG. STERN:

Any idea what other municipalities might be utilizing or is there any -- do you have any idea as to what the average lifespan of this type of technology is? And the reason why I ask is because your making an appropriation now.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

But it's in the Capital Budget, which is fine, but it also shows that there are additional expenditures scheduled to be made in years coming. So with each year we're going to be looking at the same technology whether it requires or warrants additional investment going forward, at what point do we make that determination that we're now just pouring more additional significant resources into an older maybe outdated system. Do you have any -- can you speak to that?

LEG. KENNEDY:

You know, I can talk about what the -- we went through when the system was first implemented, it's almost like ancient history now when you talk about it, it was back in '96 and '97, '98 when we made the selection for FileNet and Oracle in a combination of the two software platforms and then the -- HP platter storage. And, you're right, there have been some evolutions as far as where things have gone. Fortunately, we're not -- if you can envision it was almost like an old stack of vinyl, LP records, where it was a mechanical device that would actually slot storage platters in and out. I mean, we've come from beyond that now where we've got a more -- less mechanical methodology for accessing the historical equipment.

We also, we, the County Clerk, made a conscious decision to not only capture land records going forward but also to image all deeds going back to 1987, I believe it is, so and effectively, a lost owner search, which is a 20 year search, can you be done right off a laptop with this subscription.

The expansion in the Capital Budget, I think, and I've not looked at it, I would have to take a look at it, but we had spoken about a couple of things; one bringing the other categories of records online, I need business certificates, some of the UCC information, lot of the liens and judgments, tax liens, tax judgments, things such as that.

Also, there was at one time a discussion of harmonizing the three discreet land record databases that are maintained out in Riverhead between the Treasurer, the County Clerk and Real Property Tax Services. Each of them has subtle differences and so, in fact, we have silos of data rather than a larger repository. There's redundancy between the three and that was the Capital project that was designed to go ahead and take all three databases and blend them.

You know, I suppose we could -- actually, ironically we're going to be out in Riverhead on Tuesday so if there are more specifics associated with this, I'd be happy to contact the County Clerk and ask her if we could have our IT Director or somebody come and speak to some of the specifics. I don't know where it's at right now. A lot of what I'm giving you is historical information.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

If I may, is this working, yeah, Legislator Kennedy, I'm looking at the fiscal impact statement, it looks like it's a 20 year interest rate 4.655, the total debt service is \$242,200. And, you know, I've taken the position before that simply because something is in the Capital Budget we need not appropriate it, we are to look at these, you know, from a more global perspective particularly when they come in from a, you know, a member of the Legislature as opposed to, you know, getting a consensus of what we're going to do with the Capital Budget. I think our Capital Budget is about \$195,000 this year. Is that correct; Counsel?

MR. NOLAN:

The size of the budget this year?

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

A 195 million. And I don't want to be -- I've taken a position that, you know, I would rather hold off on these. Now, having said that, if you want to discharge it without recommendation and then let the Clerk's Office come in and justify it, that I could support at this time otherwise, you know, I'll

just cast a negative vote. But it's your choice.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Well, you bring forward a good point, as a matter of fact that's why I felt it was important to preface a specific justification for this and Legislator Stern raises good questions, absolutely, we should be getting the best technology for our expenditure and particularly they can speak to some of the revenue streams associated with the subscription and how in fact unlike several of our other departments where it's an expense with no ROI, this one in fact actually is facilitating where we're trying to bring the County.

So I'll be happy to withdraw on the motion to approve and instead substitute a discharge without recommendation.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. And the way technology is moving today I'm not sure we want to get into a 20 year thing. So these are things we should discuss. Will you have someone from the Clerk's Office here?

LEG. KENNEDY:

I will make the call as soon as we leave here.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. We need a second.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. Motion to discharge without recommendation. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries.

DISCHARGED WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION (VOTE: 5-0)

Okay. **IR 1358, Authorizing the issuance of a certificate of abandonment of the interest of the County of Suffolk in property designated as Incorporated Village of Greenport (SCTM No. 1001-005.00-04.00-018.000) pursuant to Section 40-D of the Suffolk County Tax Act. (Co. Exec.)** Pam, you want to?

MS. GREENE:

Defer to Counsel.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

You'll defer to Counsel. Counsel, how are you?

MR. BROWN:

Good morning, thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Good to see you.

MR. BROWN:

Actually this resolution it's -- come on at the request of the Treasurer. She needs this to cancel the taxes. This property in the Village of Greenport was taken by condemnation. We actually took title in September, 2011. I think it was September, 2011.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

And we want to give it back?

MR. BROWN:

Yeah, they took it by condemnation. The land records and the assessment records weren't up-to-date, so.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Ok, okay. So it's -- all right. In light of that I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstention? Motion carries. **APPROVED (VOTE: 5-0)**

At this point I'm going to ask we adjourn to go into Executive Session to discuss a -- an item of a legal nature. I need a second. Second by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Lets go into Executive Session.

(*AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD FROM 10:46 A.M. UNTIL 11:07 A.M.*)

CHAIRMAN MONTANO:

Okay. We're back in session and -- we just had an Executive Session in the case of Amro, I'll spell this, E-l-n-a-k-i-b, versus County of Suffolk, County -- Suffolk County Police Department, et al.

With that, we approved a settlement, with that I'll take a motion to adjourn. Oh, we don't need motion. We're adjourned.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:07 A.M.*)

{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY