

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, March 19, 2015.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Steven Stern - Chairman
Legislator Tom Barraga - Vice-Chairman
Legislator Sarah Anker
Legislator Al Krupski
Legislator Tom Muratore

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Jason Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature
Debbie Harris - Aide to Legislator Stern
Robert Lipp - Deputy Director - Budget Review Office
Laura Halloran - Budget Review Office
Katie Horst - County Executive's Office
Sarah Lansdale - Suffolk County Director of Planning
Wayne Thompson - Department of Environment and Energy
Rick Brand, Newsday
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

*(*The meeting was called to order at 12:38 p.m. *)*

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the Ways and Means Committee. Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Trotta.

(*Salutation*)

Please join us in a moment of silence as we keep all of our brave men and women fighting for our freedoms overseas in our thoughts and prayers.

(*Moment of Silence Observed*)

Thank you.

Good afternoon. Thank you, everyone, for being with us. I do have cards today as a part of the public portion. The first card that I have is Annette Kattau and on deck is Marianne Johnston.

MS. KATTAU:

Good afternoon. I know you don't want to see me again, but I'm here to speak to Mr. Presiding Officer Gregory's bill. It's no way, Jose. People have spoken, and I just want to make that perfectly clear. No deals. Our neighborhood, our community has spoken, so I think it's really a waste of taxpayers' money and time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thank you. MaryAnn Johnston, and after Ms. Johnston is Don Seubert.

MS. JOHNSTON:

Good afternoon. I'm president of the Affiliated Brookhaven Civic Organizations, and also a member of the No Casino in Medford Coalition. We're here to speak to Legislator Gregory and Cilmi's bill, 1187 of 2015. We went recently with Legislator Calarco and afterwards, we all decided that we will not be participatory in this committee, should you form it. We believe that your "whereas clause" that says "the state legislation that authorized Suffolk OTB to operate video is also exempted from proposed gaming facility from most local zoning requirements." We believe that's a false statement. We believe that you know that's a false statement, so we're not going to support this. We will not be participatory, and that includes the local fire departments, the local ambulance companies, the local civic organizations. There will be no civic organizations from Brookhaven Town that we will be participatory, and we kindly ask that you decline to pass this bill today. Thank you.

LEG. TROTТА:

I have a question.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Mr. Seubert.

MR. SEUBERT:

Good afternoon. Hopefully this resolution was done with the best interest of the Medford community and any other possible community that may wish -- that would like to have a casino, if any. We appreciate that general concern of the county legislators; however, the Medford Taxpayers Civic Association has asked to have this withdrawn or just tabled, revised at any case -- in case any other hamlet so desires. Monday, this past Monday, members of community from the fire, the civic, ABCO, the Chamber of Commerce all agreed this was way too premature. We are not enabling a

casino for anyone, no less Medford. We're not raising the white flag, which this committee could easily symbolize, so we're going to full charge ahead and fight this and be done, and there's a few "whereas" that we're not exactly too happy with. One, that it's authorized. Because something is authorized doesn't mean you have to do it, okay? Number four, I think MaryAnn just mentioned about the OTB, that there -- all codes, they're supposed to follow, all laws. We wouldn't want to part of something that was against the law. Number six, the whereas, a public benefit corporation, that's another thing that has to determined. Public benefit of a corporation that's in bankruptcy and there's a means task also to determine what the benefit is versus the people, so that's another whereas. The community advisory board that you're going to have -- I think when you go to look at any kind of community advisory board, first of all, I think one thing you really forgot was having people that are adjacent to the property. They're the ones that really count, okay? And then, often civic associations, they appoint their own members to a board; they don't let anyone else select them, so if this ever comes up again, I think we could give a few ideas regarding it, but we're opposed to putting that up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thank you. I have no other cards; right, Mr. Clerk? Is there anybody else that would like to address the committee? Seeing none, we will then go to the agenda.

First with tabled resolutions.

IR 1030, Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Charter Law to strengthen lobbyist registration and reporting requirement (Lindsay).

P.O. GREGORY:

I think we're ready to go, so I'll make a motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Motion to approve by the Presiding Officer. I'll second.

LEG. TROTТА:

Motion to table by Legislator Trotta.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Anybody second on the tabling motion? Seeing none --

P.O. GREGORY:

You're against lobbyists?

LEG. TROTТА:

I'm sorry. Wrong bill.

P.O. GREGORY:

Hold your power there.

LEG. TROTТА:

I withdraw my motion to table.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Okay. Everybody good? I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? IR 1030 is **approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer).**

That brings us, then, to introductory resolutions.

IR 1134, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Local Law No. 13-1976 Bourdois Properties, LLC (SCTM No. 0200-959.00-05.00-018.000) (County Executive). This is the sale of adjoining property in the Town of Brookhaven that will be sold with restrictive covenant and cannot be developed. I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? IR 1134 is **approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1140, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Brian J. Kenney (SCTM No. 0100-192.00-02.00-045.000) (County Exec.). Motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? IR 1140 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1141, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Daniel Sottong (SCTM No. 0800-018.00-05.00-023.000) (County Executive). Same motion, same second, same vote. Approved and placed on the consent calendar. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1142, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Lloyd Baras (SCTM No. 0905-019.01-01.00-011.000) (County Executive). Same motion, same second, same vote. Approved and placed on the consent calendar. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1143, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Michael Catania (SCTM No. 0100-117.00-02.00-037.000) (County Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. Approved and placed on the consent calendar. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1144, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Santos Lopez and Nurys Lopez, his wife (SCTM No. 0500-227.00-04.00-054.000). (Co. Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. Approved and placed on the consent calendar. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1146, 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 Phyllis Amodeo (SCTM No. 0204-010.00-03.00-006.000) (County Exec.). Same motion, same second, same vote. Approved and placed on the consent calendar. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1154, Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Charter Law to clarify and strengthen the procedures for filling County Legislature vacancies (P.O. Gregory). This needs to be tabled for public hearing. I'll make a motion to table for public hearing. Second by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1154 is tabled for public hearing. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1155, Authorizing certain technical corrections to Adopted Resolution No. 1134-2012 (County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Trotta. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? 1155 is **approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1156, Authorizing certain technical correction to Adopted Resolution No. 1188-2014. Same motion, same second, same vote. **Approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

IR 1187, To create a Gaming Facility Community Advisory Committee (P.O. Gregory)

P.O. GREGORY:

Mr. Chair, if I may.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Mr. Presiding Officer.

P.O. GREGORY:

In conversation with my colleague and Legislator Rob Calarco who represents the area, I'm going to offer a motion to table.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Presiding Officer makes a motion to table. I'll second.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1187 is tabled. (VOTE: 5-0-0-1, Not Present: Spencer)**

1188, A resolution confirming the appointment of Barry Paul as the Suffolk County Treasurer (County Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Second by Legislator Calarco. I know that Mr. Paul is with us today. Please, why don't you join us at the table. Welcome.

MR. PAUL:

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Committee Members. Pleasure to be here today. While some of the committee members, they know me from the Department of Health Services where I served as deputy commissioner from March 2012 to November 2014. I thought I would take a minute or two to describe my more finance-relevant work experience. First, on a personal note, I'm a lifelong resident of Suffolk County. I grew up in Sayville, put myself through Stony Brook University as a bayman, and I settled in Patchogue to raise a family. I'm a manager and professional with over 30 years of government and corporate experience in business planning, budget and finance, performance management, change management and operations. My first career, which lasted 21 years, was with the Grumman Corporation and later Northrup-Grumman Corporation. My assignments with Grumman in planning, budget, and finance operations ranged from operating divisions to the corporate office and were significantly influenced by total quality management,

principles that were core of the Grumman Corporation. All managers were trained and expected to engage both their employees and their customers in finding ways to lower cost and improve the value of products and services to the customer.

Examples of some of my assignments while at Grumman, I was a program coordinator for a \$200 million corporate-wide cost reduction program. I was a member of the Cost Accounting Committee member for the corporation, member of Determination Review Board, and a member of the corporate contributions counsel. But while these assignments were challenging and rewarding, they were eclipsed by my work assignment on the merger activities of Grumman and Northrup Corporation, who purchased Grumman in 1994. My assignment was twofold during that period: to work with my Northrup counterparts on the corporate office redesign with the merging of the Century City office and the Bethpage office; and to recommend best models to accomplish the new company goals.

I also was assigned to evaluate the Grumman Long Island administrative facilities and support departments and provide recommendations to maximize their value moving forward with the new corporation. The second assignment regarding the Long Island operations ultimately resulted in the new design of a new organization within the company, which I stood up and then was appointed to lead. I stayed, actually, with the new Northrup Grumman Corporation for several years until it became apparent that their plan was to move more jobs off of Long Island.

My next career actually moved me from Bethpage to Mineola. I worked for eight years in the Nassau County Department of Management and Budget as a deputy director, CFO, chief deputy budget director, and then the director of Nassau County Performance Management, and I discovered while there that the challenges facing local government were not dissimilar to those facing the Grumman Corporation as a defense contractor. They are spending tax payer dollars. The principles that I learned there in Total Quality Management were absolutely transferrable to local government. As a matter of fact, while I was at Nassau, I worked on department consolidations of the Parks Department Facility Trades Organizations with the Department of Public Works Facility Trades group.

After Nassau County, I finally got a job in Suffolk County. I was able to move my career here. I worked for Covanta Energy as their Long Island director of business management. After Covanta, I was hired into Suffolk County Government three years ago as the deputy commissioner of health services and oversaw the day-to-day operations of the Division of Environmental Quality, the Bureau of Public Health Protection, the Division of Children with Special Needs, the Office of General Operations and Human Resources. Due to my experience and training, I was also assigned as a part-time member of the county executive's performance management team, and I just would like to mention two DHS, Department of Health Services, success stories that came about utilizing performance management and TQM tools, and that was the wastewater permitting process improvement and the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, STP, Incentivized Inspection Program. Try saying that a couple times.

In both cases, data and process review indicated that requirements could be met and improvements made without adding staff or replacing staff that is left. Currently, in my new position, which I began in January, as the director of performance management, I'm working on the delivery of a new Suffolk Stat Program and the new county-wide continuous improvement training program. That training program is to deliver a common set of tools, language, necessary to create self-sustaining quality improvement programs in every department. If confirmed, this work will still go on. It'll be performed by existing staff in the county executive's office.

I'm honored to be here today. I'm honored to be nominated by the county executive for the position of county treasurer. I believe my experience, management abilities, focus on cost,

customer service, and continuous improvement will allow me to improve existing operations. In particular, I plan to focus on the backlog of tax adjustment payments. I expect improvements to this process and others. A lot of positive impact on customer service and will add value to the eventual merger that will take place with the Department of Audit and Control. Thank you for listening, and I'll be happy to answer any questions.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Thank you, and thank you for being with us today. This I think presents an opportunity because, in essence, the treasurer would not just have oversight responsibility over the treasurer's office but also with an eye on the consolidation of the process, and so your background, again, presents opportunity as you bring not just that experience but a track record of having done that both in the private sector and the public sector as well. So maybe you can speak just a little bit to how you see that process going not just in bringing best practices, best systems, and looking at the overall function of the treasurer's office but specifically how you intend to work with, perhaps, an eye on the possible consolidation going forward in the future and how you might be working with the comptroller's office in that regard; and then if you can also touch on what you see as a realistic timeline coming up on how long you believe that process might take to be completed.

MR. PAUL:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I plan on deploying many of the practices that I used as the deputy commissioner in Department of Health Services, to completely engage the staff, who are the experts, in these processes, and to understand what roadblocks and other issues that impede progress they seem to be encountering and help them find ways to redesign the process, to eliminate the waste, and to make more with the resources they have, and certainly to collaborate with all other county experts that could add value to the process.

In the treasurer's office, I know they have a technology system, but I certainly invite the Department of Information Technology to come along with me and look at that system, look at the system that the comptroller's office has, as both departments have financial systems. So collaborate with folks on technology, collaborate with other county departments who provide services internally to county departments, and bring the best people to bare on looking at the problems and the improvement of processes that are customer-focused in the treasurer's department. There are many public facing services that the treasurer's office provides, and those will be a keen focus right out of the gate.

Regarding a timeline, I've been at the treasurer's office for an afternoon so far; that's not a lot of time. I certainly have a lot of work to do to understand all the detailed work that they do, who they interface with, their customers, who they interact with within the county, and we'll utilize all these resources in those categories to look to improve the processes there with a mind towards looking forward that eventually there will be a merger of audit and control functions and the finance and taxation functions and to make sure that there's extra value provided by making that merger happen. So when we do the improvements in the short-term, engaging all the staff there and the resources of the county, and work with John Kennedy to make sure the alignments are the most valuable that they can be to their constituents.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

Hi, Barry. How are you?

MR. PAUL:

Very good. Thank you.

LEG. SPENCER:

I have a question for you, but I'll also direct there towards counsel, too, and I know that -- my question comes with regards to the appointment to this position, and we've discussed as we were looking at the merger in the past that a lot of treasurers are appointed and around New York State, either there's an appointed treasurer and appointed comptroller. If he's confirmed to this position, does he step into it as an independently-elected official finishing out the term, or does he serve at the pleasure of the executive?

MR. NOLAN:

Once he's appointed and confirmed by us, he has all the powers as if he was elected treasurer, and he will serve until the office is filled by election in November. Once the election is held, unless he runs, then he won't be the treasurer any longer.

LEG. SPENCER:

Barry, first of all, let me say I've had the privilege of working with you on numerous occasions and you've helped me with regards to understanding the budget in the Department of Health, and we've spoken privately, and I've indicated that I do support you. I've had a great working relationship with the administration. I think they've reached out to work with this legislature. So I ask this question from the standpoint of someone that would be looking at this with a critical eye and hearing your response to it, so in a sense coming from the administration and working with an executive who is your boss and now you're having to shift gears step into this role as a treasurer and, as Counselor has indicated, you would be basically serving in that position independently, is it a little too close? Are you able to step away? Are you able to make an independent judgment or ruling on situations that -- where you may not see eye to eye?

MR. PAUL:

Thank you, Dr. Spencer. Yes, in my past role here at the county and even in previous positions, I'm an independent, aggressive, results-obtainer, and I tend to want people to see my point of view on certain things, and I will stand by my belief system before any other, and I'm not someone who is active in politics. I'm a professional businessman. My obligation is to my job and the job that I have at the time, and it gets 110 percent, and it gets my thoughts and my belief system, so if I have decision to make that may not be agreeable to the exec, I will take him on and convince him that I'm right.

LEG. SPENCER:

Well, fair enough. I appreciate your candor. I appreciate your candor on that, and I think also you would serve out the remainder of the term -- well, I mean, until there's an election. Do you have a desire to continue in that position after the appointed period ends? Is that a decision you're considering?

MR. PAUL:

What I view this as is a seven-month project to assist the county treasurer's office in improving operations and to prepare it for the merger. After that time is up, I hope to continue to work on total quality management principles and take them to every department in the county.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you very much. As I said before, I think we would be well-served in having you in that position, so you have my support.

MR. PAUL:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Browning and then Krupski.

LEG. BROWNING:

It's nice to see you, Barry. I do have a question. Maybe I'll start with Counsel. With the appointment of the treasurer, I'm wondering are we required to hire within a certain timeline? Is there a rush or a need to rush into an appointment? Because I know there is another bill coming up to put up to referendum, moving up the merger since the treasurer left. Is there a timeline to make this appointment?

MR. NOLAN:

All the charter says is that if the office becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment by a qualified person by the county executive with the approval of the county legislature. That's all it says.

LEG. BROWNING:

Okay. And that appointment could quite easily have been the current deputy that's sitting there to fill remainder of the time, if he chose?

MR. NOLAN:

If he chose, sure.

LEG. BROWNING:

You know, that's one of my concerns, and again, Barry, you say your director of performance management, and we had a conversation, and I think that -- I think every single one of us at this horseshoe is very aware of one of the major crises and problems that we had here in Suffolk County when this administration come in was John J. Foley. And the John J. Foley Nursing Home was losing money, and I know why it was losing money. It was sabotaged. There was beds not being filled, and I can tell you that what disappoints me is when we had a facility like this, and I could give you many stories -- and I'd be more than happy, especially since you worked in the Health Department -- of the residents who are no longer with us, and many of them through transfer trauma, that there was no effort to have a performance management team, make that your number one goal to go in there.

So maybe you can tell me why, knowing the problem that was going on there and the county executive knew that that was my priority in my district was the residents and the workers of John J. Foley, and what's happened today is we have a building sitting there empty. We lost our license. It's been devalued. So where's the performance management on that?

MR. PAUL:

Legislator Browning, I'm really not the person to answer that question. My assignment, as I mentioned, was in another section of the health department, and I'm really not the person to give you a good answer for that.

LEG. BROWNING:

The John J. Foley Nursing Home falls under the health department and that's where you were, correct?

MR. PAUL:

Correct, except I did identify my areas that I was assigned responsibility for, and the patient care of John J. Foley was not assigned to my responsibility.

LEG. BROWNING:

But the performance management team came in collectively as a group and sat in front of us about how they were going to look throughout the county to resolve some of our inefficiencies and resolve some of our financial problems, and that was one of our financial problems, so as a team, I would have thought that that would have been a priority. And to top it off is I know the treasurer's office, why you're here to be appointed for treasurer, is another department that no one from performance management team went to prior to the decision. Like I said, too often, I'm seeing the cart before the horse. A decision's being made to do something without really looking at it. So the treasurer's office is another place where the performance management team didn't even sit with the treasurer to say, What can we do to help you, what needs -- you know, Let me do something.

And again, my personal is, there's no timeline to fill this, and as the director of performance management team, I would assume that you could work continue to work with the comptroller to do the merger, to look at efficiencies in the treasurer's office creating -- maybe not creating another salary, but certainly it's a salary increase, and let's save taxpayers' money, not fill that position, continue to work in the capacity that you're in, and work with the comptroller because I don't want to say our comptroller's incompetent. I think he's more than competent to work with you and be more than willing to work with you.

So I don't know that this appointment is necessary, and I'm sorry it's nothing personal against you, but this administration was the ones that made the decision, and I didn't vote for the merger. I didn't support the merger because I do believe in checks and balances. I did think it was not the right thing to do is to merge the two offices, but they up to referendum. The voters made the decision, and I know that some of my colleagues who felt the same way as I did have said, Well, now that the voters have spoken, well, let them decide if we should move it up sooner. So I just feel that it's not something that needs to be done today, and I feel that if the treasurer's office is now somewhere the performance management team wants to go, I'm sure the comptroller will be more than happy to work with you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Good afternoon, Mr. Paul. How are you?

MR. PAUL:

Very good. Thank you, Legislator.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Some of my questions have already been asked by some of my colleagues and answered by you. You said that you had met the people who worked in the Office of the Treasurer. Have you met and spoken to your role there with the comptroller yet?

MR. PAUL:

I have not had a formal meeting with the comptroller yet.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So you're really looking at three different things there. I think you're looking at how the treasurer office operates today.

MR. PAUL:

Correct.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

You're looking at the eventuality of a merger in a few years or the possibility of a merger sooner. How would you handle those three different scenarios?

MR. PAUL:

Well, as you said, there's two phases. I would boil it down to two phases. When the merger happened is a function of the plan for the merger. In a merger, there's a decision point, there's a planning point, there's an implementation point, and then there's a monitoring point. So initially what I need to do is go in and look at the processes that need improvement that will have a direct effect on the customers of the office. Very soon thereafter, I would reach out to John and we would start to do the planning phase of the merger and understand the capacities of both departments, the capacities of the technology, the capacities of the stakeholders who interface with the county treasurer's office and start to put a plan together when a merger would be most effective and have the most value and the least amount of risk to impacting the operations of both offices. So that planning phase is very critical to determining when is the right time, when are the capacities there, when are the technologies integrated, and when will the customers get the service -- see no interruption in service, so it's seamless, in other words. But I would be working with John quite soon after I'd spent time with the treasurer's office so I could speak intelligently about the synergies and the alignments about the functions that are common going forward.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Well, I guess it's too soon to ask you if you would suggest moving any phase of either of the departments either to Hauppauge or to Riverhead.

MR. PAUL:

I would agree it's too soon.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTТА:

To the county executive's people.

MS. HORST:

Yes.

LEG. TROTТА:

I'm having trouble understanding this. Didn't you declare, like, a fiscal emergency back in January, that we're in trouble?

MS. HORST:

Yes, that was my understanding.

LEG. TROTТА:

All right. And this gentleman just said that his place in the county executive's hierarchy would not be replaced, that existing staff would be doing it.

MS. HORST:

Correct.

LEG. TROTТА:

What does that mean for that spot? What does that sounding -- the message to the public, that we're going to remove him; do we really need him?

MS. HORST:

I don't think that's what Mr. Paul is saying, but I do not oversee that department. I do not oversee the responsibilities of that department, so I really couldn't talk to how the responsibilities are going to be spread out to cover his absence, but I would assume that similar to, you know, any way when someone goes on leave, we don't replace them if someone goes on medical leave or they have a family emergency, you know, we don't replace people usually when they're on leave for a couple months.

LEG. TROTТА:

Well, we just heard about in today's Newsday, \$8- or \$10 million, or whatever it was, in overtime, whatever the increase was over the year before. Did the performance management team look at any of that?

MS. HORST:

Again, I do not work in performance management, so I wouldn't know if they looked at that or not.

LEG. TROTТА:

Does it concern you at all that this gentleman worked under the Suozzi administration as deputy budget director and now they are under NIPA control?

MS. HORST:

I don't think it would be appropriate for me to answer that.

MR. PAUL:

If I could interject, the NIPA board proceeded the Suozzi administration.

LEG. TROTТА:

It came in during the Suozzi administration.

MR. PAUL:

No, sir.

LEG. TROTТА:

When did it come in?

MR. PAUL:

Under Gulotta.

LEG. TROTТА:

I don't think you're right. I'll check.

MR. PAUL:

Okay.

LEG. TROTТА:

Does it bother you at all that they're still under NIPA control after he was there for those years?

MS. HORST:

I don't think that's for me to say with my role.

LEG. TROTТА:

I mean, I also voted to have an elected treasurer in control, and I find it odd that, you know, you say one thing and do another. There's an opportunity now to let guy run his course, the deputy,

have this referendum go through or elect a new one in January. I just don't understand the reasoning why the county executive's flip-flopping on whether he wants a comptroller or he doesn't want a comptroller. It seems just like he has the opportunity to do this now, and he's not doing it.

MS. HORST:

I wouldn't characterize it as flip-flopping. I think the voters decided, and when they voted on a specific timeline, so I think we're going with the voters who have decided.

LEG. TROTTA:

Well, you have the opportunity to expedite it.

MS. HORST:

I don't have experience in mergers, but it's my understanding that's not something you would want to just rush and throw together.

LEG. TROTTA:

You wanted to do it as a referendum the first time to end in January.

MS. HORST:

I think the time line was a little longer when that conversation happened.

LEG. TROTTA:

All right. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

Anything else, Legislator Trotta? Okay. Legislator Calarco.

LEG. CALARCO:

Thank you. This is more of, I guess, a statement than a question. Barry and I have had many interactions with his time in the Health Department doing various things with performance management, and I could tell you whenever we had questions in my office, he was always very quick to respond. He was always on the ball and knew what was going on in that department and helped expedite things and get things moving along, and I have the utmost confidence that he's going to do that in this role as filling in in the treasurer's spot within the next seven months. And quite honestly, I think it's important to have somebody moving into there that has experience, has the background to do this kind of thing, and is somebody who understands all the different things that need to be done to make a merger happen effectively, and somebody who understands that that was, you know, something we were looking to try to do in the first place, and to have somebody at the helm over there is important to do, as well as somebody who is going to be able to help get things working a little bit more smoothly over in that department than they are at the present point in time, anyway. So I'm certainly supportive of Barry; I think he's going to do a great, great job, and he also happens to be a constituent of mine, which is a good thing as well.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

All right. Very good. So, Mr. Clerk, we have a motion and a second on IR 1188.

MR. RICHBERG:

Yes, we do.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

All right. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Okay. Note the two in opposition. IR 1188 is **approved (VOTE: 4-2-0-0, Opposed: Trotta, Browning)**

Before we say goodbye to Mr. Paul, in discussing with it Counsel, I don't know if there is any requirement that you appear before the general session, but I would think given the nature and the importance of this position that certainly you should be available for all of our colleagues in the full legislature to be available to answer questions on our upcoming general session.

MR. PAUL:

Certainly.

CHAIRMAN STERN:

All right. Thank you. So I will now make a motion to adjourn for the purposes of executive session. Second by Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? We are adjourned for executive session.

(*The committee met in executive session
from 1:18 p.m. until 1:44 p.m. *)

Back on the record. Having had executive session, we place on the record that a settlement was approved in the Matter of William A. Slack (ph) V. The County of Suffolk with a vote of three-two.

There being no other business before the committee, we are adjourned.

(*The committee meeting was adjourned at 1:46 p.m. *)