WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, May 7, 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
Tom Vaughn - 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 12:40 p.m.*)

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Welcome, everyone. Good afternoon and welcome to the committee on Ways and Means. I'm going the ask everybody to please rise and join us in the pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Trotta.

(*Salutation*)

Join us in a moment of silence as we keep all of our brave men and women in our thoughts and prayers, with a special moment of silence for Officer Brian Moore who was killed in the line of duty as a New York City police officer. May he rest in peace.

(*Moment of Silence Observed*)

Thank you. Welcome, everyone, and thank you for joining us. On the agenda at number two, Correspondence, I do have correspondence, which has been submitted, the Group for the East End in regard to IR 1290 of 2015. So, Mr. Clerk, I'm going to have that admitted for the record, and I also have correspondence dated May 5 from the Nature Conservancy, also in regard to IR 1290 2015; so two items of correspondence that I'm going to have submitted for the record.

MR. RICHBERG:
We will pick them up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you. Moving on, then, to public portion, I do have a couple of cards. Number one is. Debra Cavanagh. Ms. Cavanagh, welcome.

MS. CAVANAUGH:
Debra Cavanagh, 21 Walnut Street, Central Islip, New York. I'm the president of the Central Islip Coalition of Good Neighbors. I'd first like to thank Legislator Martinez and Legislator Cilmi for working with the community to try to solve the problem of the graduation for Central Islip High School. I appreciate the hard work working on behalf of our kids.

Second, as a long-time resident of Central Islip for the past 23 years, I was there when the county bought the property and built the Ducks Stadium, which the community refers to it as; however, I was appalled when I heard that the county and the Ducks wanted to charge the school district originally $20,000 for the high school graduation for a one-time use. The Ducks, which have resided in the Central Islip community for 15-plus years, do not pay school taxes to the Central Islip community whatsoever at all because they are renting from the county. The community tolerates the traffic problems that are issued every time the Ducks have a home game. We deal with the noise from the firecrackers. Our fire department has to be present every time they do a firecracker display, which is all fine and dandy, but the community tolerates the noise. They tolerate the traffic with no complaints.

I do think the Ducks, which have never given back to the Central Islip community residents, should, at this point in time, give back to the school district and the community. It's only fair. The school district, over the years, every year goes out with and buys 400 tickets to use to raise money for a scholarship fund. Again, we're paying full price for the tickets. I really do think that if the county can help us move forward and get the Ducks to agree to waive the fee, that would be a nice way for the Ducks to give back to the Central Islip community for the all that the community has tolerated

and put up and supported them throughout the years.

My other than concern as a resident and the president of Central Islip community, I do know that the Ducks paid the county $25,000 mitigation fees, which the Central Islip community receives nothing. Again, we tolerate it all. We support them as a community. It would be nice for the Ducks and the county to support the community for the one-time use of the field that we've asked for. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you, Ms. Cavanagh. Next is Kimberly Quarty.

MS. PORT:
Good afternoon. I'm Kimberly Quarty with Peconic Land Trust, and I'm here today in support of IR 1290. The Peconic Land Trust is here to support the transfer of Suffolk County tax map parcels 900.344.1, lot 24.3 and 24.4 to the Town of Southampton for the purpose of open space preservation. These parcels are located along an inlet of the Tiana Bay in East Quogue immediately adjacent to one of the Trust's open space easements. The subject parcels as well as our easement parcel contain title and freshwater wetlands recognized to be environmentally sensitive by New York State DEC. Development of either of these low-lying parcels would cause major adverse impacts to the natural systems there, and would contribute to the already existing nitrogen pollution, which is and continues to be a huge problem in our bays. Protection of these parcels would not only help protect water quality but would also allow for migration of the title marsh as sea levels continue to rise. We believe the town's proposed purchase -- proposed transfer of these parcels subject to the county's retention of development rights to be used to promote the development of workforce housing would be significant in protecting Tiana Bay and the larger South Shore estuary. Thank you.

LEG. SPENCER:
Thank you. Next speaker is Mary Wilson.

MS. WILSON:
Good afternoon. Mary Wilson, community preservation program manager for the Town of Southampton. Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst regrets she was unable to attend today but asked that I read you this letter:

"Dear Legislator Stern and Members of the Ways and Means Committee. I am writing to express my strong support of IR 1290, the adoption of which would preserve two environmentally-sensitive creek-front parcels and provide a significant buffer from storm impacts in the low-lying area of Tiana Bay. Additionally, the resultant reduction in new sanitary systems on our bay front adds to the cumulative effort to protect the Shinnecock Bay area. The resolution proposes to transfer the interest of Suffolk County in parcels district 900, section 344, block 1, lot 24.3 and 24.4 to the town for the sum of $73,101, which is the amount of the county's cost less the pro-rata share of taxes. Surface and groundwater protection consistently has been a shared priority of Suffolk County and Southampton.

"The Town of Southampton has invested over $30 million in land preservation for the protection of Tiana Bay and the greater Shinnecock Bay. Suffolk County, among its commitments to preservation in this area has invested $5 million in a partnership with Southampton Town for the protection of over 150 acres.

"Preserving the two subject lots, as opposed to public sale for development, is in keeping with all our goals for water and land preservation. Conveyance of this land under the stated terms is consistent

with past transfers between the county and the town and has maximized the ability of both entities to achieve conservation goals. Let us continue to be solid partners in surface and groundwater protection as well as land preservation. Sincerely, Anna Throne-Holst, supervisor."

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you. I do not have any cards. Right, there are no further cards, Mr. Clerk?

MR. RICHBERG:
No, there was only those cards.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. With no other cards, is there anybody else that would like to address the committee? Seeing none, then we will move on to the agenda beginning with tabled resolutions.

IR 1187, To create a Gaming Facility Community Advisory Committee (P.O. Gregory). I'll make a motion to table at the request of the sponsor. Second by Legislator Trotta. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?
IR 1187 is tabled. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Calarco).

IR 1189, Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Local Law amending Article XXXV of the Suffolk County Administrative Code to establish a pool of qualified real estate brokers and consultants in the Division Of Real Property Acquisition And Management (County Executive). Motion to approve by Legislator Spencer. I'll second. Everybody good? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1189 is approved. (VOTE: 4-0-0-1, Not Present: Calarco)**

Moving to introductory resolutions.

IR 1289, Authorizing the transfer of certain properties to Suffolk County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (County Executive).

LEG. CALARCO:
Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Motion to approve by. Legislator Calarco. I'll second. I see the commissioner is here. Commissioner, maybe we can get a brief explanation.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:
This is planning, actually. I'm going to turn it over to Wayne. If you have any questions after that, I'll be happy to answer.

MR. THOMPSON:
Goo afternoon. Questions?

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Maybe you can give us a brief overview.

MR. THOMPSON:
Okay. All these properties have been carefully looked at to see -- we tried to eliminate anything that would make a pocket park, which would be a problem for the Department of Parks, which I've carefully gone over with the Parks Department personnel to see if they're appropriate for their use. Any parcels that were small that they -- or their location would be proven beneficial by turning it

over to an adjacent owner, possibly with restrictions was attempted -- we didn't get much response from that. I think there was one in particular down in the Moriches area that we couldn't get any bites on, so being 3/4 wetland, we offered it to Parks, which was their secondary recommendation to first try it, to do an adjacent owner sale. All the other properties fall within parameters of existing parks or of such a nature that they're environmentally sensitive and that's probably why we lost the taxes in the first place.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
So here I see that the transfer will result in a savings in annual tax payments.

MR. THOMPSON:
We won't be paying taxes on them anymore. That's what that amounts to. The current taxes, which would probably be even more if I was to project it, because a lot of these properties are under three-year exemption that we have, so after three years, we go back to full value, so that price could increase by 25 to 50 percent more as a savings.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And can you speak to what the result is of this transfer on TDR?

MR. THOMPSON:
Well, we asked Planning to review each piece to see if there are any available credits, like if it's totally wetland or when the Health Department's got to agree to that to see if there are any ability to pull any credits off that we could use later on for workforce housing, and that's, I think you'll see on the side, is enumerated.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And so the TDR credits, then, are all placed into the bank where the credits go.

MR. THOMPSON:
That's precisely right.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTTA:
How much land is this?

MR. THOMPSON:
59 acres, I believe it is.

LEG. TROTTA:
90 parcels, 50 acres? And how do we acquire this, just nonpayment of taxes?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:
Yeah, they usually tax default. What happens is the county owns a property. We pay taxes on it. Back years ago, they would just be turned over to Parks Department. At recent years, the last three or four years, we've had more of a say in what we take on as parkland. We like to do it, especially if it's continuous with other adjacent parkland or it's environmentally sensitive. So my environmental analyst, Nick Gibbons, goes through each property with planning and decides whether we want to take it on as parkland or not, and this represents that list of I guess, I think, it's 90, 91 sites for a total of, I think it's like, 57 point -- just short of 58 acres.

LEG. TROTTA:
And this is all over: near the water, not year the water?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:
Yeah, you can look. It'll give you a list of where they are, and you'll see a lot of them are actually abutting or adjacent to existing parklands. Are there any buildings on them point, or is it all.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:
No. No they're very small parcels. You'll see .6 acres, .2 acres. They are very small parcels that we've picked up, I'm assuming under a tax default.

MR. THOMPSON:
There's a reason people walk away from them. They're on paper streets, they're way in the woods. They're not going to pay taxes on them anymore, so we get them.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. Everybody good? All right. Mr. Clerk, we have a motion and a second?

MR. RICHBERG:
No, we do not.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
All right. I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Trotta. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? IR 1289 is **approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1290, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law -Town of Southampton (SCTM Nos. 0900-344.00-01.00-024.003 and 0900-344.00-01.00-024.004) (County Executive).
LEG. SPENCER:
Motion.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Motion by Legislator Spencer.

LEG. CALARCO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Second by Legislator Calarco. On the motion, Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTTA:
How much land is this?

MR. THOMPSON:
I believe the resolution says 2.1 acres.

LEG. TROTTA:
In different par -- like, connected or?

MR. THOMPSON:
They're directly -- actually, they wrap around each other. One is sort of a flag-lot looking, and the other fits underneath it.

LEG. TROTTA:
How did we get this?

MR. THOMPSON:
Nonpayment of taxes.

LEG. TROTTA:
And it's waterfront?

MR. THOMPSON:
Yeah, it's mostly water.

LEG. TROTTA:
It's mostly water?

MR. THOMPSON:
Yeah, if you look at an area, you'll see that half the three quarters of it is wetlands if not waterfront.

LEG. TROTTA:
It's good it's preserved.

MR. THOMPSON:
People don't throw away good property.

LEG. TROTTA:
So this is going to abut a piece of land that Southampton owns?

MR. THOMPSON:
There's a parcel directly to -- I believe it's the south that's the Nature Conservancy or Peconic Land Trust has a conservation -- easement; isn't that right?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:
Yeah.

MR. THOMPSON:
Thought so.

LEG. TROTTA:
How much land will it be total; do you have any idea?

MR. THOMPSON:
Oh, I think that piece is two or three acres.

LEG. TROTTA:
Is there any public access to this or it's just sort of?

MR. THOMPSON:
In practice, there's a small paper street, a right-of-way that would have to be built to get to these, but the public can't generally get to it, no.

LEG. TROTTA:
And it's not like a beach or anything?

MR. THOMPSON:
No. It wouldn't be used for any purpose like, no; otherwise, we would consider our own parks.

LEG. TROTTA:
Okay. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And here this is a request made by the Town of Southampton to add it to their open space, and here the town will be making a payment.

MR. THOMPSON:
Yeah, they're paying us for all the taxes we've expended or any expenses. At this point, there is no, we didn't put any money into it outside of paying the taxes for four or five years.

LEG. TROTTA:
Just out of curiosity, why wouldn't the guy sell the property? I'm glad he didn't but.

MR. THOMPSON:
I've been at this for 42 years. I can't figure out what people walk away from.

LEG. TROTTA:
It's got to be worth, you know, a million dollars.

MR. THOMPSON:
Sometimes it turns into a family fight, sometimes maybe they got tired of fighting to get a building permit. You can make up a reason; I would say, Yeah, I heard it.

LEG. TROTTA:
Okay.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. So this resolution has the support of Real Estate. This resolution has the support of the Nature Conservancy and the Group for the East End. As I alluded to before, we have correspondence from both of those organizations. Any other questions? Everybody good? All right. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1290 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1295, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 72-h of the General Municipal Law - Wyandanch Union Free School District - (SCTM Nos. 0100-055.00-02.00-080.000 and 0100-055.00-02.00-081.000) (County Executive).
Motion by Legislator Spencer.

LEG. CALARCO:
Second.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Second by Legislator Calarco.

MR. THOMPSON:
These are, again, taken by tax deed. They are back-to-back parcels that are, I believe, 25 by 100. That is immediately adjacent to the library. They're in the middle of Wyandanch, and we're getting -- again, we're getting our taxes that we've expended. The county's investment is

actually -- it's taxes that we've paid on it to take the property and maintain it.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
It says it's going be used for community purposes. Do you any ideas as to what those community purposes might be?

MR. THOMPSON:
I think they put that in there because the library wants to use it, and they consider that community use, whether it be parking or whatever they want to do next to the library. They are wooded lots adjacent to their parking lot.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
All right. Everybody good? All right. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1295 is approved**. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1297, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Frances Garcia a/k/a Frances Aiuto (SCTM No. 0500-286.00-01.00-015.000) (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Spencer to approve and place on the consent calendar. I'll second. This is fees, penalties, interest charges totalling $47,252.42, which is been paid, correct?

MR. THOMPSON:
Yes.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. Thank you. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **IR 1297 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1298, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Grazia Ditomaso (SCTM No. 0900-211.00-01.00-011.042)(County Executive). Same motion, same second, same vote. **Approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1299, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Innovative Housing Corp. (SCTM No. 0500-141.00-01.00-013.000)(County Executive). Same motion, same second. Fees, penalties, charges here totaling $82,968.07 and that has been paid?

MR. THOMPSON:
Correct.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. Thank you. And same vote. **Approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

IR 1300, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Singh and Sarwar Property Development, Inc., a domestic corporation duly incorporated under the Laws of New York State (SCTM No. 0200-975.90-02.00-044.000)(County Executive). Same motion, same second. Total cost of $69,464.11 which has been paid?

MR. THOMPSON:
Approved parcel, yep.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And same vote. **Approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

IR 1308, Sale of County-owned real estate pursuant to Local Law No. 13-1976 Gerald Leibman (SCTM No. 0900-035.00-02.00-068.000)(County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Spencer. This is sale of property to an adjoining property owner in the amount of $3,000, correct?

MR. THOMPSON:
That's right.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Sold with restrictive covenance. It cannot be developed. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **IR 1308 is approved.**

IR 1309, 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 Walter F. Kreitzberg, unmarried (SCTM No. 0100-204.00-01.00-046.000)(County Executive). I'll motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Spencer.
Total amount of $84,691.54, which has been paid.

MR. THOMPSON:
Correct, yes, that's a house too.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **IR 1309 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1310, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Rose Luna (SCTM No. 0200-927.00-02.00-014.000)(County Executive). Same motion, same second. Charges, fees in the amount of $44,504.20, which has been paid.

MR. THOMPSON:
Correct, again, another improvement.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And same vote. **Approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

IR 1311, Authorizing the issuance of a certificate of abandonment of the interest of the County of Suffolk in property designated as Town of Smithtown, (Suffolk County Tax Map Nos. 0803-002.00-01.00-018.003, 018.004 and 018.005), pursuant to Section 40-d of the Suffolk County Tax Act (County Executive). Motion by Legislator Spencer. Second by Legislator Calarco.

County attorney.

MR. BROWN:
Good afternoon. The certificate of abandonment, it arises out of negotiated settlement with the

plaintiff relating to the taking of a tax deed. Notice has to be given to the taxpayer and also the mortgagee on the premises. Part of the allegations of the lawsuit was that the notice to the mortgagee was given to an improper address, so during the courses, we negotiated a settlement with the taxpayer whereby we do the certificate of abandonment subject to your consent and the county would receive $125,000. The developer would then turn -- develop the property, I'm assuming, and it's -- there are a developer parcels in the Town of Smithtown, and the county's investment at this point is about $34-35,000, so the net to the county was about $90,000.

LEG. TROTTA:
Where are these?

MR. BROWN:
Smithtown.

LEG. TROTTA:
Do you know where?

MR. THOMPSON:
In the Village of the Branch, just about north of the library at the corner of 25A and 25, the library there.

LEG. TROTTA:
Yeah, and --

MR. THOMPSON:
Just up the road from the Garden Inn -- what is that?

LEG. TROTTA:
The Garden Grill.

MR. THOMPSON:
Garden Grill.

LEG. TROTTA:
So now they weren't paying taxes on it? Explain to me the process. Were they foreclosed on it?

MR. BROWN:
Actually, there was a foreclosure with the lender, who was originally Smithtown Bank, and now it's People's United Stated, and the notice was given by the treasurer's office, so there was dispute as to whether or not the address to which was given was a correct address, and so an action was commenced to recover the property, and during the course of litigation we negotiated a settlement whereby the county would receive consideration in excess of the amount of the investment at the present time, and in exchange we'd do the certificate of abandonment and return the property to the developer. The developer has worked something out with respect to the -- worked out a settlement with the bank, with People's United, on the foreclosure as well.

LEG. TROTTA:
Is this a building on this, or is it just property?

MR. BROWN:
No, they're vacant lots.

LEG. TROTTA:
How much property is it?

MR. BROWN:
I'm sorry?

LEG. TROTTA:
How much property is it?

MR. THOMPSON:
They're three flag lots off Judges Lane. You know where Judges Lane is?

LEG. TROTTA:
Yeah.

MR. THOMPSON:
Off Judges Lane, three flag lots.

LEG. TROTTA:
This is the big guy who ran the Bank of Smithtown into the ground with all of his loans. What's his name? I forgot his name. I understand. Okay.

MR. THOMPSON:
That was the Bank of Smithtown.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. All right. Everybody good? All right. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, I have a motion and a second?

MR. RICHBERG:
Yes, you do.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? IR 1311 is **approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1326, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Louis Arpino and Deborah Arpino, his wife (SCTM No. 0100-137.00-02.00-009.000)(County Executive). I'll make a motion to approve and place on the consent calendar. Second by Legislator Calarco. Costs all in, $74,019.68, which has been paid.

MR. THOMPSON:
Yes. That's 1326.

MR. NOLAN:
Yes.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
1326.

MR. THOMPSON:
Paid by the mortgagee.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **IR 1326 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1327, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Mark D. Hannan (SCTM No. 0900-319.00-06.00-001.000)(County Executive). Same motion, same second. Total cost of $46,357.59.

MR. THOMPSON:
Correct. This one has a contract of sale. That's why if you read in there, you'll see "will be paid."

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Right.

MR. THOMPSON:
So they will close in our office together. We'll get pay it and the other one gets the house.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. Everybody good? All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **IR 1327 is approved and placed on the consent calendar. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1328, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Ronald Monteleone and Maria Monteleone, his wife (SCTM No. 0500-008.00-01.00-057.000) (County Executive). Same motion, same second. Total, $40,890.04.

MR. THOMPSON:
It's a refi. I the bank will not advance the money until they see we're going to return it.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And same vote. **Approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

IR 1329, Authorizing the sale, pursuant to Local Law No. 16-1976, of real property acquired under Section 46 of the Suffolk County Tax Act Sandra L. Paritsky (SCTM No. 0500-353.00-03.00-001.000)(County Executive). Same motion, same second. Total of $77,535.93.

MR. THOMPSON:
Correct; paid by the mortgagee.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Okay. And same vote. **Approved and placed on the consent calendar (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

IR 1344, Authorizing the reconveyance of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 215, New York State County Law to John and Denise Spicijaric (Kennedy). Motion to approve by Legislator Spencer. Second by Legislature Browning. Is there anybody that can speak to this one?

MR. NOLAN:
Yeah. This comes in under Hardship. The applicant, in this particular case, they -- their mortgage company did not pay the taxes as they were supposed to. The documentation indicates that is, in fact, what happened. There was one isolated year where the taxes were not paid. All other years, the applicant paid the taxes, so this would authorize reconveyance for the taxes owed, penalties, and interest.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Counsel advices that this reasoning is one of the enumerated reasons under section 215. Everybody's good? We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? IR 1344 is approved. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

IR 1348, Authorizing the reconveyance of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 215, New York State County Law to Ann Carol Bender (SCTM No. 0200-909.00-01.00-039.000)(Browning). Motion by Legislator Browning. Second by Legislator Calarco. Counsel?

MR. NOLAN:
Again, this comes in under the hardship. The circumstances of this, it's a very elderly woman whose husband passed away. He had always taken care of paying the taxes, the bills, and so forth; and about at the same time, she inherited property which is the next resolution, but because of those circumstances, the taxes were not paid. If we approve these two resolutions, again, the properties would be re-conveyed back to this woman who lives in Legislator Browning's district. We received the back taxes, penalties, and interest.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Thank you. Everybody good? All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **IR 1348 is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

IR 1379, Authorizing the reconveyance of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 215, New York State County Law to Ann Carol Bender (SCTM No. 0200-909.00-01.00-038.000)(Browning). This is the companion bill to the prior. Motion by Legislator Browning. Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **1379 is approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

IR 1383, Waiving special event fee for Central Islip High School graduation (Martinez). Motion to approve by Legislator Browning. Second by Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:
On the motion.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
On the motion, Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:
I see the sponsor is here. Monica, would you just -- was this -- this seems to be the situation that was spoken about earlier. Could you just kind of tell me the issue? I read the resolution, but I would just like to hear it on the record from you.

LEG. MARTINEZ:
No, of course. Thank you. So Central Islip School District came -- asked my office if we can assist them with this fee because the Central Islip School District currently is under construction, and they

usually do their graduations on the field. Their field right now is in no condition for the graduation to take place, so they went over to the Ducks Stadium trying to get the stadium, which they did, get the application in but there is a 25 percent fee that is charged by the county on the base rental fee. The base rental fee is $2,500. It would be 25 percent of those 2500. The total event was $8,100. The county portion would be 25 percent of the 2,500, which is the base rental fee.

LEG. SPENCER:
Well, I can see with the community that has -- that hosts the stadium, and as the speaker so eloquently laid out that there's traffic, there's fireworks there. We love our Ducks. I think that they are a good thing to have and partner with, but I think that when the host community has a particular need such as this, I think it's appropriate that they come to us, and you responded, and I think it's a very reasonable thing to do, and I support your resolution. I'll be supporting it.

LEG. MARTINEZ:
I appreciate that, Doc.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Legislator Martinez, I just want to clarify the numbers. There is a fee charged by the organization. There's a percentage, and then there's a percentage on the percentage, which is the amount of the request, so the bottom line number that is the cost, the amount of the request is what?

LEG. MARTINEZ:
So the base rental fee would have been 5,000. The base rental fee that was granted to the Central Islip School District is 2,500, so that would be the base rental fee. Suffolk County receives 25 percent of the net rental fee, which is the 2,500. The total cost of the event would cost the Central Islip School District $8,100, which is what you see on the resolution, but the base rental fee that falls under the county rule is $2500.

LEG. SPENCER:
So we're forgiving 25 percent of --

LEG. MARTINEZ:
So it comes about -- I'm not mathematically all that savvy, but it's about 650, $650. I do see the superintendent here, Dr. Carr. I do not know if you want to speak on behalf of this bill. You may have better Knowledge of the numbers in place than I may. And just for the record, this would be just for this year.

DR. CARR:
Chairman, Legislator Martinez, thank you. My name is Dr. Craig G. Carr. Mr. Larry Philips is here with me. We're from the Central Islip Union Free School District. We'd like to thank the county for all the partnerships that we have entered into with you. We also like to thank Legislator Monica Martinez for taking up this cause. Thank you. My quick calculation came up with $650, and Mr. Philips came up with 625, so someone with a calculator --

(Laughter)

That's normal. $625. And we're very grateful if you can come to waive that fee. The fee to the school district so far with the Ducks Stadium is $8,100. We've raised $5,000 from other charities and individuals to help us with our fees. We will be approaching the Ducks Stadium again and again to see if they can reduce further, but we're grateful to this committee for all you can do, and $625 is very valuable to us and our institution, so if you could see yourselves a way to waive that fee, we would be appreciative.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
And the underlying reasoning here is because of ongoing construction that's going on at the school.

DR. CARR:
That is correct. Our fields themselves are under construction right now. Many, many great renovations going on in Central Islip schools, and if you have time, I'll be glad to explain them all to you.

LEG. SPENCER:
Have the Ducks been approached prior to this and with regards to forgiving or reducing these fees? Have you been denied?

DR. CARR:
Yes, we have been working with the Ducks Stadium. They have been very, very generous with their time and their efforts in helping us, and Mr. Philips was the lead in that; so if it's all right with you, sir, I'd like to turn the microphone over to Mr. Philips to answer that question.

MR. PHILIPS:
I never went right to the Ducks and asked them to waive the entire fee.
I have not.

LEG. SPENCER:
You have not; okay. Well, not only do I support this resolution but anything that I can do to support Legislator Martinez in terms of convening with the Ducks to hopefully ask them to reduce or waive their fee, I would support.

MR. PHILIPS:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:
I agree. I mean this is a one-time deal. The lady that spoke before, you know, the Ducks Stadium is within the Central Islip School District, and I think it would be a good community service on their part to be willing to accommodate the school district this year, so I support it and I guess you could take the message back to the legislators to support in trying to accommodate you in a better way.

DR. CARR:
Thank you.

MR. PHILIPS:
Thank you.

LEG. MARTINEZ:
Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
All right. We have a motion and a second, Mr. Clerk?

MR. RICHBERG:
Yes, we do.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
All right. I'll call the vote. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? **IR 1383 is approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**.

That brings us to procedural motions.

Procedural motion 7, Directing the Office of Budget Review to examine the feasibility of using video conferencing during legislative meetings (Spencer, Hahn). Motion by Legislator Spencer. Second by Legislator Calarco.

LEG. SPENCER:
On the motion.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
On the motion, Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:
I know that recently there's been some debate with regards to increasing our access for -- we're in a very large county geographically, and I feel that the more people that we can involve in the meetings, I do support Legislator Krupski's contention that those that live far out on the East End and realizing that Riverhead is actually the geographic center of Suffolk County, that there's just as much distance to the east as there is to the west. And we can debate the other bill in terms of where we should have our meetings, but I don't think this bill opposes that. I think this bill, in the future, I see -- and I see it in my specialty that we are videoconferencing meetings around the world. We have the technology. It's there and I envision a day where this monitor here could be looking at the Riverhead chamber and that someone could come to the podium and speak and we could see a very clear image. They could see an image of us in their chamber, and if they had an issue that was important and the meeting happened to be here, they could offer testimony but also vice versa where someone could come here and not have to drive to Riverhead. So this is only a feasibility study, that's it, to be able to see the technology is out there. We want to know the cost, and, you know, I think that's reasonable to look at the feasibility of doing this.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Legislator Browning.

LEG. BROWNING:
I'll support looking at the feasibility, but again I did support Legislator Krupski in having the meetings on the east end. Personally, I think videoconferencing, what I think about it, these days we're using it in the jail with the prisoners and in courts, and I think that when we have our meetings it's more personal when people can actually come in person and speak like we had here, and to be looking at people on a TV screen, I don't know, I just don't think it's very personal and it's very welcoming to the constituents on the east end. So I'll agree to the feasibility, but I would not necessarily say I'm going to agree to actually doing it.

LEG. SPENCER:
Through the Chair, if I could respond. Thank you. I agree with you. I agree that there's a personal touch that's lost. I think we're trying to get our kids to get out of their phones and look at things, and I support everything that you said. I don't know that if it would be the way for us to move forward, but I am also considering it a situation where you may have someone that can't attend and this would at least give them an option, although, albeit not the best option. It would be great to just explore if that possibility's out there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STERN:
Anybody else? All right. I'll call the vote on Procedural Motion 7. All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? Procedural Motion 7 is **approved. (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

I'm going to make a motion to adjourn for the purpose of going into executive session, second by Legislator Spencer, for the purpose of discussing litigation. Okay? All in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions? We are recessed for executive session.

(The committee met in executive session at 1:24 p.m. until 2:27 p.m.)*

Okay. We are back on the record after having had executive session for the purpose of discussing settlement in litigation. In the Matter of Michael Gurrieri V. The County of Suffolk. The committee, after due deliberation having been had, approved a settlement in regard to that above-captioned litigation, and that vote was unanimous.

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

(The committee was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.*)