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SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

SPECIAL MEETING

FIRST DAY

JANUARY 2, 2001

MEETING HELD AT THE WILLIAM H. ROGERS LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
IN THE ROSE Y. CARACAPPA AUDITORIUM,  
VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY, SMITHTOWN, NEW YORK

MINUTES TAKEN BY LUCIA BRAATEN, COURT STENOGRAPHER

[THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:15 P.M.]

LEG. TONNA:

Henry, let's call the roll. I would ask that all Legislators please come to the horseshoe.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Here.

LEG. GULDI:

(Not Present)

LEG. TOWLE:

Present.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Here.

LEG. TONNA:

You know what, let's stop. Hold the call. The Democrats need five more minutes. Something to come, you know.

[THE MEETING WAS RECESSED AT 1:15 P.M. AND RESUMED AT 1:20 P.M.]

LEG. TONNA:

Okay, Henry, let's start with the roll call again.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Here.

LEG. GULDI:

(Not Present)

LEG. TOWLE:

Here.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Here.

LEG. FISHER:

Here.

LEG. HALEY:  
Here.

LEG. FOLEY:  
(Not Present)

LEG. LEVY:  
Here.

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LEG. FIELDS:  
Here.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Here.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Here.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Here.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Here.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Here.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Here.

LEG. BINDER:  
Here.

P.O. TONNA:  
Here.

LEG. COOPER:  
Here.

LEG. GULDI:  
Here.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Present.

MR. BARTON:  
18 are present.

LEG. TONNA:  
All right. Thank you very much. Let's begin our meeting with a salute to the flag led by Legislator Carpenter.

(Salutation)

LEG. TONNA:  
Thank you very much. And now our invocation by Bishop Wcela, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Bishop Wcela.

BISHOP WCELA:  
As this Legislature begins its session, we might use an example as an ideal, another Legislator who took his role about 3,000 years ago, King Solomon, and this story as he succeeded his father, David, from the book of First Kings. In Gibeon, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered, "You have shown great favor to your servant,

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my father David, because he behaved faithfully toward you with justice and an upright heart. And you have continued this great favor toward him even today, seating a son of his on his throne. Oh, Lord, my God, you have made me your servant, king to succeed my father David. But I am youth, not knowing how to act. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong, for who is able to govern this vast people of yours." The Lord was pleased that Solomon made this request, so God said to him, "Because you've asked for this, not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of our enemies, but for understanding, that you may know it is right, I do as you request. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there never has been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you." And because of that, we make our prayer the Prayer of Solomon as he asked for wisdom.

From the Book of Wisdom of Solomon, Chapter 9. "God of my fathers, Lord of mercy, you who have made all things by your word, and in your wisdom have established human beings to rule the creatures produced by you, to govern the world in holiness and justice, and to render judgment in integrity of heart, give me wisdom, be attendant at our throne, for I am your servant, the son of your handmaid, a man weak and short-lived and lacking in comprehension of judgment and of laws. Indeed, though, one be perfect among the sons of man. If wisdom who comes from you be not with him, he shall be held in no esteem. You have chosen me king over your people, a magistrate for

your sons and daughters. Now with you is wisdom who knows your works and was present when you made the world, who understands what is pleasing to your eyes and what is conformable with your commands. Send her forth from your holy heavens, and from glorious throne, dispatch her, that she may be with me and work with me, that I may know what is your pleasure, for she knows and understands all things and will guide me discreetly in my affairs and safeguard me by her glory. Thus, my deeds will be acceptable and I shall judge your people justly and be worthy of my father's throne." We make this our prayer, Amen.

LEG. TONNA:

All right. Everyone could be seated. I would just --I'm going to turn it over to Cameron Alden for the -- for making a quick.

LEG. ALDEN:

This time of year, we look forward to, as a season of hope, new beginnings and things like that. But we're also reminded, and there are some bad things that do happen during this time of the year, and last Friday, Warren Greene, who is a long-serving -- he served in County government for a long time, and he also served in Town government, his sister died of breast cancer. So I would just ask that all of us, and I do this on a daily basis, pray for the finding of some kind of a cure for all cancers, not just breast cancer. And in this time of, and this season really of hope and new beginnings, I would pray that we do find a cure in our time and in our lifetime, and just that we remember Warren Greene and his family at this time of the year. Thank you.

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LEG. TONNA:

And I've never done this before, but I think for the election of the Presiding Officer, I guess we have to take motions, right?

LEG. HALEY:

You made the motion?

LEG. TONNA:

Well, I have a motion already, I'm sorry, just in case. You never know.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Mr. Chairman.

LEG. TONNA:

Legislator Caracciolo.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Mr. Chairman, I rise to place a nomination, Paul J. Tonna, Legislator from the Seventeenth District, to succeed himself as Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature. And, Mr. Chairman, upon a second, I'd like a moment of personal privilege.

LEG. TONNA:

Sure.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Second.

LEG. TONNA:

Okay. Angie Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:

I would be proud to make that second.

LEG. TONNA:

Thank you. All right. Now, what's this personal privilege thing?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

I'd like to just reflect for a moment, for the purposes of not only those of us who serve in this august body, but for those that we represent and serve in Suffolk County. I think when we look back to a year ago, when you were first elected to this position, there were some around the horseshoe that may have been somewhat apprehensive as to what would follow, what type of a leader you would be. And I think the record is clear that you have demonstrated, as the Auxiliary Bishop mentioned in speaking through holy scripture, some of the attributes of those in scripture, you have been a fair and just leader.

And I'd like to take a moment to talk about leader and leadership. As we look around the auditorium, this new auditorium, we see the photographs of past Presiding Officers, male and female. Many of them like yourself have strived to do their very best. Many have succeeded, not all. But I can tell you that as I begin my tenth year as a Legislator from the First District, bar none, you have succeeded

them very, very, very well. You have demonstrated for the third consecutive year that coalition government in Suffolk County is alive and well. And as we know, as we look back to November and into December, before the national election was decided, that President Elect George W. Bush has been talking since that time about going to Washington and forging with Democrats in the House and in the Senate a

coalition government. Certainly, one could argue that the numbers are going to require that with a 50-50 Senate and with a slight Republican majority in the House, but in this house, we have had close relationships with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I speak as one from the Republican Party, and I can only tell you that in the last three years, and in particular the last 12 months, that relationship has blossomed.

So to you, to the former Presiding Officer, Steve Hackeling, who was instrumental as you were, along with Legislator Binder three years ago, in beginning the first coalition government in Suffolk County, I think we all owe a debt of gratitude, but most importantly, the people of this County owe a debt of gratitude.

I know, as was expressed as recently as a week ago in meetings you and I attended with the County Executive, he has made it very clear that at no time during his tenure, and he's had some good working relationships with some of your predecessors, particularly your most immediate predecessor, and I can recall on occasion having him -- heard him -- hear him say, rather, that he thought that was the best it could be. But just a week ago, he said, "No, it is better," and it has been better under the leadership of Paul J. Tonna.

I also would like to just take another moment and reflect about -- reflect upon some of the Legislative accomplishments that you have been most instrumental in and you deserve a lot of credit for, which, as we approach 2001, or now we're in 2001, I should say, oftentimes we forget what occurred yesterday as we look forward to tomorrow. But first let me point out something that has been very near and dear to you long before you became a Legislator, and you demonstrated through your personal leadership a caring and a determination to try to make a difference for those less fortunate than we, and back in June, you formed -- you established the Mobilization Against Poverty Program. We now have individuals on staff who have gotten off to a great start in trying to help those less fortunate in Suffolk County.

You sponsored the Affordable Housing Initiative, something that the County Executive and a lot of people have been talking about for a long time, but now we actually have legislation in place which you sponsored, along with a number of Legislators on both sides of the aisle, to move forward with that initiative.

You oversaw the County's bond rating being increased, or increased to an A for the first time by all three Wall Street rating agencies. As a former Chair, speaking of you, of the Finance Committee, I know that you played an instrumental role in seeing that come to pass. It doesn't happen because of just your leadership, it happens because of the leadership you've demonstrated and the willingness to work with each and every one of the 18 members, even at times those who are out there trying to work at cross purposes. And, hopefully, as we go into

this Year 2001, we'll see less of that and more of an attempt on everyone's part to work together.

You oversaw the College budget process this past year, which resulted in the County increase in contribution to the College, bringing us closer and closer to what we all hope one day will be a full one-third contribution to Suffolk Community College. We also gave under leadership, policy direction to the College in their new hires. For the seventh consecutive year, we've seen the County's Operating Budget decline, General Fund, and in doing so, we now have -- we've reached an historic low in terms of the General Fund in Suffolk County. It is at \$48 million this year where, when the present County Executive took office in 1992, was at \$166 million. That doesn't happen by accident, that happens as a result of the collective efforts of everyone in the Legislative Branch working with those in the Executive Branch.

And let me finally just take a moment to talk about what has become an excellent working relationship between those two branches of government. Again, we look back just a few weeks ago at how in this nation of ours, we saw all three branches of government have an integral role in determining the future of this nation and this nation's leader. We saw that with respect to certainly the Judicial Branch. We saw that especially as a result of the efforts of the Florida State Legislature and their willingness to step in, if it became necessary, to set the record straight as to the intent of voters in Florida. Fortunately, that was not necessary. But what it did demonstrate is that under Florida's Governor Jeb Bush, he stepped aside as the Executive of that state and let the process work. And what you and County Executive Bob Gaffney deserve a lot of credit for is you've let this Legislative body work and work together. I look forward, along with each one around the horseshoe, in continuing that working relationship.

And I can't close without adding that at personal risk to your health and safety, you undertook two days after a Legislative meeting a swim across Long Island Sound, when you were just about on the verge of getting over the flu, a commitment you had made, a commitment that you kept, and like everything I've come to know about you, you are a person of commitment. And I look forward to working with you, Paul, next year and, hopefully, for many years to come.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Paul.

LEG. TONNA:  
Thank you.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
May I?

LEG. TONNA:  
Sure.

LEG. BINDER:  
Can we nominate Mike for Sheriff now?

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LEG. TONNA:  
Okay. He's got my vote. Anyway --

LEG. BINDER:  
I didn't know if this is -- if it's appropriate at this meeting or anything.

LEG. TONNA:  
He's got my vote. Arm him, too. Okay.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
On a very serious note and --

LEG. TONNA:  
I never know how this is going to turn out, Michael, I just want you to know.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
I know how it's going to turn out.

LEG. TONNA:  
All right.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
I'm going to make a big thing to do about you working bipartisanship with this Legislature. What Mike said -- what Mike Caracciolo said is a lot of words about a lot of work we've done, but I'm going to sum it up very -- in a short sentence, and that is when you work bipartisanship government, you show the world that you can get along, that you can bring progress. It's not an accident that we are independent, it's not an accident that we're not in debt, that our credit rating went up. It's because of your leadership and all 18 around this horseshoe participating. And that's the way government should be run. And Washington should take note of us here, and so should Nassau County, although it may be a little late for them. But I say this, we've got excellent counsel, we've got your wisdom and all of my co-Legislators here, who are, I think the best around, male and female.

So, with that in mind, we're going to stay here and we're going to now nominate you for another shot at it, because you've done so well with this turn.

LEG. TONNA:

Thank you, Michael. We are already nominated. Now, I'd have to turn my gaze to everyone else.

LEG. HALEY:

Roll call.

LEG. TONNA:

There are no other nominations? Fine. Roll call.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

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LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Yes.

LEG. GULDI:

Yes.

LEG. TOWLE:

Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

Yes.

LEG. FISHER:

Yes.

LEG. HALEY:

Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:

Yes.

LEG. LEVY:

I support the Presiding Officer, but I'll abstain.

LEG. FIELDS:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

I support the Presiding Officer, but I'll vote yes.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Absolutely, yes.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Yes.

LEG. BINDER:  
Yes.

LEG. TONNA:  
Yeah, why not.

LEG. COOPER:  
Yes

MR. BARTON:  
17, 1 abstention.

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P.O. TONNA:  
Thank you very much.

(Applause)

(P.O. Tonna shook hands with Legislators)

P.O. TONNA:  
You notice I went to the left first in honor of the Democrats. All right. What do I do?

MR. ROMAINE:  
Why don't we stand here and take an oath in front of everyone.

(Oath of Office was administered to Presiding Officer Paul Tonna by the Suffolk County Clerk, Ed Romaine)

MR. ROMAINE:  
Congratulations.

(Applause)

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. Before I give my usual few words, which turned out, after Paul Sabatino and a few other people got through, it was more than a few words --

LEG. BINDER:

I thought Mike said it.

P.O. TONNA:

-- I would like to --

LEG. BINDER:

Didn't Mike say them all?

P.O. TONNA:

Yeah, right. I would like to -- I'd like to now move to the nomination of the Deputy Presiding Officer.

LEG. BISHOP:

Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:

Yes, Legislator Bishop, recognized.

LEG. BISHOP:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, congratulations on being returned as Presiding Officer. You earned the support of your Democratic colleagues through your inclusive leadership, which has allowed this Legislature to do more and battle less. So congratulations on that.

P.O. TONNA:

Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:

On behalf of my Democratic colleagues, we're pleased to nominate Legislator Maxine Postal for the Office of Deputy Presiding Officer.

Since 1987, the people of Suffolk County and this Legislature has greatly benefitted from her service. As a Legislator, she has been a tireless champion for all her constituents, for people of color throughout the County and for people who are less fortunate. And in pursuing her Legislative goals, she's always paid great attention to details and been very creative. As a leader, we show that she can move a meeting along, which I know is important to our colleagues.

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And she has a great maternal instinct, which is not only for the benefit of her own children, but for all, and she'll use that as well. But, as a human being, if that's not enough, she has exhibited great grace and class under enormous pressure in the past, and she is an excellent Legislator and a good person, and I think that she's earned our wholehearted support for Deputy Presiding Officer.

LEG. FISHER:  
Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes, Legislator Fisher.

LEG. FISHER:  
I would like to second the nomination of Maxine Postal. I would like to reiterate that her many years of experience has certainly brought to this Legislature wisdom and judgment that I think is a model for us all. I particularly want to point out the great respect with which Maxine Postal treats everyone whom she encounters, and her grace and wisdom are a model for all of us. So I'm very proud to second the nomination of Maxine Postal.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. There is a nomination and a second. Roll call, Henry.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. BISHOP:  
Yes.

LEG. FISHER:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Abstain.

LEG. GULDI:  
Yes.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Yes.

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LEG. HALEY:

Abstain.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes.

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Abstain.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Absolutely, yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Yes.

LEG. BINDER:  
Abstain.

LEG. COOPER:  
Yes.

P.O. TONNA:  
Absolutely, yes.

MR. BARTON:  
Thirteen.

(Applause)

(Oath of Office was Administered to Deputy Presiding Officer Maxine Postal by the Suffolk County Clerk, Edward Romaine)

(Applause)

P.O. TONNA:  
Thanks, Maxine.

LEG. HALEY:  
She's in control.

P.O. TONNA:  
I don't know if control is the word. Before I start, I just want to say hello to my family. Hi, guys. It's longer than you'll ever hear

me speak at home.

I stand before you today proud and honored that you have once again given me the opportunity to preside over our deliberations for yet another year. I thank each of you whom supported me this year from the bottom of my heart, and pledge that I will do my utmost to faithfully discharge the responsibilities you have given to me. I ask all Legislators to continue our bipartisan tradition of fierce independence and a place -- and to place what is best for the people of Suffolk County ahead of political affiliation.

On a personal note, I want to congratulate Maxine Postal on her elevation to the office of Deputy Presiding Officer. A little bird told me so. We put it in the speech early. Earlier as a veteran Legislator who has taken a leadership role on health care issues in this County and helping to protect the most vulnerable segments of our society, our senior citizens, our ill, our infirm, abused women, the poor, the working poor, and minorities, I've come to admire and respect the energy and commitment that Maxine Postal has brought to this office over the years. Most recently, she played an instrumental role in helping the Legislature fashion a budget, which met our responsibility to the safety net of the essential health and social services for the citizens of this County, while at the same time being sensitive to the pocketbooks of all our taxpayers. She has come to symbolize the best and brightest part of our bipartisan tradition here in Suffolk County.

I ask everyone one more time to please stand and join me in giving a joyous ovation to our new Deputy Presiding Officer, the first woman Deputy Presiding Officer in the history of the County Legislature.

(Applause)

When the financial institution, Fitch, upgraded our bond rating last year, it concluded that, and I quote, "The County has benefitted from better cooperation between its elected officials." In the Year 2000, we worked with the County Executive's Office without sacrificing our role as policy-makers, our power of the purse string or our oversight function. It was healthy and effective to see that cooperation, especially with regard to the budget, affordable housing, mobile phone legislation, child detention center, and our pesticide notification laws. Bob Gaffney has done a good job and I am pleased to have a working relationship with him that places the interests of citizens ahead of any political agenda.

I take heart in the developments in Washington, where a new President and a new Congress are embracing the Suffolk County Legislative model of reaching out across party lines to work together in forging

coalitions that are in our mutual constituents' best interests. Senseless partisan gridlock accomplishes nothing and serves no purpose, because it is meaningless to the single parent trying to raise a family on one income with limited day-care, or to the young family or retired senior citizen looking for affordable housing, or to the breast cancer victim who is looking for answers, not political slogans.

As we embark on a new year, we're building upon a very strong Legislative foundation, from Jon Cooper's cell phone ban, to Angie Carpenter's Deadbeat Parent Law, to Vivian Fisher's ban on MTBE's, to Mike D'Andre's safe havens for babies, to Joe Caraccappa's well water testing requirements, to Ginny Fields' smart growth initiative, to Maxine Postal's new rules to stop day-care provider abuses, and to Dave Bishop's program to clean the Great South Bay, and his measure to implement a tough prevailing wage enforcement policy for County leases, to Mike Caracciolo's Revenue Impact Statement Law for tax plans, to our collective accomplishments in providing our -- in improving our bond rating, increasing our Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund from 6.5 million to 34.1 million, and cutting a double-digit tax increase in half. We have a list of accomplishments that illustrate the effectiveness of working together for the well-being of all citizens. I thank Cameron Alden for the aggressive consumer protection stance he has taken this past year. And I thank George Guldi, yes, even George Guldi gets a thanks, for the fine job he has done in overseeing the implementation of the LIPA referendum on consumer protection, and providing tough scrutiny of County leases.

The recent Judge Gowan decision opens old potentially catastrophic regional wounds and forces us to be ever vigilant in protecting our tax base and protecting consumers from election -- electric and gas rate hikes. And after watching the brownouts and the blackouts of the past two months on the West Coast, a healthy skepticism of LIPA tells me that we need to explore additional energy production sources in meeting Long Island's ever growing needs for energy that fuels our technological boom.

Although the talk in Washington is certainly encouraging, it is always prudent to hope for the best, but plan for the worst. To that end, I believe that the overriding national and local health issue at this moment is the need for an affordable prescription drug program for senior citizens. While we wait and hope for action in our nation's capital, we can take action at the local level to immediately achieve a portion of the goal and prod the national government into doing what is right for everyone.

I will be forming a Task Force of medical professionals from the private sector to work with our Independent Review -- Budget Review Office to issue a report within 180 days regarding the feasibility of establishing a local Prescription Drug Program. Although we have enacted legislation in the past year to help the uninsured and underinsured people, and we thank Legislator Binder and Legislator Levy for those initiatives, I believe the time has come to protect all senior citizens against escalating drug prices. I envision a program in which the County neither negotiates -- either negotiates on behalf of senior citizens, who lack adequate prescription drug insurance coverage, for participation in the County Employees Prescription Drug Program, with a copayment schedule to be paid by the recipient that is compatible to the County's copayment schedule. Or in the alternative, establish a County pharmacy in each of our County Health Centers whereby eligible senior citizens will be able to purchase their drugs at a more affordable rate because of Suffolk County's ability to obtain volume discounts from prescription drug wholesalers and avoid the immediate price markups for profits. To repeat the obvious, no

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senior citizen should choose between paying for food or shelter and taking a life-saving prescription drug.

In the upcoming year, we must continue to work hard in the following areas: I hope to see our Affordable Housing Program take hold, and facilitate the construction of housing units in communities that desperately need to retain our young people and accommodate our senior citizens. I look forward to seeing what initiatives our new County Director of Affordable Housing has in mind. George, I guess that's kind of your purview. I will be looking to our Finance Committee to keep a steady hand on the implementation of the tight budget that we were forced to adopt for the Year 2001 in order to avoid a double-digit tax increase. I expect the committee to continue its very effective quarterly monitoring of departments, expenses, and the trends to make sure that we stay within the confines of our single-digit tax increase. I want the committee to explore new ways to further elevate our bond rating and minimize our sales tax dependency.

I will be asking the Public Safety Committee to help the Police Department deal with the needs to reorganize and reform the way it does business in order to carry out the will of the people in delivering efficient law enforcement services at an affordable level.

I expect our Health Committee to work with our Health Department to make certain that we get through another year without a loss of life from the West Nile Virus, and without excessive application of pesticides that may otherwise threaten our environment and the public health in a different way. The committee must also continue Suffolk's

commitment to using tobacco monies for health care initiatives, a policy that resulted in Suffolk County being cited as the municipality with the highest use of tobacco monies in health care -- in health care in the entire State.

2001 should mark the beginning of the implementation of the smart growth initiative that this Legislature adopted last year, producing a Planning Department report that now needs to be put into action to achieve the very elusive balance between reasonable growth, sensitive economic development, and preservation of our history, aesthetics, and quality of life.

I'll be looking to the Public Works Transportation Division to work on Brian Foley's plan to bring our mass transit system into line with the needs of the new economy. Our transportation system should at least match our modern technology.

We need to provide greater scrutiny and ensure that public work contractors pay the prevailing wage rates to workers, as the law requires. We need to utilize project labor agreements more, especially when it is, from the cost and efficiency standpoint, beneficial to our County.

On an issue that I hold closest to my heart, I like to think about the course we chartered last year in working very closely with our Social Services Department to bring about adequate staffing, new ideas, fresh initiatives, and greater communication and cooperation between the people in the department servicing the public and the clientele

actually receiving those services, in a -- is a measure of this Legislators' willingness and commitment to ensure the strength of our County's safety net for the people in need. This is why we must explore a pilot program to utilize on a voluntary basis our Legislative district offices as a Social Services outreach center where Social Service workers could schedule certain days and hours in our district offices to assist our constituents in need.

Too often we hear about families in need unable to access vital services for their families because of a large gap in public transportation. Too often we hear of single mothers looking for necessary assistance who have to leave work and spend all day traveling to the Island, waiting on long lines to receive vital assistance for their children. We need to make it easier for children to eat and single mothers to work. We must provide innovative approaches to ending their cycle of dependency, and we need to do more for those who have less.

As impressive a record as we have achieved during the past year, we must not become complacent. The rewards of a robust economy have not been shared by all. Against the backdrop of our declining welfare rolls and large numbers of people moving from welfare to work, Long Island Cares and Island Harvest report that in the Year 2000, they have distributed more than 7 million pounds of food to soup kitchens, homeless shelters, head start programs, and food pantries, an increase over their food distribution from 1999. Each report, that they have seen increases in the number of working families who require food assistance. Against that -- the backdrop of a boon in the real estate market, we're losing the ability to provide housing that is affordable for our elderly, our young and our families. Today in Suffolk County, there are over 400 families who are homeless, living in shelters, or being housed in motels, or living in emergency housing accommodations. Of the hundred families living in motels alone, there are 277 children, 94 of them under the age of six. The majority do not attend preschool, but instead sit in a motel room hour after hour. When these children go outside to play, they go not to the playgrounds, but to the parking lots of the motel. For the children who attend schools, some cannot participate in after-school activities, and they, too, return to the motel rooms for, yet, another day and another night.

While time spent in emergency housing might once have been considered temporary, the average stay in emergency housing today is six months. For the most part, these children are invisible, living a portion of their precious childhood behind motel doors, mostly out of site and too often out of mind.

With the new Commissioner of Social Services, Dan Hickey, the Legislature's mobilization against poverty MAP Team, will be working to help assure that existing resources will be available and accessible to the elderly, to individuals and to families. We will be launching an anti-hunger initiative that will review utilization rates of food programs, examine barriers to access, and then aggressively connect food resources to people who do not have enough to eat. The MAP Team will also be working with DSS to identify educational resources, to provide opportunities for preschool children living in motels to attend preschool, so that they may play and learn with other

children, even if only for several hours per day, while their families struggle with homelessness. We will dedicate Suffolk County to be a place where every child matters and where there are no invisible children.

During Christmas week, I had the opportunity to meet a number of families living in welfare motels. I was especially taken back by a family of five living in a motel room. They had been living in this

room for three months. The room had no facilities for cooking, and no -- and nonperishable junk food, which was lined up on the windowsill walls and the dresser, the one dresser that they had. While clothes in plastic bags lined the walls, the major portion of the room was occupied by two beds and the glare and the sound of the television, and you could see -- you could see the grime on the T.V. You could see all they were doing is mindlessly watching T.V. hour after hour. There was not even a table for the children to do homework, yet the spirit and sole of that family was not broken by the seemingly hopelessness of the situation.

When I asked, and I asked each of the children for the families that I met, "If you had a magic wand and you can have any wish that you want, what would it be?" And it was amazing that children as young as six and seven year olds were saying, "All I want to do is have my mother have a home, a home where we can play, a home where we can -- where we can live." "I wish my mother can get out of this house, and I wish there could be no bugs in the house." You know, I think about that and I think about the nature of my own children's wishes during Christmas and they seem vastly different. We can do better for our children in Suffolk County and we will do better.

Rather than give you an exhaustive list of every new idea, which I think I probably have, and I appreciate the Legislature not falling asleep yet, I simply call on each of you to continue the Suffolk County Legislature's tradition of openly exploring new ideas and bringing forward new initiatives. I will continue to nurture an open process in which independent thinking can be flourished. And I will vow to keep the lines of communication and the channels of cooperation wide open, so that we may continue our experiment as the greatest laboratory of American democracy where every idea can be fully explored, openly discussed, passionately debated, and ultimately decided on his merits.

And I thought, Marty, especially for you, and for Paul Sabatino, I even have a Ronald Reagan quote. As Ronald Reagan always said, "Much can be accomplished if we do not worry about who is going to get the credit." With your help, your hard work, and our mutual desire to do good, we can become more than the sum of our parts, we can continue to be the heartbeat of democracy that others look to for leadership. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Okay, let's move on. Okay. We're at 5, the administration of -- 6. We're at the adopting the rules of the County Legislature. It's actually 5 on the agenda.

LEG. HALEY:  
Motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Make a motion by Legislator Haley, seconded by myself.

LEG. GULDI:  
On the motion.

LEG. HALEY:  
On the motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
On the motion, Legislator Guldi.

LEG. GULDI:  
I'd like, before we adopt the rules, there's certain changes and I'd like a separate vote on the changes.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. I think there's one change to the rules.

LEG. GULDI:  
I'd like to vote separately on the change before we move to adopt the rules.

LEG. HALEY:  
Is there is only one change?

P.O. TONNA:  
Yeah. I'll let Legal Counsel comment.

MR. SABATINO:  
There's only one proposed change, it's rule 16(C). So if you just turn to --

LEG. HALEY:  
Page 20. Page 20.

MR. SABATINO:  
Okay. If you turn to Page 20, we have it underlined and bold print, so you'll be able to read it. This is the one that was proposed about a month-and-a-half ago or five weeks ago on restricting and prohibiting the use of cell phones inside the Riverhead or the Hauppauge Legislative Auditorium during regular meetings, special meetings, committee meetings of the County Legislature.

LEG. HALEY:  
Just referring to the ringer, right?

P.O. TONNA:  
Right, the ringer.

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LEG. GULDI:  
With respect to the proposed changes, Counsel, the -- it is a Chamber Rule, so it's within our purview to restrict our own activity. But what are the sanctions available for an inadvertent or repeated intentional violation of this rule?

MR. SABATINO:  
Have the person removed from the auditorium.

P.O. TONNA:  
And pistol-whipped.

LEG. GULDI:  
Including a member of this body? What would the procedure be for removing a member of this body from this room during a meeting?

LEG. HALEY:  
We'd need help with you, George.

MR. SABATINO:  
Deputy Sheriffs.

P.O. TONNA:  
Well, George, if it was you, we'd need a few people, I'm sure, because you know. But it would be the Deputy Sheriffs?

MR. SABATINO:  
Deputy Sheriffs, unless we -- well, it would be Deputy Sheriffs under the current law.

LEG. GULDI:  
Whose discretion would that remedy lie with?

MR. SABATINO:  
Initially, the Presiding Officer. If there was a challenge, like all of the other rules that we have, that would be enforceable by a majority of the Legislature.

LEG. GULDI:  
So the voters of any district in this County could be disenfranchised from its representative participating in this meeting in the event that this rule was not complied with, so it is rather substantial and serious because of its potential implications. Frankly, I'm opposed

to this, and, really, from a matter of principle, because I'll tell you, that one of the -- one of the aspects of the redesign of this fine room is that my personal cell phone doesn't work in here. But that's not the point. The point is that we don't need a "Big Brother" to tell public policy-makers how to comport themselves in a civil way. I think that those occasions -- yeah, actually some Legislators obviously can't allow others to have the floor. But even those kinds of violations are ones that we can deal with without an institutional rule and without the potential for draconian consequences, disenfranchising a vast number of citizens of the County from its representation in this body. I'm opposed to the rule change, and I'd like an opportunity -- I guess -- how procedurally, Counsel, should we

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vote on the rule change? I guess I can make a motion to delete the change?

MR. SABATINO:

Well, what I would do is I would make a motion to have the amendment treated on a stand-alone basis. If that's procedurally approved, then we'd have a stand-alone vote on that before we went to the final vote.

LEG. GULDI:

So I'll make a motion to treat the amendment on a stand-alone basis --

LEG. BISHOP:

Second.

LEG. GULDI:

-- so we can vote on it.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. I'll second that. I don't mind if it's a stand-alone. All in favor? Opposed? Okay. It's going to be treated as a stand-alone. Let's first vote on --

LEG. BISHOP:

So you have a motion to delete it?

LEG. BINDER:

No. You have to have a motion to approve it, somebody.

LEG. GULDI:

Either way.

P.O. TONNA:

No. Let's first approve the rules and then we'll do the separate rule.

LEG. BINDER:

As a parliamentary inquiry, I would ask Counsel if we first have to make a motion to approve that amendment and then you'd have to approve the rules with the amendment, if it passes?

MR. SABATINO:

The first motion was just to treat on a stand-alone basis, that was approved. The next vote now is to have the stand-alone vote on --

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

MR. SABATINO:

On 16(C), and then the third vote would be --

LEG. BINDER:

Somebody -- I would assume somebody in favor --

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. I'll make a motion to approve the stand-alone --

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LEG. HALEY:

Second.

P.O. TONNA:

-- the stand-alone, and seconded by Legislator Haley. Okay. Roll call.

(\*Roll Called by Mr. Barton\*)

LEG. TONNA:

Yes.

LEG. HALEY:

Yes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Yes.

LEG. GULDI:

No.

LEG. TOWLE:

Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
No.

LEG. FISHER:  
Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes.

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:  
No.

LEG. BINDER:  
No.

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LEG. COOPER:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Yes.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

MR. BARTON:  
13-4, and 1 abstention.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay, there you go.

LEG. GULDI:  
Thirteen for "Big Brother".

LEG. HALEY:  
Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes.

LEG. HALEY:  
Motion to approve --

P.O. TONNA:  
The rules?

LEG. HALEY:  
The rules as amended.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. I'll --

LEG. CRECCA:  
Second.

P.O. TONNA:  
-- second that. Roll call.

(\*Roll Called by Mr. Barton\*)

LEG. HALEY:  
Yes.

LEG. TONNA:  
Yep.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Yes.

LEG. GULDI:  
Yes.

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LEG. TOWLE:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Yes.

LEG. FISHER:  
Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes.

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Yes.

LEG. BINDER:  
No.

LEG. COOPER:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Yes.

LEG. GULDI:  
Change my vote to an abstention, Henry.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

MR. BARTON:  
15.

P.O. TONNA:  
Great. We'll move to Number 6 on the Legislative -- appointing the Clerk of the County Legislature. Is there a motion?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
Legislator Caracappa.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Mr. Chairman, I'd like to place in nomination the name of our current Clerk, Henry Barton, to succeed himself.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

LEG. HALEY:  
Second.

P.O. TONNA:  
Seconded by Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:  
Thank you.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Do we have to have a roll call? All in favor? Opposed? There you go, Henry.

MR. BARTON:  
18.

(Applause)

P.O. TONNA:  
Congratulations.

LEG. LEVY:  
Henry, I'll abstain. Abstain.

LEG. HALEY:  
Henry, that's the quickest you ever called the vote.

LEG. GULDI:  
That's the quickest vote I've seen.

LEG. LEVY:  
No, no roll call. You don't need a roll call.

MR. BARTON:  
And it's the first one I have to amend. 17, 1 abstention.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. Appointing the Chief Deputy Clerk of the County Legislature.  
Motion by Legislator Guldi.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Second.

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P.O. TONNA:  
Seconded by Legislator Caracciolo.

LEG. FOLEY:  
I'll second that motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
Oh, Legislator Foley. All in -- who are you putting in, name?

LEG. GULDI:  
Jackie Farrell.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay, Jackie. Seconded?

LEG. FOLEY:  
Second. All in favor?

LEG. GULDI:  
Who else?

P.O. TONNA:  
Opposed? Approved.

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

MR. BARTON:  
17, 1 abstention.

(Applause)

LEG. ALDEN:  
Paul.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Paul.

LEG. ALDEN:

Paul.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. Legislator Alden?

LEG. ALDEN:

No.

P.O. TONNA:

Oh, Legislator Carpenter, for the --

LEG. ALDEN:

And me for a second.

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P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

LEG. CARPENTER:

The Deputy.

P.O. TONNA:

Right. For the Deputy Clerk of the County Legislature.

LEG. CARPENTER:

Ilona Julius.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

P.O. TONNA:

Seconded by Legislator Alden. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. LEVY:

Abstain.

MR. BARTON:

17, 1 abstention.

P.O. TONNA:

Great.

(Applause)

Legislator D'Andre, for the motion for the nomination of appointing Counsel to the Legislature.

LEG. D'ANDRE:

It is my great privilege to get the 19th Legislator, or our Legal Counsel, Paul Sabatino, who's brought us through many a battle, given us much, much wisdom in this Legislature, and he's kept us together. And how he can do it with 18 people is beyond me. He must have magical powers, but he has been able to please just about everybody. He's the backbone of this Legislature, in my view. Mr. Chairman, he did not give us bad information, as you've seen in Nassau County. I have to use that illustration. We've always kept our County in balance with our funds. We haven't overspent, except for a few things that were beyond our control. But anything within our control, I must say, and taxes is one of them, we've kept under control. So with that in mind, I'd like to nominate our Counsel, Paul Sabatino, for another term.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

LEG. CRECCA:

And I'm pleased to --

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LEG. BINDER:

Is that for Counsel or for the 19th Legislator? I didn't hear that.

P.O. TONNA:

For the Counsel.

LEG. D'ANDRE:

For the Counsel. This is for Counsel.

LEG. CRECCA:

Mr. Presiding Officer.

P.O. TONNA:

Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:

I'm pleased to second that nomination. This is the first year I got to work with Legislative Counsel Sabatino. And I came in a bit of a skeptic, but I have to say, after working with him for a year, I think

that he's done a great job in his --

LEG. HALEY:  
Give him time, don't worry.

LEG. CRECCA:  
-- in his -- performing his job for both sides of the aisle. So it's  
with great pleasure that I second the --

P.O. TONNA:  
Great.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Legislator D'Andre's nomination.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. There's a nomination and a second. All in favor? Opposed?  
There you go, Paul.

MR. BARTON:  
18.

P.O. TONNA:  
This must be better days.

(Applause)

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain. Abstain.

MR. BARTON:  
17, 1 not abstention.

P.O. TONNA:  
Oh, do you swear these people in?

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MR. ROMAINE:  
Yes, right now.

P.O. TONNA:  
Oh, okay. Swear them all in.

MR. ROMAINE:  
Right.

P.O. TONNA:

All right. Paul, before you write a bill, okay, you're going get sworn in.

MR. SABATINO:  
Get sworn in?

P.O. TONNA:  
Yeah.

(Oath of Office was administered to Clerk, Chief Deputy Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Counsel to the Legislature by Edward Romaine, Suffolk County Clerk)

(Applause)

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. I'm --

MR. SABATINO:  
Wait.

P.O. TONNA:  
Oh.

MR. SABATINO:  
Signing this document is important. They didn't do it in Nassau County and almost lost two Legislators.

P.O. TONNA:  
Did they, really?

LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes.

MR. ROMAINE:  
That's right. You don't sign in 30 days and --

P.O. TONNA:  
Really? That's a piece in the next election. Okay.

MR. ROMAINE:  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Thank you, Clerk.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. We're moving to adopting a schedule for the regular meetings of the County Legislature. I make a motion to approve, seconded by Legislator Bishop.

LEG. BINDER:

Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:

Yes, Legislator Binder.

LEG. BINDER:

I'm wondering if we could lighten the schedule load. I don't know that the August 28th meeting is absolutely important, particularly after we come back, right after we come back from July being off. We have August 2nd. It's not --

LEG. HALEY:

Seventh --

LEG. BINDER:

August 7th, sorry. And then we'd have a meeting on September 11th. I don't know that in the middle of the summer it is -- unless there -- unless Counsel thinks that there's --

MR. SABATINO:

The only reason it's important is because the Community College budget has to be adopted by August 31st, so it's a two-step -- two-step process. Number one, you have to vote on the budget, which would take place at the first meeting in August, and then you have to have the -- plus the public hearing. Then you have to have the ability to, if there are any vetoes, to deal with the issue of vetoes.

LEG. BINDER:

So what was the date that it had to be adopted by, August 31st?

MR. SABATINO:

August 31st. Everything has to be done and completed by August 31st, because their fiscal year kicks in by September 1st.

LEG. BINDER:

So how about -- and is the September 11th meeting a necessary meeting?

MR. SABATINO

Okay. Let me --

LEG. BISHOP:

He's determined to find a meeting.

LEG. BINDER:

I'm determined to find --

LEG. FOLEY:

The 28th, subject to veto overrides? Mr. Chairman, could we -- just along the lines of what Legislator Binder mentioned, could we make the 28th a meeting subject to veto overrides?

LEG. HALEY:  
Just make it a night meeting.

LEG. FOLEY:  
If there are no overrides, then there wouldn't be a need for the meeting, it would only be subject to --

LEG. BINDER:  
Is that --

LEG. FOLEY:  
To overrides of the Operating Budget.

LEG. BINDER:  
Is that -- yeah. Counsel, is that just because we might need overrides? Other than that, we might --

P.O. TONNA:  
My sense is there's been veto overrides every year, right? I mean, Legislator Postal --

D.P.O. POSTAL:  
Yeah.

P.O. TONNA:  
-- Legislator Levy, you guys have been here the longest. I mean, has there ever been a year --

LEG. BINDER:  
Yeah, that's true.

P.O. TONNA:  
-- where there are not veto overrides?

LEG. BINDER:  
That's true.

P.O. TONNA:  
I mean, I just -- you know what, if there are no veto overrides, can -- oh, I can't cancel the meeting. Well, maybe I can.

LEG. HALEY:  
Mr. Chairman.

LEG. FOLEY:

No. What we could do is just make it subject to. Make the 28th meeting subject to whether or not there are veto overrides .

P.O. TONNA:

Just the volume, just when listening to Legal Counsel this year, and an argument had to be made with regard to the calendar, this year I think we had more volume of bills than any other year in the past, and it was -- the argument that Legal Counsel made and that the Legislative Offices, the Clerk's Office, Budget Review, and my own office staff made, that just from a standpoint of managing all the

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bills that we come upon, and you'd figure an election year, you'd probably even want to be more proactive in putting some things that are good for our constituencies, of course, you know, no political --

LEG. HALEY:

Pandering.

P.O. TONNA:

Yeah, pandering involved. But the fact is, is that because of all of this, I think, generally speaking, you know, and the veto overrides, which I'm sure we'll see some, you know, that's -- that necessitated the additional meeting.

LEG. BINDER:

No, I understand. I'm just asking, maybe the September 11th meeting might be able to -- there might not be a necessity for the meeting. This way we'd have, again, some open time in that particular area in the schedule.

LEG. HALEY:

Mr. Chairman.

LEG. GULDI:

If the "Legislator of the Year" will suffer an interruption, so I can get the clock running on this, I've circulated -- if I may. I've circulated 1023. The County Executive's Office has given me hand signals that they've found the bond. I'd like to get the hour long process aging, so I'd like to make a motion to discharge 1023. We can discuss it and debate it at that hour in the event there is a timing deadline on it.

P.O. TONNA:

It's not 1023.

MR. SABATINO:

No, it's not 1023.

P.O. TONNA:  
It's 2119

LEG. GULDI:  
Excuse me, 2119. I've got two bills. 2119, which is laying in front of you.

LEG. HALEY:  
We're not going to be here in an hour.

P.O. TONNA:  
It's 2319.

LEG. GULDI:  
It's a land acquisition. We might be here in an hour, Marty, and if we don't close this by January 31st, we'll lose 70% of the funding for the parcel. So I'd like to debate it in the hour, and I'd like to make a motion discharge, if I could have a second .

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P.O. TONNA:  
I'll second it for the purpose of discharge. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BINDER:  
Opposed .

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Opposed, Legislator Binder. All right. Thank you. Let's get back to Legislator Binder talked about one less meeting in -- and I was recognizing Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:  
Could we -- could we look at either August 28th or September 11th and make that an evening meeting, especially if August 28th might be a little bit of --

P.O. TONNA:  
Well, August 7th is already an evening meeting.

LEG. HALEY:  
I mean August -- I mean September 11th or August 28th. We only have two evening meetings.

P.O. TONNA:  
We have two already.

LEG. HALEY:  
We only have two.

P.O. TONNA:  
We have one in Hauppauge and one in Riverhead.

LEG. BINDER:  
Not enough.

LEG. HALEY:  
Not enough.

P.O. TONNA:  
No, that's all we -- we've always only had two.

LEG. BINDER:  
April 3rd is --

P.O. TONNA:  
Oh, you're advocating for more evening meetings, that's what you're saying.

LEG. HALEY:  
Yeah, September 11th.

P.O. TONNA:  
I'm not -- you know, I'm

LEG. CARPENTER:  
On that --

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P.O. TONNA:  
I'm not particularly in favor of it, because --

LEG. HALEY:  
I yield to Legislator Carpenter.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
On that note, I think we discussed this last year at the organizational meeting also. Traditionally, we -- you would think that there'd be more participation --

P.O. TONNA:

They're not.

LEG. CARPENTER:

-- at an evening meeting and it seems to be just the opposite. So I think for the interest of the public in getting more participation, we probably should just have the one evening meeting a year that we have in Riverhead and the one in Hauppauge and stay with the day meeting.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. All right. I would say this. If you have a motion to make, so that we're not paralyzed at this point --

LEG. BINDER:

I'll make a motion.

P.O. TONNA:

Legislator Binder, you have a --

LEG. BINDER:

I'll make a motion to -- to amend --

P.O. TONNA:

Take out August 28th.

LEG. BINDER:

Right, amend the schedule to take --

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

LEG. BINDER:

-- August -- no, no, I'm sorry, September 11th off of the schedule.

P.O. TONNA:

September 11th meeting and keep the two in August.

LEG. HALEY:

Second.

LEG. BINDER:

Keep -- yeah, because we need it for the veto overrides.

LEG. HALEY:

Second.

P.O. TONNA:

Yes, second by Legislator Haley. On the motion, Legislator Postal.

LEG. POSTAL:

Yeah, I would -- and, again, I think this suggestion was made, that perhaps that the September 11th meeting could be a tentative meeting in the event that it's needed, but I would have reservations about eliminating the September 11th meeting and going from August 28th to October 23rd --

P.O. TONNA:

October 23rd, it's two months.

LEG. POSTAL:

-- without a meeting, that's a long time. And I think the people who are, for example, trying to redeem their property, it could create some serious problems.

P.O. TONNA:

Why don't we do this, why don't we vote on this. To tell you quite honestly, this is one meeting less than what we had last year, this calender, and I'm very comfortable, you know, personally, and I think we should have a vote on it. I'm very comfortable with the meeting schedule the way it is. You know, I think that in this -- it gives us an opportunity to do the business that we have to do. But Legislator Binder made a motion, it was seconded by Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:

I think I'll withdraw my motion. I don't think we're going anywhere, Allan.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

LEG. HALEY:

If I --

P.O. TONNA:

Well, he still has a motion. You're withdrawing your second?

LEG. BINDER:

No, there's no sense .

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. All right. So let's adopt this, then, if anybody else -- Marty, you wanted to put something in the meeting --

LEG. CRECCA:

Can I just make one --

P.O. TONNA:  
No? Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Mr. Presiding Officer.

P.O. TONNA:  
Legislator Crecca.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yeah. The only thing I would suggest, and if it's not the consensus, then I won't do it, but there's only two weeks between the August meeting and the September meeting. Why not just move the September meeting either to the 18th or the 25th, so that we have a longer cycle between?

P.O. TONNA:  
Jewish holidays.

MR. SABATINO:  
Jewish holidays were what intervened. We thought of that when we put it together.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yeah.

LEG. CRECCA:  
All right. I didn't realize.

MR. SABATINO  
Yeah.

LEG. CRECCA:  
No problem. Then I'll withdraw -- well, I didn't make a motion, so --

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. So there's a motion and second to approve the calendar?

LEG. HALEY:  
Mr. --

P.O. TONNA:  
Motion by who?

LEG. HALEY:  
Mr. Chairman.

LEG. GULDI:  
Hold on, hold on. On the calendar.

LEG. HALEY:  
Mr. Chairman, I'd like to try that motion to make September 11th an

evening meeting, please.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Second.

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P.O. TONNA:  
All right. I don't mind an evening meeting. Okay, September 11th, an evening meeting, great. There's a motion by Legislator Haley, seconded by Legislator Towle.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
On the motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
On the motion.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Legislator Guldi and I would like to request consideration that an additional meeting be changed. The one in Hauppauge needs to be changed to Riverhead. We understood, as everyone here did, that when this building was being renovated, we couldn't be in Hauppauge and there was no other location for us. This year, 2001, there's no reason why Riverhead should be penalized just because there was an excessive number of meetings held there last year.

P.O. TONNA:  
With all due respect, Legislator Caracciolo --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
So I would --

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
We would like to respectfully request that, to permit our constituents on the East End an opportunity to attend more than two Legislative meetings on the East End --

LEG. HALEY:  
I'll amend my motion.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
-- that one additional meeting be scheduled for Riverhead, and we'll leave that at the discretion of the Presiding Officer.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

LEG. HALEY:  
Mr. Chairman. Legislator Caracciolo, how about I amend my --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Make that an evening meeting.

LEG. HALEY:  
-- motion and make September 11th a night meeting in Riverhead.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
That would be fine.

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P.O. TONNA:  
Well, that gives us two night meetings in Riverhead.

LEG. HALEY:  
That's okay.

P.O. TONNA:  
I would vote for a night meeting in Riverhead, but not a -- I mean a night meeting, but not another one in Riverhead. All I can tell you is for those of us who have to --

LEG. HALEY:  
Spoken like a true West-ender.

P.O. TONNA:  
Right. Driving for two years in, you know --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Well, Mr. Chairman, then --

P.O. TONNA:  
I don't mind them -- I will -- let's do two separate things. Marty, you're set on your motion now, night meeting in Riverhead?

LEG. HALEY:  
Yes

.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Let's vote on it. He amended his resolution. There's a motion.

LEG. BINDER:

I would have voted for it, now I'm not.

P.O. TONNA:

No. Right, I know, me, too. Anyway, there's a motion and a second by who? Who's the second?

LEG. CRECCA:

Is there a second?

LEG. TOWLE:

Me.

LEG. HALEY:

Freddy's the second.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay, Freddy's second for a night meeting in Riverhead on September 11th. Okay. Roll call.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. HALEY:

Yes.

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LEG. TOWLE:

Yes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Yes.

LEG. GULDI:

Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:

(Not Present)

LEG. FISHER:

Pass.

LEG. FOLEY:

Yes.

LEG. LEVY:

Abstain.

LEG. FIELDS:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Abstain.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
No.

LEG. CRECCA:  
No.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
No.

LEG. BISHOP:  
No.

LEG. BINDER:  
No.

LEG. COOPER:  
Nope.

LEG. POSTAL:  
No.

P.O. TONNA:  
Nope. Okay.

MR. BARTON:  
Legislator Caracappa?

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Yes.

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LEG. FISHER:  
No.

LEG. HALEY:  
Okay. Can we try September 11th in Hauppauge --

MR. BARTON:  
Seven.

LEG. HALEY:  
-- a night meeting?

P.O. TONNA:

All right.

LEG. BINDER:

I'll second that, actually.

P.O. TONNA:

All right. Let's vote on that quickly. Let's -- okay. Go ahead. All in favor? Opposed? Who's opposed?

(Opposed Said in Unison by Legislators)

Okay. All right, Henry.

LEG. CRECCA:

Roll call, please.

P.O. TONNA:

No, no, no.

LEG. CRECCA:

No?

P.O. TONNA:

We don't need a roll call. Only Legislator Caracciolo and Legislator

--

LEG. CRECCA:

No, no, there's more.

P.O. TONNA:

You're opposed to it? Okay.

LEG. CRECCA:

Roll call, please.

P.O. TONNA:

Roll call.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. HALEY:

Yes.

Yes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
No.

LEG. GULDI:  
Pass.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Yeah.

LEG. FISHER:  
Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes.

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Don't care. That's yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
No.

LEG. CRECCA:  
No.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
No.

LEG. BISHOP:  
No.

LEG. BINDER:  
Yes.

LEG. COOPER:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Yes.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yep.

LEG. GULDI:  
Yes.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

MR. BARTON:  
Twelve.

P.O. TONNA:  
All right, great. And Legislator -- Legislator Haley, since it was your idea, you're buying pizza that night, okay?

LEG. HALEY:  
Pizza?

P.O. TONNA:  
Thank you.

LEG. HALEY:  
As long as Linda doesn't order it, I'll be all right.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. All right.

LEG. CARACCILO:  
Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACCILO:  
I'd like to make a motion to make the March 13th meeting a Riverhead meeting.

LEG. GULDI:  
Second.

LEG. BINDER:  
No.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay, let's -- all right. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BINDER:  
Roll call.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Roll call.

P.O. TONNA:

Roll call. Roll call.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
On the motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes.

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LEG. CARPENTER:  
I would just like to note, if you would look at the attendance of meetings, there are less participation and attendance at the meetings in Riverhead than they are in Hauppauge.

P.O. TONNA:  
All right.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
And I would -- and I would note that there is a smaller population on the East End than the West End.

P.O. TONNA:  
Right.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
And, therefore -- I mean, we shouldn't be debating back and forth, but, therefore, we should be putting ourselves where the most population can attend.

P.O. TONNA:  
This is why Roberts Rules --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
-- has you vote on the P.O. before you have the vote on the schedule, I just want you to know.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
All things could can fall apart very quickly.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Mr. Chairman, first of all, I don't think there is any scientific data

that backs up that claim.

P.O. TONNA:  
All right.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
And I didn't want to challenge it on the surface, but now I will challenge it. I'm not aware -- I know it all depends on the subjects that are being discussed that are on the agenda. And that being said, I would make a motion to make the March 13th meeting a Riverhead meeting .

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Just in -- even my kids can only take so much of this. Okay. So I would say there's a motion and a second. Roll call.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

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LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Yes.

LEG. GULDI:  
Yes.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
No.

LEG. FISHER:  
No.

LEG. HALEY:  
Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes.

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Abstain.

LEG. CARPENTER:

No.

LEG. CRECCA:

No.

LEG. D'ANDRE:

No.

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes.

LEG. BINDER:

No.

LEG. COOPER:

No.

LEG. POSTAL:

Yes.

P.O. TONNA:

To Riverhead? No.

MR. BARTON:

Eight.

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D.P.O. POSTAL:

Okay. The motion to amend the meetings of the Legislature was defeated. Are there any additional motions on the meetings of the -- schedule of meetings of the Legislature?

LEG. HALEY:

Motion to approve as amended.

LEG. CRECCA:

Second.

MR. BARTON:

Ms. Chairman.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Okay, motion. Wasn't there --

MR. BARTON:

We have a motion and a second.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

There was already a motion and a second, I believe.

MR. BARTON:

To approve.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

So the motion currently before us --

LEG. BINDER:

It has to be amended.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

-- is to approve the fixing the time of the meeting of the Legislature, and the only change which has been approved was to change the September 11th 2001 meeting to an evening meeting, 5:30 p.m. in Hauppauge; is that correct?

MR. BARTON:

Yes.

LEG. BINDER:

Madam chair, whoever -- whoever made the motion has to amend their motion to say it as amended, because they made it before the amendment was made.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Okay.

LEG. BINDER:

So I don't know who made the motion. Who made the motion?

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Who was the maker of the amendment.

MR. BARTON:

The Presiding Officer.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Okay.

LEG. BINDER:

He just has to amend his motion.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

You have to amend his motion.

LEG. BINDER:

Just say, "As amended."

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. I amend my resolution to --

LEG. BINDER:

Your motion.

LEG. HALEY:

Motion.

P.O. TONNA:

Motion to --

LEG. BINDER:

Make a motion.

P.O. TONNA:

Make a motion to approve the schedule as amended.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Roll call.

LEG. CRECCA:

Second.

P.O. TONNA:

All right. Seconded by?

LEG. CRECCA:

Second.

P.O. TONNA:

Legislator Crecca. Okay, go.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. TONNA:

Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:

Yes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
No.

LEG. GULDI:  
Pass.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Pass.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Yep.

LEG. FISHER:  
Yes.

LEG. HALEY:  
Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:  
No.

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Yes.

LEG. BINDER:  
No -- yes. Sorry, yes.

LEG. COOPER:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Yes.

LEG. GULDI:  
Abstain. No, make it a no.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Did you call me? I'm a yes.

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MR. BARTON:  
Yes. You were the second. 14.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Excellent. Okay, it's a big victory. Let's keep moving. Maxine.

P.O. TONNA:  
All right.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Do you want to repeat --

P.O. TONNA:  
Are we done?

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Could you just repeat what the changes were?

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

LEG. CRECCA:  
There's only one change, September 11th.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Okay.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Now we're going to designating the depositories pursuant to  
Section --

LEG. TOWLE:  
Motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
Thank you.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Are there any changes?

P.O. TONNA:  
Seconded by myself. All in favor?

LEG. BISHOP:  
Are there any changes?

P.O. TONNA:  
Are there any changes?

LEG. GULDI:  
Any changes from last year?

MR. BARTON:  
No. It's exactly as it was amended last year during the middle of the year.

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LEG. BISHOP:  
Very good.

LEG. GULDI:  
Thank you.

P.O. TONNA:  
All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

P.O. TONNA:  
Abstain. Okay.

MR. BARTON:  
17, 1 abstention.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Paul, some Legislators have requested what the amended version of the calendar is, just --

MR. SABATINO:  
The amended version of the calendar only makes one change, which is the September 11th meeting in Hauppauge will still be in Hauppauge, but it will be at 5:30 at night instead of 9:30 in the morning.

P.O. TONNA:  
So those with a busy law practice, you get the full days work in. Okay. Let's -- anyway, okay. We're going on to 12 on the agenda, designating the official County newspaper, whatever it is. I make a motion, seconded by --

LEG. HALEY:  
Second.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Second.

P.O. TONNA:  
-- Legislator Haley. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
On the motion. On the motion. On the motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
On the motion.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
I'd like a description of who this -- what is this publication? I've never heard of it.

LEG. CRECCA:  
I've never heard of it either.

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P.O. TONNA:  
What is it?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
County -- this is the County newspapers, right?

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

MR. SABATINO:  
Well, it's the Suffolk County News of Sayville is the name. I don't have any personal knowledge of the paper.

LEG. LEVY:  
It's the sister paper of the Long Island Advance.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Well, what type of circulation does it have in terms of the County paper?

MR. SABATINO:  
I have no personal knowledge of the --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Is there anyone -- I mean, I'd like to know. I mean, we're talking about a County publication here. Does it have a circulation that's County-wide --

LEG. LEVY:  
It's the same thing --

MR. SABATINO:  
None of them do. The only papers with County-wide circulation are The New York Times, Suffolk Life, Daily News, Newsday.

LEG. LEVY:  
I could just tell you it's a sister paper. The Long Island Advance, which has had it before, it's the same owners, the same -- it's like a sister paper in a different area.

LEG. CARACCILO:  
Steve, you and I over the years have been two of the most outspoken individuals regarding the selection of official newspapers in the County. So to have you now as you depart --

LEG. LEVY:  
I'm not advocating for this.

LEG. CARACCILO:  
Oh, okay, you're not.

LEG. LEVY:  
You asked a question, I'm answering.

LEG. CARACCILO:  
All right.

LEG. LEVY:  
I'm abstaining on this.

LEG. CARACCILO:  
Well, it's from Sayville. I know you used to represent Sayville, or you still do for tomorrow.

LEG. LEVY:  
Because he's saying it all the time. You asked a question.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Why are you here to abstain?

LEG. GULDI:

Why don't you make like Levy and leave, huh?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Just wanted -- do we know what the circulation? No one knows. Okay.

P.O. TONNA:

I would say, since it's called the Republican -- I mean, in the resolution, right, this is the choice of the --

LEG. FOLEY:

That's correct

.

P.O. TONNA:

You know, I would probably, although I don't know the number, by heart probably call Republican party headquarters and find out. All right.

LEG. TOWLE:

Don't have it on your speed dial of your cell phone.

P.O. TONNA:

You know, I have that -- yeah. Okay. Anyway, okay, there's a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed?

LEG. BINDER:

Opposed

.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. Opposed, Legislator Binder.

LEG. LEVY:

Abstain.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Abstain.

P.O. TONNA:

Abstain, Legislator Caracciolo and Legislator Levy. Okay.

MR. BARTON:

Mr. Crecca.

P.O. TONNA:

You don't want to say anything, Legislator Crecca, on this one.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Okay?

MR. BARTON:  
15-1-2.

P.O. TONNA:  
Thank you. Just trying help you.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Legislator Tonna, thank you for --

P.O. TONNA:  
Yeah.

LEG. CRECCA:  
-- letting me know what to do.

MR. BARTON:  
Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:  
Yes.

P.O. TONNA:  
On that one. Okay.

MR. BARTON:  
15-1, 2 abstentions.

P.O. TONNA:  
Fine. Here we go. Now, designating the official County newspaper is  
-- Legislator Bishop, do you make a motion? Seconded by Legislator  
Postal. All in favor? Opposed ?

LEG. BINDER:  
Opposed.

LEG. CARACCILO:  
Abstain.

LEG. HALEY:  
Abstain.

P.O. TONNA:  
Abstain?

LEG. BINDER:  
Opposed.

LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

P.O. TONNA:  
Opposed, abstain, abstain. And Legislator Haley abstain or opposed?

LEG. CRECCA:  
What are we doing, Number 10?

P.O. TONNA:  
Legislator Haley, what are you?

LEG. HALEY:  
Abstain.

P.O. TONNA:  
Abstain.

LEG. CRECCA:  
We're on 10.

P.O. TONNA:  
No. We're on Number -- now we're on Number 14.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Okay. Thank you.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Oh, I'm sorry.

MR. BARTON:  
Mr. Chairman. Legislator Binder, your vote? I'm sorry.

LEG. BINDER:  
No.

MR. BARTON:  
No. Thank you. 14-1, 3 abstentions.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Resolution Number 11, designating the official local newspapers.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Motion.

LEG. HALEY:  
Second.

P.O. TONNA:  
Motion by Legislator Towle.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Second.

P.O. TONNA:  
Seconded by Legislator Haley. Okay. All in favor? Opposed?

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LEG. LEVY:  
Abstain.

P.O. TONNA:  
Abstain, Legislator Levy.

MR. BARTON:  
17, 1 abstention .

P.O. TONNA:  
Great. Okay. Okay. Now we have a motion to lay on the table, okay, Resolutions 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010. Turn the page. 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021 and 1022, and -- and 1023, which is assigned to Finance and Ways and Means. All in favor? Opposed? Approved.

LEG. CARACCILOLO:  
Mr. Chairman, I don't have that packet. Could I get a copy?

MS. BURKHARDT:  
It's in your folder.

LEG. FOLEY:  
It's in --

MR. BARTON:  
18.

LEG. FOLEY:  
It's in your folder.

LEG. BINDER:  
It's in the folder. It's in the list.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Do we have anything else?

LEG. BISHOP:  
Are we not getting bills any longer? How --

P.O. TONNA:  
Excuse me.

LEG. GULDI:  
Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Hold it one second. One thing at a time. Linda, I'm looking for you for a prompt here.

LEG. CARACCILO:  
Linda, I don't have it.

MR. BARTON:  
Your packet of resolutions will be delivered to your office in a

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couple of days.

LEG. ALDEN:  
The packet's in the mail.

MR. BARTON:  
We only got them on Friday

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. There are two vetoes in front of us that -- 0Resolution Number 1105-2000. Legislator Fields, you want to make a motion to override?

LEG. FIELDS:  
I would like -- I would like to make a motion to override Resolution Number 1105.

P.O. TONNA:  
Is their a second?

LEG. POSTAL:  
Second.

P.O. TONNA:  
Seconded by Legislator Postal. Okay. All in favor? Opposed?

(Opposed Said in Unison by Legislators)

LEG. HALEY:  
Roll call.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Roll call.

LEG. LEVY:  
Just on the motion before, that Mr. Chairman .

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes. There's another one.

LEG. LEVY:  
No, I know what this is. I just want to point out that this is not something that is unusual. This was property in Central Islip that the County was ignoring, that it was becoming an eyesore to the community. The County did nothing for this property. There were weeds, there was abandoned buildings. The civic associations, the school districts were putting money into this particular property, because the County failed to do it, and now the school district is willing to take the property off the hands of the County, which is just making it an eyesore in the community. It's a win-win situation, if this passes.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Mr. Chairman, if I may. Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes, yes.

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LEG. FOLEY:  
Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
Wait. Legislator Towle, then Foley.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Thank you.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am supporting the override here, because I think it's obviously for a very good community purpose, as it was taking an eyesore. But I got to tell you, Legislator Levy, as a final departing thought, I could not sit here and hold my thoughts back without saying two months ago you argued about transferring cars to an ambulance company and a school district, and today you're advocating transferring \$100,000 piece of property because it happens to fall in the Town of Islip. Unbelievable.

LEG. LEVY:

No. If I might, as a point of personal privilege.

P.O. TONNA:

All right.

LEG. LEVY:

A point of personal privilege.

P.O. TONNA:

Steve, yeah, and this will probably be probably the last point of personal privilege.

LEG. LEVY:

No. The -- Fred.

LEG. HALEY:

If it's the last, I'll go along with it.

LEG. LEVY:

The difference is, Fred, it was just a matter of how things were being treated when it came to the cars. All I said is if you're going to put the car -- give the cars away, it should be done consistently for every district. If you're going to do it based upon fair market value, then do it consistently for every district, that's all I said. I don't think your district should have gotten it for \$200 and other districts had to pay \$2,000, that's all.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

LEG. BISHOP:

Okay.

LEG. FOLEY:

Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:

Thank you. Legislator Foley has the floor.

LEG. FOLEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I'll be supporting the override is that this property will have the opportunity to be used for another public purpose, perhaps not by the County, but by the school district. In so doing, it will be able to, through the Central Islip School District, it will be able to help the students in that particular

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area, whether it's for the administration of educational, or for some other direct educational purposes. The fact of the matter is we have the opportunity to help another public entity to use a particular parcel of property for a public purpose that's going to benefit that particular community, and that's the reason why I'm going to be supporting the override.

LEG. HALEY:  
On the motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay, Legislator Haley.

LEG. HALEY:  
Thank you. Legislator Levy, what bothers me about this is that we gave the school district monies based on the Suffolk County Tax Act. So now we gave them monies for the taxes due on that property and now we're going to give them the property on top of it. Now, they've done some -- you say they've done some work, they've done some cleanup work at this particular site? In other words, is there in-kind services that will equal the amount of taxes that the Suffolk County taxpayer had to give them?

LEG. LEVY:  
Paul, could you just -- Paul, Legislator Haley said the County gave them money. Can you just verify whether that's accurate --

LEG. HALEY:  
It's in the veto.

MR. SABATINO:  
All right. I think what -- I think the point of the veto message was simply to say that the property has a value of whatever the value is. I think it makes reference to \$100,000, and it makes reference to the back-taxes. But what it ignores is that under Section 72-h of the New York General Municipal Law, that's a State statute, that says that the County is authorized to transfer property to municipalities on whatever terms and conditions. The State law does not require --

LEG. HALEY:  
No, no, no.

MR. SABATINO:  
-- fair market value.

LEG. HALEY:

I'm sorry. My point being, and if you look at the County Exec's message, it says that Suffolk County paid eighty-six plus thousands of dollars on a parcel, most -- much of which has been provided directly to the Central Islip School District, right? That's what normally would have happened when you take a tax deed, leading up to a tax deed, you have to cover the taxes.

LEG. LEVY:

But it's not like -- Marty, the school didn't own the property like they were getting a direct payment.

LEG. HALEY:

No, but they got the taxes on the property that we had to cover for it.

LEG. LEVY:

Well, that's the same -- that's in any piece of property, whatever property --

LEG. HALEY:

Correct.

LEG. LEVY:

It's whatever school district that piece of property is situated in --

LEG. HALEY:

Correct.

LEG. LEVY:

-- is obviously going to get --

LEG. HALEY:

So not only --

LEG. LEVY:

-- a part of it.

LEG. HALEY:

Not only did we give them the taxes under the Suffolk County Tax Act, but now we're giving them the property on top of it. And the question I had of you, you said that they've done some work on that property or they've kept it clean.

LEG. LEVY:

The Civic, the Civic Association.

LEG. HALEY:

Oh, all right. So then the school hasn't contributed anything to it.

LEG. CARPENTER:

On the motion.

LEG. LEVY:

I think just on labor.

D.P.O. POSTAL:  
Excuse me.

LEG. LEVY:  
It's Legislator Fields' district, I'll let her explain it.

LEG. HALEY:  
I will yield. I will yield to Legislator Fields.

D.P.O. POSTAL:  
Ladies and Gentlemen, can everyone please give us your attention.

LEG. FIELDS:  
I think you were handed a set of three letters from the school and some civic groups in which they do tell you that the civic group did board it and paint over the graffiti and clean it up, and so has the school worked on it and --

LEG. HALEY:  
The school has done some services on it?

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes. It's in one -- in the letters.

LEG. HALEY:  
Thank you. That's all I wanted -- that's my -- it thank you.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Madam Chair, if I might.

D.P.O. POSTAL:  
Legislator Carpenter.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
In the -- in the meeting, when this was discussed, Legislator Haley, the Superintendent of Schools was there and he did say that they had done some clean-ups, but they also provided security on the property over the years. And it was my understanding that the Division of Real Estate, and I would ask other members of the committee, seemed to be supportive of getting this out of our inventory. That was the impression I got at the committee meeting.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Call the vote.

D.P.O. POSTAL:

Yeah. Legislator Fields.

LEG. FIELDS:

I think if we look up the minutes, we will see that Alan Grecco said he would love to get this piece of property off of his inventory.

LEG. POSTAL:

And I will just make one final comment. This is not the first time we've done this. We have over the years that I've been here transferred property to various -- various not-for-profit

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organizations and municipalities, even taxing municipalities like fire districts, at no cost. So this is not the first time we've done this, and I would suggest that it's not being inconsistent to override the veto.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Mr. Chairman, do we have a representative from the County Executive's Office or Division of Real Estate?

P.O. TONNA:

I think they're inside having some champaign. I'm not so sure.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

No, no, no, no, there are some folks here. I'd like to know, does the property have any real estate value? Because, if it doesn't, then the issue becomes academic.

LEG. BISHOP:

It's in the veto.

LEG. CRECCA:

It's in the veto.

LEG. BISHOP:

Come on.

LEG. CRECCA:

It's worth \$100,000.

LEG. BISHOP:

It's in the veto.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

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It's worth \$100,000. Based on the description I've heard here, it doesn't sound like it's worth anything.

P.O. TONNA:  
Legislator Fields.

LEG. FIELDS:  
Legislator Caracciolo, this is a building that the County did have at one point. It became a crack house and all kinds of problems happened with it. It was boarded up, it was entered back into. The County has not been really doing a good job of taking care of it. Thus, if you read the letters that were put in front of you, it tells you that they've been trying to keep it up. And the value of the \$100,000, I'm not sure where that came from, but it definitely is --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Janet.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Can I --

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LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Let me -- let me -- I have the floor.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
On the resolution, 1005, the County Executive's veto, does this property have any real estate value and has it ever been put to auction?

MS. DEMARZO:  
I think I can answer the question generally from the information I have from Real Estate. I can't answer the question whether or not it's been put on the auction, but the value that we received, the -- in the veto message was supplied by the Department or the Division of Real Estate. So, yes, we believe --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Then the veto message indicates that it has a market value of approximately \$100,000. Is that from the Division of Real Estate, that figure?

MS. DEMARZO:  
That's information from the Division of Real Estate.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Okay. And I didn't have a copy of this memo either, because I apparently don't have the same fold everybody else has, but I did have an opportunity to quickly take a look at it. And in the second paragraph, it says, I quote, "As representatives of Suffolk County, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that our decisions in the allocation of our resources are fair and equitable." When I read that sentence, it brings to mind is there precedence for this type of 72-h transfer?

MS. DEMARZO:

Actually, there is a precedent for the veto that I am aware of. There was a similar veto issued on a property that Legislator Rizzo, upon him being here, did provide for I think the East Islip School District. We do 72-h's, as you know, for a variety of issues. We do 72-h's for town, for affordable housing. We -- it's my understanding that there was a public policy that underlies this use of 72-h's. We use them sometimes for highways. We have begun a practice, as you know, with the affordable housing legislation adopted last year of trying to provide these properties for both sale to individuals and to 72-h's to the towns for the development of affordable housing. So with the adoption of that legislation, I believe that we started to establish a priority of affordable housing for these types of properties. Or a secondary interest is to try to recover the property -- the tax dollars that the County has paid out, because, as you know, as we hold the property, we have to make the other levels of government whole, the town, the school district. All other municipal districts receive the taxes from the County. So our effort is to at least cover the cost of holding properties each year.

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LEG. CARACCIOLO:

So, in this case, it's the Executive's preference that this veto -- I mean, this resolution be -- his veto be sustained, because, otherwise, the County would lose \$100,000 in possible real estate market value for the sale of this property.

MS. DEMARZO:

Correct. And, you know, we felt that the \$10 offered was extremely low. I was under the -- I had received information that there was once a possibility of the school district considering 10 to \$15,000, and that the price had gone down to \$10. So this is an extremely low reimbursement to the County, considering that a majority of this \$86,000 that we paid has been paid to the school district for back-taxes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Is there a precedent where we have sold a piece of real estate like this to an entity for ten cents on the dollar? Because that's essentially what you'd be talking about here.

MS. DEMARZO:

I don't know, but I really -- you know, I've only talked generally with the Division of Real Estate. There was nothing that came forth to indicate that there was a precedent of this nature.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Thank you.

LEG. POSTAL:

May I ask, because I believe that there is a precedent. And at least with regard to policy adopted by the Legislature, if I could ask our Counsel whether, in the case of the property transferred through 72-h to I believe it was the East Islip School District, this Legislature overrode a veto on that, so that am I right, Mr. Sabatino, that that was the policy that we adopted at that time?

MR. SABATINO:

The answer to your narrow question is yes, East Islip School District was a similar situation, it was vetoed. The veto was overridden. But, more importantly, it's State Law, okay? I think there's confusion here. There's a thought maybe that the statute that's involved talks about fair market value. It doesn't. State Law 72-h says that whatever terms and conditions that the County establishes for the transfer of property to the state government, federal government or to a municipal corporation, those are what govern.

There have been numerous instances over the twenty some-odd years that I've been here where 72-h's have been done for nominal consideration. It's done all the time. And in all of those circumstances, the property has value, you know, whether it's 10,000 or a million dollars, or a hundred thousand. So there's clearly precedent, but it's a policy decision as to whether or not you want to exercise that authority.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. Roll call, please. Jon, come on in, let's vote. All right.

Roll call.

MR. BARTON:

On the override.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Pass.

LEG. GULDI:  
Yes.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
No to override.

LEG. FISHER:  
Yes.

LEG. HALEY:  
No.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes to override.

LEG. LEVY:  
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Yes to override.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Yes.

LEG. BINDER:  
No.

LEG. COOPER:  
Yes to override.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yep.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Yes.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

MR. BARTON:  
15-3.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. All right.

LEG. LEVY:  
Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion .

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay, Legislator Levy.

LEG. LEVY:  
Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to override Resolution 1099,  
establishing Suffolk County Office of HMO Services.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Second the motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
Is there a second? Second by Legislator Foley. Roll call.

LEG. LEVY:  
Just very quickly, your speech said it perfectly, the speech which  
said you envision where we -- those who lack adequate prescription  
drug coverage can participate in the Employee Prescription Drug  
Program. That's what we would do with this resolution. The difference  
is we can do it right away without delay.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Consistency.

P.O. TONNA:  
All right. Let's vote. Roll call.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. LEVY:  
Yes.

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LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Yes.

LEG. GULDI:  
Yes.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Yes.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
Yes.

LEG. FISHER:  
Yes.

LEG. HALEY:  
Pass.

LEG. FIELDS:  
Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Yes.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Pass.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes to override.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Yes to override.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Yes.

LEG. BINDER:  
Yes.

LEG. COOPER:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
Yes.

P.O. TONNA:  
I have to abstain on the advice of Legal Counsel.

LEG. HALEY:  
Yes.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

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LEG. CARPENTER:  
Yes.

LEG. GULDI:  
Mr. Presiding Officer.

MR. BARTON:  
17, 1 abstention.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay, great. We have one more piece of work before us.

LEG. GULDI:  
Yes. With respect to 2319 --

P.O. TONNA:  
Let's vote.

LEG. GULDI:  
-- which the -- first, I have to make a motion to waive the rules for the hour. It's been more than a half hour since it was discharged, but it needs ten votes. I'll make a motion to waive the rules for the hour and then we can go to the bill.

LEG. TOWLE:  
Second.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. Motion, second by Legislator Towle.

LEG. CRECCA:

You can waive the rule?

P.O. TONNA:

You can waive any rule you want. Under the rule, rules are made to be broken. All in favor? Opposed? Okay. Now we've waived the one-hour rule.

LEG. GULDI:

Now if someone from the County Executive will join me on this for questions of Legislators. It's very simple. This is a major piece of acquisition in East Hampton. It's been hung up in committee for various technical reasons because of the partnership being proposed here is not with the State or Federal Government, but with the Town Government.

P.O. TONNA:

And they're giving 70% --

LEG. GULDI:

The deal -- no. Actually, we buy half the land for 35% of the appraised value, because the landowner is going to contribute over \$3 million dollars in value to the land trust and take the tax benefits of doing that. Of the remaining 70% of value, East Hampton Town is putting up half the money. It's still a big number, but it's

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-- it is one of those rare opportunities where you get to buy land at 35% of its appraised value.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. Just, County Executive, is there a representative from the County Executive Office that just say are they in favor of this or not, or what?

MS. DEMARZO:

Yes, we are in favor it.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay, great.

MS. DEMARZO:

We support it .

P.O. TONNA:

Great. Okay. We need a vote, first of all.

LEG. GULDI:

Yeah. They have -- actually, do they have the bond?

P.O. TONNA:  
We need a roll call on the bond.

LEG. GULDI:  
Before -- we have the bond and we need a separate roll call on the bond

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes. Roll --

LEG. ALDEN:  
On the motion.

LEG. FISHER:  
On the motion.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay. On the motion, Legislator Alden and then Legislator Fisher.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Just, you know, for the record, what program is this coming out of?

LEG. GULDI:  
Yeah. This is -- actually, Jim Spero, I think, drafted the offsets for the budget. It's out of -- this is -- the reason we're doing it now at the Organizational Meeting is because there was nothing left in the 2000 Capital Budget, it's coming out of the Capital Budget because it doesn't qualify for an exemption for our Capital Budget, because it's a town partnership instead of the State or Federal .

P.O. TONNA:  
And we have money in the Capital Budget for this?

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LEG. ALDEN:  
And does this --

LEG. GULDI:  
There are offsets in the bill.

LEG. ALDEN:  
The other question is, does this put us in the same position as that Shadmoor parcel, where it's a direct add-on to any programs?

LEG. GULDI:  
No.

LEG. ALDEN:  
And a direct add to the --

LEG. GULDI:  
No.

LEG. ALDEN:  
-- indebtedness incurring --

LEG. GULDI:  
No, this is not a direct add, because it's out of the Capital Budget using offsets from the existing 2001 Capital Budget. We can't do it the way we did Shadmoor because of the need in the change of the Charter Law and the disagreement between Counsel and the County Executive about the need for a public referendum for that.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Okay. Can somebody just enumerate the offsets that we have on this, then?

LEG. CRECCA:  
Fred.

P.O. TONNA:  
Tons of them.

LEG. FOLEY:  
In the backup.

LEG. GULDI:  
It's in the backup of the bill that's in front of you.

LEG. ALDEN:  
You know what --

LEG. CRECCA:  
How about an explanation?

LEG. ALDEN:  
I think I got the same package as Legislator Caracciolo. I don't have a lot of this stuff.

MR. SABATINO:  
There's two offsets.

LEG. GULDI:  
It was distributed separately.

LEG. ALDEN:  
I can't even find it, George.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Excuse me.

P.O. TONNA:  
Legal Counsel will enumerate the offsets.

MR. SABATINO:  
There's just two offsets, one is in the Port Jefferson Sewer District Number 1, and the other one is in improvements to sewage treatments facilities, planning and design in Southwest Sewer District.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Oh.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Excuse me. Mine shows --

LEG. GULDI:  
It's talking about planning money, not a project.

LEG. CRECCA:  
My backup shows \$2 million being taken out of the Land Preservation Partnership?

MR. SABATINO:  
No, it's being increased from 2 million to 7 million.

LEG. CRECCA:  
I'm sorry. Okay, I got it.

LEG. ALDEN:  
I still have a question, Presiding Officer.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes. Go ahead, Legislator Alden

LEG. ALDEN:  
Fred, have you looked at this? Fred?

MR. POLLERT:  
No. We're getting a copy of it.

LEG. BINDER:  
This is a lot of money for Fred to be looking at it now .

LEG. ALDEN:  
Right.

P.O. TONNA:

Can I -- just, George, why can't we do this the first meeting in --

LEG. GULDI:

The landowner has a January 31 tax deadline, and if we do this on January 30, he has to close on January 31, and our Real Estate Division, I don't want to put them in a position where they got 24 hours, assuming we can get the bill signed and the funding in place in 24 hours, that we have to close in 24 hours from the time the Legislature acts. We are up against the clock in order to take the \$3 million in tax benefits.

LEG. FISHER:

I'm concerned about the offset in my district, however, the Port Jefferson --

LEG. GULDI:

I asked Jim Spero to draft the offset.

P.O. TONNA:

All right.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

This is not the way to do legislation .

LEG. BINDER:

Motion to refer back to committee.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

This is not the way to do it. You know, we got hoodwinked last year with Shadmoor, and I'm not saying this is in the same category, because maybe this is an acquisition we should make, but I think we should be deliberative. It should go through the committee process and we should get all the facts, instead of adding to our bond indebtedness another \$5 million, which this resolution does, bottom line.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. So there's a motion. There's a motion on the bond. There's a -- its a 12-vote resolution, okay?

LEG. BINDER:

Motion to refer back to committee.

LEG. FISHER:

Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:

There's a motion to refer.

LEG. GULDI:

Call all Legislators to the horseshoe, please.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. I would ask all Legislators please come to the horseshoe. This

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might be our final vote today. Please, let it be.

LEG. FISHER:

Mr. Chairman, I had asked to be recognized .

P.O. TONNA:

Yes, Legislator Fisher.

LEG. FISHER:

Fred, can you, please, tell me why the Port Jefferson Sewer District is being used as a budget offset?

MR. POLLERT:

The project was used as an offset because the sewer districts have the capability of tapping into funding through the special Quarter Cent Program, and there was also some question whether or not the renovations would be completed by the end of the year.

LEG. FISHER:

So it wouldn't be ready to access the monies?

MR. POLLERT:

At this point in time, it's uncertain whether or not the project would be completed by the end of the year 2001.

LEG. FISHER:

And if the project were to be completed, there would be other funding available for that project?

MR. POLLERT:

There is a possibility that other funding would be available through the Quarter Cent Program, or, alternatively, we would have to come up with another offset to replenish that capital project.

LEG. FISHER:

Okay.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

LEG. FISHER:

When you say there's a possibility, what do you mean, that there may not be enough funds in the Quarter Center Program to cover it?

MR. POLLERT:

It's questionable whether or not there would be sufficient funds, depending upon the growth in the sales tax and the Quarter Cent Program to be able to accomplish doing it on a pay-as-you-go basis through the Quarter Cent Program. So, in all probability, if the construction was to proceed this year, we would have to come up with some other offset elsewhere in the Capital Program to replenish it.

LEG. FISHER:

Where exactly in Port Jeff is this? Fred, where is it in Port Jeff?

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MR. POLLERT:

The sewage treatment plant deals with Port Jefferson going into Stony Brook University.

LEG. FISHER:

Okay. Jim, were you trying to say something?

P.O. TONNA:

Okay.

MR. SPERO:

It's just that it was a little early in the year to try to come up with \$5 million in offsets, so the improvements of these projects may have to be postponed a year if you decide to move ahead with this project.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Speak up, Jim. What was that last part?

MR. SPERO:

The improvements to these sewer district may have to be postponed a year.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Thank you.

MR. SPERO:

Postponed a year.

P.O. TONNA:  
All right.

LEG. FISHER:  
Because they weren't ready to go forward?

MR. SPERO:  
No.

P.O. TONNA:  
No.

MR. SPERO:  
We're using that as an offset.

LEG. BINDER:  
They're using the money.

LEG. FISHER:  
Because you're using it as an offset. Yes. So you're not using it as an offset because it's not ready, it would have to be postponed because we're using the monies.

P.O. TONNA:  
Right.

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MR. SPERO:  
Correct.

P.O. TONNA:  
All right. Can I -- go ahead, Fred.

MR. POLLERT:  
The funding that was being --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Excuse me, Fred.

MR. POLLERT:  
-- taken was --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Point of personal privilege.

P.O. TONNA:

Wait, wait, wait. Let Fred finish and then I'll recognize you, Legislator Caracciolo.

LEG. FISHER:

Okay, yeah. I still have the floor --

MR. POLLERT:

What the source was --

LEG. FISHER:

-- because I want this clarified.

MR. POLLERT:

Was to advance nitrogen removal from 2002 to 2001. So last year's Capital Program advanced the nitrogen removal process in South -- ash in Sewer District 1 from 2002 to 2001. There's some question whether or not they can do it in 2001. If they can complete it in 2001, we'll have to find offsets to replenish the funding in Sewer District 1.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. All right. Legislator Caracciolo.

LEG. FISHER:

Well, I just --

P.O. TONNA:

Oh, yeah.

LEG. FISHER:

Well, I still have the floor, Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:

Sorry, Legislator Fisher.

LEG. FISHER:

Although the acquisition of Jacobs Farm is very important and I'm really very much in favor of it, I have to agree with Legislator

Caracciolo, that we have to be circumspect. We're looking at a project in my district that I think is important, although Fred is saying that we would have to find another offset, we're looking at a project that would then be scratching for an offset. We're using a project that should be moving forward to offset here. And it is very early in the year to look for offsets, and it just seems that we're being put over a barrel. I feel like there's salesmanship going on here saying, "Buy it today, or it's not going to be available," and

--

LEG. GULDI:  
They're not making it anymore.

LEG. FISHER:  
-- it makes me very concerned.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Okay.

LEG. FISHER:  
It's very disconcerting that we're at this juncture.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Mr. Chairman.

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes, Legislator Caracciolo.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
So that could all understand the full ramifications of our actions,  
let's go step by step. There should have been a presentation made.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
This is what happened with Shadmoor.

P.O. TONNA:  
Right. So let's vote against it.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Exactly. No, no, no. It's important to reflect on Shadmoor. Shadmoor  
was a piece of property that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said a  
year before Town, County, and State stepped up and purchased it for  
\$17.7 million the property was worth 5 million.

P.O. TONNA:  
Right.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Okay? So we wind up paying three times the purchase price that the  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said it was worth.

P.O. TONNA:  
Can we --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Secondly.

P.O. TONNA:  
Wait, wait, hold it.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
These are important facts.

P.O. TONNA:  
We're going to have -- we're going to have a -- we have a motion  
right now to refer to committee?

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
Well, wait a minute. Shadmoor we were told, "If you don't buy it,  
it's going to be developed." What we weren't told, Mr. Chairman, is  
that the Town of East Hampton had, yes, approved a four-home  
subdivision for Shadmoor on 100 acres. Four homes were going to be  
built on 17 acres. Eighty-three percent of the property, or 83 acres,  
would have been preserved in a conservation easement.

I want to know more about this. I want to know all the facts, so I  
can make an intelligent decision and not one just based on posthaste  
and then we find out tomorrow that maybe we made another error .

P.O. TONNA:  
All right. So there's a motion to refer to committee.

LEG. GULDI:  
Before -- on the motion .

P.O. TONNA:  
Yes.

LEG. GULDI:  
On motion. With all due respect to my colleagues, this is not  
Shadmoor, this is Jacobs Farm. This has been in --

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
It's not a farm, George.

LEG. GULDI:  
Excuse me.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:  
It's not even a farm.

LEG. GULDI:  
I have the floor, sir. Did I interrupt you? Please. This is not  
Shadmoor. This is not an instance where we can buy a piece of land  
that one Legislator feels is worth \$5 million, but the appraisals came  
in at 17. This is a situation where the appraisals are in at  
\$12.3 million and we can buy it for 4.5, half of nine. This is a --

not a situation of a piece of property that's been approved for -- for estates, this is a situation where the parcel has been approved for

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over 80 homes. This is a situation where the town is putting up half of the money. This is a situation where the seller is willing to take a \$3 million hit.

Now, the fact that some Legislators don't want a presentation, the presentation was distributed in writing to all of you at the last meeting, because I asked for it to be distributed. There were people here to speak on it. The presentation on the merits of the parcel have been made repeatedly in committee where the bills have been tabled for procedural and not substantive reasons.

This is the -- as a practical matter, the County Executive has reached out to me and I am reaching out to all of you, because I believe that this is our last functional opportunity to consider this acquisition. Do you want to preserve land in Suffolk County? If so, do you want to do it for 35 cents on the dollar? If not, vote against the resolution and enough with the grandstanding.

P.O. TONNA:

Okay. Let's go for a vote. There is a motion to refer to committee by Legislator Binder, and seconded by -- who was the second?

LEG. ALDEN:

Second.

P.O. TONNA:

By Legislator Alden. Okay, roll call. Let's get this done, please.

(Roll Called by Mr. Barton)

LEG. BINDER:

Yes.

LEG. ALDEN:

Yes.

P.O. TONNA:

Legislators, please come into the horseshoe.

LEG. CARACCIOLO:

Yes.

LEG. GULDI:

Absolutely not.

LEG. TOWLE:  
No.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
(Not Present)

LEG. FISHER:  
Pass.

P.O. TONNA:  
Where is everybody? Oh.

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LEG. HALEY:  
Yes.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Yes.

LEG. GULDI:  
It's to refer to committee.

LEG. FOLEY:  
Oh, no, no. Thanks.

LEG. LEVY:  
(Not Present)

LEG. FIELDS:  
No.

LEG. CARPENTER:  
Yes.

LEG. CRECCA:  
Yes.

LEG. D'ANDRE:  
Yes.

LEG. BISHOP:  
Pass.

LEG. COOPER:  
Yes.

LEG. POSTAL:  
No.

LEG. TONNA:  
No.

LEG. CARACAPPA:  
(Not Present)

LEG. LEVY:  
(Not Present)

LEG. BISHOP:  
Yes to refer.

MR. BARTON:  
Ten, to committee. (Not Present: Legs. Levy and Caracappa)

LEG. GULDI:  
Ten?

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MR. BARTON:  
Ten. Ten.

P.O. TONNA:  
Okay, great. Okay. Any other business? Great. No? Meeting adjourned.

LEG. ALDEN:  
Actually, one thing has been neglected here. Paul Tonna was returned as the Presiding Officer. Great job, Paul. But I'm going to say something else. Without your staff, without Henry's staff, and without Freddy's staff, and a congratulatory note to them, because they made it a great year.

P.O. TONNA:  
Absolutely.

(Applause)

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:10 P.M.]