

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

FIRST DAY

January 2, 2013

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

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

Taken By Lucia Braaten and Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographers

***Transcribed by Lucia Braaten, Court Stenographer
and
Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide***

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***(*THE FOLLOWING WAS TAKEN AND TRANSCRIBED BY
LUCIA BRAATEN - COURT REPORTER*)***

(THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 10:08 A.M.)

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Good morning, everyone, and happy new year. Would everybody please take a seat? Okay. Everybody, have a seat. Thank you very much.

Coming in the auditorium this morning, you'll notice that we had the metal detectors are up. That's because all of County government is here. If a bomb ever went off, it would wipe out all of County government. You know, our Comptroller is with us and our Treasurer and our County Executive. And I shouldn't -- I'll probably forget somebody, but everybody is here. Oh, and our Clerk. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Okay. So thank you all for being with us today. It's our annual Organizational Meeting, and it's my pleasure to preside over this meeting one more time.

First, if we could all rise for -- we have a lot of festivities here this morning. With us today is the Local 25 Pipe Band to march in the Colors. I have a long history with Local 25. I was a proud member of that organization for 39 years, and started out my work life as an electrician. So I thank them for being with me this morning.

And the Colors today are being presented by the American Legionnaires of the Smith Weaver Post 651 in Sayville, New York.

***(Local 25 Pipe Band Marched in the Color Guard of the
American Legion, Smith Weaver Post 651, Sayville)***

Thank you very, very much. I'd like to thank both organizations for a fine showing this morning. The Local 25 Pipe Band, I know how difficult it is for you guys to do an event during the week and miss work, so I really appreciate that. And as far as the American Legion is concerned, this is a splendid delegation from every branch of our armed forces.

Next, we're going to have a salute to the flag led by myself.

(*Salutation*)

And we have a special treat this morning in that Alexandra Rose Meli is with us. I'd like to welcome her back to the Legislature. Alexandra, who sang the Star Spangled Banner for us two years ago, will be singing for us again today. Alexandra is a seventh grader at the Shoreham-Wading River Albert G. Prodell Middle School. Alexandra has recently performed at the Catholic Ministries Performing Art Center in Oakdale in the musical production of A Christmas Carol. She has also appeared at CM as small Alice in Alice in Wonderland, and as Tessie in Annie. She has appeared in numerous school plays as well. Alexandra's musical studies include the tuba, the string and bass Guitar. She plays lacrosse, soccer, basketball, while maintaining a 4.2 average in her academics studies. Very good, Alexandra. Where are you, Alexandra? Here she is. Okay.

(*Applause*)

(*THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER WAS PERFORMED BY ALEXANDRA ROSE MELI *)

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*(*Applause*)*

Very nice, Alexandra. What I should mention is Alexandra is the granddaughter of Marge Acevedo, one of my secretaries. You should be very proud of her.

MRS. ACEVEDO:

I am.

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

She's a very talented young lady. Next, I'm going to introduce our visiting Clergy.

As you all know, we have a longstanding tradition at this Legislature that we open every meeting with a prayer. And I think it's tradition that has carried on for a long time, and I hope it carries on for many, many more years, because in this world we live in, we need all the help we can get.

And with us today is a man that I've known for 30 years. He looks a little different than the first time I met him, but then I look a little different, too. It's Monsignor Thomas Spadaro, who is the Pastor of Good Shepherd's Church in Holbrook, and is a very -- is a great guy. He's my Pastor, my confessor, and a lot of other things to me; my advisor. Thank you very much for being with us today. Father Tom, if you would come forward and say our prayer.

PASTOR SPADARO:

Yes, Bill. When we first met, I didn't wear glasses and I didn't need a cane.

*(*Laughter*)*

Whether bidden or unbidden, God is present, and so I invite you to place yourselves in the presence of this God.

Lord, our God, creator of all that is, maker of the human race in your image and likeness, you planted your law deep in the hearts of all people. Your law teaches us to affirm the dignity of each individual, to respect the rights and the freedoms of others. It holds us accountable for each other's lives. And so, loving God, we humbly call upon you to send forth your spirit of wisdom and understanding, your spirit and knowledge and right counsel to guide these Legislators, so that the laws they devise to govern us may be faithful expressions of your divine law. To you, almighty God, be glory and praise forever and ever. Amen.

*(*Amen Said in Unison*)*

LEGISLATOR LINDSAY:

Thank you. Another tradition that has taken root here, unfortunately, over the past almost, I guess, more than ten years now, and that's a moment of silence for all of our people that's in harm's way as we speak, that defends the freedoms that this country was born on, and that appreciates every day. So a moment of silence for all of those men and women.

*(*Moment of Silence*)*

Everybody can have a seat. Color Guard.

*(*COLOR GUARD AND LOCAL 25 PIPE BAND EXITED AUDITORIUM*)*

*(*Applause*)*

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Now you can have a seat. Again, I want to thank the Bag Pipe Band from Local 25 and the Color Guard from the American Legion in Sayville for being with us today.

We have the privilege today, which for the second year in a row, and I hope it's a new tradition that was started here, where the County Executive comes and addresses this Organizational Meeting of the Legislature. This has never happened before and we appreciate it, because I think it shows a sign of cooperation between the two branches of government, that I think some of our national leaders could certainly benefit from a little cooperation. So, Steve, you want to speak out front? You want to come back here? Whatever you -- oh, you want to speak from there.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:

This is fine.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Very good.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:

I have to hold this down, right, Bill?

MR. LAUBE:

Not anymore.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:

No, not anymore?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Good memory you have.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE:

All these changes that are happening. Thank you, Presiding Officer Lindsay and Minority Leader Kennedy for the invitation to once more join the Suffolk County Legislature at your Organizational Meeting. I came here one year ago to say to this Legislature, a body that has been known for many years for its innovations in government, not only across our state, but across our country, to say that you would now have a partner in the Executive Branch to help solve the problems facing our County, and our communities.

I was told, as Bill just mentioned, that it was the first time that this had happened in this setting, perhaps in decades, and I was astonished by that.

I moved the State of the County Address back to this chamber for the first time in eight years. And many of the most important initiatives that were launched in this past year were introduced here in the Legislature, or originated here in the Legislature. For my part, I did these things because of the respect that I have for the institution, but most importantly because of an understanding. That if we are going to make progress in our County, that we can only do it working together, and we have done that in this past year.

As I stand here today and reflect on the challenges of 2012, and I don't know about you, but I'm very happy to be moving into 2013, I can think of no one who reflects Suffolk County's fighting spirit better than our Presiding Officer and my good friend, Bill Lindsay.

*(*Applause*)*

Bill, on a personal note, let me say that it was a privilege working with you this past year, my first

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year as County Executive. And I am very gratified and happy that I'll be working with you again, my second year as County Executive, with you as our Presiding Officer.

*(*Applause*)*

I'm very proud to say that Presiding Officer Lindsay and each and every member of this body is my partner in helping to make this a better County. Together, in this past year, we passed a bipartisan balanced budget that was below Governor Cuomo's property tax cap. Together, we re-established a strong relationship with other levels of government, which has resulted in important relief for Suffolk County taxpayers. Together, we reduced the size of Suffolk County government, while passing several consolidations to make the government more efficient, including establishing a new Department of Economic Development and Planning. And because of the bipartisan support of this Legislature, I was able to negotiate a new health care agreement, which ensures that, starting today, all new Suffolk County employees will pay into their health insurance.

I know that some of these measures were not easy, and I know they were not always passed with unanimity, and that's fine. It's okay for us to disagree, but what's important is what I think we did in 2012, and that is when we do disagree, we do so with mutual respect for one another, and for the shared obligations we have to every resident in this County.

2012 was a tough year, and I wish I could say that 2013 will be easier. I hope it will be, but we all know that we have enormous challenges before us. We've begun the long process of restructuring the government to make it more efficient, while preserving vital services, but we have more work to do. We've begun to lay the foundation for economic development, but we have more work to do. And for thousands of residents still coping with the impacts of Super Storm Sandy and with the need to rebuild our infrastructure better, smarter and stronger, we have more work to do.

With the strength and leadership of our Presiding Officer, Bill Lindsay, and all of us, our shared commitment to work together, I am confident that we are ready to take on these challenges in the new year. Thank you and God bless you.

*(*Applause*)*

LEG. LINDSAY:

Thank you, County Executive Bellone. With that, Mr. Clerk, would you call the roll?

MR. LAUBE:

Will do.

(Roll Called by Mr. Laube, Clerk of the Legislature)

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Present.

LEG. BROWNING:

Here.

LEG. MURATORE:

Here.

LEG. HAHN:

Present.

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LEG. ANKER:

Here.

LEG. CALARCO:

Present.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Present.

LEG. MONTANO:

Present.

LEG. CILMI:

Here.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Here.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Here.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes, here.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Here.

LEG. GREGORY:

Present.

LEG. STERN:

Here.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Here.

LEG. SPENCER:

Here.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Vacant Seat: District #1)

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay. I'm going to turn the mic over to the Deputy Presiding Officer to hold the election for Presiding Officer.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Good morning, everybody, and happy new year. This is a great honor to be part of this process today in *electing the Presiding Officer of Suffolk County's Legislature*. With that, I'll take a -- I'll be taking nominations for Presiding Officer.

LEG. SPENCER:

(Raised hand)

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LEG. HORSLEY:

Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Presiding Officer. To my colleagues, to the County Executive, thank you for your remarks. To all the branches of government, I am profoundly honored to make this nomination.

As a freshman Legislator, beginning my second year, I have been often impressed by my colleagues and all the people that make up this fine body. It's a Legislature that works together in a bipartisan fashion. And it's a Legislature that has navigated its way through extremely difficult times. I would like to formally nominate one of those people, my colleague, my friend and leader, Bill Lindsay, to serve as Presiding Officer for the eighth straight year.

This amazingly long run as leader of this robust body speaks to the enormous qualities of this man. He has been able to not only perform the duties as a mere Legislator, but also as a father, husband, and the additional responsibilities as Presiding Officer; quite a feat for a mere mortal.

Today is an historic and monumental day. When elected today, Presiding Officer Lindsay will have been able to do what no other Legislator has done before, and that is to secure the majority of his 17 colleagues for eight years in a row. Serving this term will make Bill Lindsay the longest serving Presiding Officer in the Legislature's history.

*(*Applause*)*

But today brings mixed blessings because this meeting is also the first of his last year serving on this Legislature, and it hasn't been easy, and at times I know that I haven't made it easier.

*(*Laughter*)*

I can remember right in the beginning when we were just getting started and I was kind of seeing my way around. I think I had done something that Bill needed to speak to me about privately and asked me to come into his office. And I can remember being nervous as just a school child being called to the principal's office. But we went in, he shut the door. He was firm, he told me what he wanted me to hear. He explained to me the way that things work, and I got the message loud and clear. But at the end of it, though, I mean, he displayed a lot of compassion and leadership, and I restrained the urge to give him a hug at the end.

*(*Laughter*)*

And I promised I would never have to go back into that office again, until recently, he again said, "I want to see you," and I said, "Oh, no, what have I done this time," and came in. He always starts off with some other issue, and then he said, "I would ask if you would consider nominating me for Presiding Officer." And I can tell you that it made my year as being a Legislator. It really showed -- just for me, it was a great honor, and it showed that he had recognized me as a colleague, that he would give me that privilege of making this nomination.

Presiding Officer, he is that kind of man. He's firm, he's gentle, he's patient, but when he needs to be strong, he can be forceful, but he's also brilliant. His leadership and management style are unparalleled. There are always issues when you are trying to deal with 17 different egos with competing priorities. Each and every member of this Legislature is a leader, so you really need an extraordinary person to be a leader of leaders, and Bill is that man.

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While I am happy to see Bill here looking stronger than ever, the other thing that was really impressive about him was over the past year, he dealt with an extreme health crisis. And sometimes, as a physician, I was aware of the condition that he was dealing with, and I knew that it would take a lot of strength and heart and fight to be able to -- to be able to defeat this condition that he was facing. He did it while continuing to negotiate, to lead this body, and it just really speaks to the character of the man. There's a lot of people who would have succumbed to his condition, and it's great to see Bill there looking stronger than ever. So I wish him continued health.

*(*Applause*)*

Presiding Officer Lindsay continues to inspire us with his political and business acumen. The sluggish economy and dire outlook of 2012, including the ever-changing multi-million dollar deficit, led to serious challenges, but Bill was able to convene a bipartisan Budget Working Group. We did the arduous work of working with our Executive to once again allow us to maintain a high level of necessary services, but keep the General Fund taxes stable. It was Presiding Officer Lindsay that brought the number of layoffs down to a minimum, and working hard to restore the jobs of the layoffs that were necessary.

The most impressive thing that Bill did was able to maintain a very high level of discourse and respect between the Legislature and its co-equal branch of government, the County Executive. His ability to be able to work with both Steve Levy and Bellone, two very different Executives with very different management and leadership styles, is quite extraordinary.

*(*Laughter*)*

Henry Kissinger once said, "Diplomacy is the art of restraining power." Bill does that with candor, integrity, strength and intellect.

All year we have heard that 2013 promises to be as challenging as 2012. If that is the case, we need Bill Lindsay as our Presiding Officer. So it is with great honor that I nominate William Lindsay to preside over this Suffolk County Legislature for 2013 as our Presiding Officer. Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

To second the nomination of William Lindsay, I call upon Kara Hahn as our Legislator.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you very much, Deputy Presiding Officer Horsley. I hope I can do this without crying.

*(*Laughter*)*

The opportunity to second the nomination of Bill Lindsay for our Presiding Officer for a record-breaking eighth consecutive term is such a great honor to me. I can't even begin to express how I feel to be doing this.

As most of you know, I had the privilege of working for Bill as his Director of Communications for his first six years as Presiding Officer, and what an opportunity that was for me. I learned so much at the foot of the master, so to speak, and, Bill, you are a true master, a master leader. You are honest, fair, and even-handed in all things. A master advisor, providing guidance and support to all of us; a master fighter in the best sense of the word. You're a fierce defender of this institution as a co-equal branch of government, a fierce defender of the people and of our work here; a master of

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integrity and compassion, of patients and tolerance. You are a master of dedication and commitment to the people of Suffolk County, of protecting the hard working taxpayers, a master of bipartisanship and a master of trust. You epitomize trust and leadership. It's a rare thing to be a master, a mentor and a colleague. Bill is a master of all these roles, not just to me, but to so many here and all of us Legislators here.

We are so glad to have you back as our leader for this, your last year. Thank you to Pat and your family for letting him back to guide us. We are better because you are here. The people of Suffolk County are better off because you're here at the head of this very important institution. We love you dearly, and I'm very proud to second your nomination as Presiding Officer.

*(*Applause*)*

LEG. HORSLEY:

The name of William Lindsay has been placed in nomination and seconded. Are there any other nominations?

LEG. NOWICK:

I would like to say something.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Let me call on Legislator Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

I did not plan this, but I think it's only fitting that I add my voice to this nomination. As Bill and I started together 11 years ago, 11 years ago I always remember being a nervous wreck, and you were a little bit nervous also 11 years ago, and I would go to him and I would ask for advice. And understand something, we were on two different sides of the political spectrum. But this man never ever looked at me and said, "What, are you crazy?" He would say to me, "Look, just go do your research, do what you have to do, and if it's worth it, I'll support it."

I must say, in the 11 years, and particularly when he became Presiding Officer, how you have the ability to take two different sides and bring us all together. Two different sides. I would say Democrat, Working Families, Republican, Independents, you have the ability to get us all together in a very gentle, professional way, and that means so much, because what I believe it did is it made this Legislative body a stronger body, a more respected body, and you did that, and I tell you that all the time, and I want everybody else to know. I support Bill, I have supported Bill, I continue. And I am so glad that you're feeling better, and I look forward to beating you once again in golf.

*(*Laughter and Applause*)*

LEG. HORSLEY:

All righty. Thank you very much, Legislator. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? I'll ask for a move to close the nominations. Legislator Gregory; seconds it by Legislator Cilmi. All those in favor? Opposed? So moved. Roll call vote.

(Roll Called by Mr. Laube, Clerk of the Legislature)

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

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LEG. MURATORE:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

LEG HORSLEY:

Yes.

LEG. GREGORY:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Vacant Seat: District #1).

(Applause and Standing Ovation)

LEG. HORSLEY:

Congratulations, Mr. Presiding Officer.

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P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Judge Randall Hinrichs will be administering the Oath of Office to the Presiding Officer.

JUDGE HINRICHS:

First, I would just say congratulations to Presiding Officer Lindsay. It's a privilege to be here today to swear you in. Thank you very much for asking me to do that here today. I know I join with everyone here in wishing you the best of health in the coming year. And, again, congratulations on your tremendous service.

And if you could please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

***(OATH WAS ADMINISTERED TO PRESIDING OFFICER
WILLIAM LINDSAY BY THE HONORABLE C. RANDALL HINRICHS)***

JUDGE HINRICHS:

Congratulations.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you, I appreciate it.

(*Applause*)

***(OATH WAS ADMINISTERED TO PRESIDING OFFICER WILLIAM LINDSAY
BY JUDY PASCALE, SUFFOLK COUNTY CLERK)***

(*Applause*)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I'll take this show back over. Randy Hinrichs, our Judge, our Presiding Judge in Suffolk County, swore me in, and Judith Pascale, our County Clerk, also swore me in and signed the book. Judy's the one I kissed.

(*Laughter*)

I would be remiss if I didn't say a few words. I was just overwhelmed by that vote. To be elected unanimously by this body is no small feat, and I truly, truly appreciate it. And I thank my colleagues, especially from the other side of the aisle. I know how difficult that has been on you and I appreciate that show of kindness in my last year. I thank you an awful lot.

When I was a boy, there was a group of entertainers called the Gabor Sisters. I don't know how many people remember them here, it's going back a ways. I never -- I said they were entertainers. I never really knew what they did, but they were always on television when I was younger. I think it was the youngest one, Zsa Zsa, had the distinction of being married eight times. And I feel a little bit like her eighth husband in that I know what to do, or in this case I just don't know how to make it any different.

(*Laughter*)

I'm tremendously honored for this distinction of running what I think is the greatest Legislative body

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in the country. This is a Legislature that is strong-headed at times, but, yet, compassionate. It is independent, but not to the point of being out of control. It is composed of people from all walks of life, from every ethnic group, from a variety of religions and a diverse background. I've always been proud to be a member of this body, and even prouder to be the leader of this Legislature.

This year we've just completed has been the most difficult for this body and for me, personally. I have a lot of people to thank for me getting through this year. And forgive me if I just take a few minutes to thank a lot of those people, and I hope I don't forget anybody.

First and foremost, I want to thank my family. Without my family, I wouldn't be here.

*(*Applause*)*

My wife and matriarch of our clan, we've been married 43 years, and she's just been absolutely terrific in this past year. My oldest, my daughter Denise, who is with me today. Wave your hand, Dee. There you go.

*(*Applause*)*

Denise is a very special lady in that she has a very busy career, and two beautiful boys and a wonderful husband, and she keeps all those boys -- all those balls juggled, and she was just phenomenal during my illness. And my son Bill, who is here, raise your hand, Bill. There you go.

*(*Applause*)*

Bill is someone that I'm very, very proud of. Bill has got a very successful career in the insurance business. And with him is my daughter-in-law and his wife, Lisa. And thank you for providing me with two more grandchildren that I love dearly. They were over the house yesterday. Christopher helped us take down the Christmas tree. I think he helped.

*(*Laughter*)*

But he's just terrific, he keeps us laughing all the time.

Next, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank my staff. Right from the very beginning, my Chief of Staff, Terry Pearsall, has been with me for the entire more than 11 years I've been in the Legislature.

*(*Applause*)*

Terry is terrific, and he kind of balances me out at times. You know, sometimes I go one way, he goes the other way, but we wind up on the same page. My two wonderful secretaries here, Barbara Musacchio, who's probably in the back answering phones. There you are.

*(*Applause*)*

Thank you, Barb, for everything that you do. And for Marge, who was here with her granddaughter before and she's still here somewhere.

*(*Applause*)*

As well as all the other folks who work here at the Legislature, from the Clerk's Office to the Law Department to the Budget Review. We have a team of tremendous people here, and they have been

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so kind to me that I can't thank them enough.

And my District Office staff is here today. I don't know whether Marian showed up, she's probably answering the phone, but Jason Zove is here in the back. Raise your hand, Jason; and Michael Cavanagh. They're the people that get me elected every two years, or did get me elected every two years, by doing a great job with the constituents.

And I want to thank my colleagues again for their help and prayers and all the well wishes during my illness, and with probably the most difficult fiscal year this County has ever seen, and especially our Deputy Presiding Officer, Wayne Horsley, and our Majority Leader, DuWayne Gregory, and our Minority Leader, John Kennedy, for their help and their prayers and their words of encouragement throughout this crisis in my life.

And I would certainly be remiss if I didn't recognize again our County Executive, who he -- you don't realize how much you helped me get through this illness. If I had been working with your predecessor, I probably wouldn't be here now.

*(*Laughter*)*

But I really, really appreciate your help and cooperation.

*(*Applause*)*

And last, but not least, all the people that work here in the Legislature and in County government. I mentioned before about a lot of our elected officials are here today. Every one of them, you guys from both sides of the aisle have been so, so kind to me and cooperative, and we have worked together very, very well over not only this year, but all the years I've been in office. And Angie and Joe and Judy, I couldn't -- I can't thank you enough for your support and help, and your prayers and your well wishes over the years.

You know, you can ask my wife. I have kind of a routine in the morning where people have given me oils and creams from all over the world, from Mary's house in Turkey to Saint Bernadette's oil, and a lot of them have come from folks that just mean the best for me, you know, and I can't appreciate thank you enough.

Before I -- I got to stop because my head's getting too big after this honor, I won't get out of the room. My wife will have to poke me with a pin to get it down. So let me carry on with the business, the People's business.

The next order of duty is the election of Deputy Presiding Officer, which will be conducted by myself, and I will open the nominations by nominating the current Deputy, Wayne Horsley, who -- you know, a lot of you know that I'm a baseball fan. You can see it by my Mets water bottle, but I'm not the best at picking teams.

*(*Laughter*)*

But I am an avid baseball fan. And the hardest job on a baseball team, in my opinion, is the pinch hitter's role, because you never know when you're going to be called on to step up to the plate and to deliver. And you have no preparation, it happens at a moments notice, either through an injury or the manager calls on you, or whatever. And this guy played the ultimate role this year as my pinch hitter.

I got sick very, very suddenly and it hit me like a ton of bricks when it hit me. And I called on

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Wayne to take over this Legislature for a number of months, which he did not only effectively, but with his own style, and he did a tremendous, tremendous job and he got the job done. And of all times to take over, it -- the County Executive will attest to this. I don't think we've ever seen a more difficult time in County government. There were weeks here where we were afraid we weren't going to make payroll, that's how desperate the situation got. And we got through the year, which is saying an awful lot for Wayne, as well as for our County Executive. But I appreciate tremendously the role that you played this past year in getting this body through what will be known, as far as I'm concerned, as the most difficult year in Suffolk County, both fiscally and organizationally.

You know, some of the decisions that we made and the votes we took, nobody felt comfortable with them, nobody. Nobody wants to lay people off. Nobody wants to reduce services to the people. Nobody wants to close County facilities, but, yet, we were faced with every one of those problems, and we did, I think, the right thing. It wasn't easy, but it was decisions that had to be made, and I just appreciate Wayne's support, his prayers and his effectiveness as a leader of this body.

So I'm very proud to place the name of ***Wayne Horsley in nomination for Deputy Presiding Officer.***

(*Applause*)

LEG. Horsley:

Thank you, Bill.

P.O. LINDSAY:

You're welcome. I need a second. I recognize Legislator Calarco for the purposes of seconding.

LEG. CALARCO:

Thank you, Legislator Lindsay. And I don't think I can wax as eloquent as some of my colleagues have here today, so -- and it's not to belittle the nomination I'm going to make.

Sitting here last year, we all knew that we had a very difficult year ahead of us. We had many hard decisions, a fiscal emergency on our hands, quite honestly, by a new County Administration, new to County government. And I think myself and probably many of my colleagues and many of the people out in the audience here today felt that at least the Legislature was going to be able to navigate that storm under the guidance of one of our most active and engaged Presiding Officers that we've ever had here in Legislator Bill Lindsay.

So none of us would have guessed the role that the Deputy Presiding Officer would have been expected to fill. And, yet, when that time came, when Bill had to tend to his health, Legislator Horsley stepped up in a big way, and doing more, far more than just simply chairing our meetings behind this dais. He did all of the things both behind the horseshoe and behind the scenes to make sure that we met the challenges that were before us. He made sure that we worked cooperatively and together as one body in the Legislature and with our County Executive to meet all of our difficult choices.

And while I may not have agreed with every single decision that Legislator Horsley made or maybe championed, at the end of the day, I could say that Legislator Horsley definitely did the job in the fashion and the manner of our current Presiding Officer. He may have a different personality from Bill in many ways, but he did in an open and fair manner. And at the end of the day, we could continue to say the Suffolk County Legislature puts the people's business first, and, as a result, we're in a better place today than we were a year ago.

So I could say in all honesty and sincerity, Legislator Horsley has more than earned a second term

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as Deputy Presiding Officer and I'm proud to second his nomination today.

(Applause)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you Legislator Calarco. Is there any other nominations? Is there any other nominations? I'll take a motion to close nominations by Legislator Hahn.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Second by Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Nominations are closed.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Vacancy: District #1)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. The Oath of Office?

MR. NOLAN:

We need a vote.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Oh, yeah, we got to take a vote. What am I doing?

(Laughter)

LEG. HORSLEY:

That's why I'm here, Bill.

P.O. LINDSAY:

It goes much better the way I want to do it, you know.

(Laughter)

Roll call.

(Roll Called by Mr. Laube, Clerk of the Legislature)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

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LEG. MURATORE:

Pass.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. MONTANO:

No.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Pass.

LEG. NOWICK:

Yes.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Yes.

LEG. GREGORY:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No.

MR. LAUBE:

Fifteen. (Vacancy: District #1)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Very nice.

*(*Applause*)*

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Okay. Legislator Horsley is going to take the Oath of Office by Justice Hinrichs.

JUDGE HINRICHS:

Congratulations. First, Deputy Presiding Officer, congratulations on your selection as Deputy Presiding Officer.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Thank you, Your Honor.

JUDGE HINRICHS:

I'll just mention one word for all the Legislators here, all the elected officials, just recognize, as everybody has pointed out, the very difficult job that you all have. I wish you all the best in doing those jobs. And I very much appreciate your personal commitment and the personal service that you all perform to the public, and wish you all the best in the coming year.

And that having been said, if you'd please raise your right hand and repeat after me.

***(OATH WAS ADMINISTERED TO DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER HORSLEY
BY THE HONORABLE C. RANDALL HINRICHS)***

JUDGE HINRICHS:

Congratulations.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Thank you, I appreciate it.

(*Applause*)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you, Judge Hinrichs, for being with us this morning and swearing us in, we really appreciate it.

JUDGE HINRICHS:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I might add that Judge Hinrichs started in elected office maybe a year before myself, so what, 11 years now, 12 years?

JUDGE HINRICHS:

Yeah, 11.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Eleven?

JUDGE HINRICHS:

Yes.

P.O. LINDSAY:

And he has faired much better over the last 11 years than I have. Just take a look at him and take a look at me.

(*Laughter*)

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But thank you very much, Randy, for being with us today.

JUDGE HINRICHS:

Congratulations.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. LINDSAY:

Thank you.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Thank you.

***(OATH WAS ADMINISTERED TO DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER WAYNE HORSLEY
BY JUDY PASCALE, SUFFOLK COUNTY CLERK)***

MS. PASCALE:

Congratulations.

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

I wanted to just quickly thank my colleagues for this honor, this honor of being reelected as Deputy Presiding Officer.

I've got to tell you that it is not only an honor, but it is, I believe, prestigious to be working alongside of the greatest Presiding Officer that Suffolk County has ever had, the "Lion of the Legislature," Bill Lindsay. Thank you, Bill, for all your support.

*(*Applause*)*

Thank you, Legislator Calarco, for your kind words, and I appreciate you standing beside me, it makes all the difference.

I want to just, just quickly, and I don't want to take the Legislators' time, but to say, you know, we've been watching over the last couple of days the issues down in Washington, the fiscal cliff, the late night meetings, the torture that the country has been going through trying to decide how to run its balanced budget. But you ask why does Suffolk County Legislature and why it is important? This Legislature is the Legislature that is close to the people, when we worry about the things that matter with people, whether we have an infrastructure that is going to last through storms and into the future; when we worry about BPA and we worry about double poles, and all the issues that we deal with here day in and day out. This Legislature deals with issues that are important to the people, that make their everyday existence on Long Island the special thing that it is.

I am so proud to be the Deputy of this august body, and I appreciate my colleagues for their support. Thank you, and good new years to everybody. It's going to be a better one than 2013, it's going to be great. Thank you. 2012.

*(*Applause*)*

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P.O. LINDSAY:

I thank you, Legislator Horsley. Legislator Horsley mentioned something about late night meetings. In this year that we just completed, I think it was quite an accomplishment that we didn't have any late night meetings. We didn't have any special meetings, which I think is the first in seven years, and we still got everything done in less a dramatic way, but we got it done, which is what's important.

Back to our agenda, the first part is to adopt the rules of the Suffolk County Legislature. I have no rule changes before me. It's Resolution, I.R. Number 2, so we would have to vote on it to renew the rules.

Does anybody have any rule changes? Seeing none, I'll make a motion to adopt the rules as they stand.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Seconded by Legislator D'Amaro. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Vacant: District #1)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Next, I'll accept nominations for the *Clerk of the Legislature*, which is Number 3 in your packet. And I will be happy to nominate the current Legislative Clerk, Tim Laube.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I have a second by Legislator Schneiderman. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Vacant: District #1)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Congratulations.

(*Applause*)

MR. LAUBE:

Thank you.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Next is I.R. Number 4, appointing the Deputy, the *Chief Deputy Clerk of the Legislature*. I'll make a motion for Renee Ortiz --

LEG. MONTANO:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

-- to continue in her role as the Deputy, and it's seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor?

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Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Vacant: District #1)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Congratulations.

MS. ORTIZ:

Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. LINDSAY:

And would the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk be sworn in by our County Clerk.

(THE OATH OF OFFICE WAS ADMINISTERED TO THE CLERK AND CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE BY JUDY PASCALE)

(The following testimony was taken by Alison Mahoney, Court Stenographer and transcribed by Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide)

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. The next order of business is number five, and that's ***Appointing a Counsel to the Legislature***, and I would nominate George Nolan, our existing Counsel.

LEG. HAHN:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Seconded by Legislator Hahn. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Vacant Seat: District #1).

P.O. LINDSAY:

Congratulations, Mr. Nolan.

(Applause)

***Oath of Office Administered to
George Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature***

While Mr. Nolan is taking the oath of office, I'd like to point out that we have an Assistant Deputy Clerk's position that we chose not to fill this year. This took place during the budget because the existing Deputy retired. And we assessed the position and the Clerk and the Chief Deputy Clerk decided that they could manage without her in this -- these very tough fiscal times. So we are not going to have another position in that office for this coming year, and I appreciate your sacrifice in order to make that happen, both the Clerk and the Chief Deputy Clerk.

(Applause)

We're up to snuff, we're going right along. Next is Introductory Resolution No. 6, which is ***Adopting***

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a Schedule for Regular Meetings of the County Legislature. I'll make a motion to adopt the schedule as listed in number six.

LEG. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'll second that. I'm often concerned that had we have a fair amount of meetings on the East End, and this schedule reflects about 40% of our meetings on the East End in Riverhead, so I'll be happy to second it.

P.O. LINDSAY:

I'm sure you will, Legislator Schneiderman.

(*Laughter*)

Would Legislator Nowick like to second that 40%, no? No, we need a second.

MR. LAUBE:

No.

P.O. LINDSAY:

We have a second, a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Vacant Seat: District #1).

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay, it's accepted.

The next order of business is number seven, ***Designating the Depositories.*** I'll make a motion. I believe they just stayed the same. It's number seven. Do I have a second? Seconded by Legislator Gregory. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Vacant Seat: District #1).

P.O. LINDSAY:

Next, number eight, ***Designating an Official Newspaper.*** And, again, I believe they are the same as last year. Yeah, eight is just the Democratic papers. We have a motion. I'll make the motion. Second?

D.P.O. HORSLEY:

Horsley.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. MONTANO:

Abstention.

MR. LAUBE:

Sixteen. (Abstention: Legislator Montano - Vacant Seat: District #1).

P.O. LINDSAY:

Next is number nine. It's ***Designating the Republican Papers.***

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LEG. KENNEDY:

I'll make the motion.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Motion by Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. NOWICK:

I'll second it.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Seconded by Legislator Nowick. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. MONTANO:

Abstention.

MR. LAUBE:

Sixteen (Abstention: Legislator Montano - Vacant Seat: District #1).

P.O. LINDSAY:

Next up is resolution number ten, which is the *town newspapers*. Again, I believe they're the same as last year. I'll make a motion.

LEG. STERN:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Seconded by Legislator Stern. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Abstain.

MR. LAUBE:

Sixteen (Abstention: Legislator Kennedy - Vacant Seat: District #1).

P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. I got one other order of business and we're done, and that's I make a motion to lay the following late starters on the table, waive the rules and lay the following late starters on the table:

IR 1019 to Ways and Means.

IR 1020 to Parks.

And set a public hearing for 2/5 in Hauppauge. And I need a second.

LEG. HORSLEY:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Seconded by Legislator Horsley. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Vacant Seat: District #1).

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P.O. LINDSAY:

Okay. Seventeen.

Unless somebody else has an order of business, I'll accept a motion to adjourn.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

P.O. LINDSAY:

Motion by Legislator D'Amaro to adjourn, seconded by Legislator Spencer. And I hope the rest of our business for the rest of the year goes that smoothly.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Vacant Seat: District #1).

(Applause)

P.O. LINDSAY:

We stand adjourned.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 A.M. *)*