

GENERAL MEETING

Thirteenth DAY

December 15th, 2014

Verbatim Transcript

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

Taken & Transcribed By:

Alison Mahoney & Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographers

Transcribed By:

***Lucia Braaten, Alison Mahoney, Gabrielle Severs &
Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary***

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*(*The following testimony was taken & transcribed by
Alison Mahoney - Court Stenographer*)*

*(*The meeting was called to order at 9:36 A.M. *)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Good morning, Mr. Clerk. Would you please do the roll call?

MR. LAUBE:

Good morning, Mr. Presiding Officer.

*(*Roll was called by Mr. Laube - Clerk of the Legislature*)*

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Here.

LEG. BROWNING:

Here.

LEG. MURATORE:

Here.

LEG. HAHN:

(Not present)

LEG. ANKER:

Here.

LEG. CALARCO:

Present.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Here.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Here.

LEG. CILMI:

Here.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Here.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Here.

LEG. TROTTA:

Here.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Here.

LEG. STERN:

(Not Present).

LEG. D'AMARO:

Here.

LEG. SPENCER:

Here.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Here.

P.O. GREGORY:

Here.

LEG. HAHN:

Here.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Not Present: Legislator Stern).

P.O. GREGORY:

All right, thank you. In commemoration of the Legislature establishing December 15th as "*Silver Star Medal Day*" in Suffolk County, please welcome an **Honor Guard** from the **Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 4927 in Centereach**. The Honor Guard members are Richard Autorina, Commander of the Post 4927; Dennis Sullivan, State of New York Junior Vice-Commander; and Tony Borgas, Captain of the Honor Guards.

***Presentation of the Flags Presented By Honor Guard,
Post No. 4927 Veterans of Foreign Wars, Centereach, NY***

We will have a Salute to the Flag led by Legislator Tom Cilmi.

Salutation

The opening prayer will be given by **Father Rob Ketcham of St. John the Baptist High School in West Islip**, guest of Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. And thanks to our Honor Guard this morning.

A Suffolk County native, Father Rob Ketcham attended church as a child at St. John the Evangelist in Center Moriches. After graduating from SUNY Oswego in 2000, he worked serving the homeless in Nassau and Suffolk Counties for two years until entering the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in 2002. Father Rob was ordained in 2008 and served for five years as the Associate Pastor of Holy Name of Mary in Valley Stream. In 2013, Father Rob was assigned to St. John the Baptist Diocese in High School in West Islip where he serves as Chaplain. He is also a priest in residence at my parish, St. Mary's in East Islip.

I first heard Father Rob say mass about this time last year and since then, I'm always thankful when I attend mass and see that he's the presider, because I know I'm going to leave mass with a renewed sense of hope and an ever-stronger faith.

So it gives me great pleasure to introduce Father Rob Ketcham for today's invocation.

Applause

Invocation

FATHER KETCHAM:

Thank you very much for those words. It's good to be with all of you this day and an honor. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

Oh, Mighty God, with hearts full of thanksgiving, we ask your blessing upon us for the sake of those whom we serve. Grant us, Lord, a charitable good will toward one another. Help us each to appreciate the role we play in this assembly, and to highly regard the importance of our deliberations here. Remind us this day of our responsibility to promote the common good by upholding the dignity of every human person and by giving ourselves to your holy will for us. We invite you this day into our assembly, Lord, for without you we can do nothing. And as many of us look forward to the celebration of your son's holy birth, we asking that even now you send the Holy Spirit to enlighten all of us with the perfect guidance of truth. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, amen. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen. Thank you.

"Amen" said in unison

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. If you would all please remain standing. As always, let us also remember all those men and women who put themselves in harm's way every day to protect our country.

Moment of Silence Observed

Thank you.

Next we will have a special treat for all here today, and Legislator Spencer is going to make the introduction.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. I am happy to be joined here by Kelly and Kat Montenero. And I'd like their parents to come up, if they would, please, Sean and Kim.

One of the Montenero's sisters' favorite past-time is singing together and they're each other's best friend. Kelly's a junior at Harbor Fields and Kat's a freshman. They recorded a video of themselves singing "*Let It Go*" from the movie *Frozen*, and they submitted it to a nationwide contest of over 40,000 entrants and it was sponsored by Disney and Kohls. Voting took place on-line and the girls were among the ten finalists chosen. They were flown to Hollywood, California, to film promotional commercials for their contest and the win was announced on the American Music Awards November 23rd. So out of the 40,000 and making it to the top ten, they were chosen as *Best in the Country*. So we are very fortunate this morning --

Applause

Kelly and Kat and their family are grateful for all the wonderful community support that they've received, but I am lucky that they are from my Legislative District. I am so proud of you guys, it's just unbelievable. So I asked today -- I wanted to present them with a proclamation and I wanted to recognize their accomplishment, but today I've asked if they would sing "*Let It Go*" in the spirit of the holiday season. So hopefully it's a special treat. But again, the microphones here may cancel each other out because they're designed for speaking, so I ask that you just would bear with the acoustics, we'll do the best we can. But you're in for a real treat. Thank you very much.

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"Let It Go" Performed by Kelly & Kat Montenero

Applause & Standing Ovation

Great job, Ladies.

Okay, we have several proclamations, the first being Legislator Muratore has arranged for today's Honor Guard, of course, from VFW Pos 4927 and will present certificates of appreciation to the Honor Guard members.

LEG. MURATORE:

Good morning, Mr. Presiding Officer, and all my colleagues and people in the audience. Thank you for coming today. It's a special day here in Suffolk, as every day is special here in Suffolk County, but a little bit different today.

I want to thank the Veterans & Seniors Committee, Chairman Stern for helping me and the committee in designating today Silver Star Day. You know, we take a lot for granted in this country. We wake up each morning, we have rights and privileges that many, many people in the world don't enjoy, and there's one reason why; because of all those men and women that serve and protect us, and we pay homage, you know, at these meetings for that.

But we are lucky today to have this event happen here in Suffolk County. Again, I thank my colleagues. I want to thank the Honor Guard for coming forward and presenting the colors for us. We have with us today, as the Chair -- the Presiding Officer told us, Richard Autorina from the Commander Post 4927 in Centereach; Dennis Sullivan, State of New York Junior Vice-Chairman; and Tony Borgas, he's the Captain of the Honor Guard. So gentlemen, thank you for your service and thank you for presenting today. Thank you. We appreciate it.

Applause

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Next we will have Legislator Cilmi to present a proclamation to the East Islip Football Team.

LEG. CILMI:

Among others. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. Good morning, esteemed colleagues. It's always a pleasure to recognize the great achievements of our youth in Suffolk County, and certainly today we will, I'm sure, hear a lot about the great things that our kids have done.

So it's my pleasure first this morning to recognize the East Islip Varsity Football Team. Guys, where are you? Stand up.

Applause

Thirty-seven members strong, I'm told. And if I could ask -- it's probably not a good idea to have all of them come up to the podium here, but if I could ask Linda Rossi, Superintendent of East Islip Schools; Steve Rastivo, Director of Phys Ed, Health & Athletics; Sam Ciampi, Head Coach; and Captains who are here, Sean Sconone, Anthony Nunez and Sean Karika to come up to the podium with me. The team, by the way, is composed of 10 seniors, 13 juniors, 11 sophomores and three freshman.

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So East Islip Redmen finished the season with an overall record of 8 and 4 this year. In the playoffs they -- and my apologies to my colleagues, but they beat Smithtown West and Bellport, advancing to the Suffolk County Division II Finals where they met Half Hollow Hills West, as my colleague Legislator Stern wells know -- knows well, on November 22nd. And at SUNY Stony Brook Stadium, they won the Suffolk County Division II Championship, then moved on to the Long Island Class II Championship on November 30th, but unfortunately lost to Carey.

So we have a proclamation to congratulate all of you and we have certificates for each and every one of you. Great job this season. You go out on that field every day for practice, for a couple of hours at least, you work at home, you do your schoolwork at the same time and you bring home the championship for Suffolk County. Wonderful, wonderful job. And Superintendent Rossi, if you'd like to say a word?

SUPERINTENDENT ROSSI:

Sure. Thank you, Legislator Cilmi. Thank you, Esteemed members of the Suffolk County Legislature. We are just so honored to be here today with all of you in celebrating these fine young men. They have really come to define what East Islip is all about, and thank you for your support, too.

LEG. CILMI:

Good job. Division II Suffolk County Champions, East Islip High School.

Applause

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So Legislator Cilmi, you have a second group you'd like to honor, too, the Connetquot Volleyball team; is that correct?

LEG. CILMI:

Correct. Okay, this may be a little more manageable. So if I could ask the members of the Connetquot Girls Volleyball Team to join me at the podium? As well as Lynda Adams, Superintendent of Connetquot Schools; Rich Shear, Connetquot High School Principal; and Mark Dellecave, Director of Health, Phys Ed, Athletics & Recreation; as well as Ted Imbasciani, member of the School Board of Connetquot. Come on up.

Okay. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Connetquot Girls Volleyball overall record this season was 19 and 2. They finished first in League II. In the playoffs, they beat Smithtown West and Ward Melville, advancing to Suffolk County Class AA Finals where they met the undefeated Smithtown East team, and although they were considered the underdogs, having a young team with five of their starting T-Birds only freshmen with a total squad of 13 players, losing the first game but never quitting, the T-Birds won the next three games in the match to win the Suffolk County Class AA Championship. They then moved on to the Long Island Championships on November 9th, but unfortunately lost to our rivals in Nassau County, Massapequa.

We have today with us players Lauren Ballinger, Daniella Balsano, Cory Carrara, Mackenzi Cole, Taylor Cole, Elizabeth Hickey, Danielle McCormick, Nicole Migliozi, Cassandra Patsos, Ashley Spencer, Mackenzi Taylor, Alexis Tramondo, Katie Von Kampen. Congratulations, girls. Well done.

Applause

And we, of course, have a proclamation for you as well, and certificates for all the players.

All right, and we have one more.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

You have a Probation Officer you'd like to recognize as well.

LEG. CILMI:

If I could ask Probation Officer Narciso Saldana to join me at the podium, please? Good to see you again.

OFFICER SALDANA:

Likewise.

LEG. CILMI:

So this is on behalf of all of us here at the Suffolk County Legislature. It's always a great pleasure to honor our employees here in Suffolk County, and I've always talked about the outstanding work of our members of our Probation Department and what an integral part they play in our whole law enforcement team.

So early in the afternoon on -- early in the afternoon on March 11th of this year, Probation Officer Saldana witnessed a larceny of power tools at the Home Depot in Shirley. Officer Saldana followed one of the three suspects who fled in a vehicle operated by a fourth person; the vehicle then picked up the two other suspects. The following day Probation Officer Saldana provided a detailed witness statement to Police Officer Chris Cummings of the 7th Precinct, including descriptions of the three suspects as well as the driver of the vehicle and the license plate number of the vehicle as well. All individuals were arrested. The investigation yielded a total of eight charges against the four defendants who were involved in five other cases involving stolen property in the 5th, 6th and 7th Precincts. Three thousand dollars of stolen property was recovered.

So it's with great pleasure that I acknowledge a great deal of respect for you and all of your colleagues in the work that you do. You, as I said, are an integral part of our law enforcement efforts here in Suffolk County and you put -- you're interacting with criminals on a day-to-day basis, and so you're putting your life at risk every single day and for that we are eternally grateful. Congratulations to you, on behalf of all of us, on a job well done.

OFFICER SALDANA:

Thank you.

Applause

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Next, Legislator Trotta will present a proclamation and Certificates of Accomplishment to the Captains and Coach of the Commack High School Boys Varsity Soccer Team for earning the title of Class AA New York State Champions. Attending are Commack School Superintendent Donald James, Commack High School Principal Cathy Nola, Assistant Principal Matthew Keltos, Athletic Director Pat Friel, Head Coach Dave Viegas and Assistant Coach Dave Moran.

LEG. TROTTA:

And the team Captains can come up also, please.

Well, this one has special importance to me because this is my alma mater; of course, I didn't play soccer there, but it's my alma mater. I mean, what these guys did was nothing short of amazing and it's something for the rest of their lives they will own. They lost one game all year and that was to Legislator Martinez' Brentwood team.

*(*Laughter*)*

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But they beat them another time, Monica. But what they did after that is they went on and in the last five games, when they won the State Championship, no one scored on them, which in my mind is an amazing thing. I applaud you. It's just a testament to your hard work, that if you keep going and you struggle, you'll win. And you guys, for the rest of your lives, own this. I mean, the last time they won was in 1995, and ironically the Assistant Coach was on that team. So I think there's some good karma there.

So on behalf of the residents of Kings Park, Smithtown and all of Suffolk County, myself, Legislator Kennedy and Stern who share your district, we congratulate you. And don't underestimate what you guys did, it was a great thing. You won the entire State Championship, congratulations.

Applause

LEG. KENNEDY:

I think Legislator Trotta said it all. Fellas, I know that goal is a lot of ground to cover and you must have a couple of goal tenders and goal keepers that can stretch like there's no tomorrow, filling that thing up all over the place, all the time. It gives us such great pride to recognize you as athletes, you're great students. I know in Commack you have such high academic standards. Keep up the great work, keep turning out great students and great graduates for our County. Good job.

Applause

LEG. STERN:

All right, State Champions. You bring such great pride, not just to a great school district but to the entire community. And so to you and to the entire team, we wish all of you every success in the future. Congratulations.

Applause

LEG. TROTTA:

I just want the coach to say a few words to his guys.

COACH VIEGAS:

We would like to thank everyone for this great honor. It's been a wonderful journey that started back -- as many of the athletes know, it doesn't only start in August, it starts actually after your season ends. And the thing that we're most proud of -- besides being State Champs as the esteemed colleague said -- they're superior student athletes as well. So thank you for this honor.

Applause

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Legislator Trotta, if you will stick around, I believe you'll be presenting proclamations to Kings Park High School Girls Volleyball team for their fourth consecutive Long Island Class A --

LEG. TROTTA:

Yeah, I was on a roll this year. I'd like to invite the girls up, it's my neighbors here.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right, beautiful.

LEG. TROTTA:

And their coach. Again, you know, special things happen to people who work hard and I'm going to say the same thing to you girls; no one can ever take this away from you. I mean, this coach,

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Manly, she's the Coach-of-the-Year this year for Suffolk County. For the past four years she's brought this team to the State; that doesn't happen by accident, it happens by, you know, persistence against resistance and really working hard. And these girls deserve a -- they went 15-0 all season. Unfortunately, they won the Long Island Championship, but it didn't work out for the State. But somehow I think after four years, they're going to make it back next year. So on behalf of all the residents of Suffolk County, I congratulate you. I thank you. You did a great job, you made us very proud. And I think the Superintendent would like to say a couple of words, because he is more proud than I am, I think.

SUPERINTENDENT EAGEN:

I would just like to thank Legislator Tonna -- Legislator Trotta and the Suffolk County Legislature for this great honor. Like the Legislator just said, four Long Island Championships in a row. We have the Coach-of-the-Year on stage here, we have Amanda Gannon who was the Long Island Volleyball Player-of-the-Year, three athletes on the All Long-Island team. So the drive for five is under way already. Thank you very much.

LEG. TROTТА:

Yes, and the coach actually looks like one of the players, by the way. Do you want to say something about your kids?

COACH MANLY:

I just want to thank you for this honor. They're a very special group of girls and we're very happy to be here this morning. Thank you.

Applause

LEG. TROTТА:

Congratulations, girls.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right, congratulations to all of you.

Next I'd like to invite up Legislator Krupski and Legislator Anker, who will present a joint proclamation to the Shoreham-Wading River High School Football Team. Attending are Mark Passamonte, Athletic Director; Matt Millheiser, Head Coach; Christian Clarkin, Senior Captain; Robert Puckey, Senior Captain.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Good morning. Thank you guys for coming. So on the list here it says, "*For the first time in their seventeen year history, the Wild Cats Shoreham-Wading River Football Team,*" and it says they won the Class IV Long Island Championship. Actually, they taught Roosevelt a pretty serious lesson with a 47-13 victory, but that's to end a 12-0 perfect season, but that's really not the story here. During the season they lost a teammate, and that's really -- you know, I can't put something like that into words. They must be very strong and they really -- they pulled together as a community, I know that. And if one of the Captains or the Coach would like to tell us about their season and how you got through it.

COACH MILLHEISER:

Yeah. Thank you very much. Thank you for having us here today. Two of the Captains here --

MS. MAHONEY:

Please state your name.

COACH MILLHEISER:

Oh. I'm Matt Millheiser, I'm the Head Coach, the Captains didn't want to speak. Just thank you for everything today. Thank you for having us here today. It was a tremendously difficult season, it really was a community-wide effort to kind of patch things up and get things moving forward again. But these young men, their courage, the passion they played with and everything that came with this season was a tremendous -- what they achieved was tremendous. They did it together, they never lost faith, they stayed together as a group, as a family. It gave new word to the meaning of family. It's used a lot in sports, it's spoken by coaches and teams all across the country, but this really was, from October 1st on, a family. So thank you very much.

Applause

LEG. ANKER:

And I also want to say a few words. You know, Legislator Krupski and I share the district and, you know, when the incident happened where Tom Cutinella passed away during the football game, it created a sense, of course, of incredible sadness, but it was just amazing and touching how the community came together and families to support everyone. You know, and through this season of giving, you know, understanding what the holidays are about, it's great to connect the idea of team player with the support of family.

So again, I thank you. And I thank the community for everything that they have done to get past this sadness, but there is so much good and we have seen that throughout the community. So again, thank you so much for everything that you have done as a team. Thank you.

Applause

So we have a Certificate, of course, of Appreciation and Recognition for your winning of the season. Would anybody like to say a few words? No? I think they're good. All right, thank you so much.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Next up, Legislator McCaffrey will present a proclamation to the Lindenhurst Football Team for winning the County Championship.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

They're still coming. This is the difference between volleyball and football, a few more players here.

Thank you, Deputy Presiding Officer, my colleagues. It's a pleasure to be here today to bring in the Suffolk County Division I Varsity Football Team Champions for Suffolk County. They had a great season this year. After finishing 2-6 last season, Lindenhurst started out the season 1-2, won eight games in a row to finish the season with a 9-3 record, of an overall 8-2 regular season record. They're the Big Four Championships. The first Suffolk County Championship since 1972 in Lindenhurst, and technically the first sole championship of Suffolk County. This is their first trip to the Long Island Championships in Lindenhurst history, most wins in a regular season in Lindenhurst history, and the team boasts three All-County players; Gino Bonagura; where's Gino?

MR. BONAGURA:

Right here.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Right here, Gino. Bob Bove and Ryan Hoffmann.

Applause

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More importantly, this team showed a lot of perseverance under the guidance of their Head Coach Nick Lombardo who I know. We actually, many years ago, played softball together. Nick was an All-County Athlete in Suffolk County, he was a football player and turned out to be the coach. He was actually my son's baseball coach, and I have to tell you, and I'm sure I don't have to tell any of you guys, that Nick is a great coach -- Coach Lombardo to you -- is a great coach and also a very good mentor and a good friend to you, and he'll teach you a little bit more than just about playing football.

But with that, I have a couple of proclamations to **Athletic Director Anthony Amesti**.

Applause

Congratulations. I also want to recognize our Superintendent Dan Giordano in the back.

Applause

Principal Dr. Chris Gitz.

Applause

And besides the trophy that they won, I have to also say that I won a little something in this as well. They beat Patchogue-Medford and Legislator Calarco and I had a little bit of a -- I can't say betting, it's against the law, but we had a little wager. But he's going to be taking the Mayor of Patchogue and me and the Mayor of Lindenhurst to Lindenhurst for a little German food there to celebrate the Lindenhurst victory, guys. So I'll let you all know when he's coming. He's a great guy.

(*Laughter*)

He's a great guy. Maybe you all can stop in for dessert or something.

But lastly, I have a proclamation for **Coach Lombardo**, I've got proclamations for everybody else that will be handed out for all the players and all the Captains of the team. But Coach, as I said, great season, great job that you do with these kids. And as you said, this is -- you were presented with an opportunity and you seized it and this is the beginning of very good things to come. I am sure that we'll be back here next year as the Long Island Championship. Congratulations. Best of luck next year. And I just want to bring up Coach Lombardo to say a few words.

COACH LOMBARDO:

Thank you, Mr. McCaffrey and Suffolk County for this acknowledgement. It's been a phenomenal ride for not only the coaching staff, from top to bottom, the entire community, the entire administration and, more importantly, the players. The support system at Lindenhurst has been great, from top to bottom, Village, Town, Suffolk County. Thank you for everything, it was just a great run. Thank you.

Applause

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Thank you. We'll see you back here next year as the Long Island Champions. Thank you, everyone. Good season, guys.

Applause

And where's John McCaffrey? There you are; no relation, but a good football player. All right, thank you.

COACH LOMBARDO:

You don't want to be related.

*(*Laughter*)*

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay. Thanks, guys.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right, we'll give a moment for these guys to exit. And next up will be Legislator Spencer. He'll be presenting a proclamation on behalf of the Suffolk County Legislature to Ernie Mattace, recently retired after a 40-year career as Long Island Regional Representative for NYCOSH and in recognition for his 50 years of community service to Suffolk County Community College.

LEG. SPENCER:

I'm going to ask if my colleagues at the end here will join me. This is someone that we're recognizing who has been really instrumental in defining workplace safety. Ernie, please come up. So Ernie has been the Director for the New York Commission of Occupational Safety and Health and I know that really, really important with our Presiding Officer. I know Bill worked very closely with Ernie, but Ernie finished his career working to defend every person's right to a safe workplace, and he has recently retired as the Long Island Regional representative for NYCOSH and he's been involved in the union movement for over 40 years. He's been affiliated with Suffolk Community College for 50 years, he's a founding member of the Suffolk Community College Alumni Association and held the position of President for 16 years. He's a founding member of the Community College Foundation and serving as Chairman and the Community College's Trustee.

Ernie's participation in community service has been extensive. In addition to Suffolk Community College, he's been involved in the West Islip Chamber of Commerce, the Loyal Order of Moose, bestowed the highest degree of merit on him with regards to PAL Football, the West Islip Soccer Club. The West Islip PTA has also recognized him as a State Honorary Life Membership Award. But this is not coming just from me, and I wanted to -- this proclamation comes from all 18, so I want our Presiding Officer, and Bill especially, if they would say a couple of words.

P.O. GREGORY:

Ernie, you've been a good friend. You've been a true asset to Suffolk County and you haven't smiled ever since -- stopped smiling ever since you announced your retirement. I know you're looking to move, is it down south?

MR. MATAACE:

Georgia.

P.O. GREGORY:

Georgia, and we talked about that. So many blessings to you, and thank you for your service. We're going to miss you, but don't be a stranger, okay?

MR. MATTACE:

I won't be.

Applause

LEG. LINDSAY:

I've had the pleasure of knowing Ernie most of my life and he's always been such a strong advocate for working people and working families, and I just want to thank you for all your years of service and how hard you've worked for all the residents of Suffolk County and making working environments a safer place for us. So thank you, Ernie. I wish you the best in your retirement. You'll sorely be missed, but we know we'll still see you around. Thank you.

Applause

LEG. ANKER:

I just want to say a few words, as Chair of the Education Committee and working closing with Suffolk Community College. Ernie, it's just been an absolute pleasure to have you as part of the community college and understanding that we need to focus on the future. And you've helped us -- you led us in that direction. And, you know, we're going to be sad to see you leave, but I'm sure you're going to stick around and help us because we do -- we need that assistance, we need your knowledge and wisdom. And again, we wish you all the best. Thank you.

LEG. SPENCER:

We're going to take a picture with all 18 of us.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Does Ernie want to say anything?

LEG. ANKER:

Oh, yes, yes. He has a lot to say, I'm sure.

MR. MATACE:

Well, I want to thank everybody here. I've not been a stranger to this podium. And we've been on the same side and opposite sides. But I have to say that every one of you looked and supported the interest of every citizen in Suffolk County, and I thank you for that service. Thank you.

Applause

Photograph Taken

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Next up, Legislator Muratore & Legislator Anker will present a joint proclamation to Richard Specht, Jr., to commemorate the Richard Rees Specht Day of Kindness, which falls on December 19th.

LEG. MURATORE:

Sarah, I'll let you go first, okay?

LEG. ANKER:

Well, I'm happy to be here today with Legislator Muratore. We're here to honor, again, another sad, tragic situation which has turned into a beautiful outcome. You know, I'm sure we'll hear more about it with our honorees. But again, there was a situation, a young boy had passed away, and through that came an organization called Rees-Specht and it's named after, of course, Richard, a young boy, the young toddler. And the Father and Mother have come together with the community and created such an amazing organization that focuses on respecting other people. You know, I worked a lot with the Bullying Awareness Website, and if we can create a better understanding of what kids need to do and focusing on children and how they're raised and how they see things and how they see other people, and really find the respect in each individual person, then they're going

to go grow up and be better people.

So I'd like to invite Mr. Specht here today, Richard Specht, and tell us more about your organization. Is that okay, Legislator Muratore?

LEG. MURATORE:

He can do it after I'm done.

LEG. ANKER:

Oh, okay. Legislator Muratore would like to say a few words.

LEG. MURATORE:

Thank you, Legislator Anker. You know, just a little bit of history about Richard and I. Richard's Father and I grew up together in Central Islip. Richard was on a football team that I can tell you, you know, there's a whole bunch of football players, I didn't know what it was to lose a football game in high school. I didn't know what it was for a team to score upon our defense in high school; that's the great team that was in Central Islip that Richard's Father was part of. And then we kind of went our ways for a little while, and then fortunately we were both married on the same day, in the same church, just at different times to, of course, different women.

Laughter

Richie got married in the morning and I got married in the afternoon. And then, again, we went our ways for a little while and then we both became Police Officers here in Suffolk County. Richie got on a little bit earlier than I did, so I got to be junior to Richard and I was -- you know, I was his footman, he was my car-man. Richard went on to become a Detective. I went on to have a career mostly with the PBA as their Vice-President for a number of years, and then Richard went his way and I went my way in retirement. Unfortunately for us we lost Richard a couple of years ago, and Richard happened to die on my wife's birthday, on February 18th, what was it, 2000 and when, Richard?

MR. SPECT:

In 2006.

LEG. MURATORE:

Yeah, 2006. And then one day I'm reading the paper and I see this young man is giving away cards in a coffee shop out east in Miller Place, Wading River someplace.

MR. SPECT:

Stony Brook.

LEG. MURATORE:

Stony Brook. And he's telling people to take these \$5 gift cards and do something with them, to make people feel better with it. And I look at the name and it's Richard Specht, and I said I have to reach out to this young man. I have to see what he's doing here and what it's about, because there wasn't too much detail, just that he had lost his son tragically. So I reached out to -- my staff reached out to Richard, we found out what was going on. I hadn't seen Richard since he was a baby. So I asked Richard to come up to the office. He walked into the office and it was like Richard his Father being reincarnated. This man is the picture of his Father, the spitting image, the same size. You know, you could see the bulk of the football player.

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So I said, you know what, we've got to really make this something special, because from the -- you know, from the depths of something bad and something tragic happening, this family has taken and started a foundation reaching into the community. Because, you know, I know when unless you've done it, unless you've walked in their shoes, you don't know what it is to lose a child and what to do, how to handle it, what effect and impact it can have on your life. You know, good comes from it, bad comes from it, too. But this family has taken and decided to make good come from it. Richard told me today he's going to be working with school districts on helping families handle this tragedy. So, you know, we're really blessed today, so I want so thank everyone, my colleagues, my community for giving us Richard and for helping us and for helping Richard make this foundation go forward. So Richard, God bless you and thank you so very, very much. Thank you.

MR. SPECHT:

Thank you.

Applause

I'd like to thank the Legislature for approving the Kindness Day on Reese's Birthday, which was December 19th. I guess this all started on October 27th, 2012. This was two days before Superstorm Sandy when we lost our son; he drowned in our backyard pond. It was after that in which our friends and family and community came around us and just bestowed all these acts of kindness upon us that we could not repay. Every time I tried to repay people for the things they had done for us, they said, *No, that's what we do.*

My wife and I wanted so hard to give back and we couldn't, so we came up with this idea of making cards, we call them ReesSpect Life cards, and we were going to perform random acts of kindness and just leave the cards for people and it told a little bit about our story. And we initially ordered -- I think we were going to get 500 and we got a deal for 5,000, and we figured that would be a lifetime supply, we would never go through them. And I went to a Dunkin Donuts one morning and I paid for the car behind me and I left the card, and next thing I knew, the girl from the counter had told us that that whole morning, everyone paid for the card behind them, and I couldn't believe it. And the next thing I knew, here we are today, we've distributed over 100,000 of these cards to every continent on the planet. I would like to think that each person who's gotten one has had an experience with my son.

You know, we have -- I don't think -- when something like this happens, you don't expect for something that we did after to come. It just came to be and people say that we're strong and I say, *No, we're surviving*, and that was our way of doing it, was giving back. If I can do that and I can keep the memory of my son alive, he was only here 22 months, he's been gone longer than he was here, and yet there's more people now who know his name than I could possibly imagine. Through this, his memory goes on. I wrote a children's book. And Legislator Muratore mentioned talking to schools, I wrote a children's book that deals with, you know, the importance of kindness. Because here we are a week before Christmas and, you know, it's one time a year that we tend to come together and celebrate kindness and happiness and community, and I feel it's something that we should be doing all the time. So that is our hope, to just one little piece at a time, one little Rees' piece at a time, and we can make this world a little bit of a kinder place. So I thank you for being a part of that and honoring us with this. Thank you so much.

Applause

Photograph Taken

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

While they set up for the photo, following the photo, Legislator Lindsay will present a proclamation to Gail Choden, Principal of Bosti Elementary School.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Good morning. It's my pleasure this morning to present a proclamation to Principal Gail Choden, if she can come up, please. We're very fortunate to have Principal Choden at Bosti Elementary School here in the Connetquot District. And just to tell you a very quick story, we recently had a coat drive. We work closely with Every Child's Dream, and it's actually a partnership that my Dad started many years ago, along with Ken Mangan, to raise -- to get donated coats and clothing and food every year around Christmastime. And it started about ten years ago, along with this organization, and we decided to continue that tradition. I sent out an e-mail on December 2nd and 30 -- exactly 34 minutes later, I got an e-mail back from Gail with a response of, *I'll have a social worker to your office in 30 minutes with a bunch of coats that we'd like to donate*. And you can see a picture of one of the coats that she gave over -- that she sent over. She actually sent over seven of these and they were packets with coats, scarves, Under Armour shirts, all that were donated to us.

And we have a very strong partnership with the Connetquot schools and with Bosti. And Gail does a great job with the school, engaging the kids and teaching the kids about community service and about giving back. They're always working on different projects and different things within the community. And I don't think we can thank her enough and recognize her enough for what she does and teaching our children in the community, not only at this time of the year but throughout the year and all her efforts in trying to teach our children how important it is to remember how blessed we are and remember how important it is to be good citizens and instilling that quality in them, that hopefully they'll take upon with them throughout the rest of their lives.

So Gail, on behalf of the Legislature, I just want to recognize you with this proclamation and thank you for your efforts and thank you for helping us with this coat drive. Thank you.

Applause

MS. CHODEN:

I've been a Principal for about 20 years now and I know the importance of academics, but we also need to create people that will go above and beyond in the future, because that's our future. So part of our education over at Bosti and through Connetquot is service learning. So I'm glad that we could help out.

Applause

Photograph Taken

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. I'd like to ask Legislator Hahn to come forward, she'll be presenting a proclamation to Nolan Adelsky, a 14-year old student at Robert Murphy Junior High School for being a good samaritan at the scene of a serious car accident.

LEG. HAHN:

Hello, everyone. This is Nolan Adelsky. Wow, what a meeting today. We started off with singing and all this joy, and then I'm crying when I hear the story of the -- ah, the emotions we go through here. But we have a true hero here with us.

Nolan, a student at RC Murphy Junior High School in Stony Brook, was driving with his parents the

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day after Thanksgiving when just two cars ahead, a serious crash between a work van and an SUV occurred at the intersection of Route 347 and County Road 97, which is Nichols Road, flipping the passenger vehicle on its side. Nolan and his father Bart ran from their own vehicle to offer assistance to the crash victims. Nolan was one of several good samaritans to help stabilize the teetering SUV, holding it upright to prevent the vehicle from possibly crushing or amputating the victim's extremities. Fourteen-year old Nolan; yes, he's 14 years old.

Applause

He also helped to prevent the flipped vehicle's teen-age occupants from losing consciousness by talking with them until responders arrived. It is quite amazing to think, the presence of mind, the bravery, the heroism, the leadership that a 14-year old was able to display in a split second, in a manner like this. And I just want to thank him, congratulate him, just, you know, offer up our praises and our thanks to you for that moment. And I hope you'll consider EMT, maybe the Police Department, you know, we have a lot of great uses for you. But, you know, the sky's the limit for you. And I was hoping that maybe you'd want to say a few words.

MR. ADELSKY:

Thank you. Well, I was just kind of -- I personally think it was just a piece of human instinct, that when I saw an accident happen between 347 and Nichols Road, that it was just a piece of me to get out of the car and help out. It was shocking to me, I did not know it was going to be as extreme as it was. When I saw the passenger's face covered in blood, I really thought, *This is a lot worse than I thought it was*. And as I saw his arm come out from under the car, at first I didn't know if that hand was attached or not because it was covered in blood. I knew that if his arm stayed under there, as the car was -- if it moved over a few inches his arm would have been crushed and the EMTs would have to, most likely, amputate his arm to get him out of the vehicle; I knew that would really disrupt someone's life. So I started to push up the car as my father and other good samaritans helped out, the bystanders that were with us, and we started to hold the car up and it felt like forever before the emergency services of Long Island came.

LEG. HAHN:

It feels like forever when you're in that kind of a situation.

MR. ADELSKY:

But once the emergency services arrived, they had the proper equipment to remove the occupants from the vehicle, and once that happened, I felt that I did a good thing. And everyone else there, my Father, other emergency services, the other bystanders really helped out. It wasn't just me, it was all the good samaritans that helped out, and I think, most importantly, the emergency services of Long Island.

Applause

LEG. HAHN:

You can see -- I forgot to mention, there are pictures from the crash there that Cary Flack is scrolling through and you can see what a devastating scene it was and how amazing it was for a 14-year old to have that kind of presence of mind. And so thank you, and I would like to present this proclamation to you for your heroism.

Applause

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Next I'd like to invite Legislator Kennedy to present a proclamation to one of his constituents, Elaine Renner, who has been a groundwater remediation worker in the community.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Presiding Officer and Presiding Officer, and to my colleagues. It's a privilege to be able to rise today to go ahead and speak to you about somebody who I have worked with over the course of the last ten years. She is a tireless advocate in the community, somebody who I met, we met, who simply had great concern about an issue that was vexing and played a significant part of the 12th Legislative District, as some of you know, and who has done everything that a citizen can do to help try to address an issue in the community and effectuate a positive outcome.

Groundwater flooding in the Hauppauge/southern Smithtown area has been an issue that's gone on for the better part of the last half-century with very little action to address it, to resolve it, to make it better. And it worked a real hardship on the average homeowner; flooded basements, wrecked appliances, septic systems that wouldn't work, and it was an issue that really just seemed to need somebody to pick it up, embrace it, own it and carry the day, and Elaine has done that over and over and over again. Some of you will recall that she brought a 100-year old lady to our body back in 2007 to talk to us about what the impacts are.

And so as has been my great honor to be one of you for the last decade; likewise, it's been a real privilege to be able to work with citizens and constituents like Elaine. And with all of the different groups that we've recognized today, from first responders to successful athletes to gifted vocalists, I think there is a place and there will always be a place in this body for the citizen that steps forward to go ahead and shine a bright light on a cause in the district. So with that, I am honored to go ahead and to present to you, Elaine Renner, and say thank you for a job well done and award her the 12th Legislative District Citizen Advocate Award for 2014. There you go. Say something, go ahead.

Applause

MS. RENNER:

Well, the reason I came here is because I thought John Kennedy was getting a proclamation today.

LEG. KENNEDY:

(Laughter).

MS. RENNER:

The last thing I expected was to be up here to say that. But it's been a pleasure working with everybody in the Legislature, from his wife Leslie to John and everything else. I have never met anybody so dedicated, so involved, that really is in there doing what you vote somebody in there to do, and that's why how can you not stand by and support somebody who is trying to do the right thing for the right reason. And that's why I've gotten so involved with doing things, because I know I have somebody who's really doing the best that he really can for everybody. And with that, I thank him.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, there we go. Thank you. Come on, let's take a picture.

Applause

Photograph Taken

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

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Next, I'll turn things back to our Presiding Officer, DuWayne Gregory, for a special presentation.

P.O. GREGORY:

Mr. Kennedy, don't go anywhere.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh, no. I've got to go, I'm out of here.

*(*Laughter*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Kennedy has served as the Legislator for the 12th District since November, 2004, and on behalf of the entire Legislature, I would like to present Legislator John Kennedy with a proclamation in recognition of his distinguished career in public service and his sustained commitment to excellence, leadership and innovation, with many thanks for his years and dedicated service. Our best wishes to Legislator Kennedy for his success in his new position as Suffolk County Comptroller. To some he's known as the Republican leader or the Minority Leader, others he's referred to as the bulldog; I don't know where he got that from.

LEG. KENNEDY:

(Laughter).

P.O. GREGORY:

But I call him a friend and he's truly a remarkable person. We disagree on some things, but we certainly agree on a lot of things, and we certainly always had an understanding of the importance of working together for the betterment of all the taxpayers of Suffolk County. And we all congratulate you for your success and I look forward to working with you in the future as our County Comptroller. Congratulations, John.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Oh, you know I'll be over here.

Laughter

Applause

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, thank you, thank you. For once I'm just going to say thank you, no speechifying. But I will say it truly has been a privilege and an honor. And I'm not going far, I'm only going to be right across the street. But I, in my wildest dreams, could never have imagined that the opportunity to collaborate and work with you on all the different things that we have done would come my way. And I call each and every one of you friend, each and every one of you colleague, and I commend each and every one of you for living this life *(laughter)*, because it's not easy but it is so necessary.

And as one of my mentors and somebody who we all dearly miss and love, Bill Lindsay always said, we are the purest form of democracy on the face of the earth, and every citizen who comes in this chamber has that opportunity to go ahead and be heard. And I think more than anything else out there, that's what people seek and what they want and what I've tried to do. So thank you and you'll see me back.

Applause

Photograph Taken

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay, we have a quick announcement. At 11:45 am today, there will be an Executive Session for the Legislators to discuss the Pine Barrens decision. And also, at 12 noon, the County Executive will select the winners of Suffolk County's Septic Lottery, the County's groundbreaking pilot program that offers 19 qualified homeowners free advanced waste water treatment systems to greatly reduce nitrogen contamination; the winners will be contacted following the drawing.

Okay, we will now go to -- we don't have any public officials, government officials that want to speak?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

The Riverhead Sewage Treatment Plant.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Where is he?

MR. REICHEL:

Good morning. My name is Michael Reichel, I'm the Superintendent of the Riverhead Sewer District. There's going to be a resolution on for your vote today and it's to enter into a municipal agreement with the Town of Riverhead and the Riverhead Sewer District to install facilities on the Indian Island Golf Course to irrigate the golf course with the reused effluent from the upgraded sewage treatment plant. It's probably going to start in 2016. We started this project back in 2004, and the idea was to reduce the nitrogen loading going into the Peconic Estuary by -- for beneficial reuse to the golf course next door. And we're at a point where it's time to install some of the equipment on the Indian Island Golf Course to tap into the irrigation system.

The Legislature had voted to appropriate funds to the upgrade of the sewage treatment plant to the tune of a little over \$8 million. We're probably eight months into a two-year construction project. And I'd like to thank you for your last support and the funding of the project. This is a great project for the East End, it's a trend-setter. There's nothing else on the Island that has done reuse for your wastewater yet. We believe in this project. It's recommended by the Peconic Estuary Program, it was one of the recommendations in the Comprehensive Management Plan that was adopted. So I'd like to say thank you in advance, and hopefully you'll support this resolution, and I'll be able to answer any questions if you have any. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right, thank you.

Okay, we have -- we're going to go to the Public Portion. The first card is for Linda Valdez; and on deck, Frank Amalfitano.

MS. VALDEZ:

Good morning, Presiding Officer, Legislators and guests. My name is Linda Valdez. I'm a Town of Huntington resident, I'm in the Elwood School District and I am a runner. I'm not just a runner, I am a marathoner.

Running saved my life. Seven hundred fourteen days ago, January 1st, 2013, I put on a pair of sneakers. I put on a pair of sneakers because I wanted to change my health. For a couple of years I had been visiting a few specialists. I never really thought I needed to get out and run. Believe it or not, even though I saw specialists, I thought I was healthy. Well, the seven little bottles of medication that sat on my desk or my dresser told me otherwise. Three months after putting those sneakers on, walking out that door, walking, running, I ran my very first 5-K, and I came in in the

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top three of my age group. On the back of this metal, it's not just a finisher's medal, this medal says, *Females, Ages 50 to 54*, I came in top three. That told me that running gave me the opportunity to change my health.

Within six months, not only was I running, but my doctors had all cleared me of everything that they had been treating me for for the last couple of years. By that time, I had already run a few other races, from 10-Ks, Half Marathons. I got the medical clearance in six months to run a full marathon. A total of ten and a half months after putting on sneakers, being a total non-athletic girl who did not like to sweat, I ran my first marathon. I ran the Brooklyn Marathon. Why did I run the Brooklyn Marathon? Well, because the Boutique Marathon in East Hampton was already sold out when I started looking. And I thought about it come July; by July it had already sold out and I wanted to run a marathon, so I did Brooklyn. A couple of these medals I carry with me at all times; they remind me that anything is possible, that age is nothing but a number. It doesn't matter when you start running, when you start changing your health, but you can do it, and I'm excited that I took that step.

I stand before you proud, excited and honored, and I ask for your support for the Suffolk County Marathon. I know I'm going to be there. I hope that you support it so that me and my friends could run that, too. Most of the time I run, I run alone. But when I run with a group, I run with Black Girls Run. Now, some of you may have seen us on the course. If you haven't, I guarantee that you will see us, because at any given race you could have 40 of us. We have a large presence in Suffolk County, as well as Nassau, New York City and nationwide; there could be 40 or there could be 700, and I say that because I've run with 700 of my sisters at other races.

The last medal that I have that I'm showing you today is my Armed Forces Day Medal, and I can carry this and I wear this one proudly, because I ran this race, one, to raise money for the Wounded Warriors Project, but also for my family members who have served honorably for our great nation that allows us to have the freedoms to do what we need to do. For all the men and women that are here today, I do say thank you for your service. I will continue to run. I hope that my second marathon is the Suffolk County marathon. Thank you so much for the time today.

Applause

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Ms. Valdez. I'm just wondering how you made it through detectors with all that metal on.

Laughter

Frank Amal --

MR. AMALFITANO:

Amalfitano.

P.O. GREGORY:

Amalfitano; and on deck, Mike Axelson.

MR. AMALFITANO:

Thank you. My name is Frank Amalfitano, I'm the President of the United Veterans Beacon House. We're A community-based, Veteran-driven Charity 501(C)3, not-for-profit based out of Bay Shore, Long Island, Suffolk County.

I'm here today to represent the 7,000 Veterans that we put through our doors since 1999, the

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125,000 -- excuse me, 125 veterans we currently house, and the 250 non-veterans that we currently house, total population 250 residents, which are all Suffolk County residents. We have a 78% success rate. So of the thousands of veterans that come through our doors, I would say 70% go on to be reintegrated back into our Suffolk County community.

But I also stand here before you today as a Suffolk County resident and a father of five and a grandfather of eleven in support of the Suffolk County Marathon. And as Beacon House's President, I want to thank you for the consideration of renewing our Shelter Plus Care Grant, which gives us the ability to house eight more families on Long Island. It's easier ducking bullets in Vietnam than it is here speaking before this body. But thank you very much.

Applause

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Frank, for all that you do.

Mike Axelson; and on deck, Frank D'Andrea.

MR. AXELSON:

Good morning, Presiding Officer and members of the Legislature.

My name is Mike Axelson and I'm here to represent 911 Veterans as Treasurer. Also, I'm a member of the U.S. Veterans Motorcycle Club and a veteran myself. And I stand here today to speak of my support, as well as my colleagues support, and the hundreds of veterans, less fortunate veterans, that our organizations have helped out and look forward to continue to help out with the support that will be the result of the Suffolk County Marathon.

I can't speak of being a runner like one of the people that spoke before me, as decorated as she is, but I do run and I do look forward to the health benefit and training and dedication that it takes to prepare for a marathon. I'm going to prepare for the Half Marathon myself.

***(*The following was taken and transcribed by
Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer*)***

MR. AXELSON: *(Cont'd)*

But I would like to say that as this could have such a -- with your support, with everyone's support, this could have such a beneficial impact for the economy and -- of Suffolk County, as well as how the decision to support local Long Island veterans with the profits and the proceeds of this event.

So, again, on behalf of my colleagues at 911 Veterans and the U.S. Veterans Motorcycle Club, and all of Long Island's less fortunate Veterans, I hope you will support the selection of the Race Director, which I believe is the portion that we're at, and the marathon overall. Thank you.

(*Applause*)

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Mike. Frank D'Andrea; and on deck, Colleen Merlo.

MR. D'ANDREA:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today on the marathon proposal. I'm Frank D'Andrea. I'm President of the Sayville Chamber of Commerce, and Co-Chair of the South Shore Promotion Council.

Sometimes the benefits of an opportunity presented to us are the simplest and the most obvious.

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We believe that the greater Sayville Chamber of Commerce, the Healthy Suffolk Marathon next September is just that case. When the runners and their related spectators become our Main Street visitors, numbering in the thousands, on an early Fall Sunday morning, their fresh out-of-town dollars are just what our villages and hamlets need. These throngs of potential patrons, once seeing our quaint business communities, will, if all our -- all of us do our jobs right in anticipation of their arrival, have the kind of experience that will give them pause, and they may determine their future travel plans for either vacation or seasonal shopping. A great experience on the part of these marathon visitors will translate into a desire to return to our villages.

Our job to ensure such an experience is to begin the promotion process now at the street level with our own marketing efforts, helping to both shape the story of the upcoming marathon, and exposing the public to the virtues of Main Street shopping. Telling people all about our wonderful events in Sayville that exist now, while ramping up to the marathon date, will be key to the success of both concepts. To be sure, there are logistical challenges to overcome, but we believe strongly that the organizing authorities, in professional coordination with Suffolk County Police and local community emergency services, can solve these problems.

In short, we support the Healthy Suffolk Marathon as beneficial to both our local commerce and our community. And I respectfully thank you for this time. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you. Sir.

(*Applause*)

Colleen; and on deck -- oh, I'm sorry. Before you speak, I'm going to make a motion to extend the Public Portion.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

LEG. ANKER:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Anker. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. RICHBERG:

Seventeen. *(Amended Vote: 14-0-0-4 - Not Present: Legislators Browning, Lindsay, Kennedy & Spencer).*

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Colleen? And on deck, Brendan Barrett.

MS. MERLO:

Thank you. Good morning. My name is Colleen Merlo and I am the Executive Director of the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence. I am here today in support of legislation that would ban the unauthorized covert surveillance of Suffolk County residents with a tracking device. This bill will enhance Suffolk County's ability to keep victims of stalking and domestic violence safe.

While GPS tracking devices may have not been developed with the intention of malice or harm, they

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are regularly utilized right here in Suffolk County in cases of intimate partner abuse to monitor, intimidate, and even hunt down their victims, and at times this technology has led to tragic consequences.

Every year, over \$6.6 million people are victims of stalking in the United States. People who engage in stalking seem to appear everywhere that the victim is, and to know details about conversations and activities that they simply should not or could not without such a device. These behaviors are extremely frightening and present a severe safety issue for the victim and the children that may be involved. With technological advances and lower costs, these devices are becoming more accessible, and those perpetrating stalking have begun to use GPS tracking on cars of victims, resulting in them being aware of their victim's location at all times. It is not uncommon for a perpetrator to let their victim know that they know these things and to not disclose how, and oftentimes victims feel like they're really losing their minds. That's the way that they describe it to us when they come to us; *"I don't understand how this person can know this, there's no possible way."*

The ever-growing use of GPS devices on cars is making it so much easier for victims to control -- for victims to be controlled. And we had a case in New York State recently, Jackie Wisniewski, a West Seneca woman who was murdered as a result of a GPS tracking device, so the consequences truly are deadly.

We have worked with several cases where an abusive partner utilized GPS technology to locate a victim and exert power and control. GPS tracking is a safety issue. If someone is under threat of harm or death, then the victim needs to be able to be in a secret location and remove themselves from that locus of control. If we do not enact this legislation, I truly believe that deadly consequences will result at some point in Suffolk County.

For these reasons, the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence fully supports Resolution 1859. And we commend Legislator Browning and the entire Suffolk County Legislature for joining us in ensuring that all residents of Suffolk County are provided with protections under the law when their life is in -- excuse me, when they are in life-threatening situations. Thank you.

(*Applause*)

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Colleen. Brendan Barrett, and then Pete McNeill is on deck.

MR. BARRETT:

Hi, folks. Thanks for the opportunity. I'm Brendan Barrett. I'm co-owner of Sayville and Smithtown Running Companies, and a member of the Sayville Chamber of Commerce. I'm just really excited to be here before you guys today to voice my support for the Suffolk County Marathon. Can't tell you how many of my customers feel the same way, and are very enthused about the prospect of having an event of this caliber in their own backyard.

I'll try to be brief and just say, as a runner, this event has everything that you'd look for in a destination race. It's got a great course, it's hopefully got great community support, and it's going to have, you know, fast times and a beautiful location. As a business owner, this is something personally to get excited about, because it's going to bring people to our downtowns, it's going to bring people into our community and it's going to just give us a chance to basically extend our reach as business owners.

And, finally, as a community member, it supports a section of our community that really needs our support, our Veterans. And the running community and the Veterans community have a lot of

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overlap, both from fundraising perspectives and from the fact that a lot of Veterans are runners. So it's a perfect marriage in that regard, and it's a subset of people who really need our support, and we're happy to help them out.

So I hope you strongly consider the chance for us to host this marathon here. We worked with the Greater Long Island Running Club on a number of events and they've done a fantastic job of community outreach, and are very professional in their organization. So thank you for your time, I appreciate it.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Brendan. Pete McNeill; and then on deck, Peter Hawkins.

MR. MC NEILL:

Hello. My name is Pete McNeill. I'm a runner myself, former Long Island Marathon winner. I'm also a special educator, physical education teacher. And if you look at my logo here, I coach also. My team happened to be, just for the record, rated the best team on Long Island this year, Girls Cross Country at Sachem East, and we were Suffolk County Champions also. I'm speaking on behalf of them, and speaking on behalf of really your entire constituency.

Brendan Barrett talked about the Veterans, but I want to talk about something that we talk about to my team members all the time, and that's the fact that there have been numerous studies on the correlation between aerobic, cardiovascular exercise, long distance running being one of them, and many, many benefits; healthy, happy, productive citizens. Long distance runners don't miss many days of work; I think a lot of the people out here can attest to that. And I think by supporting this effort, a Suffolk County marathon, hopefully on a scale of the Long Island Marathon that brings in people to our villages, that supports our Veterans, sets the tone and makes the statement that the Legislature supports a healthy, happy, productive citizenship, which I think we can all support. People that are happy and healthy do wonderful things and make communities better, and make Suffolk County better.

So I hope we have your support for the Suffolk County Marathon.
Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you. Peter Hawkins; and then on deck, Dennis Michel.

MR. HAWKINS:

Thank you very much. I was here last week and gave a little background on myself. And I was a football player in high school, and I got hurt in a car accident in my senior year of high school. I never, ever considered myself a runner, but the racing gave me an outlet that I never expected that I would get from after I was hurt. I've been -- I've been in a wheelchair now for actually 33 years as of yesterday. And I am -- what I'm known for is I've won the Long Island Marathon 22 times.

The support -- when I first saw the story about the Suffolk County Marathon, I just thought it would be cool to have another marathon close by that I could do. And finding out it's a Boston qualifier is even better, because the races that I've actually gone to to qualify for Boston, I've gone to -- I've been to Las Vegas to qualify for Boston, I've raced in Chicago to qualify for Boston, I've raced in Japan to qualify for Boston. So if I could just drive 40 minutes to Heckscher Park and qualify for Boston, that would be very cool. But it's a great event, and it builds a camaraderie amongst the

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runners and amongst the community also. And I just think it would be a great event for Long Island, and certainly for Suffolk County.

So I appreciate your thoughts, and also the great support that it would give for the Veterans. And from what I understand after last week, it will be all money that will be kept on the Island, and which makes it even better. So thank you very much for considering the event. Thank you very much for taking -- listening to me. Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Thank you, Peter. Dennis Michel; then on deck, Regina Pfeifer.

MR. MICHEL:

Hello. Dennis Michel, lifelong runner, occasional marathoner. And I'd like to also testify to the health benefits of running, and also the health benefits of just training for some kind of an event like this.

Having a lot of communication with local runners, I can say that there's a great deal of interest in this race, and one of the things that sparks a tremendous amount of that interest is the ease of getting down to Heckscher Park to start and end the race; the quality of the scenery along the course, the flatness of it, the possibility of having very fast times. There's an awful lot of interest in this event, and thank you for letting me talk about it.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Sir. Regina Pfeifer. Is Regina still here? Mario Mattera? What's up, Tom?

MR. RONAYNE:

Mr. Presiding Officer, Regina was unable to stay. She had a prior commitment that required she leave prior to the beginning of the Public Portion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

MR. RONAYNE:

But she did ask that I convey, on her behalf and on behalf of the Soldier Project which she was here representing, their support of the -- of the running of the Suffolk County Marathon. My own -- my own input would be, obviously, to also be in support of us advancing, moving forward and hosting the marathon for many reasons, not the least of which being that the proceeds from this race will be very specifically allocated to providing in many -- in many instances, I think, what will turn out to be nontraditional means of support to Veterans in Suffolk County. These will be services and different types of assistance that would be able to be provided to the Veterans requiring such support through our Congressionally chartered Veterans support service organizations, and our local not-for-profit organizations, working in support of our Veterans. But there are so many other layers.

Certainly, the ability to advance an event in Suffolk County that would have what we believe to be a very significant economic impact is highly desirable. The impact on our local business community, our communities in general, not only the Veterans, but our neighbors, our coworkers and colleagues, including our school children. I think the ability to include school children has been discussed in a number of the meetings that we've had is a terrific opportunity for us to provide them with a vehicle to understanding how a community can come together in many ways, certainly, again, coming back

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to the Veterans in support of those who have worn our uniform.

There has been much discussion. You can look around the room and know that there are no small number of experts in attendance today who have examined, both from the public service and public works aspects, Law Enforcement, Fire Rescue, the logistical pieces. There are so many moving parts to a program such as this.

Unfortunately, the timeliness of the bill that is before you to approve this measure and allow the Race Director to be selected is very timely. The risk of not approving a Race Director at this point in time presents us with a very real possibility of delaying the running of this race in September, or worse.

So I would encourage you to support this measure. I think the race, as has been articulated by some of the other speakers, is terribly important to the County on many levels. And I would like to think that it would be just one more opportunity for Suffolk County to say loudly and publicly that this is how we treat our Veterans here in Suffolk County, New York. We should serve as an example for other communities around the country, and I think that this -- that this marathon supporting our Veterans ultimately in the end would be a part of sending such a message. Thank you for your time.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Thank you, Tom.

*(*Applause*)*

Mario; and then on deck, Fred Rick Welge.

MR. MATTERA:

Good morning. My name is Mario Mattera, 55 King Arthurs Court in Saint James. First, I want to start off with a positive, a positive thing, especially with all the positive proclamations that was presented today.

John Kennedy, I just want to say thank you, thank you, thank you from building trades, from my local union, Plumbers Local 200, for being there plenty of nights, plenty of days. You are just definitely the Energizer bunny. That's what I -- I know they call you the bulldog, I'm going to call you the Energizer bunny. I don't know you guys do it, but you and your staff. And I just want to say thank you very much for all your years, and I know you're going to be a great Comptroller.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you.

MR. MATTERA:

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer Gregory and all Legislators. My name is Mario Mattera. I'm here to speak on 1859, which I just want to commend Legislator Browning for bringing this forward. I am a victim of this. I spoke before it went into committee. I am a victim of a tracking device put on my vehicle for a month, from February 12th to March 12th. This is a cowardly act, as you know, if everybody was there when I was speaking last time, and invasion of your privacy.

Obviously, you know, when you're in the political eye, and there I am, yes, I'm elected -- elected, and I do whatever I have to do for labor to get local jobs to local people, and work very, very hard. It could be anybody. But right now, a tracking device could be put on anybody's car or truck, or whatever, in that parking lot, and it is not against the law.

Right now, you have -- the Police would have to subpoena -- get a subpoena to put a tracking device on anybody that they were investigating. But right now, this is not a law. This has to be a law. When you get somebody that's spent over \$10,000, I was told, doing a tracking device, then what they did was they filmed, they filmed me, they filmed my daughter coming off the bus. Which I'm going to tell you something, you can film me, whatever, I do my job, but when you go and film family members, and invasion of your privacy, your house, it's a cowardly act. I wish someone would come forward. And, you know what, I would have a debate with anybody at any time, because when you do your job and you do it well, you never have to worry about anything.

So today, I just please -- I don't know if this is going to be brought to a vote, but if it is, I'm asking all Legislators to please vote yes on this. And guess what, let's prosecute to the letter of the law with this and let the police do their job. Thank you so much.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Mario.

*(*Applause*)*

Mr. Welge; and then on deck, Ruth Reynolds.

MR. WELGE:

Hello, Mr. Presiding Officer, Legislators. My name is Fred Welge. I'm speaking on behalf of the Suffolk County Restaurant and Tavern Owners Association.

All of our members are very excited about the upcoming marathon. Countywide, we all look forward to helping and inputting our expertise. We feel it's imperative, though, that the Race Director be named as timely as possible so that the restaurants, and taverns, and catering facilities, especially, in the immediate area can start making appropriate plans as for the race course. But we all do look forward to it and think it will be a wonderful thing.

Personally, I also live in Sayville. And on the health side, before I'd heard of the race, and it might not look it, but I've lost 40 pounds. And I was in Brendan's shop on "Small Business Saturday" and he was talking about what a great even it was, and I got my sneakers to start getting ready for it. So, as a local Sayville resident also, I know there's a lot of excitement. But we do feel that in order to have it come out as best as possible, the Race Director should be named as soon as possible. And as an association, we're willing to help whatever way we can. Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Ruth Reynolds; and then on deck, Richard Gunzel. Ms. Reynolds? No? Okay. Richard Gunzel, and then on deck, George Bartunik.

MR. GUNZEL:

Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for having me down here and allowing me to speak. My name is Dick Gunzel. I'm the upcoming president for the Bohemia Track Club. I'm also the Recording Secretary for the Suffolk County Restaurant and Tavern Association, and I work with Fred Wells, and I'm also a Veteran.

Of course, obviously, as a runner and a member of my club, we'd all love to see this marathon take place. Greater Long Island Running Club is -- their expertise is just unbelievable in this particular field. We've had many, many years. I'd like to bring up one strong point. They do deal -- he deals directly, in fact, they're in his office, with USA Track and Field Association. For those that are not

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familiar with USA Track and Field, it would be analogous to NASCAR for racing.

As a sanctioned and certified race, should this take place in Greater Long Island Running Club as the Race Director, USA Track and Field could provide -- I'm just saying this maybe to put your minds at ease in this area -- with Philadelphia Insurance Company, which is an A+ 15 admitted New York State licensed carrier, 11 million dollars in liability insurance for a very, very nominal cost. And all the towns involved with this could easily be added as an additional insured, so they're all properly protected and do not have to put this liability on their own insurance or town's insurance.

I'd also like to bring up just one quick health issue. Of course, everybody -- I don't have to say what the health issues and what the benefits they are, but we have two examples here today. I'm the upcoming president. Maury Dean, would you raise your hand, please? He's the former president, and Joe Cordero. I'm 69 years old, I run hurdles and sprints; that makes me the slowest and the youngest guy in here, including Dennis over here.

I'm just going to take one quick story. I go to put a race on. I go to Maury Dean and I say, *"We've got to put a race on,"* he suggested I call Joe Cordero. Joe Cordero is in his late '70s. I go to Joe Cordero, I said, *"Look, we've got to"* -- *"I've been talking to Maury,"* I says, *"You've been running."* He says, *"Oh, yeah, I ran a 5K,"* in his late 70s, *"in 25 minutes."* That's -- 24 minutes, excuse me. So, "Maury," I said, *"Boy, I haven't"* -- *"Boy, that hasn't"* -- I remember a few years ago he was doing it in only 21 minutes. And Maury says to me -- I know I'm botching this up a little bit, but the punch line is Maury says to me, *"Well, you know, he's not 65 anymore."*

(*Laughter*)

So that's all I'd like to say. I'd really like to see the marathon come on. I think it will be a very big advantage on all levels to this County. Thank you very much.

(*Applause*)

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Sir. Okay. I'm sorry if I can't read your -- George Bartunik, or Bartunir.

MR. BARTUNIK:

It's Bart-nik or Bar-too-nik.

P.O. GREGORY:

Bartunik, okay.

MR. BARTUNIK:

If you were in the Czech Republic, it's pronounced a different way, too.

With all this discussion that we've had with runners this morning, it should make my presentation very acceptable and easy.

My name is George Bartunik and I'm representing the Riverhead Alternative Transportation Advisory Committee. And what we're doing is asking for your support for Resolution 2158, which is asking for the appropriation of funds in connection with the EPCAL Recreation Path in Riverhead, or Calverton, EPCAL.

You might know some of the history of this, the original idea for this actually goes back to 2006. A person who's actually in the audience, also from the Alternative Transportation Committee with me today, presented the idea in January of 2006 to do something with a security path around the EPCAL perimeter. I took this to the Head of Community Development Agency in Riverhead at that time,

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and she was able to procure a \$100,000 grant from the State Parks at the time. That required a matching also for the \$100,000. The whole project languished for a couple of years until 2008, and, at that time, Councilman John Dunleavy was able to secure \$100,000 from State Senator LaValle that allowed the Town to come up with the \$200,000 that allowed us to go ahead and pave 3.2 miles of the northern section of this path. So there are sections now about 3.9 miles that require continued asphalt paving. The complete path, the complete loop will eventually be, hopefully, 8.5 miles.

As you may be aware, this is a non-motorized passive recreation, totally off-road, recreation path. It's going to be for multiple uses, bicycling. I mean, that's the way the path was advertised, as a bike path, but it's for walking, hiking. In the wintertime, it can be for cross-country skiing. All ages, all -- you know, men and women, all kinds of activities are possible when the recreation path is actually completed. And it will eventually become a destination for all the residents of Suffolk County.

I thank you for your support of the resolution. I certainly want to thank the Public Works Committee who voted five to nothing on Friday. I want to thank the office staff of Legislator Krupski for doing all the work to come up with the appropriation or the possible appropriation of these funds. Thank you very much.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Sir. Maury Dean. Is Maury Dean here? Then on deck, Chris Destio.

MR. DEAN:

Okay. I'd like to thank the Legislature here. Continuing on with Dick Gunzel's story about presidents. He's the upcoming president of the Bohemia Track Club, I'm the present president, and Joe Cordero back there is the former president. And Joe, who's probably too modest to tell you, is a championed 75-year-old runner in the USA.

And as far as presidents go, I'd like to thank Rob Calarco for getting me a chance to shake hands with the president for the first time in my life up at Stony Brook rally. And speaking of presidents, I'd like to greet John Kennedy, who greeted me in my home town in Patchogue when he was running for office recently, and we had a good conversation of what a great name he had, great President.

And Brendan Barrett there sold me that sticker that says 13.1. Now, I'm 71 years old, I don't run a lot of long distance races anymore like many of my colleagues do. And Rob sold me that, and I was going to take the one on this side and block it out, so I have 3.1, because I usually run just a 5K, not a half marathon. But I also won the first -- the Long Island Marathon has a Half Marathon and I won that when I was 41 in Nassau County, which is a pretty good County too, but we can do just as well, maybe better. And this year I came back, and thanks to that sticker that I bought, and my neighbor across the street with that 13.1 sign, I won the 70-year-old age group for the Long Island Half Marathon this year. So I can officially wear that thing on my car.

But, basically, I want to say what running has done for me as a -- you know, I guess I had a second chance. You know, I wonder what I'm doing with Pete McNeill and some of the guys who win the marathon outright. I was that guy who couldn't quite make it in high school, Dearborn High School. You know, I was like tenth man on the -- or eleventh man on a ten-man tennis team, and we had a cross country team with 45 guys and I was about 12, never got a varsity letter, until I was 37, thanks to the Long Island running community, Gubbins Running Ahead, now Brendan. And he's got a new store in Smithtown by my grandsons, who are buying their first -- their first shoes. And it's a great thing for all of us, you know, health benefits and everything else.

So I just want to thank the Legislature, and thank the running community and the business people of Long Island, and it looks like a great possible marathon. Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Chris Destio; and then on deck, John Rago.

MR. DESTIO:

Good morning. My name is Chris Destio. I'm a former employee of the John J. Foley Nursing Home, and a former member of the John J. Foley Oversight Committee. Today I'd like to pass off a kind word to a man with high standards, integrity, loyalty and compassion to his fellow man, the Honorable Legislator John Kennedy.

It's been my honor and pleasure to work with Mr. Kennedy for many years pertaining to the Foley Nursing Home. We sure didn't make a lot of friends during this fight, which wasn't our intention, but we made a lot of enemies, which is fine, too, because this was all about doing the right thing for the Foley residents.

While through the years the residents of the Foley Nursing Home were being marginalized and looked at as if they were a budget fix and not human beings, Mr. Kennedy made them feel different by his actions, such as going to the facility and tending to their concerns, and doing God's work by advocating for them and their families. While many leaders followed the money trail through the Foley fight, they forgot one thing, that people actually lived in this nursing home. Mr. Kennedy never forgot that. It's so rare these days when you see a leader like Mr. Kennedy who stands by his principles, while everyone else took the easy road. Legislator Kennedy took the righteous road and helped his fellow man out without reserve whatsoever, along with his wife Leslie. We now have a \$42 million nursing home that should be full of life and care-giving. Instead, now we have dark, cold rooms. And once its mission was to help those who need it most, has now been drowned out by budget cuts and politics.

Today is Mr. Kennedy's last day in the horseshoe, and if the residents were here today, they would say thank you. And I would like to -- I wish there was a plaque or proclamation to commend Mr. Kennedy and all the many hands that were involved in this fight for the Foley Nursing Home, which includes his wife, Leslie, Honorable Legislator Browning, and former Chief of Staff, retired, Mr. Terry Pearsall. If former Legislator Foley was alive today, he would be very proud of your stance on the Foley Nursing Home. You might have been called a pit bull or a bulldog on many tough issues, but when it came down to the County nursing home, you were a gentle, caring man. God bless you and I wish you the best.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you.

*(*Applause*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

John Rago, and then Rich Dellasso.

MR. RAGO:

Good morning. My name is John Rago. I'm the Outreach Coordinator for Suffolk County United Veterans, specifically for the supportive services for Veteran Families Program, which is a rapid rehousing and homeless prevention program.

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I am here today to speak on the -- on the Resolution 2159, but first I'm so glad I'm here today because I get an opportunity to thank Legislator Kennedy, who I think he just walked out, to thank him for his service through all these years that he served on the Legislature. Thank you.

Also, I want to thank Legislator Steve Stern for his leadership in the Housing for Homeless Heroes Act, which I'm looking forward to the signing next Monday, I think it is. I'm looking forward to that. And I thank you and the entire Veterans Committee for their leadership in this matter. Thank you. I just want to say that this marathon is so important to homeless Veterans and to Veterans organizations that help Veterans. And I understand that there's an issue that if you put this out to bid again for the Director, you know, that it's going to delay everything, and we really can't afford a delay, and homeless Veterans can't afford a delay, and Veterans in need can't afford a delay. So I'm just asking you if you'll please approve this today, if you vote on it. The process was done, you know, correctly. Everyone had an equal opportunity to put in a bid, they chose not to. So I don't see why Veterans have to suffer and have a delay in this marathon when the process was done correctly, and everyone was given an equal opportunity to submit a bid.

So I'm asking for your approval on this issue, and I also want to wish you all a happy holiday and happy new year. And, Legislator Kennedy, you had walked out and I was thanking you for your service. It's my pleasure to be here, you know, today on your last day.

LEG. KENNEDY:

John, thank you. And it was a pleasure to work with you, too.

MR. RAGO:

Thank you, John. And that's about all I have. Thanks so much. And, please, approve this measure today. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Sir.

*(*Applause*)*

MR. RAGO:

Oh, and Rich Dellaso had to leave, he had to go to another meeting.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

MR. RAGO:

He's not here today.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right, thank you. Michael Reichel.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

He is the Superintendent of the Riverhead Sewer Treatment Plant and he'll be back this afternoon.

P.O. GREGORY:

Gotcha. Okay. Reinaldo Torres.

MR. TORRES:

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Good morning, Mr. Chairman. My name is Reinaldo Torres, and I'm a member of Local 28, the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Union. I'm representing this Local today because of the apprentice legislation.

In Local 28, we have over 300 apprentices at any given time, with about 100 apprentices graduating every year. It's a five-year apprenticeship, and after the apprenticeship, our apprentices are ready for any job that might be put in front of them. We design, we fabricate, and we install duct work. We do siding, copper work, welding; you name it, the sheet metal worker does it. We're one of the most highly skilled crafts out there.

And what I wanted to say is just because an organization has an apprenticeship program and they meet the minimum requirements for an apprenticeship program in the State of New York, that doesn't mean that it's a good program. What you've got to look at is you have to look at how many apprentices are there at any given time, and you also have to look at what the graduation rate is with the apprenticeship program.

As the organizer of Local 28, I have been around for about 12 years, and in my 12-year tenure, I have seen a lot of these programs come and go by other organizations, and I have also spoken with a lot of the workers that have gone to these programs and they are not equipped to do the work that's out there.

Today I'm accompanied by apprentices that live here in Suffolk County, with our apprentice teacher, Gene, and with our international rep. And, you know, the last time I was here, this Legislator -- Legislative body passed the legislation to certify workers that are doing work for the County here, and I thought that was a monumental law that was passed. I think that the Suffolk County Legislators are one of the most progressive in the State of New York, and I believe that you'll do the right thing regarding this bill. Thank you. Have a nice holiday.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you. Thank you; you, too.

*(*Applause*)*

Okay, that is all the cards that I have. Is there anyone in the audience that would like to speak? Please, come forward. Okay. We're going -- Oh, did you speak before, Sir?

MR. MOORE:

I have not.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. I didn't recognize you. Okay. Go ahead, sure.

MR. MOORE:

Kenneth Moore, with the Sheet Metal Workers, Air, Rail and Transportation Union. Just a few things I wanted to add to Reinaldo's comments.

I'm a 35-year member, my father was a 50-year member, my grandfather was a member, and now my son is a member. As I told him after he went to college for one year and it wasn't for him, I told him he could stay at Modell's Sporting Goods store and make that ten bucks an hour, which he'll probably not get any further than that, unless he does get a college degree. I said you can join the

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building trades unions. It's, as we say, it's not a job, it's a career. I've been doing it for 35 years, pretty much worked my whole life. I did go to college later in life, I finally got my degree. It took about 25 years, but I finally got my college degree. I am a member of the Fire Department in my village, and I am also a Village Trustee for the last five years in my village.

So, again, I ask for support of the bill. It's a great program. It's a great way for a young man or woman to get out of that low-level paying job where they can actually make a decent salary that they can raise a family and send their kids to a college, hopefully, down the road. So, again, thanks for your time.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. Thank you, Sir.

(*Applause*)

Okay. We're going to get to the agenda. I need a motion to close the Public Portion.

LEG. MURATORE:

(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Muratore, second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Anker)

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. I make a motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Anker)

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. I have a request to take a couple of resolutions out of order. If you will please go to Page 10 in the agenda.

I.R. 2159 - Requesting legislative approval of a contract award for a sole responder for the Professional Management of Suffolk County's Marathon and Half Marathon for Veterans Event and Associated Sponsorship Services (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. LINDSAY:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Lindsay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Anker)

P.O. GREGORY:

Same motion, same second. On the motion, Legislator --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Just a point of order. Note my recusal on the record, as per my statement filed with your office, Mr. Presiding Officer. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes, Mr. Presiding Officer. If I could, through the Chair, could I ask somebody from the County Executive's Office to come to the podium, please? Hi, Lisa.

MS. SANTERAMO:

Hi. How are you?

LEG. CILMI:

I'm doing great. How are you today? I had sent the County Executive an e-mail, I guess a week ago Friday, copied you and a number of others on that e-mail, and I hadn't heard back. The e-mail expressed my excitement about the marathon and about being able to dedicate the proceeds from that marathon to Veterans services here in Suffolk County, I think that's a wonderful idea. Certainly, no group is more deserving than our Veterans here in Suffolk County. But I also expressed some concerns relative to the outreach to all of the different constituencies that may be impacted by such a marathon on the South Shore, certainly, the Towns of Brookhaven and the Town of Islip, all of those emergency services providers, churches, etcetera. And I wondered if they have been given an opportunity to interact with the proposed race organizer here, and ask questions about how cooperative they may or may not be in addressing some of their concerns. So could you respond to that, please?

MS. SANTERAMO:

Yeah, thank you. So, to date, we have met -- our office has met with the president of the civics impacted, the presidents of the chambers. Our -- FRES has met with the fire departments along the route, I believe that P.D., we've done preliminary outreaches to the local churches in those communities. We offered at the time to go and speak to chamber meetings, to civic meetings, to kind of let the residents weigh in on that. There is also a mailer that went out to the Islip area that had an e-mail where people could respond back if they had any concerns about the marathon.

The point we're at, though, now with the chambers and civics, with the exception of the Oakdale Civic had expressed, was a lot of the questions that they have we need the Race Director for, because we have done all the preliminary work that we can do. A lot of the very technical questions are things that would be developed with the Race Director, which is why you have this resolution before you. Because this is -- this is just to bring a Race Director on and rely on their expertise to finalize things. What we put out there is our proposal, what we think would work best. We need -- none of it is final, because we need the Race Director to really bring their expertise and experience to this process, basically.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. So therein lies the heart of my question, really, is that all of those different constituencies, have they had an opportunity to discuss with the Race Director -- with the potential Race Director

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here what their plans are in dealing with their concerns, or have they -- has there been no communication between, again, the Towns of Islip and Brookhaven, EMS, churches, etcetera, with the proposed Race Director themselves?

MS. SANTERAMO:

The Race Director is not on contract with us, so we have not -- they've been prohibited, because there was an RFP process. So they have not had any chance, or that we have done that. You know, we -- I don't know if you were at the press conference, I apologize, but when we announced this, there was reps from the Town of Brookhaven, Town of Islip. Before we even put this out there in the press, we did reach out to the Supervisor's Office in Brookhaven and Islip. They had the map, they had everything prior to doing this. There's pictures. They were at the press conference with us announcing their support for this.

I understand that there are some other representatives in certain areas that do have concerns, which we are working hard to address, and our FRES and P.D. having been working with the local EMS. The Race Director themselves have not, because, again, they are not -- they're not officially hired by us, they're not official actually running this yet. We haven't -- that's what this resolution is for. This resolution is solely to bring the Race Director on.

LEG. CILMI:

But they're the organization that will be dealing with all of these constituencies, correct, moving forward, if they're selected?

MS. SANTERAMO:

In conjunction with us, yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

MS. SANTERAMO:

We are still going to be -- I mean, this is the Race Director who's running this race, but this is a County event. So, obviously, we'll be heavily involved in this.

LEG. CILMI:

Is there a commitment on the part of the Race Director, or the proposed Race Director, or is there something in the contract with the proposed Race Director that directs that they include all of those different constituencies that may be impacted by this in their public outreach?

MS. SANTERAMO:

Yes, absolutely. Part of the RFP, one of the things requested was they had to commit to a community outreach effort, in addition to ourselves. I mean, our goal is to make everyone happy and not have, you know, constituents unhappy. That's why we've done so much work before they'd even come on board to reach out to all those groups. We would have gone -- we went to the Oakdale Civic. We did not -- you know, the bigger meeting, as opposed to just meeting with the leadership. The leadership has really asked us -- those other groups to wait until we had a Race Director, because they're the ones who will have the answers. But because they're not officially hired yet, we can't really be sending them out on behalf of us until they're in contract with us.

LEG. CILMI:

And just could you talk a little bit about the experience of the Director? I'm familiar with them, but just could you share with us some of the experience --

MS. SANTERAMO:

Yeah. Let me just --

LEG. CILMI:

-- that they bring to the table? I don't suppose there's a representative from that organization here today.

MR. MC GARRY:

Legislator Cilmi, Ryan McGarry with the County Exec's Office. Just to address your point, the Greater Long Island Running Club, as you mentioned, as a lot of the speakers mentioned, has a tremendous amount of experience working on races in the community and with municipalities. They have over 35 years of race directing experience. They put on many large-scale events. They are instrumental in working with Nassau County with the Long Island Marathon. They direct the Marcum Workplace Challenge, excuse me, which is the largest race or actually sporting event, participatory sporting event on Long Island. It brings 9200 people in. They do the Town of Oyster Bay races, which are their other big events. Again, those are municipally-run events. So they do have tremendous amount of experience working with the community, working with different levels of government, and making sure everything is in order.

I totally understand your concerns. Just to second Lisa's point, we completely expect, and they will be contractually obligated to go out to public meetings and work with the different groups. We just can't get them out there until we're in contract with them. But in terms of their experience, they are absolutely incredible. They have -- they're the most experienced group by far on the Island.

LEG. CILMI:

As long as they're contractually obligated to work with all of those different groups that I mentioned, then I'm satisfied. I mean, you know, clearly -- clearly, while there's -- while there's tremendous opportunity here with this race, in many different respects there are also tremendous impacts that will be associated with them to the communities through which the race will run. How long do we expect the whole race to take?

MR. MC GARRY:

Right now, and, again, that's an answer we can only give you tentatively until we have a --

LEG. CILMI:

Roughly speaking, what do you think?

MR. MC GARRY:

But we discussed capping it at six hours. And with that --

LEG. CILMI:

And it runs along 27A predominantly, correct?

MR. MC GARRY:

Predominantly, correct.

LEG. CILMI:

Which is a main artery along the South Shore through Islip and Brookhaven.

MR. MC GARRY:

Yes. And as you heard --

LEG. CILMI:

Would you expect that that road will be closed, that section of road will be closed for the entirety of that race?

MR. MC GARRY:

Yes and no. So the road will open up as runners finish. As we propose, it's an out and back. So, as runners are coming back from Patchogue, it will start opening up behind them. So Patchogue, Bayport, Blue Point, Sayville are obviously not going to be closed for nearly as long, Oakdale probably a little less, so -- but while the runners are on Montauk Highway, it will be closed, but there will be times where you can cross north/south over it.

In terms of its effects on the business community, you had the President of the Chamber, Sayville Chamber of Commerce here showing his support. Unfortunately, the Patchogue Chamber of Commerce wasn't here today, but they did go before the Vets and Seniors Committee to put their support on the record. So the business community is looking forward to it, because it will draw, hopefully, so many people into the downtown areas.

LEG. CILMI:

So thank you. Just please make sure that I, as one of the Legislators, or the Legislator who represents the district in which the race will start and finish, that at least I and the other Legislators who represent communities along the race route are included in whatever correspondence the Running Club has and the County has with all of those different constituent groups that I mentioned and that you mentioned, okay?

MR. MC GARRY:

Absolutely. We'll definitely keep you in the loop and invite you to be part of the process.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Thank you. You know, as the Legislator that is going to be -- my District is going to be greatly impacted by this, 80% of the race is going to go through my district in Oakdale, West Sayville, Sayville, Bayport and Blue Point, we've had a tremendous amount of input in this process. I want to thank the County Exec's Office for including us in it. I think it's critical that we pass this vote today to pick the Race Director.

I have personally never organized a marathon. I don't know that anybody here has, and has any experience in organizing a marathon, so I don't how we could possibly answer any of the community's questions about how the day would work without having somebody with that experience on -- in contract to do so. Our plan going forward, and we've already met with a number of our different civic and business and chamber organizations, is to hold a series of community meetings with each one of those groups and allow them to air out any of their questions or concerns, and come up with solutions for each of their unique situations with each group. And in order to do that, we need to have that Race Coordinator to help assist us in coming up and formulating those solutions. With that, I think it's critical to have them in place, and to do those series of meetings, we need to start them right after the first of the year, so we need to have this in place as soon as possible.

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With each community, we feel that there are some different obstacles, but we think that they can be overcome. I think it offers a tremendous opportunity to highlight the beautiful area that we have on the South Shore. There's so oftentimes we see different events in different parts of the country and different parts of the world, and this gives us a chance to really show off our community and all the great attributes that we have, and to bring people from other parts of the world that would really not have any other reason to come here other than for this race. So I look forward to it. I look forward to, hopefully, working with this Race Coordinator to making this a great event, and look forward to making it a big success, and, hopefully, making it an annual event going forward. So I urge all my colleagues to, hopefully, support this and work with the County Exec's Office and the Race Coordinator to make this a great success. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Yeah, thank you. To the Administration. The organization that's going to serve as the Race Director, obviously, has a level of expertise in that kind of operation, and that's why they are ultimately going to be involved. To what extent, if any, does the organization get involved with the raising of the funds, the management of those funds, and ultimately the distribution of those funds to and for the benefit of our local Veterans organizations? Do they play any role in the coordination of that effort, or is that separate and apart. And if so, how is that going to be handled going forward?

MS. SANTERAMO:

So the marathon is -- there's obviously registration fees for the marathon, but there's also a sponsorship program, and they are responsible for the sponsorships. But, ultimately, the way we envision it again, this is something that is a technicality that has to be worked out, is that the Veterans Affairs would have that, and we would work within -- with the County Attorney's Office to figure out, you know, if we would create basically a grant program where the money would be given out from our Veterans Agency. The Clerk would not be responsible for determining who the money goes to, which Veterans group it would go to. That's not their -- that would not be their role, but they are responsible for, you know, collecting the registration fees and the sponsorship program. That's --

LEG. STERN:

And has it been worked out yet what the process is going to be for the distribution of those funds? Who's going to manage that process?

MS. SANTERAMO:

We have not gotten that far in terms of -- I mean, I'm assuming it will be something between our Budget, County Attorney's Office, and the Veterans Affairs Office, but we are not -- that has not been finalized.

LEG. STERN:

Okay.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes. Lisa, if you could just stay on that for a second. Two issues, and both of them really go to funding. One, at the very least, the registration fees, and whatever advertising commitments, or any other kind of revenue that gets raised out of this, at least as a last request, if you will, should

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wind up in some type of a segregated or a separate fund, so that, in fact, all of what's raised winds up going out to Beacon House or any of the other entities that support Veterans.

And then secondly, are we making any kind of provisions for both active duty military and/or Veterans with some kind of a discount or waiver on the registration fee? I mean, that's the way races raise money. The runners, 50 bucks, 100 bucks, whatever it is, want to go ahead and run, especially if we have active military here, which we do with our recruiting posts and things like that. While they very much may want to participate, that's far in excess of what they could afford. So have we considered that at all?

MS. SANTERAMO:

We have not, but that is not -- that's not to say we're not going to do it. That's something, again, I think we would work with the Race Director to really look at the map and figure out how we would do that. But there has been a lot of talk through the meeting with the Veterans group. It's basically about 10, 15 leadership from various Veterans groups. There's going to be a lot of personalization for Veterans in this marathon. There's going to be separate award categories for active duty, for Veterans, for Wounded Warriors. We're looking at possibly doing virtual races, if -- you know, if a veteran is on a base somewhere across the country or overseas, they might actually be able to participate while there. So there's been a lot of discussions and brainstorming in terms of what we want to do to really highlight our Veterans and make this work for them. But, you know, we need -- again, this is why we need the Race Director. We really want to sit down with them to figure out how to make all this possible.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Is -- towards the management or the administration, is Long Island -- I'm sorry, and I'm mangling the group. Is it Greater New York or Long Island Runners Club?

MS. SANTERAMO:

It's Greater Long Island Road Runners Club.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Greater Long Island Road Runners Club. They're pretty much -- they're the primary entity that actually oversees, and administers, and orchestrates races here on the Island. How many groups did you solicit when you went out for whatever it was, the RFQ or RFP process in the first instance?

MR. MC GARRY:

Legislator Kennedy, on that point, the Purchasing Office reached out to five different groups to let them know the RFP was alive, and that was also coordinated with our efforts of public outreach, outreach through newspapers and the press conference to advertise to anybody we didn't know about to make them well aware.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And so, Ryan, is it just this group that responded favorably, or is it just this group that made it through the process to ultimately be selected?

MR. MC GARRY:

No. This was a sole bidder situation, which is why it requires the Legislative approval at this point.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So none of the other four elected to even go ahead and respond?

MR. MC GARRY:

They did not respond.

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LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right. So I just, you know, ask those two items to be considered, then. Give the Vets -- you know, give the -- especially active duty; they should be waived, or it should be nominal. And then, secondly, you should do dedicated fund or escrow as far as what the lion's share of proceeds are from reg. for remit and sell. Thank you.

MR. MC GARRY:

We definitely appreciate your input.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. We have a motion to approve and a second?

MR. LAUBE:

Yes, you do.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. All in --

LEG. HAHN:

I'm going to -- I'm going to recuse, just because I'm a member of the group.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LEG. HAHN:

So please note my recusal.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Sixteen. (Recused: Legislator Hahn - Not Present: Legislator Anker)

MS. SANTERAMO:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay, we are running a little behind schedule. We were scheduled to do our Executive Session at 11:45. So we will -- I make a motion -- I make a motion to go into Executive Session, second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

(*Executive Session was held from 11:56 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. *)

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. We're back from Executive Session, and we stand in recess to do a septic lottery.

*(*The meeting was recessed at 12:20 p.m. and resumed at 2:34 p.m. *)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Mr. Clerk, please do the roll, roll call.

MR. LAUBE:

All right, all right, all right.

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

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Here.

LEG. BROWNING:

(Not Present)

LEG. MURATORE:

Here.

LEG. HAHN:

(Not Present)

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes, I'm here. Sorry.

LEG. ANKER:

Here.

LEG. CALARCO:

Present.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Here.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Here.

LEG. CILMI:

Here.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Here.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Here.

LEG. TROTTA:

Here.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Here.

LEG. STERN:

Here.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Here.

LEG. SPENCER:

Here.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Here.

P.O. GREGORY:

Here.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Hahn)

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Before we get to the public hearings, we had a request, in light of the holiday season, to play a video that was created by a member -- staff in Legislator Kennedy's Office.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

On his own time.

P.O. GREGORY:

We hope that you -- on his own time.

*(*Laughter*)*

We hope that you enjoy it.

*(*Video Presentation*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Thank you. Okay, now we are in the ***Public Hearing*** portion of the agenda. We do not have any cards, but I will go through the -- I have to go through the resolutions anyway, Public Hearings.

I.R. 1636 - A Local Law to increase transparency and fairness of the County's property leasing process (Sponsor: Jay Schneiderman).

Is there anyone here that would like to speak on this matter? Please come forward. No? Legislator Schneiderman?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion to table.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion to table by Legislator --

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Recess.

P.O. GREGORY:

Recess by Legislator Schneiderman, second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 1658 - A Charter Law to strengthen and streamline lobbyist registration and reporting requirements (Sponsor: William Lindsay III). Is anyone here to speak on this matter? Okay. Legislator Lindsay?

LEG. LINDSAY:

Motion to recess.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion to recess by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 1736 - A Local Law to ban the sale of personal care products containing microbeads in Suffolk County (Sponsor: Kara Hahn).

Is there anyone here that would like to speak on this matter? Please, come forward. Okay. Motion to recess by Legislator Hahn, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 1759 - A Charter Law to provide for fair and equitable distribution of public safety sales and compensating use tax revenues (Sponsor: Jay Schneiderman).

Is there anyone here to speak on this matter? Please come forward. Not seeing any --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion to recess.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion to recess by Legislator Schneiderman, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 1853 - A Local Law to strengthen requirements for nonprofit veterans organizations soliciting donations in Suffolk County (Sponsor: William Spencer).

Is there anyone here to speak on this matter? Please come forward. Okay. Legislator Spencer?

LEG. SPENCER:

Motion to recess.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion to recess by Legislator Spencer, second by -- I'll second. All in favor? Opposed?
Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

***J.R. 2084 - A Local Law to save taxpayer dollars on County signs and printed publications
(Sponsor: Tom Muratore).***

Is there anyone here to speak on this matter? Please come forward. Oh, okay. Al?

MR. STRAUSS:

Alex Strauss, 184 Radio Avenue, Miller Place. This seems to be a good law. It's an idea to save some money, and instead of laying somebody off, we can actually save some money. If we eliminate every time somebody changes office, and you've got to go out and paint signs all over again, or change heads of letterheads, maybe we can figure out a way that we don't have to do that. Instead of putting a person's name, maybe we can put the district, or the head of the committee that runs that, like Parks and Recreation or whatever, instead of putting the person's name, constantly changing, changing, changing.

Now, when Mr. Kennedy leaves, anything that's in his things got to be changed, you know, and it doesn't make any sense to do that. Let's see if we can figure out a better way of doing that by eliminating putting people's names on it as advertisement, and I think it would be a good idea. They're doing that in the Town of Brookhaven, which I live in, and I think it's a good idea to save money that way, rather than to lay people off or cut services. And nobody wants to raise taxes, because that's never going to happen here. It's going to have to be a windfall that the whole world comes to an end before we raise taxes. And I think it's a good law and maybe you should pass it. Thank you very much.

P.O. GREGORY:

Hey, Al, you have a question.

LEG. SPENCER:

Al, could I have --

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

Hi, Alex. Thank you. You're always here, and I tend to listen to you, because you're a very reasonable man and you know this Legislature very well. I tend to agree.

I think one concern I have, and I thought you could address that, is that sometimes the general public, they -- when they have an issue or a concern, like at a park, or at -- or with something that's going on, sometimes, like especially in the County level, you know, we know who the President is, we know who the Governor is, but a lot of times the regular public has no idea who their local

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government people are sometimes. And so when there's a particular issue, I have found that sometimes if they see the names of the electorates there, it lets the public know who's responsible. Is there a way that we can balance that, in your opinion, save the money, but balance that --

MR. STRAUSS:

Yeah.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

-- to let people know where to go.

MR. STRAUSS:

I think some of the things can be changed to do that, and even if you put down the Legislator of the First District, rather than, you know the person's name. And I understand what you're saying, that they -- some people don't even know that we have 18 districts, you know.

LEG. SPENCER:

Sure.

MR. STRAUSS:

I don't know how much more you can do to educate.

LEG. SPENCER:

Just put the title down.

MR. STRAUSS:

Right. Like I said, something that gives you some sort of a way to go to that person. If you really wanted to speak to him, you'd look it up and be able to call and find out.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Thank you, Alex.

MR. STRAUSS:

Thank you. Have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Hanukah, and Happen Kwanzaa. And for other people, have a great day.

LEG. SPENCER:

All right.

*(*Laughter*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. Thank you. Anyone else like to speak on this matter?

LEG. MURATORE:

Motion to close.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion to close by Legislator Muratore.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second -- who was that? Second by Legislator McCaffrey. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy).

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. I'd like to make a motion setting the date for the following public hearings, first General Meeting of 2015, 2:30 p.m., Rose Caracappa Auditorium in Hauppauge:

I.R. 17 -- I.R. 2174 - a Local Law to warn consumers of the dangers of liquid nicotine products (Sponsor: Legislator Anker).

I.R. 2176 - A Local Law to protect children from exposure to toxic chemicals ("The Toxic Free Toys Act.") (Sponsor: Legislator Hahn).

I.R. 2177 - A Local Law to provide further protection for county Parkland (Sponsor: Legislator Hahn).

Do I have a second?

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay, back to the agenda. If we -- if you can refer to Page 8. There's been a request to have ***I.R. 2164*** taken out of order, ***Authorizing the County executive to execute an agreement with the Suffolk County Detective Investigators Police Benevolent Association (DIPBA) covering the terms and conditions of employment for the period of January 1, 2011 through December 31st, 2018 (Sponsor: County Executive).*** I make that motion. Do I have a second?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Martinez. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. I make a motion to approve. Do I have a second?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Martinez. On the motion?

LEG. TROTTA:

(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:

On the motion, Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTTA:

For BRO, I have a couple of questions. This is 47 people, right?

MR. LIPP:

Correct.

LEG. TROTTA:

And I guess what you're saying, it's the equivalent of 3.3% pay increase from 2011 through 2018?

MR. LIPP:

Bear with me for a second. So the 3.3% would be for all 47 members, right, as opposed to the top-step guys, correct. That would be an average from 2011, correct.

LEG. TROTTA:

And it's a total cost of \$5.8 million?

MR. LIPP:

Based on our estimate, yes.

LEG. TROTTA:

And a lot of this we're deferring?

MR. LIPP:

Well, the 5.8 million is what the cost would be over that time period net of deferrals. Some of the deferrals, or a good deal of them, would occur upon separation. So we made some assumptions that it would be three members separating per year, and they would get their deferrals at that time. And then going out past the term of the contract, 2018, we gave an estimate or an assumption that if they all receive their deferrals in 2020, it would be to the tune of 1.3 million at that time. But, in all likelihood, they'll receive it in dribs and drabs as they each separate.

LEG. TROTTA:

Did you do an analysis if it would have been a cost of living increase, like 1.5% a year?

MR. LIPP:

So the -- you're talking about the deferrals now?

LEG. TROTTA:

No, the whole -- rather than 3.3% over the eight years. If it was -- how much -- I guess we're assuming we'd save about half.

MR. LIPP:

No, no, no. So the 1.3 million takes into account literally what they would receive under the proposed agreement, and the amounts that were deferred would be based upon the actual increases in the deferred agreements.

LEG. TROTТА:

I was talking more in general. It's 3.3%. If we would -- if they would have received a 1.5%, which is what the cost of living has been for the past five years --

MR. LIPP:

We didn't do what-ifs for different scenarios, because that would have been beyond the scope of the memo. We'd be crossing out contracts that weren't agreed to, and it wouldn't be our position to determine that. So we didn't do that estimate.

LEG. TROTТА:

It would be safe to say that if it was 1.5%, which is less than 3.3%, it would save more than half of the \$5.8 million. The point I'm getting at is if it would have been 1.5%, we could have --

MR. LIPP:

Oh, definitely; obviously, the lower the percentage, it would save money, no doubt.

LEG. TROTТА:

And just to clarify, we're over \$1.5 billion in debt at this point?

MR. LIPP:

Outstanding debt in terms of borrowing is -- if you look at all general obligation, outstanding debt, and Tax Anticipation Notes, Revenue Anticipation Notes, it's in excess of \$1.6 billion outstanding. It's sort of like, you know, your mortgage on your house; if you had a \$500,000 mortgage, that would be equivalent to that 1.6 billion and change for County assets that we owe on in overtime.

LEG. TROTТА:

And we have a fiscal structural deficit of \$100 million right now.

MR. LIPP:

Well, based upon our review of the 2015 recommended budget, that's what we stated in there.

LEG. TROTТА:

And in your analysis, on the last page, you say that these back-loaded contracts continue to allow us to avoid -- temporarily making -- avoid making hard decisions, which will only become harder to solve the longer we wait. So, basically, what we're doing is we're kicking the can down the road. And when the County Executive came here in March, I believe it was, and gave his State of the County Address, he said, and I quote, "*I am proud to say that coming together today with this Legislature, we have changed the "kick the can down the road" mindset, making tough decisions necessary to restore the financial health of this County.*"

MR. LIPP:

Well, I don't -- I'm not hearing a question that you're asking.

LEG. TROTТА:

The question is, is this kicking this -- well, I don't want to say kick. Are we deferring these payments to future people, to future years?

MR. LIPP:

Well, in our -- in our memo, we note that a combination of the three years of zeroes up front and the deferrals will result in the contract being back-loaded, if that's what you mean by kicking the can down the road. I would say we didn't use the term kick the can down the road, though.

LEG. TROTTA:

All right, thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. These are -- this is not what I'm used to where somebody negotiates with any group, not just any -- whether it's public safety or any other group within the County, and then we have to vote on it yes or no. And I would encourage all the Legislators on all the different committees that have anything to do with any of these negotiations to get involved with the Administration. So, if you have concerns, they don't come down to the day of the vote when it becomes really difficult to -- you're not going change it at this point. But to get involved during the negotiations and try to effect a change from within, instead of -- I mean, it's a difficult time to talk about this now, and it's -- I don't think the systems -- I don't think it's the best system, because we don't have a -- we don't have a say in the details of the contract. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Anyone else? Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. TROTTA:

Opposed.

MR. LAUBE:

Fifteen. Oh, there's Steve. *Sixteen (opposed: Legislator Trotta - Not Present: Legislator D'Amaro)*

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. Legislator Krupski, you had -- do you have a -- oh, you don't have it. Okay. All right.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

They're not here yet. Do you have that Bond? Is that Bond ready?

LEG. KENNEDY:

She's still here. Jackie, you're looking for Jackie? She's still here.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

No. An elected official is coming from Riverhead, and I thought we could -- I was going to ask to --

MR. NOLAN:

We just have to wait.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

-- move those resolutions forward, so they wouldn't have to wait. Thank you.

MR. NOLAN:

As soon as we have them.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Tabled Resolutions. ***I.R. 1324 - Directing all County departments and agencies to update multi-line telephone systems to directly dial 911 (Sponsor: Robert Trotta).***

Motion to table by Legislator Trotta.

LEG. CILMI:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 1866 - Strengthening apprenticeship training requirements (Sponsor: Kate Browning). Legislator Browning?

LEG. BROWNING:

I will make a motion to table.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion to table by Legislator Browning, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2112 - Requesting legislative approval of a Contract Award with Suffolk Federal Credit Union for the installation, administration and servicing of automatic teller machines on County property (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. CALARCO:

Motion to approve.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Calarco, I'll second. Any questions? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2116 - Authorizing the County Treasurer to borrow cash funds from other County funds for 2015 (Sponsor: Presiding Officer Gregory).

I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'll second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Is there a second. Motion by Legislator D'Amaro; I'll second the motion. On the motion, Legislator D'Amaro? No? Okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

No. I had another comment after you call the vote.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Hold on. Hold on. 2116, put me down as a recusal please.

MR. LAUBE:

Will do. (*Amended Vote on 2116-14 - 17-0-0-0-1 Recusal: Legislator Kennedy*).

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Mr. Presiding Officer, I apologize. I had stepped out of the room for 30 seconds and missed that vote on the police contract.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And I would ask if you and my colleagues will consider reconsidering that particular bill?

LEG. CALARCO:

I make a motion to reconsider.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Calarco makes a motion to reconsider, second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? I'm sorry.

I.R. 2164 (Authorizing the County executive to execute an agreement with the Suffolk County Detective Investigators Police Benevolent Association (DIPBA) covering the terms and conditions of employment for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2018 (Sponsor: County Executive).

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Motion to approve.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Calarco.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Just on the motion, I did have a quick question, if that's okay.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And again, I apologize to my colleagues. But I did want to ask on the record to the Budget Review Office, that the figure that the Budget Review Office came up with, percent increase over the span of the contract was approximately 3.3%, I believe. And I understand that it's backloaded, and I understand there are zero increases for the first three years, but the 3.3% number is based on a number of assumptions, one of which relates to the deferred -- the deferrals, I believe. And what I wanted to ask you is that some of the deferrals are contingent upon certain events occurring. And I wanted to ask, in the event that the deferrals do not occur, does that increase the cost of the contract, or decrease the cost of the contract?

MR. LIPP:

It increases. The calculation that was made -- first of all, the 3.3% over the life of the contract from 2011 to 2018 --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. LIPP:

-- was for all 47. We also did a calculation for the top step guys or people.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, I'm not asking about that.

MR. LIPP:

Okay. So what it was is the increases were based upon the assumed deferrals based upon the way the agreement was made. If there were no deferrals, then there would more -- it would be higher.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So I'm specifically referencing Section 8-D, E, F, etcetera, where there were certain assumptions made with respect to deferrals. But, as I said, that the County would, for example, on deferral under 8-F would have to demonstrate that a deferral was needed to replace revenue budgeted for, but not realize were to offset an unbudgeted expense.

So my question is should some of those deferrals not occur, what is the impact? I mean, is it a substantial increase in the cost of the contract, is it a nominal increase, or somewhere in between?

MR. LIPP:

Okay. So if -- the total deferrals that we stated in our memo -- basically, what you need to understand also is that there are a lot of things going on in the contract that we had to make some assumptions. We could have done a lot of what-ifs. That being said, what we said in the memo is that we estimated that in 2020 dollars, it would be an extra \$1.3 million added to the \$5.8 million overall of the contract that we estimated as a cost.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right.

MR. LIPP:

5.8 being the total cost, by the way, as opposed to the net cost.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So, if some of those --

MR. LIPP:

Okay. Actually, I take one thing back. If you don't mind, I'd like to restate something. So the first table we had was 5.8 million total cost, then we had savings, then we got to net cost of \$4.6 million. The difference between the 5.8 and the 4.6 actually is mostly the deferrals. So that's not part of the percentage increase we were just talking about, but the gross cost of 5.8 million would include before the deferrals were reduced.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. But if certain deferrals, for example, under 8-F, and 8-G and H do not occur, then it wouldn't double the cost of the contract.

MR. LIPP:

Oh, no way.

LEG. D'AMARO:

No way.

MR. LIPP:

And I didn't say that, did I?

LEG. D'AMARO:

I didn't say you did.

MR. LIPP:

Sorry.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So -- but there is going to be an impact, obviously, a higher cost, but it's not -- it's not a substantial cost.

MR. LIPP:

Right. And, in fact, the deferrals, as I said, after 2018, would -- if they were cashed out in 2020, would amount to 1.3 million.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. All right, one more question. What is the acceptable cost of living increase for this year for Suffolk County?

MR. LIPP:

I'm not quite sure I understand.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Do we ever calculate that figure?

MR. LIPP:

You're talking about inflation rate?

LEG. D'AMARO:

No, no, I'm talking about a cost of living. The Social Security Administration publishes a cost of living amount for the country, and it's based on certain factors and assumptions. But traditionally, at least my understanding has been that the cost of living in Suffolk County is substantially higher, or the rate increase in the cost of living is substantially higher in Suffolk County than it is for the nation as an average. Can you shed any light on that?

MR. LIPP:

Well, the actual inflation rate I'm going to say is in the neighborhood of 2%. I'd have to look it up, though. Current, in terms of Social Security, they don't have that number, but that's sort of a restricted number based upon not the cost of living, but other issues.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The inflation rate is about 2%?

MR. LIPP:

I believe so. I'll look that up, though, to double check.

LEG. D'AMARO:

My only point is that although this may be somewhat higher than the cost of living increase that's being used for the entire country by the Social Security Administration, it's my understanding and my belief that the cost of living in Suffolk, the increase in the cost of living in Suffolk is substantially more than what you see on average across the country. And if this contract is offering zeroes in the first three years with an average of 3.3%, I think that is pretty much an acceptable increase, and I think that the County did rather well in these negotiations.

MR. LIPP:

Right. And we did not comment, to be perfectly clear, on whether or not the increases are good, bad, or indifferent, or too high or too low.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I understand.

MR. LIPP:

That wasn't part of our memo.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. All right. Well, Mr. Presiding Officer and my colleagues, I thank you for the opportunity, appreciate it.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Mr. Clerk, we have a motion and a second?

MR. LAUBE:

Yes, you do.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:
Seventeen.

LEG. D'AMARO:
Thank you again.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. All right. Back to Budget and Finance on Page 7.

J.R. 2118 - Amending the 2014 Adopted Operating Budget to reallocate funding for continuing initiative, psychosocial assessments in the Department of Probation (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. CALARCO:
Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:
Motion by Legislator Calarco, second by Legislator Hahn. Any questions? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:
Eighteen.

(*The following testimony was taken by Alison Mahoney - & transcribed by Kim Castiglione - Legislative Secretary*)

MR. LAUBE:
Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:
IR 2153-14 - Amending the 2014 Operating Budget and appropriating funds in connection with bonding for a Settlement for Medicals Malpractice Case against the County (County Executive).

LEG. D'AMARO:
Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:
Motion by Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. BARRAGA:
Second.

P.O. GREGORY:
Second by Legislator Barraga. On the motion, Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:
Yes, I know there was one case out there that I was one of the treating physicians and I know -- I just want to make sure -- I need to recuse myself, but I have no way of knowing once they get here.

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MR. NOLAN:

Legislator Spencer, I checked with the County Attorney's Office last week, this is not the case.

LEG. SPENCER:

Very good.

MR. NOLAN:

So you are clear to vote.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Anyone else? All right. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

IR 2153A (Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York authorizing the issuance of \$650,000 bonds to finance the settlement of a Medical Malpractice Case against the County). Same motion, same second. Roll call.

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

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

P.O. GREGORY:

IR 2069-14 - To appoint Eileen M. Kretz McCarthy as a member of the Suffolk County Citizens Advisory Board for the Arts (Presiding Officer Gregory). I make a motion.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

IR 2163-14 - Amending Resolution No. 687-2014, Authorizing a lease agreement with SunEdison, LLC for use of property at Francis S. Gabreski Airport (County Executive).

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Krupski.

LEG. D'AMARO:

On the motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

On the motion, Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I wanted to ask if there's anyone here who can answer a question on this particular bill. I just had a couple of questions about the amendment to this lease agreement. This is 2163; is that correct?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Tom, how are you?

MR. VAUGHN:

Good afternoon, sir. How are you?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Good. I was not on the committee when this was discussed. So just very quickly, why is this coming back to us?

MR. VAUGHN:

PSE&G has decreased the size of the projects across the board with all Feed-In Tariff II Programs. There was cuts to the Feed-In Tariff II Programs ranged from about 20% up to about 70%. Our cut is about 40%. We conferred with the County Attorney's Office. They thought it was necessary to reapprove this with the cut reflecting.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. Is the lease rate, the rent rate, based upon the amount of land being leased, or is it based upon the megawatts that are going to be generated?

MR. VAUGHN:

My understanding is it's based on the megawatts, sir.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It is.

MR. VAUGHN:

Yes, sir.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So, in effect, what we're doing -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- is we are substantially reducing the rent for the same land.

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MR. VAUGHN:

No, sir. The entire overall size of the property, so less land will also be used.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, it is. Okay. So there is less being leased out under the lease?

MR. VAUGHN:

Yes, sir.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Does that number correspond to the drop in rent?

MR. VAUGHN:

Let me defer to Economic Development.

LEG. D'AMARO:

My only question is we originally had -- we had leased this property for a certain rate.

MR. VAUGHN:

Yes, sir.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And it was a certain amount of land that was being leased, County land, and now because that's been scaled back, the project itself has been scaled back where almost halving the rent.

MR. VAUGHN:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

But what I want to know, did we also cut back the amount of land that's being leased or is this just, you know, apples and oranges.

MR. VAUGHN:

Everything has been proportionately reduced.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Proportionately.

MR. VAUGHN:

There's 41% across the board.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, so that's how the rent got reduced as well. Okay. I have no further questions. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Anyone else?

LEG. HAHN:

I would like to note my recusal.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right, we have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Recused: Legislator Hahn).

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'd to make a motion to take IR 2158, it's a CN, out of the red folder, out of order.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'd like to make that motion in deference to an elected official here who is waiting for our decision.

P.O. GREGORY:

Who was the second?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I'll second.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I did.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator McCaffrey. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Amended to 18).

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. The motion -- well, the resolution is before us. ***IR 2158-14 - Amending the 2014 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with the EPCAL Path, Town of Riverhead (CP 5904).*** I need a motion.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'll make that motion to approve.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Second by Legislator Barraga. On the motion?

LEG. TROTTA:

On the motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

On the motion, Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTTA:

This is the bike path?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:

I spoke to Congressmen Israel. He said that there was like all kinds of money in the Federal Government for bike trails.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I know this is something that Riverhead, the Town of Riverhead, has been working on. They've owned the land there for 20 years, and there's an existing path that's used as a maintenance path around the perimeter that's fenced in just inside the fence. Riverhead started to pave the path, and not only will this help them finish paving the path, which once this trail gets done, it will be an off-road, non-motorized trail over eight and a half miles long, and it will allow for -- it will be open for use by any County resident.

The County is not going to construct it or build it or maintain it. So this is something that the Town -- it's going to be the Town's responsibility to do those things. We're helping with the final paving of it. Councilman Giglio is here from Riverhead, and she would be happy to answer any questions you have about it.

P.O. GREGORY:

Good afternoon.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. The Town of Riverhead was recently the beneficiary of a \$5 million grant from the Federal Government for the trail -- the rail that comes into EPCAL and services several businesses, and will extend to service additional businesses that may be interested in coming to New York and Suffolk County to do business. The extension of the rail is a significant cost. Right now the Federal Government, you know, we will advocate for any money we can get for economic development at EPCAL, but this \$200,000 will be on top of the \$200,000 that has already been spent for the EPCAL recreational trail, and currently all County residents are using the trail.

The trail runs about 3.2 miles and then stops. The perimeter roadway that Grumman used to use as a security road around the perimeter of the property is currently grass that has been cleared and has been mowed, and so there are no trees growing. It's a perfect place to just put down some RCA recycled aggregate and pavement to continue to the Navy paved portion of the trail that will connect to create an 8.9 mile trail all the way around EPCAL.

The businesses that are looking at coming to EPCAL for economic development are interested in this trail where their employees can leave the property during their lunch hours and go and take a walk or take a bike around the trail. We have several events scheduled, such as a Veterans Duathlon. I believe that we had somebody here at the committee meeting last week that said that she was with the Wounded Warrior Foundation and they were proposing a veterans trail and fundraisers of the sort for veterans. We are proposing a Halloween walk, we are proposing -- we meaning myself and the Alternative Transportation Committee, which I formed when I was elected into office at Riverhead -- different ecology trails throughout the site for all Suffolk County residents to come and use where all bushes and trees would be labeled and kids could come and get an education.

And we just think it's a great project and it's a very -- \$200,000 is a lot of money for the Town of Riverhead in this economic state, number one. And number two, we have our ball fields that are up and running that is currently used by all County residents, so we have aspirations to supply that property with lights for the ball fields so that people can come and use the fields in the evening

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hours, the Suffolk County residents, and the \$200,000 would be greatly appreciated. The Federal Government, we don't know what state they're in at this point in applying for any funding, but we are just basically seeking a match for money that the Town of Riverhead has already laid out, and the State of New York, for this non-motorized recreation trail that can be used for and by all in the County.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. I do have Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

Hi. Good afternoon, Councilwoman. Thanks so much for your time. That area there, we were able to look at a map, and it sits around the airport. My question is I know that over the past several years there's been some ideas, at one point looking at an indoor ski facility or there's been some plans.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Yes, absolutely.

LEG. SPENCER:

What are the long-term plans for the airport at this point? Is there anything that's on the table as far as -- that you understand?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Well, right now the airport is available to people that are currently occupying as commercial establishments where they can obtain a license agreement with the Town to use the airport.

LEG. SPENCER:

Okay.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

The trail would not affect any flight patterns or any use to that runway, and that would be the eastern runway that we're talking about. Right now the Generic Environmental -- Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Study that the Town is looking at, the New York State DEC has requested that the western runway be covered with grass -- covered with topsoil and grass. So it's just the eastern runway that is currently right now not zoned for commercial airport, and the trail, just as the perimeter trail when Grumman was using the property, would be protected from any flight path.

LEG. SPENCER:

With regards to flight paths in general, isn't there a clearance zone as far as -- now, this goes completely around the airport. There's a completed area but this trail would go completely around the perimeter of the airport, correct?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Right.

LEG. SPENCER:

So on the runway when the plane is landing there's a certain area that has to be clear when aircrafts that low -- this is out of that clearance zone, the path?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

The runway to the eastern property is 10,000 foot runway and right now the runway is just being used by Sky Dive Long Island and has been used just by Sky Dive Long Island since the Town

adopted the Master Plan in 2004.

LEG. SPENCER:

And is there like --

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

And the trail -- that portion of the trail is already completed that's in the flight path.

LEG. SPENCER:

I think one of the concerns, and maybe you can address it, would be the County investing funds to complete this and then in the future there being a project that involves all sorts of things including NASCAR or all different sorts of possibilities for the future of that area in terms of a great economic development. And I am concerned that if -- I don't want to build something today that will be obsolete for a bigger plan in a short period of time, and whatever is done there, it would be really important to make sure that that is incorporated into the long-term vision. But there are possibilities that there could be something that could come to the site and that site could be developed for some sort of large venue of some sort in the future, entertainment or tourism or something like that. As far as you know -- but you don't know what it is at this point.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

As a fiscally conservative Legislator, I really appreciate your questions and I understand your concerns, and I can tell that you that the trail will continue around the perimeter of the property. It's outside of any area that's being studied today as economic development for the future of EPCAL. So any proposal that comes into the Town in the future would not include this property that we are discussing. So I understand your concerns and I appreciate your points.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you, Councilwoman. I appreciate that.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

And also as per the revised resolution, I saw that as long as the bond is in effect that the County would have a permanent easement over that property. So anything that would happen within that perimeter or that trail would be up to the Suffolk County Legislature to weigh in as easement holders.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Councilwoman, it's good to see you. Thank you for being up here to talk to us about this. I had a chance to see a portion of that track a couple of weeks ago and it does look like that's a fairly large expanse there where the EPCAL campus is. What do folks do when they go out and let's say, okay, they go walk a mile or a couple of miles or bring the kids. Where do they go afterwards? What do they do as far as, you know, getting a Gatorade or a sandwich or something? Is it having any impact with the local businesses there?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Absolutely it is, and thank you for asking the question. We have directly across the street the Calverton National Cemetery that you're all familiar with. So a lot of the people that come to the Calverton National Cemetery, they are using the trail and they are walking and they are stopping at the fighter jets that Grumman built on this property. The trail goes right by the fighter jets and there is a gate that goes right out to Bean and Bagel Cafe, which is a local eatery that is very successful and very dependent on the businesses and the, I guess the businesses and activities that

occur at EPCAL.

We often have special events at EPCAL where we'll have the Mud Run or we'll have the different venues where those businesses along 25 are packed, lines waiting to get in, and a lot of people are using the local businesses and it does stimulate the local economy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, good.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

As well as hotels.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Glad to hear it. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Calarco.

LEG. CALARCO:

Thank you. I'm over here, Councilwoman. Thank you very much for being here today, and I think Legislator Spencer kind of hit on the questions that I wanted to ask, and that's specifically, you know, when we talk about the investment for the County there. I'm comfortable with it. I think bike paths are an important thing to provide, those recreational opportunities for our residents, but what we think about planning regionally and taking a look at what are our assets and where things should be going in the County, this particular area, EPCAL, presents a real unique opportunity for Suffolk as a region, and certainly for Riverhead as a town, for a place where we can get some real commercial and industrial development in a fashion that and in a place where it's not going to impact residents and homeowners and it's in a really good location.

So from that perspective, what we're looking -- what I would like to hear from you and make me feel good about this project, is that the Town is certainly looking at that as a good location for that kind of development and that this investment here in the bike trail is not going to impact in any way the Town's ability to bring in that type of development in that area.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

I thank you for your comments also. And I will tell you that it will be money well spent by the County in making this trail a loop that will connect. There are several users of the trail. I don't see it as impeding economic development. I see it as an incentive for economic development, because any businesses that are looking to locate, they are looking for their staff to get away from the computer, go out, clear their heads, get a breath of air and come back to the computer, to the table, with fresh ideas, new ideas. And I think that that is the business model that's been amplified throughout -- exemplified throughout the country and I think that it's something that will happen here in Suffolk County for the first time with your help.

LEG. CALARCO:

Does the Town currently have a plan for the property or a master plan or some sort of guiding document? I know there's been a lot of iterations. There's been the ski mountain and all sorts of -- and I think a ski park, a water park at one point in time. There's been a lot of things that have been brought up. Do you have a concrete plan that the Town has developed in terms of what you're targeting? Obviously you don't have any specifics right now, but like a target that the Town would like to put there?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Absolutely. We have a -- the Town has invested over \$700,000 in a subdivision plan that has been ongoing. I believe we started the process in late 2010 and have been going ever since. The stumbling blocks have been the environmental issues that affect the property with the New York State DEC. We have 2300 acres left inside the fence that we were supposed to develop fully, and now I think we're about down to about 600 acres that will be developed, and all of that acreage is within the area of the EPCAL trail. It's not in the perimeter of the -- where the trail is going.

LEG. CALARCO:

When you say subdivision plan, do you mean for industrial or commercial type of development or do you mean residential as well.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

If you've been reading the papers I am solely -- I am -- I shouldn't say solely because my other Board members may come along, but I don't believe that residential belongs at EPCAL. I believe that it should be for commercial/industrial development. And the plans for commercial/development are going to take place within the area of the boundary of the trail.

LEG. CALARCO:

That's great. And I'm not opposed to residential development. I live in Patchogue Village. I represent Patchogue Village. We have a 50% rental housing stock in our Village, and it's something that has actually helped make our Village a great place. But certainly you need the right things in the right places, and I'm glad to hear that. Thank you.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

There's several housing opportunities available for EPCAL at a low cost for any major commercial developer or industrial project that comes to EPCAL.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Stern.

LEG. STERN:

Just very quickly, a procedural question. I recall this had passed out of Public Works, this is now before us pass as a CN.

MR. NOLAN:

It was amended, Legislator Stern, Friday and earlier today Bond Counsel asked for some changes to the resolution in order for him to be able to issue the bond.

LEG. STERN:

Right. So it's not necessarily the underlying amendments, it's that we're up on -- there's a time issue.

MR. NOLAN:

We were past the amended filing deadline when we made the changes. The only way we could consider it today was as a Certificate of Necessity.

LEG. STERN:

And is it because this is a part of the 2014 budget that we need to consider it today.

MR. NOLAN:

That's correct.

LEG. STERN:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Thank you. Councilwoman, thank you for being here today. Just a couple of questions about the trail. How big is the existing trail now? A portion was already completed; correct?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

It's 3.2 miles, and that's already been paid for and it's already paved.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Then there is an additional approximately three miles that needs to get the RCA and the pavement to connect to an existing paved perimeter roadway that Grumman used to use.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

So what would that if we -- between the 3.0 and the 3.2 that we're going to add in the existing, how big would this loop be then?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

It's about 8.6 miles.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

So it's good. So we're kind of bridging the gap between those two.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Absolutely. It is just bridging the gap.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Like I said, Legislator Krupski, I can't thank him enough for even listening to us and the committee. He's been coming to our committee meetings and he's been doing his part to listen to what the needs of the public are. And from our perspective this is a very important issue, not only for economic development, but for recreation for the residents of Riverhead and Suffolk County.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay. In terms of the people of Suffolk County, what about -- is there -- say someone wanted to go there and utilize that. Is there parking available near there that they would be able to use to be able to drive there? It would be a long ride for me from Lindenhurst to get there, so.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

I'm sure we'll see you out there. But, yes, there are 200 parking spaces. We currently have the ball fields and we also have the dog park. So a lot of people from Suffolk County, from Rocky Point, from Miller Place, from all those areas come to the dog park and their dogs run. I know because I go there with my daughter and my dog and we meet them all and none of them are from Riverhead. They're all from Suffolk County. So there are 200 parking spots there now that are

paved and we are looking to actually just draw attention to this great, magnificent place that EPCAL is.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And this fits into the overall economic development plan that you have for that area, then.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Absolutely. When people come and they are at the dog park with their dogs, and I am there witness to it, they're bringing their bagels from Bean and Bagel Cafe, they're bringing their coffee, they're talking about where they're going to go to J & R Steakhouse afterwards. So it is -- it's definitely economic stimulation.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And in terms of future economic stimulation or development would be that, you know, some company would look at it and see this as an asset to the area, to locate to that area then.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Absolutely. I can tell you that I've been -- before I was a Legislator, I was a steel broker, and still am a steel broker, but I work for a company that employs 400 people currently at the EPCAL site in the former Hangar 81. And I can tell you that at least 25 people that I know that work for that company use the trail every single day. What they do is they go out and then they turn around and they come back. They don't need to do that. They can go all the way through and around. And they are coming back and using the trail on the weekends with their families. As I was telling you before about Legislator Krupski, his assistant, Gwynn, told me that her friend, who lives in Greenport, comes with their autistic son to ride the trail that we have paved already because it's safe. It's fenced in and it's off the road. So there are people from all of Suffolk County using the property -- using the trail.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Good. Thank you very much.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTТА:

There's just one parking area, or is there one on the other side?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

There's one parking area with 200 stalls.

LEG. TROTТА:

Did you ever think about putting one on the other --

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Hey, if want to give us the money we'll do it.

LEG. TROTТА:

This 200 grand will cover everything?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

The 200,000 will cover the recreation trail. The parking lot really fills up when we have a ball game or when we have a special event. They do have several softball tournaments and baseball tournaments and things of that nature.

LEG. TROTТА:

And \$200,000 is going to finish the trail.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

That's it.

LEG. TROTТА:

You're putting in -- Riverhead is putting in 200,000, too, is that it?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

We already put in \$200,000 for the portion that's already been completed, and we put in over I think two-and-a-half million dollars for the parking area, for the ball fields and for the dog park.

LEG. TROTТА:

Are you talking to companies about getting them to move out there?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Absolutely. And as a matter of fact, we were just walking through somebody that might be interested in marketing the property a couple of weeks ago, and he said that the rec trail would be a highlight of their marketing strategy.

LEG. TROTТА:

I have one in Kings Park that goes about mile and a half and stops, so ideally it would be nice to go through.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Yeah.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I think it's a reasonable investment when you think about \$200,000 getting you, in essence, an 8.2 mile stretch for bicycle usage. If my memory serves me right, between Nassau and Suffolk County there are something like 19 designated bicycle areas or paths, so this is a very reasonable investment. It's the first one, I guess, on the East End as well.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

And to show you the 200,000 in relation to some other project, we're slated to get in the Bay Shore area \$1.7 million from the Federal Government to make Maple Avenue from the railroad station in Bay Shore down to the ferry, for eight-tenths of a mile, pedestrian friendly, pedestrians and bicyclists. It's going to cost 1.7 million just to go eight-tenths of a mile because most people think -- you know, you do more than just run a line down for bicycles. Often you have to change intersections, lights, stop lights. It gets very, very involved and very expensive. So for \$200,000 this is a reasonable bargain.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Yes, it is. And I thank you, Legislator Barraga, for being here the other day when we appeared before you as you were here for the legislative committee for DPW, and I appreciate your work in acknowledging the expense that these things can cost and what it's going to take for Riverhead in

order to make this a great trail.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. Thank you. Legislator Anker.

LEG. ANKER:

Hi, Jodi. Thank you for coming out here and advocating for the trail.

I just wanted to ask a few questions as far as maintenance. Now, the Town will maintain the trail?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Yes, we have been already. So, yes, we will continue to maintain the trail.

LEG. ANKER:

And I can see this as a very good way of implementing support for future endeavors. In other words, you know, once you get those corporations and industrial folks in there, it will provide another benefit to pull them in there. So again, I applaud your efforts.

Also, I can see this possibly connecting to maybe the Rails Trails that I'm working on. As you mentioned, you know, other people, you know, besides the Town of Riverhead, a lot of Brookhaven folks are using your trail. What's your thoughts on that?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Absolutely, and I thank you all, especially Legislator Anker, for your efforts for the Tesla Trail, because that will tie directly into the EPCAL trail. The Town of Riverhead received a \$3 million grant from the Federal Government for safe bike trails through the Town of Riverhead and it starts at EPCAL and then goes all the way east to our Iron Pier Beach. So we've already spent that money. We've overseen that project. That project is completed, so you can park your car in EPCAL and you can drive all the way through Riverhead or take your bike all the way through Riverhead, through Downtown Riverhead, down Hubbard Avenue, down Peconic Bay Boulevard, then back all the way north to Iron Pier Beach and then go back to where you parked your car -- if you were energetic. So I'll look forward to seeing some of our energetic Legislators out on the trail and then taking that all the way to Iron Pier Beach, Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I'll be there.

LEG. ANKER:

Very good, and also I wanted to mention, too, you know, with the latest legislation that we're putting forth, Legislator Hahn has her legislation with the physicians giving places to go where you can exercise, the upcoming marathon that we're working on right now for Suffolk County, so this is a very popular idea of getting out and really enjoying the outdoors. I think, you know, it is an investment and that's why we're all asking questions, but I think it's well worth it to invest in this type of project and I commend your efforts.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Thank you. Absolutely, and just on that note. New York State DOT did give the Town these bike lockers where people can actually take the train in from Manhattan and leave their bikes in lockers at the train station, and then take their bikes and then ride throughout Suffolk County. And those bike lockers there and at Town Hall that we're -- well, we're proposing them at the train station. We have them at Town Hall now. But those will connect to a route that will take them anywhere throughout Suffolk County.

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We also did have a meeting with all of the East End towns to see if we can formulate a route that goes from the EPCAL bike trail all the way through Suffolk County towns and farm fields and in right of ways and -- to create those type of duathlon and triathlon events to bring people from one town to the other through Suffolk County, which would be tremendous for economic development in Suffolk County on the East End.

LEG. ANKER:

Absolutely. And of course we have to put the most important thing in front of all of us is that there needs to be public safety. There has to be safety. Unfortunately, we've had some incidences in my legislative district where people have been killed running, biking, jogging along the road, so we need to provide these places for people to go. Again, thanks.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Hello.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Hello.

LEG. CILMI:

How are you doing today?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Good. How are you?

LEG. CILMI:

Awesome. I didn't have any questions until you said something a little while ago and it caught my attention. So you said the Town put in 200,000 to construct what's there now?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

The Town and the State.

LEG. CILMI:

So the State put in money as well.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

The State put in 100,000, yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. So 300,000 got you where you are now, and that's how long of a trail?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Three point two miles, and it was 200,000.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay, so it was 100,000 each, 3.2 miles. And how long of a stretch is it that we're -- that you're going to do with this money?

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

About another three miles.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay, so it's about the same length.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Got it. That's all I need. Thanks, Jodi.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Sure.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Anyone else? No?

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Oh, Legislator Spencer?

LEG. SPENCER:

Actually, my question's to the sponsor, and I just definitely respect the sponsor's been an asset to me and a good friend, so there's nothing personal involved here. And I guess as I looked at this being brought forward and, you know, last month we were shown pictures of the Vanderbilt with literally a waterfall going through a high breaker box, 200,000, the exact same amount of money, and a vote 17 to one you expressed a philosophical difference.

So here's my concern. When I look at this and I take a facility such as the Vanderbilt, which is a County facility. We have something there, a planetarium which is unlike anything we have on the east coast, we own it. It's ours, we're responsible for it. And when I look at this, besides it being in your district, I have a harder time supporting this when I feel that I -- you've asked for kind of a long-term vision of what we're going to do over there in a facility that we own, we're responsible for, and we see an imminent hazard that's there.

So to ask this question directly of you, what would, besides it not being yours, would you vote no on 200,000 for a facility that we own that -- bike trails are important for physical exercise, by the planetarium educational program that benefits all of Suffolk County residents, what would be the difference of a no vote on that versus a yes vote? Because if I were to just be consistent in philosophy, I should vote no for this. So I'd be curious to hear your thoughts.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yeah, sure. Thanks. That's a good question. As far as the non-motorized bike or running trail at EPCAL, it's a Town owned resource on a town owned parcel. The County's making an investment to get people to recreate in the fresh air, in nature, off the road safely so there's no conflict between motorists. And the roads were made for cars, not for runners or for bikers or anything like that. So you are getting people off the road safely so they can exercise. The County at that point has no other investment, because the Town is going to do the planning and the construction and the maintenance of all that, but all County residents are going to have access to it.

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So the difference between that and the Vanderbilt, which I've toured, and I've been there a number of times, and it's a beautiful facility, but it's our obligation, and we can't seem to fulfill our obligation there to maintain it. Even though they have millions of dollars in reserve, they don't seem to be willing to spend that to maintain what's there and then it gets to the point where it needs so much more money to renovate these things. If you look at the boathouse, if you look at the seaplane hangar, the list -- Normandy Manor. It's a really -- the way it's been managed, the way it's been run and the cost of it, it never seems to end.

So I think that's the difference. This is a finite cost to the County and yet it's going to have unlimited opportunities for County residents to use it. The cost ends there as far as us goes and our obligation. As far as the Vanderbilt goes, it's a wonderful, beautiful facility, it's an asset to the County, but the cost factor, it's just sort of unlimited there.

LEG. SPENCER:

I really appreciate you answering that and I understand your answer. I think we have a difference of opinion, but still I think at the end of the day, because I do think that there is a definite future in part of keeping that endowment in place at the Vanderbilt is so that it can become self-sustaining and I see us having an ownership interest. But I do think you make a very valid point. You know that I respect you, I respect your advocacy for your district and sometimes even if I disagree with you I may be able to just vote for my belief in the Legislator.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I know you're working for the whole County and we appreciate that. Thank you.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

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

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Mr. Presiding Officer, can I make a motion?

P.O. GREGORY:

Hold on, we have the bond.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Oh, I'm sorry.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. ***IR 2158A (Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York authorizing the issuance of \$200,000 bonds to finance the cost of Construction of Bicycle and Recreational Path at Enterprise Park at Calverton (EPCAL), Town of Riverhead (CP 5904.410).*** Same motion, same second. Roll call.

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

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

LEG. SPENCER:

Thank you, Councilwoman.

COUNCILWOMAN GIGLIO:

Thank you all, and I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you. Same to you.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Don't go anywhere, Councilwoman Giglio, please. I make a motion to take ***IR 2183 (Authorizing Suffolk County to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Riverhead for Sewer Treatment Plant Effluent Reuse)(Co. Exec.)***, in the red folder, the CN out of order, as we have representatives from Riverhead Town here.

P.O. GREGORY:

I'll second the motion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'll make a motion to approve the intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Riverhead for the sewage treatment plant effluent reuse.

P.O. GREGORY:

I'll second. On the motion?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

On the motion. The Director of the sewer -- Superintendent of the sewage treatment plant, Michael Reichel, spoke this morning about the effluent reuse. This is a project that they've been working on for a number of years. They have tested the effluent on a sample golf course next to the County course. The Department of Health, New York State DEC and the Town has done their due diligence to make sure that it's safe not only for the golfers, but also for the workers. Once this is done and once this is in use, it's going to be a template for this sort of effluent reuse in the rest of the County.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. Anyone on the motion?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I'm telling you, almost out the door, almost. Got one foot. Just a request, a simple request, I guess, both to you and for my colleague, Legislator Trotta. We do still have that initiative for the Kings Park commercial district sewerage initiative, which is a shovel ready project, and we have two municipal golf courses that are approximate to that plant. So I would love to see or have you share with them what the outcome is with this as it goes forward, because that's another County plant, you know, with an almost identical situation that would be a great opportunity for reuse on the gray water. Okay? Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Anyone else? Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yeah, and if we're talking about golf courses adjoining sewer plants, the 13th fairway at Bergen Point abuts -- the Bergen Point Sewer Plant and golf course are right next to each other. In fact, I've lost a couple of golf balls over the fence there which maybe one day I'll go back and get on my next visit to the sewer plant. So maybe we can look at the possibility. It's a perfect way to utilize some of the things, the effluent right there, and that gray water that's coming out of there as well. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

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

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right, thank you, folks.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Mr. Presiding Officer?

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Can I make a motion to take 2150 out of order, please.

P.O. GREGORY:

Which one is that? Where is that?

LEG. McCAFFREY:

In the red folder.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. ***IR 2150 - Amending the hourly rate for temporary positions in the Suffolk County Classification and Salary Plan (Co. Exec.).*** Motion by Legislator McCaffrey. I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Calarco. On the motion? No? Okay, no questions.

LEG. TROTTA:

Wait.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTTA:

This is raising -- what is this exactly?

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Minimum wage costs.

P.O. GREGORY:

This is a resolution complying with the Minimum Wage Law.

LEG. TROTTA:

Never mind.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

EDUCATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. Back to the agenda. IR 2154 was withdrawn; is that correct, Mr. Vaughn?

MR. VAUGHN:

Correct.

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & AGRICULTURE

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Environment, Planning & Agriculture. ***IR 2088-14 - Appropriating funds for the Study and Monitoring of Public Health related harmful algal blooms (CP 8224)(County Executive)***. Motion by Legislator Schneiderman. I'll second -- oh, second by Legislator Hahn. Anyone on the motion?

LEG. D'AMARO:

On the motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

On the motion, Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I had a few questions about this particular study and monitoring and is there anyone here who can answer those questions for me today?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Good afternoon, Legislator D'Amaro and Mr. Presiding Officer, members of the Legislature. I'm Walter Dawydiak, the Director of Environmental Quality for the Suffolk County Health Department. I'm happy to answer any questions.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Through the Chair, Mr. Dawydiak, welcome and thank you for coming up to answer my question. First, I would like to start with just a brief explanation as to the study itself. Is this an ongoing study, is it a study that we've done in the past, is it a continuation, and is it included in any of the larger studies that we've done?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

All excellent questions. We've surveyed some areas of the Long Island estuary systems for Alexandrium or the red tide first back in the late 1980s and then back around 2000. We did get only one hit in those areas. It was not deemed to be a very significant threat at the time, but the world has changed. The waters have gotten a little bit warmer and nutrients have gotten a lot more significant, and this red tide, which was previously only a threat up in New England, has crept further south toward us and we're seeing more and more of this. For the better part of a decade Huntington/Northport have been closed every spring for the last few seasons. It's been more prominent in Meetinghouse Creek in Sag Harbor Cove.

The State DEC has not had the resources to do a screening survey for this particular algal bloom. In recent years we have been coordinating with them. They support us in our work to do this survey. This would be a one-shot evaluation focusing on Peconics, which is deemed to be the area of highest risk, to determine whether this harmful algal bloom as well as the Saxitoxin that it produces that can cause gastrointestinal illness, nausea, paralysis and even death, exist in any significant concentrations. This is part of several larger initiatives. It's closely related to Peconic Estuary Program Harmful Algal Blooms Investigation and Management. It's part of the County Executive's Coastal Resiliency and Reclaim Our Waters Program in targeting nutrient reductions, and as part of the Harmful Algal Bloom Action Plan, which is going to be underway this year.

This is going to give us some really important data to determine where these algae are and how they relate to nutrient inputs. We just heard a presentation from the Cape Cod folks about how they've linked some of these priority data sets to {inaudible} management, dealing not only with wastewater, but issues like permeable reactive barriers to intercept groundwater nitrogen. The high priority area is to remove nutrients as well as oyster reef to mitigate nitrogen input. So we believe that this data is going to be critical not only for public health protection protocols, but also for nutrient management in some conventional as well as novel ways as part of a Harmful Algal Bloom Action Plan. So that's a nutshell overview of it, Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Can you repeat that?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

I don't think anybody wants me to, but.

*(*Laughter*)*

LEG. D'AMARO:

I appreciate your response. It is comprehensive, however, this area we're spending \$25,000 to study red tide I think you said.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

This is one of three red tides that are affected.

LEG. D'AMARO:

One of three, which you in your comments seem to be indicating we know is there, we know it exists, we know it's a problem. So if we know all of that already, why are we still studying this problem?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

I think we're on the verge of changing everything with respect to both nutrient management for conventional issue like dissolved oxygen, but also coastal resiliency and harmful algal blooms.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Let's take that. What is nutrient management? Who's changing nutrient management? What does that mean?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Controlling nitrogen input.

LEG. D'AMARO:

But we're all working on that. You know, like we had the lottery for the septic systems this afternoon. We all know that nitrogen discharge into groundwater and surface waters is an issue. We've been studying the various tides that we've been experiencing here for 30 years now for quite some time and, you know, I seem like -- this is almost like Groundhog Day to me. We keep coming up here and just putting more money into studies for -- to study problems that we know exist, we know what they are, we know why they're occurring, but we're not really getting solutions. I know people are working very hard on those solutions, but I don't understand why the further study.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

I appreciate the concerns and I'm very sympathetic to them. I mean, the short and honest answer is we honestly don't have a great handle on the Alexandrium problem, particularly with respect to the Peconics.

LEG. D'AMARO:

How is spending this 25,000 going to give you a greater handle on the Alexandrium problem.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Because we're going to look at 20 vulnerable areas biweekly over the highest risk time and determine where this exists and to what degree and what kind of a threat it poses and then further link that to possible pollution sources. So right now we know it's in two areas, which are two of the most susceptible areas. If those wind up being the only two, then that's great news, we focus on those. If it's a more systemic problem, then we try and figure out how and why and tailor strategies to address those areas.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So with all the studies that we've done to date, we don't know where the red tide exists?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Not the Alexandrium. It's a very transient red tide. Often it can only be picked up by looking at the Saxitoxin in the mussels in a reliable way to determine public health risk.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So let's say we do the study and we determine that it's more prevalent than the two areas where it's already been discovered. So what are you going to do about that?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

It depends on the outcome. For example, if it's Meetinghouse in Sag Harbor Cove, it'll warrant nutrient strategies there. Basically this information is going to feed into the --

LEG. D'AMARO:

But wait, can I just interrupt you there? So those nutrient strategies, aren't we doing those anyway?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

We are implementing a lot of preexisting strategies and piloting new strategies, but we don't have a comprehensive --

LEG. D'AMARO:

No, but my point is that all of these things that you're talking about, and I appreciate and I know they're important, aren't we just doing that anyway?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

We are in the continuum of implementing them, but the more information we have the better we could do it. I can give you --

LEG. D'AMARO:

No, but you guys keep telling us the more information -- but we know the red tide is occurring. We're doing all of these strategies. We're already implementing. The last time we talked about this we were compiling the data -- more than compiling the data. We were bringing it together and trying to find solutions, but now we're back into the 25 -- who gets the 25,000? Who's doing the study?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

The \$25,000 would most likely be a sole source contract with Stony Brook University or local experts on this.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, and so how long have we been under contract with our local experts at Stony Brook University?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

On and off the better part of about a decade to investigate several HABs.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, and so the work that they're doing for us now does not include this particular strain? I mean, is that how we hire Stony Brook University, by strain of red tide that appears?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Correct. Right now they're under contract to look at C.poly, which is one of the other red tides as well as Cyanobacteria, which is a blue-green algae, which is a particular bathing beach and public health concern.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. And just not to take too much more time, can you tell us what the County is doing in response to the red tide?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

The County is doing a series of actions. I mean, first and foremost as the Health Department our concern is public health, so it's coordinating with DEC and our monitoring program to be sure that the best possible information is available so that the advisories and control strategies, whether it be bathing beach or shellfish bed closure are appropriately implemented.

Second, we're implementing nutrient management strategies generally, which are getting increasingly tailored to the individual risks that are presenting themselves. Alexandrium is a new risk in Peconics.

Just to finish my example, if we have funding to do three or four permeable reactive barriers or oyster beds the next year, knowing where these red tide problems are will really help us figure out where to put these mitigation strategies to fix those problems. Without that, we're just shooting darts, which is not necessarily a bad thing if that's all you have, but we like to make the wisest use of the resources available to us for both public health and environmental mitigation.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right, I understand. So you want to identify the areas where the red tide -- this strain of red tide is existing or prevalent. Is that what you're saying?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And we don't know that.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Not in the Peconics.

LEG. D'AMARO:

We have no idea.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

We have an idea of where it is. We don't have a comprehensive idea because nobody has surveyed it in recent years.

LEG. D'AMARO:

We have an idea where it is, but not a comprehensive idea. Just what's the distinction there?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Nobody has measured in every one of the watersheds that are what we deem to be highest risk, so we can't determine exactly at what levels --

LEG. D'AMARO:

My suggestion is that you don't need further study. I don't think we need to spend another plug nickel on further study of this. I think we know where it is, we know where it occurs, we know why, and we know what strategies, which we are already implementing to try and combat it. And so to keep doing more and more studies for data and information that's just going to confirm the fact that when you look into the water and you see a red tide, to me, I'd rather put the money more into the strategies that we're using to combat it then to continue, continue to study year after year after year. I mean, this problem has been defined ad nauseam by this County and probably in a lot of other jurisdictions as well, and I just cannot continue to support the study rather than the solution at this point. I just don't see the sense to doing that.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

I understand your position, Legislator D'Amaro, and I completely respect it. I would point out that it's a changing world. Up until 1985 we had no HABs and we had one for the better part of two decades. Now we have six and counting, and without knowing where they are, we're not going to know what they do to people, how to protect people, and how to fix it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. But I would suggest that this study is going to only confirm that which you already know and, again, I would rather spend the limited resources that we have on solutions as opposed to just confirming the data or the information that we already have. I just don't see why we continue to give Stony Brook this money to study problems that we know already exist. It -- just we have to spend this funding to implement solutions. I mean, we've been studying this stuff for years.

So anyway, that's my point. I'm not going to support it. I'm only not supporting it because I think that we do have sufficient data, I think we do know where red tide occurs, and I'd really rather see the efforts go more into trying to solve this problem than to study it for the next, you know, we've already studied it for 20 or 25 years. I don't want to go another 25. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Walter, here's my question to you. And I've said it before, I think that the amount that we're looking for for this study is what, 25,000.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Yes, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And so I thought I heard you say that will be with Stony Brook with the Marine Sciences Unit. We have a number of professors over there, I guess, who are continuing to do ongoing work for us?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Correct. The primary expert we have is Dr. Gobler, but there are a team of experts who do work on that at Stony Brook.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And, listen, I'm not going to pretend to, you know, know better than the experts that there may be a new iteration of critter here. Red tide, I mean, it's been something that's been vexing. Conversely, we've heard good news this season. We're having a relatively good season out in the Peconic with scalloping. As a matter of fact, some out there are saying that it's probably the best it's been in, you know, 10, 15 years. And maybe it's because some of the work that these folks are

doing.

Here's my point to you. My point to you is, is why are we once again being asked to bond 25,000? There has to be, in a department of a thousand people, some savings there. And as a matter of fact, I'm not going to name anybody specifically, but I know for a fact you have turnover savings based on folks that either left during the year or had some other issues. There's got to be 25,000 that can go to support this contract and not have it be bonded. You know, Legislator D'Amaro brings a good point, I think, as far as wanting to go towards remedies and saying enough on the study. I'm saying even if you make the argument about study, let's pay for the study. Let's not put another one on a credit card.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Legislator Kennedy, if I may. I've heard that observation and comment several times in recent Capital appropriations. Again, I do understand and I respect it. The Health Department and the County Executive have been doing what they can to address these issues with limited resources. Starting next year we've actually set aside \$25,000 a year to do HAB monitoring to address these emerging issues, and next year's allocation is already dedicated to Cyanobacteria, which is our highest priority public health risk at bathing beaches. I think that this sort of strategy and appropriation in Capitals is going to become less and less frequent.

I would just submit at this point in time this appropriation is especially critical in that it feeds into the Harmful Algal Bloom Action Plan, as well as the County's nitrogen reduction strategy and it is a public health concern. We have looked at other offsets. We have not identified any within the Health Department. It continues to be a difficult economic time where we have to allocate priorities wisely. This was pre-budgeted in the Capital Program for this purpose, so this is something that went through the County Exec and Legislature with this earmark. Again, this shift will change in future years, but this is where it's been and I would just respectfully ask the group to allocate it so we can look at this issue.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. I'm going to reply, if I will, and then I'll yield, and respectfully disagree, Walter, because, without naming names, I know one employee who's no longer there and whose position was probably vacant for the better part of five or six months, and she earned in excess of six figures. So there was more than 25,000 in the salary line that was saved and realized that, quite frankly, could go towards this. Either look to go ahead and fund it through that, or roll this initiative through to January and expand what that commitment on the part of the Department is to actually do a pay-go or an out of pocket expenditure. I can't support a bond for 25 grand on this. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Thank you. My question is, Walter, about the -- I didn't want to get into the in-depth questions about the red tide and how we should use it. Mine is more along the lines of Legislator Kennedy's, which is about bonding \$25,000. Walter, how much testing or how much money do we spend on testing in your department each year?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

That's far too complicated a question for me to answer on the spot since we do a wide variety of different tests on groundwater, drinking water, marine and industrial sampling.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Millions?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

It would be on the order of millions. Our budget ranges in the 10 to 15 million range depending on how you count the grants and reimbursements. A significant percentage of that has to do with analysis.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Would this be the only one that we're looking to bond?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

To my knowledge, that's correct. Off the top of my head I can't think of any others.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Why is this one special. If we spend over a million dollars in testing, and now we're coming up for \$25,000 worth of bonding.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

This one is particularly special because it's a unique and emerging issue, which we don't have the capacity and ability to address. For us to get in-house resource up to snuff in terms of expertise, training, capital, equipment, would be on the order of hundreds of thousands to be able to get in the business to do this kind of work on a routine basis. It's a significant cost savings to have somebody on the outside do this as a one-shot for us. It's also closely related to capital implementation programs, which are really the centerpiece of the Reclaim Our Waters Initiative. Again, not just septics, but other in and near shore solutions to mitigating some of the inputs that are causing these blooms. We think it's more closely related than just taking a drinking water sample to see if some individual might need treatment. This is a regional management planning step.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Is this the only type of testing that you've outsourced?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

We have used Dr. Gobler for marine sampling in the past. We've recently entered into a shared services agreement with the Water Authority to help us with some of our sampling. I can't think of a testing that -- other than that off the top of my head, but if I can think of anything I'll get back to you.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay. As I said before, my concern is that we'll have to bond \$25,000, and if we can't find \$25,000 in a budget of at least millions of dollars, I don't know where we're going here. But, thank you.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

I'm sorry. I apologize. The U.S. Geologic Survey also does some testing to us on the order of about \$50,000 a year for novel pesticides, things that we can't do on our own.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Do we bond that or do we pay for that?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Those are actually grant pass-through funds, so those are State monies that pass through us to the USGS.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Good afternoon, Walter.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Good afternoon, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

This Dr. Gobler, at Stony Brook.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

So does this money go directly to him? How does it actually work?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Contract, I believe, is with the Research Foundation at Stony Brook, which is the umbrella entity that administers contracts and grants for Stony Brook, and then internally they pass it through to him and his group.

LEG. CILMI:

And so what will he do with it, hire people?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

It'll probably support grad students under his direction, and part of his salary will be dedicated to this as well.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. So he'll derive some salary or pull some salary out of this money and then support grad students doing some research work.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Again, I'm speaking in generalities based on prior contracts.

LEG. CILMI:

I understand. And, I mean, without this, what would happen? His grad students, I'm sure, are working on other things and he's obviously getting paid.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

He's pretty fully subscribed on projects, so without this, as far as I know, Dr. Gobler would not be doing this work, DEC would not be doing this work, and we would be going into the harmful algal bloom without a critical piece of information to guide future pollution control policy. We'd have less information on how to deal with public health risk.

LEG. CILMI:

Is there a deliverable in terms of the number of man hours that will be spent on this research?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

It's typically a negotiated per sample rate, which is related to man hours. I would have to go to any individual contract and deal with -- work with our contracts people to get you more specifics than

that. But yes, it relates to hours but it's usually a metric that boils down to the number of samples, cost that it takes them to process a sample.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. So when we come up with the \$25,000 number, how do we come up with that number? Does he tell us to do the work that you are asking for it's going to cost you \$25,000, or do we say we have \$25,000, what can you do for us.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

It's an approximation initially based on a number of sites and samples, so we're talking about ten sites a week, 20 biweekly or ten a week over probably a 12-15 week period, so you're dealing with about 150 samples. Ballpark number is about 150 bucks a samples gets you close to \$25,000 and there's some incidental time for analysis, report preparation, supervision. So that's about the basis of how these things are initially estimated and then it's subject to the details in the contract.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Walter, two questions, and one relates to what Legislator Kennedy asked you. Is this contract, is it sampling and testing or only testing?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

For this particular contract the one typical hybrid is for us to collect the samples and deliver them to Dr. Gobler. We'd have to work out the details of exactly when and where to determine. In some cases they can collect samples for us, but the typical model is that our marine crew will grab the water or the mussels and we'd arrange transport to his laboratory for testing.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

All right. And the second one, this goes back to what Legislator Kennedy was saying about, a salary that was not being used anymore. You know, what's the possibility of taking \$25,000 from that old salary and using that as an offset.

MR. DAWYDIAK:

Based on other requests for things that we'd like to do it's not great from where I sit, but again, I'd have to defer to the budget folks.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

If the -- what's the timeliness of this? This is for bathing beach purposes. What's the timeliness on this? Could this decision be deferred until the next meeting to see if you can, in fact, find an offset?

MR. DAWYDIAK:

I don't want to say that time is of the essence, but it's really important, not just to feed into the Harmful Algal Bloom Plan, but because our hope is to get Dr. Gobler in business preparing for this work over the winter and actually to be out in the water in March. So there's a lot of steps that have to happen between now and March for us to actually get this project going, get a contract in place, mobilize the resources to get their team going, and losing a month or two would make it increasingly unlikely that we could pull it off for this coming spring season.

P.O. GREGORY:

And, Legislator Krupski, since it's a Capital Project, we'll lose the money if we don't appropriate it this year.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. That's all the folks I have on the list. Legislator Calarco.

LEG. CALARCO:

Perhaps BRO can answer the question, because I think it's been asked a couple of times. Is there, you know, we're nearing the end of the year. You know, budgets are going to be closing out soon, and certainly the Capital Budget needs to be -- we either need to approve this today or it's going to go away. But is there excess resources in the Operating Budget for the Health Department due to turnover savings and what have you to cover this expense.

MS. GAZES:

We would have to look at that. There's been all sorts of changes, plus we adopted a budget with an estimate for 2014. We'd have to see how that impacted, whether the individual or individuals that were off the payroll were already accounted for when we did 2014 estimates.

LEG. CALARCO:

You mean in matter of how much turnover savings is going to be carried forward.

MS. GAZES:

Correct.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. So we have a motion and a second.

MR. LAUBE:

Yes, you do.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Opposed? Okay, let's do a roll call, Mr. Clerk.

*(*Roll was called by Mr. Laube - Clerk of the Legislature*)*

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

No.

LEG. STERN:

No.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

No.

LEG. TROTTA:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No.

LEG. BARRAGA:

No.

LEG. CILMI:

No.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

No.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

No.

LEG. BROWNING:

No.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Nine.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay, motion fails. Okay, I'm going to make a motion to take IR 2141 out of order. ***IR 2141 - Requesting legislative approval of a contract award for Unemployment Insurance Administrative Services for the Department of Civil Service (Co. Exec.)***. Do I have a second, Legislator Schneiderman?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes, second.

P.O. GREGORY:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion is before us. I make a motion to approve, second by Legislator Schneiderman.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Which one are we?

P.O. GREGORY:

IR 2141, page eight. We took it out of order. On the motion, anybody?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Who's the entity?

P.O. GREGORY:

Mr. Schneider, you want to come forward?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Alan Schneider.

P.O. GREGORY:

Mr. Schneider, I heard -- I think someone had asked who is the entity that's --

LEG. KENNEDY:

As a matter of fact, I did, Mr. Chair. Who is the entity, Alan? We are engaging some private entity? Is it a law firm or an insurance entity?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Let me get it here. The actual name of the firm is Unemployment Insurance Administrative Services, and they're headed up by attorneys --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Go figure.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

-- who specialize in only unemployment insurance law. They've been our unemployment insurance representatives since 1986.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, so let me ask a question, if I can, through the Chair, then. When we say our representatives, in other words, for all intent and purposes we've been fairly fortunate. We've not really had too much in the way of layoffs, although we go back to 2012, July of 2012, and we had a sizeable layoff then. So I guess we had a couple of a hundred people who would be eligible for unemployment insurance, right?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And so if there comes a time where we have a disagreement, maybe somebody is fired for cause or somebody is an exempt and they attempt to go ahead and claim and seek unemployment, then that becomes an administrative proceeding where we have -- it's adversarial and somebody

represents us.

MR. SCHNEIDER:
That is correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Would that be this group?

MR. SCHNEIDER:
Yes, it is.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Okay. How often do we -- how do we -- what is the arrangement? Are we paying a flat fee to them or is it contingent upon when we need to engage them? How does it work, Alan?

MR. SCHNEIDER:
Yeah, we're entering into a contract with them for \$21,200 a year to do this, which is less than the cost of a Clerk Typist.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER:
And they handle all the unemployment claims that come out of Suffolk County. With 9600 people, Legislator Kennedy, we have people who resign from their jobs who subsequently go and file for unemployment insurance.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Uh-huh.

MR. SCHNEIDER:
All of those claims have to be answered on a timely basis or otherwise there are penalties and fines.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Sure.

MR. SCHNEIDER:
Thanks to this organization, we've never been hit with any penalties or any fines. They cover all the claims work submissions to unemployment on a timely basis, and they address all the claims that they do not believe that people are entitled to unemployment insurance.

LEG. KENNEDY:
Okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER:
So we have people that work during the summer who are subsequently terminated at the end of the summer because the summer jobs have ended, and go and file for unemployment insurance. They watch over these for us. If there is one claim for unemployment insurance over the course of a year, it could cost the County, that gets away from us, it could cost the County \$10,240, so.

LEG. KENNEDY:
So in your opinion, then, this is a reasonable expenditure. It is prudent. We get our money's worth and certainly something that but for this arrangement it would cause, you know, some demands on

your office I guess that otherwise would be difficult to meet.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

My office would not be able to do this.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

And I am not somebody who would ever recommend that we contract out --

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, not at all.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

-- for a service that a County employee could do.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

So the only question is the person who handles this, who is one of the principals of the company who handles all of our claims personally and has been doing it since 1986, is a relative expert in unemployment insurance law. So the only person -- the only person who could readily do this in the County would be an Assistant County Attorney, who would have to take on this responsibility. They wouldn't have the knowledge, they wouldn't have the background in legal precedence that this firm has and --

LEG. KENNEDY:

So then let me just ask this, Alan. And I guess I'm curious as to what the name of the principal is, but I'm also curious to know why the contract is with Civil Service that it's not just something simply as outside Counsel to the County Attorney's Office.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Well, I can't really answer that. The contract has always been with Civil Service.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

I'm talking about 28 years that this firm that we've been dealing with this firm. We're the personnel agency for the County. We have all the records, so whenever somebody files, they claim for unemployment --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Right, the substantive information they're going to come to you.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

They come to us. So we have the claim. Now, we do an RFP and they were the only company that responded to this.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So it's before us because we don't have -- it's a sole source provider, I guess.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Yup. And probably the reason is because the earnings are going to be as little as they are. I do also want to point out although you were talking about claims, the layoffs were in 2012.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

But in 2013 there were 456 unemployment insurance claims filed against the County.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Really.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Yup. And in 2014 there have been 294 claims.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And this entity is appearing on our behalf, notwithstanding the amount of time that it takes via cap. Do they have an escalator if they hit some --

MR. SCHNEIDER:

They do not.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Wow.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

They don't appear on all of them, they do the paperwork. They handle the paperwork. There have been so far this year 15 hearings that they have personally gone in and testified in front of the State Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and they have won every one of them.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Do we -- let me turn to Counsel, then, if I can. Thank you, Alan. I appreciate that. Do you -- is there a name of the principal of this outfit, George?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

I've got that here. You want the name of the individual that --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

His name is Mark Schwartz.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mark Schwartz. Okay, all right. Not a name I recognize, but that's okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

That's not the name that -- of the firm itself.

LEG. KENNEDY:

But that's the gentleman that you dealt with, Alan, over the course of these years?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

He's been dealing with us since 1986. He's one of two attorneys that work there, but he is the one that -- it's Industrial Unemployment Insurance Services, is the corporate name of the firm.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. All right. Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Okay, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTТА:

He answered the question about how many. You went to 15 hearings and how many people filed?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Legislator Trotta, which year are you asking?

LEG. TROTТА:

This year.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Two-hundred and ninety-four.

LEG. TROTТА:

All right, thanks.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Two-hundred and ninety-four claims against the County.

LEG. TROTТА:

And he handled every one of them.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

He handles them all, yes, with his staff. I mean, I don't know who in the office would handle the paperwork, the clerical work that goes into it.

LEG. TROTТА:

Has this gone up over the years, this contract?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

His contract went up \$200 from last year to this year.

LEG. TROTТА:

About 1%, right? Twenty grand? Never mind.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer. Alan, I want to commend you for bringing this before us. It sounds to me that you've convinced someone over the entire span of your career to work for 50 bucks a claim. It's pretty amazing. I don't know how -- I don't know how just the economics of it works for this particular firm, so I want to ask you --

MR. SCHNEIDER:

I can answer that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay, go ahead. I'd be curious to hear.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

They do their business on -- they have a lot of clients.

LEG. D'AMARO:

High volume.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

High volume, correct. We're not the only one. They have clerical people in their office that they know when a claim comes in they can distribute it to a clerical person and they can get the information that they need from our office.

LEG. D'AMARO:

But even beyond that, when the claim is contested or the denial is contested, you're saying when they go to the hearing level that this firm is also successful for that same \$50 and they won every claim so far this year.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

That's correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's just an amazing feat.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

And every year before.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And every year before that.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

They don't contest claims that they know the person is going to -- when a person is entitled to unemployment insurance, they know it. They don't contest it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. So does this company have the decision making authority or does that ultimately come back to your office.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

On occasion they will come to us. That's a very good question. On occasion they will come to us and they will say, "Might go either way, what do you want us to do?"

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's reassuring to me, because ultimately we would, you would make that decision.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

That is correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's the way it should be. And my last question, and I think this was --

MR. SCHNEIDER:

That's only come up I would say maybe in the last five years three or four times.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So how many claims have been paid, have they decided to pay per year? You said there were 457 claims last year, and of that, they've won every contest.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

They've won every contested claim.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, but how many claims have they -- where someone has filed the claim, it goes through this firm and this firm has decided well, there's no reason to contest, let's just pay it. What's the percentage of claims denied and percentage of claims approved?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Unfortunately, those numbers I don't have, so I would have to go to Audit & Control and ask Audit what is the total cost for unemployment insurance in the County.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Because actually we get -- we get a quarterly report from them.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You know, without going into the minutiae.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

I understand where you're going, yep.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Where I'm going with it is when you tell me that a company can do this for \$50 a claim, or whatever the number is, I did some quick math, so cheaply, the concern becomes whether or not they are paying claims that they should not be paying, because it's just too cost prohibitive at that rate to continue with an appeal process. And so that's my concern and then my question is how do you monitor that.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

We do, because we get this quarterly report. We know the reasons why people are terminated in this County.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

We know the reasons why people leave this County.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

We know basically who is entitled to unemployment insurance and who isn't. There may be cases where we do not know some kind of privileged information that occurs between an employee and the department head. We subsequently find it out as a result of our communication between this firm and ourself.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I see.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

But if we ever thought or suspected that that kind of thing were going on, it would be readily apparent to us.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, and that gives me comfort in knowing that you've considered that and you do monitor that and you keep an eye on whether or not the claims are being properly paid, despite the fact that the company you hire has the expertise, and I'm not questioning them in particular, but just as a, you know, a theory. You do have to be mindful of the fact that it's a heck of a lot cheaper for that company to just pay a claim than it is to contest that claim and you have to be mindful of that, but you're telling me --

MR. SCHNEIDER:

We know that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

-- you do keep an eye on that.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

We do. I have a woman in my office whose part of her job as a personnel analyst, one of responsibilities is overseeing --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Very good.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

-- the unemployment insurance responsibility.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So in effect what you've done is you're overseeing that, but because this company is doing such a vast volume, us and a lot of other claims, it brings the cost way down and that's a benefit to the County.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Exactly.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Excellent. Very good. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Presiding Officer.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Schneiderman.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Real quick. I wasn't going to ask a question, but I wanted to know how much is this contract for?

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What's the total? Twenty-one two. And, Alan, you said twenty-one two, and it's only if it's above 20, right, that brings you --

MR. SCHNEIDER:

What's that?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's twenty-one two is the contract amount?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Twenty-one two for this year.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And I believe this provision is only if a contract award is over 20,000.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

That is correct. It goes to the Leg.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And you said it's about \$50 per claim? That's how we pay them?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

No, that was Legislator D'Amaro who said that.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

What do they actually charge us?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

We pay them approximately 5400 a quarter to handle unemployment insurance claims for Suffolk County.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And the average number of claims is?

MR. SCHNEIDER:

There is none.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It depends.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

There is none. It don't matter if they handle 100 claims or 350 claims. They're still going to get the same amount of money.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right, so based on some of the numbers you gave, 200 one year, maybe 300, it depends on the year.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

It could be.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's under a hundred dollars a claim pretty much any way you cut it.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Absolutely.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

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

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you, Alan.

MR. SCHNEIDER:

Thank you all. Happy holidays to all of you.

P.O. GREGORY:

You too. Thank you and feel better. Okay, we have a request to take another CN out of order, ***IR 2178 - Appointing K. Kelly Morris to the Suffolk County Landbank Corporation Board of Directors (Co. Exec.)***. I'll make that motion, second by Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Cilmi. On the motion? Anybody have – Ms. Morris is here. Does anyone have any questions for her? Nope.

LEG. CILMI:

I'll just --

P.O. GREGORY:

Sure. Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Just for the record, I just wanted to sort of share this with all of you. Kelly is basically replacing Andrea Lohneiss, who left the State's employ relatively recently and she was a -- she represented the economic development component, if I'm correct, on the Landbank Board, and so Ms. Morris is taking her spot. I had a concern, which was shared by a couple of others on the board that we had one representative that was coming from a State agency and we're replacing that with somebody who's coming from a County agency.

***(*The following was taken and transcribed by
Lucia Braaten - Court Stenographer*)***

LEG. CILMI:

And so there is a good number of us on the Board are representing County interests, and I thought it was valuable to have somebody from a different level of government, or a different -- who brought a different perspective to the Board. And I think there is some agreement about that among Board members, and so we're going to -- although Kelly is coming to us from a County perspective, we are

going to be able to supplement, if you will, or add a member to the Board that will bring that other expertise to us as well. So I'm happy to support Kelly today.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Motion is approved.

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & AGRICULTURE

P.O. GREGORY:

Thank you. All right. Back to the agenda. Environment, Planning & Agriculture:

J.R. 2113 - Authorizing appraisal of land under the Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program, as amended by Local Law No. 24-2007, Broad Cove Property – Town of Riverhead (SCTM No. 0600-086.00-01.00-036.000) (Sponsor: Al Krupski).

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So moved.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Krupski.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. On the motion anyone? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 2155 - Amending the 2014 Capital Budget and appropriating PAYGO funds in connection with the New Suffolk County ¼% Drinking Water Protection Program for Environmental Protection for land acquisitions (CP 8714.211) (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. ANKER:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion -- who was that? Legislator Browning, second by Legislator -- oh, I'm sorry, Legislator Hahn, second by Legislator Anker. On the motion?

LEG. CILMI:

Yeah. Could we just get an explanation about the -- of this from Counsel, please?

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah. I think this is just when we take the Pay-go money, the money comes in as cash to the Open Space Program and move it into a capital project. Robert, is that --

MR. LIPP:

Yes. This is part of the Quarter Cent Program. It's the cash component, the program that used to borrow bonded that ended in 2011. So this would appropriate a little over 6 million, and the total in the program under this capital project, the Pay-go one, would be over \$66 million once that's the case.

LEG. CILMI:

Just re-explain that. You said appropriate just over 6 million, but then you also used 60-something million.

MR. LIPP:

Yes. So the total in this capital project for Pay-go from the Quarter Cent Program, and it's pay-as-you-go cash payments, will be 66 million, because it's been -- other amounts have been appropriated, and some, I believe not all of it has been spent yet, but it's been sort of promised for pipeline projects. This is going to be used for additional projects.

LEG. CILMI:

And this particular bill is allocating six --

MR. LIPP:

Correct.

LEG. CILMI:

-- million?

MR. LIPP:

Correct.

LEG. CILMI:

Now, when we say, or when I say it's allocating 6 million, exactly what is it doing? Is it taking that money -- is it taking \$6 million from one account and putting it into another account, or is it doing something different?

MR. LIPP:

I guess the basic way I understand it is it's -- there is an existing fund balance from the end of the year, that they're going to put the money in this particular capital project so they could use it based upon resolutions that would be passed in the future and draw down on it.

LEG. CILMI:

And are we legally bound to do this?

MR. LIPP:

Well, if you vote against it, I guess then that wouldn't be the case. The money is supposed to be used for this purpose, it's dedicated. You would have to change the program components, which I believe would require a referendum now.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. So my point is that the -- so we are legally bound by way of the referendum that the County passed some time ago.

MR. LIPP:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. So the money that we're allocating here, at least the percentage of money that we've received, this is representative of that percentage?

MR. LIPP:

Yes. This is the dedicated portion that goes for land acquisition.

LEG. CILMI:

And we're not spending the money at this time, we're just allocating it from --

MR. LIPP:

The Capital Project, we appropriated the funds, right. Yes is the answer.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. I'm just a little -- I'm still a little confused when you say we're appropriating the funds. Exactly what do you mean by that? Normally, when we appropriate funds, we're allocating those funds for a particular project or --

MR. LIPP:

It's, I believe --

LEG. CILMI:

-- purpose.

MR. LIPP:

Yes. So with the Quarter Cent Program, I believe the resolutions work a little differently. So you're appropriating the money now to that project, and then future projects -- I beg your pardon. Future resolutions, which are actually spending the money on specific land acquisitions, would come to you, but the money would already be deposited in the capital fund under this project.

LEG. CILMI:

Gotcha. Okay, thanks.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Robert, let me see if I can take a pass at this, too. So this resolution is appropriating 6 million, 6,041,060 in Pay-go funds to the 2014 Capital Budget.

MR. LIPP:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And today is the last meeting of 2014.

MR. LIPP:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So what then could we do with the 2014 budget with \$6 million in it?

MR. LIPP:

Okay. Well, it's Capital, so it would be held there for future years, unlike the Operating Budget.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, it would be held for future years, but it would require in 2015 that the 2014 Capital Budget funding be modified, brought forward, used as an offset. Help me out with the calendar here.

MR. LIPP:

Okay. So, no. So, hypothetically, in -- let's say we weren't going to spend the money, which is not a -- which is an unlikely scenario, let's say, in 2017, the money is already there in 2017. And under that example would be a resolution that had a parcel that was -- that met the requirements of this program, and funds would still be there, and that project could be adopted.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So in 2017, if there was a piece of land that Legislator Krupski brought forward, a farm or something, that had a price tag of 6 million or 12 million, we'd point to this 6 million in '14 as a portion of the revenue to pay for it? Are we parking money at this point, is that what we're doing?

MR. LIPP:

Yes, but --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. LIPP:

-- in all likelihood, that was an extreme example I gave you, and this money will likely be spent during 2015.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, likely.

MR. LIPP:

Likely.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

It will be.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, Al's got a slew of farms, as a matter of fact, we know that.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

(Raised folder).

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, I know, he's got a whole folder full of them. What happens if this resolution doesn't pass, Robert, what is the -- where does the 6 million go, then? If it doesn't get put into this, what happens to it?

MR. LIPP:

I believe Legislator Cilmi had the correct view, that the money is dedicated. So if it doesn't -- if you don't pass it, then the next resolution, perhaps some time during 2015, to use the money for one or more parcels, would have to include language or a repeat resolution to appropriate the funds. Otherwise --

LEG. KENNEDY:

So, in other words, it's sitting at this point in the 477 Fund, which gets augmented every time we get a sales tax check every two weeks, and it will just continue to build in the 477 Fund?

MR. LIPP:

Yes, but it would be dedicated towards -- because it's --

LEG. KENNEDY:

477 you could only do certain things.

MR. LIPP:

Right.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Supposed to do bricks and mortar, buy land, but we also pay about 60 people out of that, too.

MR. LIPP:

That's Water Quality. This is under the Land Acquisition portion.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So the only thing that can happen here is land?

MR. LIPP:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right. I'll yield.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Anyone else? Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen -- 18.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. ***I.R. 2156 - To reappoint member of the Suffolk County Planning Commission (Matthew Chartrand) (Sponsor: County Executive).*** Motion by Legislator Schneiderman, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, HOUSING & CONSUMER PROTECTION

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2073 - Amending the temporary Classification and Salary Plan to add the new title of Storm Response Equipment Operator (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. CALARCO:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Calarco, I'll second. Anyone on the question? All in favor? Opposed?

Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:
Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. I.R. 2141 we've done.

I.R. 2149 - Establishing a board to aid in the enforcement of Suffolk County's Pet Store Laws (Sponsor: William Spencer). Motion by Legislator Spencer?

LEG. SPENCER:
Motion to table.

P.O. GREGORY:
Oh, do you want to table? Table?

LEG. CALARCO:
Second.

LEG. SPENCER:
Some of the new language isn't in there yet.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. Motion to table by Legislator Spencer, second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:
Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:
Okay. I.R. 2150 and 2164 we've done already. I.R. 2087, we have as a CN, we'll do that later.

PARKS & RECREATION

I.R. 2127 - To amend Section 948-26 of the Suffolk County Code for Deer Hunting (Shotgun Season) on a pilot basis (Sponsor: County Executive).

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:
Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:
Motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:
Second by Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:
On the motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

On the motion, Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

This is really to make it easier and to kind of encourage people to get out there into the woods to help control the deer population. I think if you look at what's happening -- and I have to say, Suffolk County runs a very good, very organized hunting program on County-owned lands. But I have to say that if you look in the news, what they're doing in Shelter Island, the problem with voluntary people going out hunting, almost like recreationally, obviously, isn't controlling the deer population. So what Shelter Island is doing is they're trying to find a way, which has been talked about for years, but they're actually doing it, of incentivizing people to get out in the woods, and that's something that we're going to have to look at in the future, because it's a big commitment to ask people to do this voluntarily. And you need to -- you know, we need to do a better job differently.

P.O. GREGORY:

This particular bill just establishes a seasonal pass, right?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Instead of a daily pass. So once you -- if you have a -- if you're paying \$17 for a daily pass, this is twice as much for a seasonal pass. So that if you have a seasonal pass, every time you go out into the woods, you don't pay anymore.

P.O. GREGORY:

Right.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So it encourages people to go out a third, and fourth, and fifth time for -- you know, for free.

P.O. GREGORY:

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

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Opposed. Sorry.

MR. LAUBE:

One opposed?

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Opposed: Legislator Martinez).

PUBLIC SAFETY

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. ***I.R. 1859 - A Local Law to prohibit the use of unauthorized tracking devices (Sponsor: Kate Browning).***

LEG. BROWNING:

I'll make a motion to table. We just got an email, some language changes we need to make, so.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Motion to table Legislator Browning.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

I'll second.

LEG. D'AMARO:

On the motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

On the motion, Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah, through the Chair and to the Legislator. I also was -- if we were going to debate this today, not debate, but I wanted to just point out that the way -- in my opinion, the way the bill is worded, that if someone worked, let's say, in Bethpage, a device could be placed on a vehicle that then comes into Suffolk County. You know, someone may just go across the County line once a week, and then, you know, 90% of the time, the vehicle is in Suffolk County being monitored, but it wasn't placed on the vehicle in the County of Suffolk. So I was just going to suggest that you change the wording to include that you can't maintain the device on the vehicle irrespective of where the vehicle is when it's first placed on there. So you'd have to run that by Counsel, I guess, but something you may want to think about.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. We have a motion.

LEG. BROWNING:

We can talk about that.

P.O. GREGORY:

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

MR. LAUBE:

Who was the second on that to table?

LEG. HAHN:

(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:

Hahn.

MR. LAUBE:

Thank you. *Eighteen.*

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. ***I.R. 2102 - Accepting and appropriating a grant as pass-thru funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to the Suffolk County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council with 89.43% support for the Long Island Regional Youth Task Force (Sponsor: County Executive).***

LEG. HAHN:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Hahn.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 2111 - Accepting and appropriating 62% State Aid reimbursement funds awarded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to the Suffolk County Department of Probation and authorizing the County Executive to execute related agreements (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 2136 - Amending Resolution No. 1083-2013 (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 2137 - Amending Resolution No. 1084-2013 (Sponsor: County Executive). Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

J.R. 2151 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$60,000 from the United States Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the IRS STEPP (Suffolk-Treasury Enhanced Prosecution Program) program with 80.56% support (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Browning.

LEG. MURATORE:

(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:

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

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2152 - Accepting and appropriating Federal funding in the amount of \$16,000 from the United States Department of Justice, U.S. Marshals Service, for the Suffolk County Police Department's participation in the Regional Fugitive Task Force with 77.55% support (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion and -- same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2162 - Appointing Gary Schaum as a member of the Suffolk County Vocational, Education and Extension Board (Sponsor: William Lindsay III). Motion by Legislator Lindsay, second by Legislator Browning. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & ENERGY

P.O. GREGORY:

Public Works, we did -- let me see. No, we didn't. ***I.R. 2044 - Making certain Findings and Determinations and an order in relation to the establishment of Suffolk County Sewer District No. 26 - Melville Huntington (Sponsor: County Executive).*** I'll make a motion.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. Anyone on the motion? Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. *I.R. 2085 - Appropriating funds in connection with Improvements to Suffolk County Farm (CP 1796) (Sponsor: County Executive).*

LEG. ANKER:

Motion.

LEG. MURATORE:

(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:

I'll make a -- motion by Legislator Martinez, second by Legislator Anker. All in favor?

LEG. D'AMARO:

On the motion, please.

P.O. GREGORY:

On the motion.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'm sorry. Before Legislator D'Amaro comments, I'm recusing myself on this discussion and vote. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah, thank you. I wanted to see if anyone was present who could answer a few questions about the farm itself and how these funds are being used.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Dale is here. Did you recognize Dale?

P.O. GREGORY:

Go ahead, Dale. Commissioner, you want to come up?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

We're all rushing to get up here. The resolution requests to appropriate \$100,000 in funds that will be utilized to make general building improvements to the Farm's educational center, which include roofing, siding, sheds and other miscellaneous systems.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thanks, Commissioner. Does the County own this farm?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

We own the land, yes, but it's operated by the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. So similar to, let's say, like the Vanderbilt Museum, we're responsible for the capital improvements and maintenance?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

But it's just operated -- the operator is Cornell?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

And is the Farm an income-generating asset of the County?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I really wouldn't have the answer to that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What are we do doing on the Farm these days? What's happening out there?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Okay. I'll let this gentleman speak.

MR. MOYER:

Dale Moyer. I'm the Associate Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension. The question is what are we doing in the Farm. There's two components to the Farm. One is production aspect, where we produce some livestock, which is used for meat production in the inmates' facilities of the Jail, both in Yaphank and in Riverhead. The other component is the educational component of it. When we took over the Farm in 1974, part of the agreement was that we'd continue to produce livestock and crops, but we'd also have an educational component where we have school programs where schools come in. We have programs for helping the Vet Tech Program in Suffolk Community College and LaGuardia, and various other programs, educational programs.

LEG. D'AMARO:

There -- we're still in the process of -- we still are raising livestock at the farm?

MR. MOYER:

Yeah. One of the --

LEG. D'AMARO:

I thought we were phasing that out, for some reason.

MR. MOYER:

No. There's still a component of both hog and beef production, and along with corn, some grain, and some corn and oat production to help to feed that production aspect.

LEG. D'AMARO:

How many -- how many -- there's an educational component, so it's utilized by what, grade schools for classes to visit? I mean, what's the educational component?

MR. MOYER:

The educational component runs all the way from some of our 4-H programs, but also schools go there, where there's grade school, all the way through college. Like I said, Suffolk Community College uses some of it for their Vet Tech Program, so does LaGuardia use it for some of their components because of the large animals, which they do not have in their facilities. A lot of them have, you know, smaller animals, you know, rabbits and things like that, but they would not have large animals as part of their Vet Tech Program.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'm just curious. Is that for a fee, or we just make it available for educational purposes?

MR. MOYER:

No. That's for a fee, because we have to cover personnel. We don't get a lot of funds for those educational components. We get a small amount of money from the County. I think it's like 80, \$85,000.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. MOYER:

But a lot of that supplements our educators' salaries, and instructional supplies, and other things to maintain the animals.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. And you're with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the operator of the facility?

MR. MOYER:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Do you have a general awareness of the condition of the buildings on the property?

MR. MOYER:

Yes. The condition of the buildings in general are probably fair to poor. You know, there's a lot of buildings that are somewhat in disrepair. DPW has been in many cases, where there's Capital Budget or some of their funds, have done some roofing of some of the buildings.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right, so fair to poor. See, my question, you're the operator, and, you know, what's anticipated going forward? You're asking for 100,000 today for various building improvements, but is there a greater need? And has that cost been projected? Do we know -- you know, do we know the liability that might be coming forward in the next couple of years to maintain the farm?

MR. MOYER:

No, I don't know that. Maybe you could come back.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Or perhaps, right, Commissioner Anderson might have that. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah. The summary that I have of anticipated capital costs are -- over the next few years, we're looking at a total of about \$415,000, which includes repairing the roof on various buildings. Some of the siding, recycling of the museum siding, metal siding for the tin barn, the hog house, the beef lot roof, well pump roof recovering, Farro House (phonetic), sanitation lines, and the main barn roof and soffits, as well as electrical work throughout the facility.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So, in the next couple of years, you're projecting we'll make some commitment.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

It's almost a half a million dollars in continuing to maintain the Farm.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Uh-huh. Just -- I'm just not convinced we need to have the Farm, but I guess the educational component -- do you know how many visitors a year go to the Farm?

MR. MOYER:

The estimation, I think, is around 30,000, something like that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thirty thousand people a year go to the Suffolk County Farm?

MR. MOYER:

Right, right, right. I mean, that includes some of our functions that we have, like very special events, like we might have to bring families in to help educate them on farming and agriculture practices. There's a backyard garden thing, which is an educational component that kind of ties in with the community education, the community gardens that are very widespread, to help educate --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Twenty-five hundred people will go to the Farm in February?

MR. MOYER:

No, no, no, no, no.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Or 30,000 a year?

MR. MOYER:

Thirty thousand a year.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I mean, that's an awful lot of people.

MR. MOYER:

I mean, that's throughout the whole year, yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So, on average, it's about 2500?

MR. MOYER:

That includes families, schools, you know, everybody that comes to special events, and so forth.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Who keeps track of that?

MR. MOYER:

Our Administrator there, Vicki Fleming, would have those numbers.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. Okay. Thank you. Thanks for answering my questions, I appreciate it. Thank you, Commissioner. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

You're welcome.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Just one or two questions. Doesn't Cornell run some sort of a summer program for young kids in July and August?

MR. MOYER:

We have several summer programs that go on, some at the Farm. It's got like a Farm camp where they can learn about -- there's a children's gardener. They can learn about, you know, again --

LEG. BARRAGA:

Is that five days a week?

MR. MOYER:

What's that?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Is that five days a week for that program?

MR. MOYER:

Yes, I believe it is. Don't quote me on it, but I think it is. There is -- it's a camp program, but I'm not sure if it's four or five days a week, but I think it is.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Okay. Has Cornell -- let me ask this question. I know where the funding is coming from the County. What does Cornell contribute? Do they contribute any dollars to this?

MR. MOYER:

What's that again? Say it again.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Well, the money we're talking about is money coming from Suffolk County. You're the Cornell Cooperative Extension Services.

MR. MOYER:

Correct.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Any resources or funding come from any other source other than the County? And what you're picking up is people coming to the Farm?

MR. MOYER:

A lot of this money is fees for -- to cover those costs. Like I said, in terms of the educational component, I think for the 4-H and youth program, we get about 80, 85,000 from the County. Then the farm production area, okay, where we produce the beef and run a processing plant where -- the

vocational training for the inmates, and so forth, I think that's about \$600,000. So that's a larger component to operate the production farm.

LEG. BARRAGA:

A number of years ago I recall seeing plans for a brand new building to replace the trailers at that farm. Where does that stand? Because Commissioner Anderson, as he was going down the specifics in terms of where this 400,000 is going to be spent, I don't think any of it is going to be spent in planning for the -- for a brand new building. These are existing structures that you're going to repair.

MR. MOYER:

I know there's still a capital project in the system someplace that's looking at replacing those trailers, the office trailers that are falling apart. Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Well, I think that's a good term, falling apart, because when Mr. D'Amaro asked you the condition of the buildings, you said fair to poor. It's poor to miserable. I mean, even the hogs wouldn't want to, you know, participate in the trailers where the people are. That place is a dump.

MR. MOYER:

Right, and I agree. That's what I was classifying as poor, you can classify as something else, but that --

LEG. BARRAGA:

I mean, why is it, you know, let to linger like this four and five and six years? Those trailers are terrible. I think they're -- you know, they've got to be fire traps, yet those people who are employed there go there every single day, but nothing seems to ever be done with reference to replacing the trailers.

MR. MOYER:

Well, that was -- that was part of the Capital Budget that is in the system. I know our Executive Director, Vito Minei has been trying to move that process along for office spaces.

LEG. BARRAGA:

But the \$415,000, or whatever that figure was, Dale, that doesn't include replacing the trailers. You mentioned a lot of specific issues, but --

MR. MOYER:

No.

LEG. BARRAGA:

-- nothing about where the people actually are employed.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

That's actually a separate capital project, you're absolutely right.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Whatever happened to the project that I saw four or five years ago, where they were talking about a brand new building, with drawings that came before a committee that I was on?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Right. It was a LEED classified building. I don't believe -- and I'll verify. I don't know where that project is. I think we had an issue with funding.

LEG. BARRAGA:

All right. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. We just -- Counsel just advised me that we have to pass over this bill, because we do not have have the bond -- the appropriating bond resolution, so we'll come back to it later. All right.

So, 2103 - Amending the 2014 Operating Budget, transferring Assessment Stabilization Reserve Funds to the Capital Fund, and appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District No. 10 - Stony Brook (CP 8175) (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. CALARCO:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Calarco, I'll second. On the motion, Legislator Hahn.

LEG. HAHN:

On the motion. Gil, can you just confirm for me what's being done here, 2103?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This requests appropriating \$250,000 for construction of improvements to sewers and force mains in Sewer District 10 up in Stony Brook.

LEG. HAHN:

Right. I just want you to put on the record that -- and I know there's not enough money here for this purpose, but that we're not constructing leaching fields in the community.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

We are not constructing leaching fields in the community.

LEG. HAHN:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Anyone else? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2104 - Amending the 2014 Operating Budget, transferring Assessment Stabilization Reserve Funds to the Capital Fund and appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District No. 9 - College Park (CP 8163) (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Motion.

LEG. MURATORE:

(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Martinez, second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2105 - Amending the 2014 Operating Budget, transferring Assessment Stabilization Reserve Funds to the Capital Fund, and appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District No. 14 - Parkland (CP 8151) (Sponsor: County Executive). Same motion, same second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2106 - Appropriating funds through the issuance of Sewer District Serial Bonds for the increase, improvement and extension to Suffolk County Sewer District No. 18 - Hauppauge Industrial (CP 8126) (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. TROTТА:

(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Trotta, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen. (Not Present: Legislator Kennedy)

P.O. GREGORY:

2106A - (Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York authorizing the issuance of 2,000,000 bonds to finance the cost of construction of improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District No. 18 – Hauppauge Industrial (CP 8126.311), pending bond resolution.

Same motion, same second. Roll call.

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

LEG. TROTТА:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. ***(2107) Amending the 2014 Operating Budget, transferring Assessment Stabilization Reserve Funds to the Capital Fund and amending the 2014 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Suffolk County Sewer District No. 5 - Strathmore Huntington (CP 8115) (Sponsor: County Executive).***

LEG. TROTTA:

(Raised hand).

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Trotta, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2117 - Authorizing the execution of an agreement between the County and the New York State Department of Transportation for Federal and State Aid funding for the continuation of the HOV Bus Service on the Long Island Expressway (for 2014) (Sponsor: County Executive). I'll make the motion, second by Legislator Schneiderman. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Mr. Chair, I was just going to ask if there was a cost on this, that's all. BRO, any expense, any cost on this, or is this grant money?

MR. LIPP:

No, it's aid.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay, fine. Thank you.

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. ***I.R. 2120 - Authorizing the filing of a grant application for Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Section 5307 Passenger Ferry Grant Program funds on behalf of Cross Sound Ferry (Sponsor: County Executive).***

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So moved.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Krupski.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Schneiderman. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2122 - Authorizing Suffolk County Department of Public Works to issue a permit to Merrin Chabad Center for a new curb-cut on CR 97, Nicolls Road, Town of Brookhaven (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. CALARCO:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Calarco, second by Legislator Krupski. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2124 - Appropriating funds in connection with the purchase of Public Works Fleet Maintenance Equipment (CP 1769) (Sponsor: County Executive). Motion by Legislator Schneiderman, I'll second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

2124A, the bond resolution (Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York authorizing the issuance of \$100,000 bonds to finance the cost of the Public Works fleet maintenance equipment (CP 1769.516). Same motion, same second. Roll call.

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

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Yes.

LEG. TROTТА:

No.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

No.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Sixteen (Opposed: Legislators Muratore & Trotta).

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. ***I.R. 2138 - Authorizing execution of agreement by the Administrative Head of Suffolk County Sewer District No. 3 Southwest and Highland Green Residences (HU-1323) (Sponsor: County Executive).***

LEG. D'AMARO:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator D'Amaro, second by Legislator Spencer. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2140 - Amending the 2014 Capital Budget -- excuse me -- Capital Program and appropriating funds in connection with the Improvements to Buildings and Facilities Countywide (CP 1817) (Sponsor: County Executive).

LEG. KENNEDY:

How much on this one, Mr. Chair?

P.O. GREGORY:

Eight hundred thousand.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I make a motion.

LEG. CALARCO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman, I'll second. On the motion, Legislator Kennedy?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah. Mr. Anderson, do we -- is this across all our buildings, any building in particular? Do we have anything on this one?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This is primarily looking to restack the Dennison, move the District Attorney's staff out of the old Fourth into the building, see where we can --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Do you have on a floor on that? Which floor is that going to be?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I don't know for sure. I want to say they were talking about the Fourth. I think the Fourth.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. BRAUN:

Yeah, that's what they were talking.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Right, yeah.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Wait until I get into 8 and 9 before you whack the, all right? Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

I think they want to co-locate with you.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, something like that, that's right.

*(*Laughter*)*

P.O. GREGORY:

All right. A motion and a second. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Pending bond Resolution **2140A (Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York authorizing the issuance of \$800,000 bonds to finance the cost of improvements to buildings and facilities County-wide, consisting of Capital costs associated with renovations, modifications and improvements to the H. Lee Dennison Building (CP 1817.311)**, same motion, same second. All in -- excuse me. Roll call.

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

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:

No.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

Can you tell me how much the bond is? Mine are out of order. I wasn't paying attention.

MR. LIPP:

Eight hundred thousand.

LEG. MURATORE:

Eight hundred thousand?

MR. LIPP:

Eight hundred.

LEG. MURATORE:

Yes, then.

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

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Opposed: Legislator Trotta).

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. 2158 we did earlier. 2159 we did earlier.

2082 - Approving payment to the General Code Publishers for Administrative Code pages (Sponsor: Presiding Officer Gregory). I'll make a motion, second by Legislator Schneiderman.

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

I.R. 2114 - Authorizing the reconveyance of County-owned real estate pursuant to Section 215, New York State County Law to Lynn Alverson, executrix of the estate of Marjory Alverson (Sponsor: Thomas Barraga). Motion by Legislator Barraga?

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

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

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. If you go to the manila folder, ***I.R. 2181 - Accepting and appropriating a grant in the amount of \$43,450 from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Video Recording of Statements Equipment Program with 100% support (Sponsor: County Executive.)***

LEG. BROWNING:

Motion.

LEG. SPENCER:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Browning, second by Legislator Spencer. On the motion, anyone? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. CNs. We have ***I.R. 2087 - Appropriating funds in connection with Improvements to Peconic Dunes County Park (CP 7050) (Sponsor: County Executive)***. Motion by Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

No.

P.O. GREGORY:

No?

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I'm recusing myself.

P.O. GREGORY:

Oh, I'm sorry.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

Motion by Legislator Schneiderman, second by Legislator Browning.

LEG. KENNEDY:

On that motion.

P.O. GREGORY:

On the motion, Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Can anybody explain to me, first of all, why it's a CN, and B, what it's for? So then how is it before us as a CN? Hi, Tom. How are you?

MR. VAUGHN:

Hi, sir. How are you? The reason that it is a SEQRA -- a CN is that the SEQRA was in error. We had to correct it and there was no mechanism to do that, so we had -- we did it this way.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. So then maybe Greg can talk. So that's why we have it procedurally as a CN --

MR. VAUGHN:

Correct.

LEG. KENNEDY:

-- and not the reso. But then maybe Greg can talk to me about what the content or the --

MR. VAUGHN:

So we have Cornell Cooperative, Commissioner Dawson and Commissioner Anderson all here available to answer questions on the bill itself.

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right. Well, so who can talk to me about Peconic Dunes and where it's going to be? For ten years I've heard about this entity out there, and the status of the buildings, and the the layout and the way it operates. We utilize it as a summer camp, I believe. It's had some decent attendance up and down. But is this 150,000 in planning towards a \$1.5 million construction project?

MR. VAUGHN:

Yes, sir. It is for the replacement of their cafeteria, which has fallen into less than usable shape.

MR. MOYER:

It's condemned.

MR. VAUGHN:

I'm sorry, I've been told it's condemned.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, why don't we feed them in a tent?

MR. VAUGHN:

That is what --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Good.

MR. VAUGHN:

-- we had been doing prior.

LEG. KENNEDY:

How many -- how many kids are we talking about, and what's the season?

MR. MOYER:

Okay. Dale Moyer again --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Hi, Dale.

MR. MOYER:

-- from the Cooperative Extension. The facility that is nonusable, obviously, the dining hall, but it's also used for all purpose facility, you know, inclement weather, also used for both Spring and Fall, when we have other folks in.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Well, hold on. Let's stop there now, because I thought that the use of the park was for a summer camp program. Now you're telling me Cornell operates this park how many months out of the year, you think? How many months out of the year do you have --

MR. MOYER:

Primary, a summer camp, okay? And there's approximately 1400 campers, okay?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

MR. MOYER:

I think there's about -- two or 300 of those are day campers, and the rest are overnight camps -- campers, okay? And that goes from June, latter part of June, obviously, when school's out until latter part of August. But then --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Eight-week season?

MR. MOYER:

It's more like a 10-week season. I think it's just an eight-week primary.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Ten-week season, maybe 1,000 kids, you've got 100 campers a week.

MR. MOYER:

Well, there's a few more than that? But in terms of overnight camp, yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

How many kids you got to feed at any given time?

MR. MOYER:

There are about -- I think about 150 kids, and then there's probably another 80 in staffers, counselors and so forth.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. How big a facility are you contemplating building, 20,000 square feet, 30,000 square feet? What are we talking about?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

It's a 7,000-square-foot building, and the overnight --

LEG. KENNEDY:

The one that's condemned.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

The one that's condemned.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And so you're going to replace in kind, or are you going to build bigger?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think it's a slight increase. Like right now, it feeds about three -- they're looking to feed about 365. But I'm not sure what the square footage is. Gil, do you know what the square footage of the building is now? We're looking at like 7100 square feet. It feeds campers -- there's 160 overnight campers, and they're there for the entire week, and then they have another 60 campers that are there during the day, and they have a total of 80 staff members.

You had alluded to -- you know, asked about why don't they feed them out of a tent. They've been doing that for the last two summers. And I have to tell you, it's not like when there's inclement weather, that the kids don't show up for camp. They have these 160 kids that are there regardless. They have to be fed breakfast, lunch and dinner.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

If you've ever been there in a heavy rain storm, you see the -- I mean, the water just runs right down through the tent in places. So, I mean, we've gotten lucky with half decent weather for the last two summers, but it's not optimal feeding 300 people, you know, in a tent. I mean, they really need this dining hall to operate that camp.

LEG. KENNEDY:

You know what, listen, I --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

And --

LEG. KENNEDY:

My concern here is that it's in on CN again. I'll let this one go. My colleagues are going to have to go ahead and take this one up. I think there's a lot of underlying issues as to the level of commitment that we make towards an investment like that for something that's certainly very worthy. I know we're taking in economically challenged kids, and, you know, kids that other than this program wouldn't get to go to camp. But, you know, again, we're talking about adding significantly to our debt when we've just worked quite a bit, you know, to kind of shrink it down. So --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

If I could just make two points. It was --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Sure.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

It was on the agenda, on the regular Parks agenda. The only reason why it was changed to a CN at the last minute was because of a -- because of a technical error. And Cornell has committed to giving us \$80,000 a year to pay down the debt service. So they're going to pay 75%. It's 1.6 million over the 20-year cost of the building. So it's -- we're only laying out -- the numbers they worked on, and I'd have to check with Dr. Lipp on it --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Can I -- through the Chair, can I go over to BRO, then? Robert, do you have something that -- to that effect, that Cornell is assisting us with retiring the debt on this?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

They will assist us. We don't have any debt on it yet.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, I understand.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

They can't. They can't do it, because there is an RFP. They might not be the managers.

MR. LIPP:

We don't have any information on that.

LEG. KENNEDY:

So it's nice to go ahead and get a verbal commitment. Do you have something in writing, Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

No, I don't think I do from Cornell.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I was born at night, but not last night. Okay, thank you.

*(*Laughter*)*

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Legislator Kennedy, there is an RFP on this.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

But, I mean, there is a --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

If I may, Legislator Kennedy, there is an RFP for management of this facility. So Cornell couldn't commit, because next year they may --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Then why would we build a brand new facility --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Because whoever runs it --

LEG. KENNEDY:

-- before we have an operator?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Whoever runs it for us -- wait a second. I'm not saying whether you should support it or not.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I've got enough. Thank you.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Only your question was specific to whether Cornell had committed to it. The problem is they couldn't commit to funding it --

LEG. KENNEDY:

No, no, no, no.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

-- not knowing if there's going to do it.

LEG. KENNEDY:

The Commissioner just told me that they're going to spend 80 grand on the debt. I didn't ask if they -- he offered.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

They made that representation in committee.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

They have.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

But in terms of putting it in writing, they are -- there's an RFP program, which may or may not end up with Cornell as the operator.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

And we will have a contract in place which will spell out the -- will spell out the --

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. Legislator Calarco.

LEG. CALARCO:

Thank you. I had some of the similar questions as my colleague there in terms of what this building is and the cost. When you look at 150 for planning means, you know, about 1.5 in expenditure for building this. What exactly are we going to get for 1.5 million?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We're going to get a 7,000-square-foot dining hall for I think seating capacity for up to 335 people, complete with a kitchen.

LEG. CALARCO:

So that works out to be about \$230 a square foot?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I guess.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

If you say so.

LEG. CALARCO:

I guess the question we have is we're talking about a pretty rustic area, a park that's really meant to be a day camp for the kids to go out and enjoy wilderness. Seems like an awful lot of money to build a structure. We're not saying that we don't need a new structure, but is there any way to get that cost down?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, I think that's part of the planning. I mean, we have this \$150,000 that we can plan. Obviously, we're going to try to do it as economically --

LEG. CALARCO:

Greg, my experience in this body has been that usually we end up costing more than what we originally plan out for. So I guess the question is, is there things in this project that we can look at that would downsize the cost of this building? Are there things that we can do that would make it a more economical thing, then more in keeping with the rusticness of this park?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We can certainly consider that, but I'm going to defer that to Commissioner Anderson on the building costs.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Generally, when we do a building, it runs about 300 to \$500 a square foot, so your --

LEG. CALARCO:

But those buildings are usually completely enclosed, and this is an open dining hall we're talking about.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

At the present time --

LEG. CALARCO:

I mean, at the end of the day, we're talking about putting up a roof over a -- on a pedestal with some -- a concrete floor, and the kids could, you know, have their lunch.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah, and I guess we could -- you know, the argument could be made is that we have to develop the program that's going to, you know -- that we're going to fulfill when we build the building, whether it's a rustic, you know, look to it. We have to go from scratch right now. The building, as you mentioned, or as someone mentioned, was it's on concrete blocks, and it's, you know, been condemned. So we're starting from scratch there. So you're going to have to, irrespective of how you build it, you're going to have to have a foundation, you're going to have to bring in water, electric, you know, septic, everything else. So, you know, again, based on your calculations, you know, it's a little -- it's a little less expensive than a normal building would be, but, again, without the funding to develop that design, we can't do much of anything. We're still going to have to come back and --

LEG. CALARCO:

Do we have to build a kitchen? I guess we have to build the kitchen for this.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Programatically, I can't speak on that. I guess you could bring food in. I don't know, you know, from where.

LEG. CALARCO:

Is that the driver of the cost, or is it just all other factors? I mean, I would imagine we already have electric and water and all those things on site, it's just a matter of transferring them to the new building.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah. Again, without knowing firsthand their condition, I would assume you're going to have to upgrade some type of electric service, you know, provide essentially all new, you know, services to the building, so there will be some cost in that. But, again, without the planning -- without the funding, we can't do the planning.

LEG. CALARCO:

Well, I guess what I'm thinking, I'm willing to support this and give the money so we can get moving, but with the clear understanding that the department, Cornell, that we're looking for something that's a little bit more austere and not going to cost us more money than necessary, considering the nature and the location of this particular facility.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes, and I think that was made abundantly clear at committee. I mean, Vito was there and he committed to that as well.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Lindsay.

LEG. LINDSAY:

My question is for Gil. Gil, is part of the cost here the cost demolition, to demolish the existing structure? So we know? So, do we know the breakdown?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I don't have that information in front of me. I can get that for you if it's been developed that far. I mean, I think it's an old -- if I'm not mistaken, it's an old wood structure, it shouldn't be anything excessive. Oh, here we go.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yeah, I could show you.

MR. MOYER:

I passed those around. Tim, did you get those?

MR. LAUBE:

We handed them out.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yeah, I see the pictures of the existing structure, I just don't know the figures of what it would cost to demolish, excuse me. And I'm assuming there's no asbestos remediation, if there are --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

If there is, it would be very minimal --

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

-- with, you know, a structure open to the atmosphere. There's no winterizing.

LEG. LINDSAY:

And then in regards to the construction cost, what was the figure that you usually use per square foot?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Roughly, between 300 to \$500 a square feet.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Oh, okay. Have we ever -- within the County, have we ever used like Butler buildings or prefab steel buildings?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah.

LEG. LINDSAY:

What's usually the cost on those?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

It's less than that. I don't have a square foot cost on that.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Wouldn't you think something like, you know, for this type of use would be -- that would be applicable?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

That I would -- we could develop a plan for it and look at it. I don't know if it's something -- again, it's an industrial kind of facility. I don't know if it would be appropriate for a camp or something you want to attract, you know, families to let their kids stay there. You know, I don't know. That's kind of out of my purview, but it's something that would be developed as we develop the plans for it.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

We could look at that.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Thank you. I want to understand this, because we're not talking about a \$25,000 algal bloom study here, we're talking in significant dollars to the County.

So Peconic Dunes County Park, obviously, is a County park, and in that park we've retained Cornell Cooperative Extension to run a program just for the County?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Let me just --

LEG. D'AMARO:

No. I'm trying to understand, why do we need this big lunch room in the park?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Because they run an overnight camp.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Who's they?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Cornell Cooperative.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Cornell runs an overnight camp. Is that on behalf of the County?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes. I mean, it's a recreational -- it's a recreational --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, did the the County hire Cornell to run the camp?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We have a contract with Cornell.

LEG. D'AMARO:

We do?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Dale, do we have the history of the camp, how you came to --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah. How does that overnight day damp work? Is that mandated by the State?

MR. MOYER:

No. I mean, it's an environmental camp that focuses on -- obviously, there's the Sound right there and a nice lake.

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. Let me just continue my thought. So it's an environmental camp, which is a good thing, that Cornell is running this program, an environmental camp. Does Suffolk County fund the operations for Cornell to run that camp through our Operating Budget?

MR. MOYER:

All the money -- all the money that we operated is from fees that we --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. So the answer is no. The County -- I know the County, from our Operating Budget, does fund Cornell programs, but not this particular program.

MR. MOYER:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. So Cornell has decided that it wants to run a -- what did you call it? An environmental camp, but now needs a location to do this, right?

MR. MOYER:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So you come to the County and say, "Well, you have a" -- "You have a Peconic Dune County Park, that would be a great location," right?

MR. MOYER:

We took it over in 2003 from a program that was -- that started, I think, through -- not BOCES, I think the SCOPE Program, or something like that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MR. MOYER:

At the time we took it over and have expanded it probably at least double, maybe triple the numbers of campers that have attended. And we've also invested a lot of the money that we've gained. We put in probably 300, 400,000 over the last eight years in terms of improving the cabins, roofing, things like that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

You mean, up capital improvements Cornell has funded?

MR. MOYER:

Yeah. It would be capital improvements, you know, on the facility, with the approval from the parks.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. MOYER:

We've talked to the parks and said, "Okay, the bathrooms need to be upgraded."

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

MR. MOYER:

You know, we have \$20,000, and they have approved that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. I understand that. So Cornell is making some contribution towards the --

MR. MOYER:

Yeah. A fair amount, yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The capital improvements and maintenance of this facility within our County park?

MR. MOYER:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So, when you run this program at this location and the County makes the parkland available for the program, correct, there's no fee, obviously, for Cornell for that. So why is it that the County has to fund the lunch room building and not Cornell?

MR. MOYER:

Okay. So, first of all, we do have an obligation, I think, of \$20,000 a year to provide to the parks to help upgrade that park facility, okay?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay.

MR. MOYER:

Secondly, we have come to the County again because we don't have a long-term contract, which we're looking for. And we said we're willing, based on our numbers, we're willing to put in \$80,000 a year on the bond. So we're paying for 70% of it, or something like that, that we're willing to put forth. So we're willing to invest in this -- in this camp. We think it's very successful. We provide scholarships through some DEC money. We got a couple of hundred thousand dollars from DEC for 100 underserved youth every year. And so we have invested a lot of time and energy into this, and we're willing to invest in the dining hall. But, you know, first of all, we need a long-term contract and a commitment, and then we can sign off on it. But I think we also need to feel that, you know, it is -- we're using the property, but to put in all of it, I guess, would be unrealistic. But, at the same time, we're willing to invest it, because we do want -- we want to continue to use that site, because it's a really great site for what we're trying to do in terms of --

LEG. D'AMARO:

But you want a long-term contract to run this camp at this facility from Suffolk County? You don't need a contract from us to run the camp.

MR. MOYER:

No. Well, we need a --

LEG. D'AMARO:

It's your program.

MR. MOYER:

We need a lease. We lease it from -- I guess, we consider it a lease.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, I see, a long-term lease.

MR. MOYER:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So that if you're making the capital investment --

MR. MOYER:

Right, right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

-- you want to know that you're going to be able to stay there.

MR. MOYER:

Right. So we're going to be able to be there for 10, 15 years at least, or, you know, hopefully 20 years. We're looking at it as asking for -- and we've talked about this with Parks, for probably at least five years, that -- we realize the dining hall needs to be replaced, and so we're willing to put our -- put money forth, but we need a ten or -- at least a ten-year, plus five, plus five lease, so that we can feel, okay, this is a worthwhile commitment on our part, we can invest the money.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, I understand your point. So why would you spend on a County -- improving a County park unless you knew you could at least stay there.

MR. MOYER:

Exactly.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right?

MR. MOYER:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That's where you're coming from. So I'm happy to hear that Cornell is not just asking the County to fund this, you're willing to go the next step and provide 70% of the debt service.

MR. MOYER:

Exactly.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. Now how -- how do we as a County assure that that gets paid?

MR. MOYER:

Well, that would have to be a contract between us, as Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the County.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. But you don't have that contract in place, nor do you have a lease in place at this time?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Actually they have -- they have a three-year contract in place. Actually, it's three one-years. It expires in --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

-- December 2015. And their commitment now is to put \$20,000 worth of capital improvements into the facility.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Commissioner, what happens if after those three one-year contracts expire the County decides not renew the funding or the program, not that we give funding. If the County decides -- what exactly is the one-year contract for?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

It's to run -- it's to run the camp. It's for them to -- it's a, quote-unquote, concession agreement.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay, I understand. It's a use agreement, right. So what if the County, after three years, decided we spent a million-and-a-half dollars and we have this beautiful dining hall and it's in a County park, but, you know what, we're not going to deal with Cornell for some reason at this location, what happens at that point?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think we're committed to running a camp there for the next 20 years. Cornell wants to step up. We do have to do an RFP. You know, obviously --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

-- Cornell is going to bid on that. Some others might bid as well.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

But the commitment is to run this camp for the next 20 years. It's been in existence for over 40. I mean, it would be --

LEG. D'AMARO:

All right. So what we're really doing is hiring out the operation of a camp for Suffolk County residents.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Correct, through a not-for-profit.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Through a not-for-profit.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Right. And --

LEG. D'AMARO:

And is the camp only open to County residents?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I believe so. I have to defer to Dale on it.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Or, you know, are we -- is it 90%, you know, Westchester kids?

MR. MOYER:

No, no. It's probably at least 90% Suffolk County kids, it's open. And so you have some people that come in, especially some people that might summer in Suffolk County, that their kids come there, okay? But primarily, and I'm not sure of the number, but I'm sure it's close to or above 90% is Suffolk County kids. We service all areas of Suffolk County, so we're getting kids from the west, as well as the central and eastern part of the County, so --

LEG. D'AMARO:

But is there some kind of -- is this a subsidized camp, or can -- is it open to everyone and anyone, and is there a fee?

MR. MOYER:

There is a fee. That's how we can --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Who keeps the fee? Who gets the fee, Cornell?

MR. MOYER:

Well, the fee comes to us to pay for the counselors.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, I understand. I'm not saying you shouldn't have the fee, I'm just wondering who gets the fee. But my point is that this is open to any person who can -- who wants to apply for the camp can come in? There's no age restrictions, no income restrictions?

MR. MOYER:

Oh, no, there's age between -- I think it's --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, there is age restrictions, I understand.

MR. MOYER:

Age between 8 to 15.

LEG. D'AMARO:

I'm talking more about is it open to all children in Suffolk County?

MR. MOYER:

All children in Suffolk County. And, like I said, we have developed a scholarship program with getting some funds from DEC, which we bring in a hundred underserved youth every year which have to meet a criteria, and that's a full scholarship they get based on funds that we provide and --

LEG. D'AMARO:

How many a children per year go to the facility?

MR. MOYER:

About 1400.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Fourteen hundred.

MR. MOYER:

A couple of hundred. Two to three is day-campers, and then the balance of them are overnight campers.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Why is Cornell in that business, it's mandated?

MR. MOYER:

Because it's -- no. It's part of our educational programs. A lot of the different Cornell associations, County associations do have camps, educational camps, because we provide -- like I said, there's five or six components which your kids can sign up for in terms of, you know, kayaking, swimming.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. The last question is who came up with this proposal, you know, for this amount of funding and this type of dining facility that you're looking for there?

MR. MOYER:

We've been working, and you can come out, we've been working with the Parks probably for the last, well, probably five years looking at it and saying, "Okay, the dining room needs to be replaced, what can we do, how can we work with you?" So we've had several meetings with Parks to discuss how we can move forward and how it would help fit our needs, but also, obviously, fit the County's and the Parks' needs.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah. This is more than just a county running a park. This is the County really making a decision for this particular park to run or have a camp facility. Is this the only one of its kind that we have in Suffolk County.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

The only one that I'm aware of in the County.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. Why do we need to be making that investment?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Like I said, it's been existence for 40 --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Why does Suffolk County need to run a day camp?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, it's been -- it's a need that's been in existence for the last 40 years. I mean, we'll disappoint an awful lot of kids if we decide we're not going to run that camp anymore.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Well, that's two different issues.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Okay.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Does the County need to -- I'm not saying we don't have a need for it, but I'm saying why is the County running a day camp?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, we're running an environmental -- it's an environmental camp, and Parks, Recreation and Conservation, and Cornell helps us in that mission.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. I'm not questioning, you know, Cornell. I know they do a great job, but I'm just questioning the policy of making a substantial investment to, in effect, facilitate a day camp.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I will say that Vito has come before this Board in years past and pitched this proposal, and the 1.6 was put in the budget for 2016.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What budget?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

2016 Capital Budget.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yeah. Well, the Capital Budget is a planning document with an up or down vote, so --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I understand that.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Really, I really don't like to cite that as precedent or reason why we should, you know, pass it. Obviously, the whole debate when we pass the Capital Budget is you get to consider these piecemeal and look at the policy, underline each decision.

So, Commissioner, I'm not -- you know, it's a substantial investment for a dining hall. I understand it's probably a great program, but, frankly, why can't -- why can't Cornell go to the State of New York and get funding for this? Isn't Cornell chartered by the State of New York? And aren't they -- aren't we, in effect, just facilitating Cornell's program? Why are we making the capital infrastructure investment when it's not our program?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I mean, you're right, it's not our program, but it's run in our park. It's something that we offer. It's something that --

LEG. D'AMARO:

Oh, it's not that we offer it, Cornell offers it. We're not offering anything. We're not getting any revenue from it, we're not running it. All we're -- it's literally like another -- it's a not-for-profit entity that's running it, which is fine, but it's -- you know, they're only running half the equation. Whenever you need an infrastructure improvement, you know, it's a couple of million to the County. So, you know, we're providing a park, but then we're also going the extra mile and providing a million-and-a-half dollars to run a program for another entity.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, I mean, we're 25% of that million.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right, that's fair enough. That's -- you know what, my inclination is not to support it, but if you can convince me that Cornell is committed to, you know, helping to service that debt to that extent, I'll

support this, because, you know, that's the refreshing part of this to me, is that it really is a Cornell program. And, yeah, it's a service to County residents, and that's a good thing, but we provide parks, not necessarily -- you don't provide this daycare park program in any other park, especially in Babylon or Huntington, but we're doing it in a different park.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Right.

LEG. D'AMARO:

So we're not really in that business. It's really just to facilitate Cornell and give them infrastructure improvements for their program. But the fact that Cornell is willing to step up and service 70% of the debt, in my mind, is -- persuades me to support this. But I want to make sure that that is an ironclad commitment before I vote for this. So what can you say to me to assure me of that?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I could say that they've committed verbally, and that we're going to put out an RFP, and we're going to sign a contract that commits them to doing that. I mean, that's all I can do at this stage of the game.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. So, right now, this is being passed on the premise that the contract that ultimately gets signed with Cornell will include that provision and that funding.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Or whoever bids on the RFP and wins the RFP, that that will be a minimum requirement.

LEG. D'AMARO:

That is a minimum requirement?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Okay. And that's the way you're going to proceed?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Correct.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Excellent. Thank you, appreciate that.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Thank you. Commissioner, we spoke about this at committee last week and -- but I just want to follow up with some of the issues that we raised, and that is there's two -- almost distinct structures here, types of structures. One is going to house the kitchen, and the other is going to be like that three season outside dining area; is that fair to say?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

That's correct, but they're connected.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

They are connected. What portion -- I know we talked about 7500 square feet, but what portion of that 7500 square feet is going to be the kitchen kind of more structural area, and how much of it is going to be that three-season dining area?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I can't answer that question, I don't know. I mean, maybe Dale could.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I would state that that's something that's -- I mean, again, unless Dale could come up with a firm number, generally, that's something that would be developed as part of the design plan, which is what these funds are for. We would -- we would have to come back to this body to appropriate the actual construction cost. So at that time, you know, we'd be able to give you finite square footage on what's the kitchen and what's the dining area.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Right. But just I think looking at it, the use, you'd have to say probably 75% of it would be this three-season dining and 25%, I mean, just as a guess. And so it just makes it seem as though this seems like an awful lot of known that kind of space. I mean if you're looking cut in that 25% is only say what 2000 square feet and we're looking at 1.6 million dollars in construction cost. You know that's a substantial amount of money what we're looking at this.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah. And I think the discussions I've heard between what would happen hat are at committee and today we want much less than 1.6 million and we want something that's more -- similar to what's out there already. So, again, that's all -- that would be developed as part of the program as we develop the actual construction plans.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

But one of the things we discussed is instead of building a grand dining hall, is to have them eat in shifts, which is something I think can be done, or had been done in the past, which would reduce probably in half the size of this project, and substantially reduce the need for such a big project.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Right. And once we -- once we get the planning money, we'll get a design firm in to do a plan. We'll sit down with Cornell and see how we can cut the cost.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

I've only been here 11 months, but I've seen some patterns developing here, and one of them is, is that generally, when we appropriate money, it's 10% for planning and development, which is exactly that 1.6. So I am reluctant, as I think it's a great program. I think they do good work. It's a good use of our County park, but I am very reluctant to commit that much money in planning and development, because it generally leads that being multiplied by ten to be the construction costs. Why can't we come back with something, if we're all agreeing that we're going to scale down the project, that we're going to eat in shifts, make it not such a grand place, why don't we come back with something that we can all feel comfortable supporting, which would be significantly a lot less money for planning and development?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Because we're at the end of the season. We have the -- we have the \$150,000. If we amended the -- if we amended the resolution, we wouldn't bring it back until next year. The money, the money will sunset at the end of this year. So either we appropriate it or we don't at this stage of the game.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

That's pretty much it.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Correct. That's not to say we have to spend the whole 150,000, but if we don't appropriate it, we're not going to have it. We don't have money in the 2015 budget for planning. So, if we don't appropriate it at this stage, it's -- we're not going to have the planning money.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

We could bring the design to the committee.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yeah, we could bring the design to the Parks Committee, Parks Trustees if that helps.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

I'm really not comfortable with this, you know. Explain to me how that works again. You're saying you have to appropriate this money that \$150,000?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

In the 2014 Capital Budget --

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

In this year?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

-- it does not get appropriated, it sunsets. So we will not have it -- we won't have it next year. We won't have any money in the 2015 budget. We have construction money. Well, theoretically, we have budgeted 1.6 in construction money for 2016.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

And at this point, as we're sitting here today, we cannot appropriate less than the 150 or 160 that you're asking for?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

That's a technical question; I'd defer to Counsel. My guess is no.

MR. NOLAN:

You could appropriate less, but the resolution is for 150, that's what's before us.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

So we could not amend that resolution here today and get it done before the end of the year, then, right?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It's not our resolution.

MR. NOLAN:

It's not our resolution.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

It was.

P.O. GREGORY:

Are you done, Legislator Trotta -- McCaffrey?

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

Trotta?

P.O. GREGORY:

Sorry. He's next on my list.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

I'm done, yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

All right, thanks. Legislator Trotta.

LEG. TROTТА:

I actually know a little bit about this. Our soccer club was looking at a place to hold 150 people. And we couldn't spend 250,000 for the kitchen, a bathroom, and that's what it was. There's like kits you buy. The company comes in and blows it out. So to ask for \$150,000 to do a study, I mean, in 30 second, I pulled something up online that holds 100 people. So, I mean --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

And that, did that meet all the Suffolk County requirements for prevailing wages, and apprenticeship program?

LEG. TROTТА:

Listen, I'm new at that, I have no idea. But I don't want to spend 1.6 million when I can spend 200,000. I'm sure there's a way to get around it. I mean, it just seems crazy for \$150,000 to do a study to build a building that probably really costs \$250,000 to build. You can build a house for \$250,000.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. Legislator Spencer.

LEG. SPENCER:

I wanted to ask a question to the Parks Commissioner with regards to the point I brought up earlier, when we were looking at the bike trail, was -- some of the frustration that we're expressing is that it's hard for us to take care of what we already have stewardship over. And so when I see kind of expanding that -- and I didn't know, maybe you could address. When you look at your inventory, when you look at all the things that you have commit -- just kind of control over in your role as Parks Commissioner, is there an overall direction or plan with regards to the parks? And is there some sort of -- I speak in always medical or triage, because, you know, I know keep whipping the Vanderbilt, but even Coindre Hall, a boathouse issue over there. And we are at the point, you know, I look at this as the dunes, and when I put it in my inventory of this is something that's open part of the year, the Vanderbilt has a camp, it's open year-round, it's the planetarium, it's, you know -- so I don't want to speak just selfishly as for my District, but how do you prioritize these projects?

And when I look at the money, and when I look at us kicking the can down the road in overall debt, it's hard for me to see this and want to open up a whole new can of worms when I think I want to kind of support what we have and maintain what we have, and I don't see clear-cut directions or planning for what we are already responsible for.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think that's actually just the option. I think this is already an existing park. It's in our holdings, we're obligated to maintain it. Cornell is there, they're doing a wonderful job. And while their camp might only -- might only operate for ten weeks out the year, they have an on-site presence year-round, and they completely maintain the facility. They cut the grass, they take out the garbage, and all that kind of stuff. So it's one of those public/private partnerships that we like to get into; same thing with Coindre Hall. You know, hopefully, we get that boathouse rebuilt, we can enter into an agreement with the user group to maintain the facility for us. It's just -- I mean, with the dwindling resources, that's kind of the direction we have to go. And Cornell is a phenomenal partner, so.

LEG. SPENCER:

So there's -- as far as prioritizing, and prioritizing as far as the number of people served, I guess, and what their mission is, I mean, is there a priority, like if I had \$10 million to give you to do whatever you so choose, you know, what I'd like -- how does something like this -- is it the greasy wheel, that this comes to the top? Because I feel like there's some unfinished things that I have no idea what the plan is.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, I would love \$10 million, but the fact is that we do have a willing partner up at the Peconic Dunes. And I think when we look at diverting money at the parks, it's the ones that were heavily utilized and where we have these these -- we already have these agreements, Long Island Maritime Museum, Seatuck, Scully. I mean, all of those groups are probably good examples.

LEG. SPENCER:

Okay. Hey, I feel we have a willing partner in the Vanderbilt Board that has an endowment of \$10 million, that they're trying to have their operations eventually become self-sufficient. And I'm -- I have a seaplane hangar that's about to fall into the Sound, I have a boathouse over there. And I have Legislators that are tired of hearing that word, that, you know, I have to fight for it as if it's my personal home. So it's -- I'm trying to reconcile it, although I definitely appreciate what you're saying, but thank you.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Barraga.

LEG. BARRAGA:

So what's the given as we sit here, the current structure has been condemned. How long has it been condemned?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Two seasons.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Two seasons. So you're feeding these young kids in a tent or some other facility, so something has to be done in terms of construction. You have to build something.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

That's correct.

LEG. BARRAGA:

The question is whether or not you want to spend \$1.5 million to do it.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

That's correct.

LEG. BARRAGA:

So you've got this planning money. There's no indication you have to spend all 150,000 of the planning money, right?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

That's correct.

LEG. BARRAGA:

So I think, as Legislator McCaffrey indicated, and I was thinking along the same lines, this facility that you were looking at calls for 375 people to be in it. The question is can you build something smaller and maybe run shifts through? I mean, many school districts, for example, have two or three shifts of kids going through for breakfast and lunch.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

And we had discussed that at committee, and we figured we'd use the planning money to try to scale down and get the best bang for our buck on a facility, maybe feed them a hundred at a time. Cornell -- committed.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I think you're going to have to come back with something a lot less than 1.5 million, and something to show the Legislators that you don't need something to hold 375 people; maybe something that would hold 200 people and run shifts through it.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

And I think we'll do that when we get to that \$1.6 million. We're going to have to come back and make the argument for that.

LEG. BARRAGA:

And you feel pretty sure that Cornell will be paying roughly 70, 75% of the debt service associated with whatever you do build?

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes. I'm going to defer that to BRO, but they've committed to -- they've committed to \$80,000 a year out of \$1.6 million debt service.

I don't know what --

LEG. BARRAGA:

And the 150 is already in the 2014 Capital Budget, 150,000 --

MR. LIPP:

Yes, is in the '14 budget. And as they said, if you don't pass it now, then it expires.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Legislator Hahn.

LEG. HAHN:

So just remind me, how many cabins are here?

MR. MOYER:

You're asking for the number of cabins or number of kids?

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah, number of cabins. And you can tell me number of kids, too.

MR. MOYER:

There are two larger ones, and then there's probably somewhere between 14 and 16 smaller ones that hold ten people, which would be eight campers and two counselors, usually.

LEG. HAHN:

And how many weeks a year? Is it a sleep-away camp?

MR. MOYER:

It's both sleep-away and a day camp. We started a day camp about four years ago.

LEG. HAHN:

How many weeks a year?

MR. MOYER:

Eight to ten. Usually, we have a eight-week regular period, we have a -- what they call a rookie camp early -- late June, and then at the end, there's another special camp, which is a little less than that. And then we also, as I mentioned before, we also have different user groups come in, which we work with. It's usually folks that are looking for a weekend experience either in the Spring or the Fall, which we worked with. Again, everything we do we work with the Parks Department to make sure that they're approving what the activity and what we're going forth with.

LEG. HAHN:

Okay. So that's kind of where I was going. So the weeks that it's not a sleep-away camp and that it's not a day camp, we are renting out the cabins? Because I know -- I mean, I hear -- we hear all the time in the Parks Committee about how few -- or how we are overbooked at camp sites all around the County in our parks. And the camping is -- if you had seen the presentation at the Economic Development Committee meeting, whereby the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau came and presented about what folks like to do and what they're looking to do when they are recreational tourists, camping was one of those items that people are looking for to be able to do. And so I was just wondering if we rent out the cabins when it's not being used as a camp?

MR. MOYER:

Not individuals. That's really up to the Parks decision. But it's usually groups, you know, formal groups that are coming in, not just a family or inform groups. It would be a form group, and organization association, again, that's looking for a retreat, something that they can interact on the environmental basis with the Great Pond, or the Sound, or the woods around that area for those kinds of activity. But, again, that's somewhat limited, because we really don't have a dining facility. The tent we put up is really only good for the summertime, and even then, there are some downsides when we get ten inches of rain and there's a lot of mud in the tent area. So it limits what we can do in terms of right now, what kind of outside groups we can bring in, because of the lack of a dining hall, all-purpose room facility for the Fall and the Spring.

LEG. HAHN:

Right. So, you know, my thinking -- I'm still trying to fully understand there this, but my thinking was that if we could be bringing in more revenue over a longer period of time, you know, there may be a reason to rethink this hall as something that could have multiple functions at different times. So it can be a dining hall for the camp, it can be a concessionaire type stand if we're renting out camp sites. It could be -- you know, I would look to the planning -- you look like you're going to say something, Greg, so I'll let you.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I know where you're going. And originally, Cornell did -- when they presented their plan, they did have a grand plan of making this a year-round dining facility with heat, and air conditioning, and insulation and thermal windows, and all that kind of stuff. And looking at their long-term plan, they didn't think that that would be quite as -- they didn't think they'd get that -- they didn't think they'd get that year-round camper. And correct me if I'm wrong, you're talking about taking the cabins and using them for winter campsites, similar to what we do in other facility and generating some revenue, independent of having a dining hall, just renting out those cabins throughout the winter. And it's a good idea.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

That's something that we thought of.

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah. So I'm wondering if we've been thinking about that, and I don't know that I necessarily in my mind thing winter, but off-camp months. You know, if there are eight weeks of the camp running, and then there's a couple of weeks where they rent to these groups, if we have availability in renting out the cabins on a -- you know, take reservation kind of --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

We call it primitive camping, primitive camping, similar to like the lean-tos that we have up in West Hills and Boy Scout camps. I see where you're going. And I have not thought of that and it's a good idea. I mean, I'll, you know, check with my staff. I don't know. Maybe there was a proposal years -- you know, years ago, but it's certainly a good idea, so we could look into it.

LEG. HAHN:

Right. I mean, when I see this map, it's right near the water, and two --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

It's a beautiful location.

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah, it's a really beautiful location. We can -- you know, I really think you need to sit down with the new head of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, because I think there's a lot of synergy that our Parks Department can be looking to have answers to what some of the -- you know, some of the recreational Tourists, and I think they called it adventure tourism, but even in our own -- you know, even for our own residents that are looking for that kind of activity that they could do in their own backyard, but have a real adventure-type experience here. There are trails, there's -- it looks there are boating opportunities, probably kayaking and stand-up paddle board opportunities, and hiking, you know, so --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think it was formal activities. You got to actually feed people, so I think you'd need a dining facility for that. I mean, I like your idea with rustic camping and opening up those campsites during the shoulder seasons, the off months. It's probably a good idea.

LEG. HAHN:

Sure, yeah. That was my thinking, and then I don't know. I mean, maybe if you are open to that possibility, you know, maybe in the planning process, find a way to have a hybrid use of that dining hall, like bringing in concession or something that --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Okay.

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah. Thank you very much.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Last person on the list is Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

One last follow-up question. Here's my concern: My concern is that we brought up many of these issues at committee, okay, about the size of the building, and the cost of the money that we're using for design and planning, which usually leads to the formula of ten times whatever that money is. And we -- I agreed to discharge it without recommendation, as a majority of the committee did. And I really want to believe that what I'm hearing is true, that we're not going to spend all that money. But we had an opportunity between now and then, when this was brought back as a CN because of a change, I guess, in the SEQRA, and we still came back with that 1.6 -- \$1.6 million -- I mean, the hundred and whatever the number is, the \$150,000. Why didn't we come back with a smaller number that maybe addressed the current concerns that we had? That's my question.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I could have come back and said we're only going to spend \$500,000, that wouldn't be accurate. We need the planning funds to actually come back with something concrete. I don't want to throw a number at you. I mean, I really don't know, I'm not an engineer. We've got a basic feeling of what the facility is going to cost, but, you know --

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

But we generally, as a rule, say that it's 10% of whatever we expect the construction costs to be, and it's in here that they want \$1.6 million for construction, okay, and \$50,000 for furniture, which is about 10% of what we're asking for in planning and development. If we committed, and I thought I heard that, to some sort of scaling down of that project after we left committee and I before we got here, why wasn't that reflective in the CN, which could have been modified before us here today?

MR. VAUGHN:

I certainly understand what you're saying, Legislator McCaffrey, and I think that the opportunity -- I think that the true opportunity to really scale down this project appropriately would be once the planning money is appropriated, and once we start going -- the first opportunity, really, to scale down this project is going to be as we begin the Capital Program next year in May. And I have a feeling that if a \$1.6 million project comes back across as part of our Capital Program, I don't really see a lot of support for that right at this moment. So I certainly understand what you're saying, but I think that the planning was --

LEG. MC CAFFREY:

The first opportunity to scale this project down was between last week and this week when it came before us. And it really gives a -- and I like the project, I think they do good work there. It's too big. Everyone agrees that it's too big, and now we're putting ourselves in jeopardy of losing that planning money, because a lot of us have a hard time supporting this amount of money for planning and development, which usually leads to that ten times in terms of that. And I know we have a second bite of the apple, but you see a lot of frustrated people up here based on that.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Give me one last comment here.

P.O. GREGORY:

Oh, man.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

P.O. GREGORY:

Look, we know you don't want to go, but we didn't force you to leave, you could have stayed.

*(*Laughter*)*

LEG. KENNEDY:

This is true. This is true, but it's right at my wheelhouse, it's numbers, folks.

Dale, the commitment for Cornell, if you get selected with the RFP, is that you'll pick up 75% of the debt cost associated with whatever gets built?

MR. MOYER:

We had figured out \$80,000 based on the revenues, what we've done, and how successfully we had that camp running for over the six or seven-year period. And we feel we can maintain that because we have an excellent program that we can generate \$80,000 to put into the thing. Now I'm not sure if that's going to be 70, 75%.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. But we do fund you, we fund you in 11 programs. And in 2014, we gave 3,753,924 bucks to Cornell. One of those 11 categories was, I believe, the summer program. We do fund or offset some of the summer program, right?

MR. MOYER:

Not the Peconic Dunes. It's probably -- I assume you're talking about the farm, the 4-H Program.

*(*The following testimony was taken by Alison Mahoney & Transcribed by Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographers*)*

LEG. KENNEDY:

Absolutely, the whole gamut of what Cornell does, 3.7 million.

MR. MINEI:

That includes some of our facilities, which we have as part of the County.

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LEG. KENNEDY:

Right. So you're making an accommodation off of the fees received from the campers, but also you're working it into whatever the balance of that budget is.

MR. MINEI:

No. The 80,000 would only come out of the fees from the camp. That's where that money's going to be generated from.

LEG. KENNEDY:

And you pay everything out at that camp? You pay the electric, you pay the liability, you pay the water, you pay it all?

MR. MINEI:

We pay it all as far as I know. We pay everything. We're the stewards of that camp. We maintain and invest, like I said, probably about \$20,000 or more just in the materials every year. Plus we give, in terms of small capital improvements, you know, we need to renovate a health center; we've done that. We've renovated various buildings internally just because we wanted to bring the level of the camp --

LEG. KENNEDY:

I understand. I understand. I understand. All right. Listen, we beat this horse long past death. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

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

MR. RICHBERG:

Yes, we do.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Roll call.

*(*Roll was called by Mr. Richberg - Chief Deputy Clerk*)*

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Which motion is this?

P.O. GREGORY:

To approve.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

No.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Pass.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

No.

LEG. TROTTA:

No.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

No.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

No.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Recuse.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

MR. RICHBERG:

Ten. Oh, sorry, Legislator D'Amaro.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Absolutely.

*(*Laughter*)*

MR. RICHBERG:

Eleven.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It fails.

MR. NOLAN:

You need 12. It failed.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It needs 12 on a CN.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Motion fails.

Okay, so motion fails. No need to vote on the Bond for 2087.

All right. ***2182, Amending the 2014 Capital Program and appropriating funds in connection with the Improvements to Cupsogue County Park (CP 7080) (County Executive).*** Do we have a motion? Motion by Legislator Schneiderman.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Second.

P.O. GREGORY:

Second by Legislator Krupski. All in favor?

LEG. CILMI:

Wait, wait.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yeah, I have some questions also.

P.O. GREGORY:

\$200,000.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Cupsogue is the one wher the fire --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Right.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

-- destroyed the building there.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

A couple of months ago.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

We only have two ocean beaches. This is one of them. It's the second most popular beyond Smiths Point, but we lost the building, the bathroom, the concession, everything. I wish we could get it up quicker. But here, we're doing, what, just some temporary?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This is for temporary. This is for construction of temporary structures. The current plan -- and we're in development -- is to bring in -- purchase trailers that'll provide bathrooms as well as full

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kitchens, construct a, you know, boardwalk area where people can sit and have food, and it will provide us enough time to develop the appropriate plans for the actual replacement of the Cupsogue Pavilion.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

What's the cost of that, Commissioner, again?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Right now, there was 200,000 available in another program. I think it was the Jumpstart that became available, so we're requesting that we use that, access those funds so we can do the construction next year and be ready for the summer season, so right now, it's 200,000.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I want to thank you for going quickly on this because I know a lot of people have been asking me if they'll be able to use the park, so thank you. I'm certainly supporting it.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah. Gil, so certainly we need something in order to go ahead and provide for our residents restrooms and things like that, but you said kitchens.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Yeah. There's trailers, actually, that -- and we're in the investigation stage. There's actually trailers that you can purchase that'll have a full kitchen, range, whatever is needed to --

LEG. KENNEDY:

All right. But -- yeah. So lets make sure that we separate the weak from the champions. We need to provide for our residents to come out. Obviously, we want to be able to go ahead and take care of, you know, if they want a bottle of Gatorade or something like that or maybe a hotdog or something, but we're not getting equipment to facilitate or fulfill a contract with the vendor. Beach Club, Beach Hut whoever they are --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

I think it's Beach Hut.

LEG. KENNEDY:

-- are we putting them in something we're buying and renting?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

We're not renting. This is actually for full purchase when we get the Pavilion constructed, you know, the final replacement.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yeah.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

The intent is to bring that to another park facility for use somewhere else.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Who's going to operate the kitchen?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

As of right now, I believe the concession is with Beach Hut.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. Legislator Krupski.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Thank you. So you're going to buy trailers with kitchens in them?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

That's what we're looking into right now. We found a local manufacturer who does do that, so we're hoping we can work along those lines to basically bring in trailer -- for lack of better, it'd almost be like prefabbed kitchens that would come in, roll in. We would put them on platforms --

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Why wouldn't you just let the vendor do that? Say, You still have a contract, it will be adjusted because there are no facilities, but if you want to sell food, here's your option.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

As far as I know, the contract is with the vendor just to operate, not to provide any kitchen facilities, and the kitchen facilities were there.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

You know what I'm saying? I mean, I don't know what the contract --

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I understand.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

I don't know how lucrative the contract is.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

They actually may. Right now, if you are asking what they give us, I think last year, the concession from the concession stand alone was about 58- to \$60,000. So, you know, we -- but that is -- that's rent for use of the facility. Obviously, the facility doesn't exist anymore, so we really can't charge that type of rent. Once we get -- once Gil figures out how much the restrooms are going to cost and the eating facility is going to cost, we'll probably come into some negotiation with those guys.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Well, I mean, you need restrooms whether you had a restaurant there or not.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Absolutely.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So that's really not a factor, but as far as the restaurant, I don't understand why we'd be putting out money for a restaurant that you're never going see again at that point.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

I think the point was to take the equipment once -- put that off to the side and then while they build the current building, which we own, I think everybody loses the fact that just because these concessionaires operate out of the facilities, we own them. Once it's built, it's ours. It's there for the next concession after the next time we go out for an RFP, so I think when they take that equipment, they might be able to move it into the --

LEG. KRUPSKI:

But I mean if you're putting out -- I mean, I don't know. What would the cost of new facility be? You're saying we're taking in 60,000 a year.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Well, we're taking in 60,000 a year for that. We're taking in 300 and something thousand dollars in parking. One of the reasons that that facility is as popular as it is is because of the beach hut. We didn't get anywhere near that kind of attendance 10 years ago before the beach hut was there. We also have, I think we generate another \$35,000 in camping revenue and outer beach revenue, so the facility generates a good amount of money and the food is a nice amenity to have.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

So you're going to reconstruct the building. You've got a County -- and I don't know if you saw the lottery today. It was very exciting. You've got these alternative systems for wastewater treatment, and you're basically going to be putting bathrooms on a beach, so are you considering using an alternative system since you're rebuilding everything and treating the wastewater in an area that's very sensitive.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yeah. There's an existing septic system there now. I'm going to defer to Gil on where those new systems are going. I mean, I know we talked about some of our rental facilities.

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

Again, this is in very preliminary stage, but, yeah, that's something we're looking at. I don't know -- we are considering it. Nothing here is anything more than cursory in discussion. It's just that the funding became available, and that's why we're requesting it, so we can move this forward quickly.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

While you're doing the construction, it's an ideal time and it's an ideal location to do a better treatment --

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

We talked about that as well as, you know, a grease trap, which it needs. The septic system, as the Commissioner mentioned, is still in place and will still be used for the final effluent.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Okay. Thank you.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. That's all I have. We have a motion and a second. Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay on the Bond Resolution **2182A, Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York, authorizing the issuance of \$200,000 bonds to finance the cost of improvements to Cupsogue County Park (CP 7080.312) (County Executive)**. Same motion, same second. Roll call.

*(*Roll was called by Mr. Laube - Clerk of the Legislature*)*

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:

Yes.

LEG. KENNEDY:

(Not Present)

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

Yes.

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

(Not present.)

LEG. MURATORE:

Yes.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Sixteen (Not Present: Legislators Hahn & Kennedy).

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. ***IR 2184, Amending the Temporary Classification and Salary Plan to add the Land Management Specialist I – IV and Appraisal Reviewer Titles (County Executive)***. I make a motion. Second by Legislator Muratore. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Sixteen (Not Present: Legislators Hahn & Kennedy).

P.O. GREGORY:

Back to the agenda. We had skipped ***IR 2085***.

We had the bond. It was sent to you via e-mail. Just to read the title again, ***Appropriating funds in connection with Improvements to Suffolk County Farm (CP 1796) (County Executive)***. We have motion and a second.

MR. LAUBE:

Yes, you do.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

LEG. D'AMARO:

Wait, hold on.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Recusal.

LEG. D'AMARO:

What is this on again?

P.O. GREGORY:

This is the --

MR. NOLAN:

The farm.

P.O. GREGORY:

The farm, the appropriating resolution. Now we're going to do the bond. We haven't called the vote.

LEG. D'AMARO:

This was for the building, right?

P.O. GREGORY:

The Suffolk County Farm.

LEG. D'AMARO:

The one that's dilapidated.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Hundred grand.

LEG. D'AMARO:

Right. I vote no on that.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Planning and construction.

MR. LAUBE:

Seventeen (Opposed: Legislator D'Amaro - Recused: Legislator Krupski)(Vote amended: 16-1-1)

P.O. GREGORY:

All righty.

MR. LAUBE:

Sixteen.

P.O. GREGORY:

2085A, Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York, authorizing the issuance of \$100,000 bonds to finance the cost of improvements to Suffolk County Farm (CP 1796.314)(County Executive). Same motion, same second. Roll call.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Just on the motion, is this actual construction money or is it planning money?

COMMISSIONER ANDERSON:

This is actual construction money.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. Fine.

MR. LAUBE:

Ready?

(*Roll was called by Mr. Laube - Clerk of the Legislature*)

LEG. MARTINEZ:

Yes.

LEG. ANKER:

Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:

Yes.

LEG. STERN:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Oh. No.

LEG. D'AMARO:

No.

LEG. TROTTA:

No.

LEG. KENNEDY:

No.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Yes.

LEG. CILMI:

No.

LEG. LINDSAY:

Yes.

LEG. CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. HAHN:

Yes.

LEG. MURATORE:

No.

LEG. BROWNING:

Yes.

LEG. KRUPSKI:

Recuse.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Yes.

P.O. GREGORY:

Yes.

MR. LAUBE:

Eleven.

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. All right. That is our agenda.

General Meeting - December 15, 2014

I make a motion to waive the rules and lay the following resolutions on the table:

IR 2177, Parks & Rec; IR 2179 EPA; IR 2180, Public Safety; IR 2185, Public Safety. Second by Legislator Cilmi. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions?

MR. LAUBE:

Eighteen (Not Present: Anker) (Vote amended: Seventeen/ Not Present: Legislator Anker)

P.O. GREGORY:

Okay. On behalf of the entire legislature, I extend our best wishes to Legislator John Kennedy and wish him success as Suffolk County Comptroller.

Applause & Standing Ovation

LEG. KENNEDY:

Thank you very much. It's been fun. I'm out of here.

(*Laughter*)

P.O. GREGORY:

John, we look forward to working with you, continue working with you in your new position.

We extend our best wishes to everyone for a Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, and healthy, prosperous New Year.

We have a motion to adjourn by Legislator Krupski, second by Legislator Calarco. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you.

(*The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM*)

{ } - Denotes Spelled Phonetically