

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
JOINT WITH PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS, LABOR, TRANSPORTATION
MINUTES APRIL 26, 2010**

MEMBERS B&A: **Chair:** Jose Alvarado, **Legislators:**
Abinanti, Burton, Harckham, Maisano, Myers,
Rogowsky, Ryan, Spreckman, L. Williams,
Jenkins

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS, LABOR, TRANSPORTATION:
Chair: Bill Ryan, **Legislators:**
Rogowsky, Myers, Jenkins, A. Williams,
Alvarado

IN ATTENDANCE: **DOT:** Lawrence Salley, **CBAC, LWVW:**
Barbara Strauss; **Finance:** Ann Marie Berg;
Intern: Hope Corbin; **Budget:** Arthur Vietro,
Larry Soule, John Delaney; **Law:** Stacey
Dolgin-Kmetz, Linda Trentacoste; **DES:** Tony
Sutton; **CEO:** George Oros, Katy Delgado;
Journal News: Gerald McKistry

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by the respective chairs.

C4. Bond Act A066B Misc. Restoration & Rehab Airport in the amount of \$1,050,000 and C5. Bond Act A086B Misc. Restoration & Rehab Airport \$1,050,000 for sewer line replacement: Eighty percent of the cost will be coming from the F.A.A. and the County's share from the Airport Special Fund. Legislator L. Williams pointed out that we actually will be going out for bonding on these items. A066B is to rehabilitate the domestic water system by replacing the pressure tanks and replacing the domestic water main between Hangar E and the Purchase Street Pumphouse. A086B is to replace the 50 year old 8 inch diameter 3000 linear foot pipe. This will eliminate a potential for subsurface groundwater contamination and improve the efficiency of the water flow. On the motion of Legislator L. Williams, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Burton, Harckham, Myers, Rogowsky, Ryan, Spreckman, L. Williams, Jenkins) and on the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by A. Williams for Public Works, the motion was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Ryan, Rogowsky, Myers, Jenkins, A. Williams, Alvarado).

On the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator A. Williams, Public Works was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

A15. Act Reduction in Sick Leave Buy Out: This was discussed at the last Budget meeting that this legislation would exclude departments with elected officials and their heads including the Board of Legislators, the County Clerk and the District Attorney. Section 5 was changed to read that Sections 1 and 2 would be superseded upon the adoption of the Teamsters' contract. Whatever agreement is reached with the teamsters will then apply to everyone. When the District Attorney and County Clerk appeared before the Board of Legislators, they indicated that they would go along with the Teamster's agreement providing the benefits were the same for everyone. Legislator Nonna felt that the Board of Legislators should not be excluded. Legislator Harckham made a motion not to exclude the Board of Legislators, Legislator Myers seconded the motion.

Legislator L. Williams made a motion as amended, seconded by Legislator Burton and the motion was passed by a vote of 10-0 (Alvarado, Ryan, Myers, as amended, Harckham, as amended, Williams, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Maisano, without prejudice, Burton, as amended, Spreckman).

B9 Hon. Ken Jenkins Memorandum of Legislation re contribution to the basic County Health Insurance Plan: Chair Jenkins explained that this is an income based plan which includes the retirees. He said the Community College would accept the Board's recommendations for the employees that are non-represented. It would either be salary based or length of service. This plan saves approximately \$58,000 more than the County Executive's plan – it is income based on the impacted employees. Commissioner Berg said this plan would be difficult to administer and it could not be done by July 1. There ensued much discussion. On the motion of Legislator L. Williams, seconded by Legislator Myers, the discussion continued. Legislator Maisano said he would like more time to review the legislation. He would also vote for this if the College and the D.A.'s office were not excluded. Legislator L. Williams said there is a legal opinion concerning the College. There was much discussion about the opinion and what it said. Legislator Maisano asked if a friendly amendment was in order. Legislator Burton agreed with Legislator Maisano that the D.A.'s office should be included. He also wanted the College to be included as well. Based on the discussion, Legislator Myers withdrew her second and Legislator Jenkins seconded the motion. Based on a head count, the motion failed. Legislator Maisano was then invited to submit his friendly amendment. He asked that Section 4 be deleted (referring to the District Attorney) and in Section 1 any reference to the District Attorney be deleted. Legislator Myers seconded the motion. Section 8 also had to be modified. There was discussion on an incentive for a member of the plan to change from a family plan to a single plan. If this legislation had to be modified at a later date, it could be. The amended

version was passed by a vote of 10-0 (Alvarado, Ryan, Myers, as amended, Harckham, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, as amended, Spreckman, Maisano, as amended, Abinanti).

A56. Act Voluntary Separation Payment Program: Commissioner Soule explained that Budget had discussed a retirement incentive with various counties and took the best parts of their programs. Employees who are part of the Employee's Retirement System are eligible for this program. There are exceptions. They are: Public Safety PBA, Superior Officers PBA, Superior Officers Association SOA, D.A. Investigators PBA, Elected Officials, Employees pending disciplinary proceedings and Westchester Community College employees. The employee has to work for the County for ten years. The payment would be \$1000 for each year with a cap of \$30,000.

If an employee returned to the County within five years, they would have to repay the money unless they returned with a salary of less than \$10,000. This does not include contractors. The County Executive expects to save between \$6.8 million and \$19 million. The Commissioner was asked if a hiring freeze was discussed. Legislator Harckham said the only way this would work would be to have a hiring freeze. Commissioner Berg said it depends on who takes advantage of this program. It was pointed out that an employee could be moved up. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Harckham, the motion was passed with Legislator Abinanti and the County Attorney making some stylistic changes on a vote of 10-0 (Alvarado, Ryan, Myers, Harckham, Spreckman, Burton, Maisano, Rogowsky, Jenkins, Abinanti).

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton, the minutes with corrections was accepted.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton, the Budget & Appropriations Committee was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.