

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING  
JOINT WITH COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OOPERATIONS  
MINUTES FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

**MEMBERS B&A:** Chair: Jose Alvarado; Legislators: Abinanti, Burton, Harckham, Jenkins, Kaplowitz, Myers, Oros, Rogowsky

**MEMBERS G.O.:** Chair: Ken Jenkins; Legislators: Bronz, Burrows, Burton, Harckham, Myers, Pinto, Rogowsky

**IN ATTENDANCE:** **PARKS:** Dan McBride, David DeLucia , Robert Reno, Ken Uhle, Peter Neglia, Joe Stout; **FALCON & SINGER:** Douglas Singer; **JOURNAL NEWS:** G. McKinstry; **LWVW:** **DEF:** Jim Arnett, Robert Giglio; **CEO:** M. Wittenberg, Bill Randolph, Andrew Neuman, Sal Carrera; **DOT:** Lawrence Salley; **SULLIVAN ARCHITECTURE:** John Fry; **LAW DEPARTMENT:** Stacey Dolgin-Kmetz; **BUDGET:** Arthur Vietro; **COLE COMMUNICATIONS:** Robert Cole; **JPMORGAN:** Milt Hobbs; **DPW:** Ralph Butler; **AIRPORT ADVISORY:** Susan Leifer; **BOL:** Joanne Sold, Katie Delgado, Louise Gantress, Sally Schechter

Chair Jenkins called the Committee on Government Operations to order at 10:10 a.m. There was one item that was in Government Operations – Sewer District Modification, 119 Old Lyme Road, Purchase: This item is to be signed out to be sent to the County Executive to begin the process. On the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Burton, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Jenkins, Bronz, Burrows, Burton, Harckham, Myers, Pinto, Rogowsky).

Chair Alvarado called the Budget & Appropriations Committee to order at 10:12 a.m. The first item A211 a Lease Agreement with JPMorgan Chase Bank/Airport: Mr. Carrera explained that a lease with Avitat (the old G.E. Corporate hangar) is set to expire in 2010. The Department of Transportation and the Director of Real Estate sent out an RFP and they received a number of responses. They are recommending a thirty year lease to be given to JPMorgan Chase who is currently at the airport but at a smaller hangar. There were several reasons why JPMorgan was awarded the lease – they will be spending approximately \$18 million to renovate the hangar making it the premier

corporate hangar on the eastern seaboard and their planes are out of the country a good portion of the time which would cut down on air emission and noise. The annual base rent is the same for all the renters. When JPMorgan vacates their current site, there will be an RFP for that site. Legislator Harckham was concerned with the problems in the banking industry, is there a provision in the lease should something happen to JPMorgan. Mr. Carrera indicated that JPMorgan's attorney and the County's attorney have discussed this and should something happen, the Board will be made aware of any problems. Legislator Rogowsky said that a corporate tenant is an asset and that G.E. was a corporate tenant many years ago. The County did not want an FBO operation. Mr. Carrera said there is an escalation clause in the lease and that the leases are looked at every five years and depending on the economy, it is determined whether rents would go up or not. There are guidelines by the FAA. Legislator Kaplowitz wanted to know if the \$18 million improvement will save us any capital investment. Mr. Carrera said the County owns all the hangars and any improvements that we deem as necessary, we pass the cost on to the tenant. He also said that CitiGroup and Aviat renovated their spaces when they renewed their leases. We presently have three FBO's at the airport – Landmark, Signature and Aviat. Because of the economy, Mr. Kaplowitz was concerned as to what would happen should Citigroup and JPMorgan leave. He was assured that new tenants would be found. The new lease will take effect in March 2010 but the material needed for the renovation will take approximately one year and the renovations will be finished in approximately six months. On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Myers for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Oros) and on the motion of Legislator Bronz, seconded by Legislator Rogowsky for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz).

A203 Teamsters Contract-Local 456: Mr. Wittenberg explained that this is the first contract he has negotiated with the Teamsters. It is a three year contract retroactive, for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. The health insurance is identical to the CSEA. There are 152 people in this group. Legislator Burton asked if the retirement offer made to the CSEA for people with more than 15 years by 2010 was in this contract. It is not. Legislator Rogowsky asked if the working spouse rule for new hires as of January 1 is in both contracts. It is. On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Harckham for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Oros) and on the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Bronz for Government Operations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Bronz, Pinto).

C109 – Bond Act Amendment North Yonkers Pump Station Upgrading: Legislator Jenkins advised the Committee that Commissioner Tom Lauro was honored by the Professional Engineers Society over the week-end. This item is an increase in the bond act from \$3 million to \$3.2 million. Legislator Kaplowitz asked for clarification on this item. Originally this item was supposed to be bonded for \$3.3 million but through an

error the bond was only for \$3 million. On the motion of Legislator Alvarado, seconded by Legislator Kaplowitz for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was approved by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Oros, Abinanti) and on the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Myers for Government Operations, the motion was approved by a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz).

C47 Bond Act Various Rides & Components Restoration: The Committee had asked Commissioner Stout to determine if there would be any savings if the design of the roof on the historic Derby Racer and Carousel be combined. This was done and there was a savings of approximately \$475,000. On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was approved by a vote of 9-0 with Legislator Oros signing this without prejudice (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham Oros , without prejudice, Abinanti) and on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Burton for Government Operations, the motion was passed by a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz).

A206 Environmental Resolution Tibbetts Brook Pool Renovation and C112 Bond Act for Tibbetts Brook Pool: The pool was built in the 1920's and there have been no capital improvements since then. Committee has to decide whether they want a pool or not. When it was built it was the largest pool east of the Mississippi. It uses 2 million gallons of water. If we were to repair the filtration and gutter system to meet the sanitary codes of today, it would cost several million dollars more than what this bond act is for. This bond act is for the design of what is called a leisure pool. It would allow more open space and use 1/3 of the water we are presently using with the pump and filtration system being energy star. Mr. Abinanti wanted to know if we want to continue having a swimming pool. Have we thought of having Yonkers take over the operation of the pool after fixing it up. It is a County pool with people coming from all over the County. Commissioner Stout said he did not believe Yonkers would spend \$8 million dollars and allow people from all over the County to use the pool. A fiscal impact statement was not included in the act. Legislator Kaplowitz requested a three part analysis – 1. if the pool was closed down, 2. all the costs to run this facility and the projected revenue and 3. the cost of the more traditional pool. Because it is a County pool, a County Park pass is required and then there is an admission fee. Non residents are not allowed to use it. Legislator Rogowsky asked with this new facility what would the operating expenses be. Commissioner Stout said the electricity, water and chemicals would be 1/3 of what it is today. The new pool would only require approximately 700,000 gallons of water. There is no deep water so staffing would not be a lot different. Legislator Rogowsky questioned the doubling of water usage from 7,000 gallons a day to 14,000 gallons. This is due to more people using bathrooms, showers, etc. The money saved in filling the pool with 1/3 less water would compensate for this extra water. Legislator Rogowsky said he would speak to Commissioner Stout about cleaning large pools with no chemicals. Legislator Kaplowitz would like an analysis of spending and revenues with 4 scenarios:

operating the present pool with repairs, closing the pool, a new pool with the new design, and the present pool with the present design. Commissioner Stout would like an answer as soon as possible so he would only lose one season. No action was taken.

A207 Capital Budget Amendment for Bronx River Reservation Pathway, C113 Bond Act for the Pathway and A208 a Grant Agreement for the Pathway: A survey recently completed by the Parks Department indicated that trailways were the most used facility of the Parks Department. This is for the design of a missing link between the Hartsdale train station south to the Scarsdale train station. It would be in coordination with the Crane Bridge Project. This would complete the pathway from Mt. Vernon to Kensico Dam within the Park. Several meetings were held in Scarsdale on the Crane Road project to obtain feedback from the homeowners and many of them wanted to know why they had to go to Popham Road to gain access to the pathway. The pathway is on the west side of the Parkway. The grant of \$96,000 will pay for the signage, the design is \$309,000 and the total project will cost \$6.7 million. Legislator Kaplowitz and Legislator Abinanti want to look at the design and what alternatives are available. On the motion of Legislator Abinanti, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations the motion was passed by a vote of 8-0 with Legislator Kaplowitz voting without prejudice (Alvarado, Abinanti, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Kaplowitz, without prejudice) and on the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Pinto for Government Operations, the motion was passed by a vote of 7-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Harckham, Pinto, Bronz).

A2009 Capital Budget amendment for Playland Lighting Replacement and C114 for the Bond Act for the Lighting Replacement: New York Power Authority has looked at almost all the lights in the Park – approximately 40,000, and by replacing them it will significantly lower the cost of electricity. Legislator Rogowsky would like to see the NYPA study. We are removing incandescent bulbs and replacing them with a number of CFL bulbs and a numbers of LED bulbs and we are replacing fixtures. This will require fewer bulbs but it doesn't say if the bulbs are CFL or LED. (they are CFL). Legislator Rogowsky said LED's are better as they use less electricity and last longer but they cost more money. He also wanted to know how we would dispose of the CFL's as they do contain mercury. The Committee has not seen the NYPA study and in order to make a decision, the study should be available to the members. This could be a project for NYPA to do by itself and they would get paid out of the savings. Commissioner Stout pointed out that disposing of the bulbs is not an issue as we now recycle the fluorescent bulbs. Legislator Rogowsky also wanted to know if any grant money was available. No action was taken pending receiving the information that was requested.

#C111 Bond Act for Marshland/Jay Property Site Work: A the request of Legislator Myers, this item was removed from the agenda.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Kaplowitz for Budget & Appropriations, the minutes of February 18 were approved by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado,

Abinanti, Burton, Harckham, Jenkins, Kaplowitz, Myers, Oros, Rogowsky).

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Jenkins, Budget & Appropriations was adjourned at 12:35 p.m. and on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Bronz, Government Operations was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.