

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2009**

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

MEMBERS LEGISLATION: Chair: William Burton, Legislators:
Bronz, Harckham, Jenkins, Myers, Nonna,
Oros, Rogowsky, Ryan, Maisano

OTHER LEGISLATORS: V. Pinto

IN ATTENDANCE: **LWVW:** Noreen Fisher; **DEF:** Marian Pompa;
TVCC: Jacqueline Irwin; **D.A.:** John George,
Donna Rituci, Janet DiFiore; **Tax
Commission:** David Jackson; **Labs:** Millard
Hyland, William Fallon, Peggy Schmidt;
Budget: A. Lenney, Arthur Vietro, Bert Molley,
Anne Reasoner, John Delaney, L. Yazzetta,
Mark Medwid, Dave Cabibbo, **CEO's:** Bill
Randolph, Andrew Neuman; **IT:** Nancy
Birnbaum, Kay Foster, Marguerite Beirne;
Advocate: Liz Mark; **Senior Council:** Jean
Schwartz; **Journal News:** G. McKinstry;
DSS: Daphne Swinton, Kevin Mahon, John
Befus, Katherine Waluschka, Donald Wiede;
Early Childhood Director: Howard Millbert;
WestCop: Ellen Faman; **BKSD&Co.:** Jeff
Shaver; **Westchester Children's Assoc.**
Cora Greenberg; **Child Care Council:** Kathy
Hales

On the motion of Chair Alvarado, Budget and Appropriations was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

The District Attorney presented her budget and was upset with the County Executive's five day furlough. She said sending her prosecutors home would impact public safety. For the third year in a

row she is not asking for increases for her staff but she is asking for a forensic accountant to deal with her new fraud unit. She has been using the money in the Seized Assets account for major renovations and equipment. Mr. Boland requested a list of what has been spent. There was also discussion of using shared services with various municipalities insofar as court reporters are concerned and possibly sending out an RFP. Legislator Harckham asked what the anticipated savings would be with the five day furlough. The Budget Director said she has a schedule for each department of the anticipated savings. She has been meeting with the auditors Bennett Kielson in addressing this issue. This savings is already incorporated in the 1010 line.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Myers, the minutes of November 9 were accepted.

Department of Laboratories and Research was the next department to make their presentation. There will be an increase in charges as per the Budget Department. They felt that microbiology and environmental were not covering their entire costs and Budget raised environmental by 68 percent. Dr. Hyland said Labs provides a service to the County that private labs do not. There will be an increase in testing water which will be passed on to the consumer. Labs' prices are higher than private companies. The department had put in income of \$1.9 million and Budget has put in \$7.9 million which Dr. Hyland does not agree with. Legislator Kaplowitz has requested a business plan for the number of units and the number of charges per unit. It was suggested that we should hire a grant person and also should we hire an outside company to use our equipment. Legislator Nonna suggested that a market analysis is needed.

C189 Bond Act BLR2B Labs and Research Equipment Acquisition in the amount of \$640,000: There are four pieces of equipment that are old and need to be replaced. Legislator Oros wanted to separate the items but none of his colleagues agreed with him. Legislator Jenkins said this had been previously discussed in Government Operations. On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Burton for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 9-0 (Alvarado, Harckham, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Myers, Kaplowitz, Ryan Burton, Oros (without prejudice)). This was previously signed out of

Government Operations on November 10 by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Ryan, Pinto).

A321 Resolution for a Public Hearing on the Sewer District Modification at 109 Pleasant Ridge Road, A322 an Environmental Resolution for the Sewer District Modification at 109 Pleasant Ridge Road and A323 an Act for the Sewer District Modification at 109 Pleasant Ridge Road: This was discussed in depth in Government Operations. On the motion of Legislator Rogowsky, seconded by Legislator Jenkins for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Ryan). This was previously signed out of Government Operations on November 10 by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Pinto, Ryan).

A344 Public Hearing on Sewer District Modification in Yorktown at 2930 Gomer Street and 921 Union Road and A345 Sewer District Modification of 2930 Gomer Street and 921 Union Road: This was discussed in depth in Government Operations. On the motion of Legislator Kaplowitz, seconded by Legislator Jenkins for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Rogowsky, Kaplowitz, Myers, Harckham, Ryan). This was previously signed out of Government Operations on November 10 by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Pinto, Ryan).

Social Services was the last department that came into Budget for a review. Commissioner Mahon said Social Services has reduced the number of homeless in the county and as a result, they expect to close another shelter in June. The Child Welfare Operations is the only accredited operation in New York State and the Child Support Operation is the best performing of the large counties. Day care has been increased to 500 slots. Day Care Scholarships were funded last year at \$600,000 and this year it is funded at \$500,000. Parent share had to be increased. There was much discussion on different line items of the budget.

A347 Capital Budget Amendment BIT4A Employee Productivity Systems – DSS: This project is being developed in house at a cost of \$1,250,000. It is an automated recertification system which in less than two years will show a return and save \$1.4 million. On the

motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Rogowsky, Burton, Kaplowitz, Myers, Ryan, Jenkins). This was previously signed out of Government Operations on November 10 by a vote of 6-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Pinto, Ryan, Burton).

The Committee on Legislation was called to order by Chair Burton at 1:14 p.m.

A339 Public Hearing on Cold War Veterans Property Tax Exemption and A340 a Local Law for the Cold War Veterans Property Tax Exemption: This was to amend the existing legislation to include veterans that own cooperative apartments and property in trust for the benefit of a veteran. On the motion of Legislator Kaplowitz, seconded by Legislator Jenkins for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 7-0 (Alvarado, Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Ryan, Kaplowitz, Jenkins) and on the motion of Legislator Nonna, seconded by Legislator Maisano for Legislation, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Ryan, Maisano, Nonna, Bronz, Jenkins).

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Myers, Budget & Appropriations was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

There was a motion to award the Distinguished Service award to Lois Bronz and to George Oros. On the motion of Legislator Nonna, seconded by Legislator Jenkins, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Ryan, Maisano, Nonna, Bronz, Jenkins). There were several appointments:

Kathleen Burlison to Westchester County Refuse Disposal District #1
Edward Krauss to COWPUSA
Karen Cheeks Lomax to Human Rights Commission
Catherine Borgia to Youth Board
Donna Jackson to African American Advisory
Loretta Hottinger to Westchester County Refuse Disposal District #1
Semarley Jarrett to Youth Board

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Myers, the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0 (Rogowsky, Burton, Myers, Ryan, Maisano, Nonna, Bronz, Jenkins).

On the motion of Legislator Bronz, seconded by Legislator Jenkins, the Committee on Legislation was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.