

**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
COMMITTEE ON BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS MEETING
MINUTES NOVEMBER 24, 2009**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: **IT:** John Elliott, Michael Odestick,
Marguerite Beirne, Howard Spreckman,
Kay Foster, Adam Epstein; **Correction:**
Karl Vollmer, **EZKR:** Peter Brown, Stephen
Pados; **TVCC:** Jackie Irwin; **LWVW:** Noreen
Fisher; **Budget:** David Cabibbo, Arthur
Vietro, Fran Piskorowski, Anne Reasoner,
Patricia Huggerly; **Arts:** Lauren Milo;
Planning: Mark Massari, Ed Burroughs,
Christina Anderson, Jerry Mulligan, Norma
Drummond, Dave Kvinge; **CEO:** Bill
Randolph, Andrew Neuman; **BRI:** Albert
Annunziata; **PBA:** Michael Hagan; **Public
Safety:** T. Belfiore, Christopher Burkart, Brian
Hess, Lou Codella, D. Long

Chair Alvarado called the Budget and Appropriations Committee to order at 10:23 a.m.

Commissioner Mulligan of the Planning Department explained the budget for 2010 is \$4,800,000 with a net tax levy of \$3,800,000. The Planning Department's budget is .03% of the total County budget. There is a decrease in expenses from 2009 to 2010 because Hilltop Hanover has been transferred to D.P.W. Hilltop will be receiving one of six national awards from the American Planning Association. The Planning Department is comprised of "Section 8, Housing and Community Development and Operating the Planning Department. There are a total of 105 employees all together with 32 in the Planning Department. Commissioner Mulligan has discussed moving Section 8 to DSS with Commissioner Mahon. Many of the services are mandated but one area that could be trimmed is Agriculture and

Farm Reservations. It is an important department but the municipalities could handle this. A more concerted effort could be made to go after grants and outside funding. Legislator Kaplowitz announced that he has sent a letter and e-mail to every commissioner requesting information insofar as consolidation and cuts in their budget. Chair Alvarado announced that an e-mail was going out today under his signature requesting a 10 percent cut in each department's budget. There was discussion on line items, how many employees were in each division – 47 in Section 8, 23 in Housing and Community Development and 32 in Operating. There was discussion about staff reductions and merging with other departments. Legislator Harckham asked if the furlough would be possible in Planning and the answer is yes but it would be difficult in the Section 8 division.

C194. Bond Act Amendment BPL21 Water Quality Improvement Projects in the amount of \$500,000: This is part of the consent order on the Manursing Project. The first phase has been completed which was the tide gates and this is the second phase which is for the restoration work. On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Jenkins for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Burton, Kaplowitz, Harckham). This was previously signed out by Government Operations on November 10 by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Pinto, Ryan).

A349 HOPWA Grant Acceptance and A350 IMA HOPWA Program for Fiscal Year 2009: A349 is to accept a grant from New York City and A350 is an IMA with Yonkers in the amount of \$357,000 and Mt. Vernon for \$385,000. New Rochelle did not apply for any funding. The balance of the money is \$1.4 million that the County received and of this \$1,358,362 is for a short term rental assistance program with Grace Church Community Center. This will pay the rent for approximately 90 families. One member in the household will have aids. It also pays the utility services for an additional 40 families. The balance of approximately \$64,000 is for administrative services. On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Jenkins, the motion was passed by a vote of 6-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Oros, Burton, Kaplowitz, Harckham). This was previously signed out of Government Operations on November 20 by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Rogowsky, Bronz, Pinto, Ryan).

Chair Pinto called the Committee on Public Safety & Security to order at 11:45 a.m.

A343 IMA Prisoner Transport Town of Greenburgh: This is for the term 2010 to 2011. It benefits the County as we pay Greenburgh to transport the prisoners two times a week to and from the courts. If the County had to do this, we would incur the expense of two officers for the day. It was suggested that we look into teleconferencing as a means other than transporting the prisoners. On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Jenkins for Budget & Appropriations, the motion was carried by a vote of 6-0 (Alvarado, Jenkins, Burton, Kaplowitz, Harckham, Oros) and on the motion of Legislator Oros, seconded by Legislator Burton for Public Safety and Security, the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0 (Jenkins, Burton, Pinto, Harckham, Oros).

A346 Tracs Program - Use and Dissemination Agreements: It was suggested that this be delayed until the new administration and new board are in place in 2010. Commissioner Belfiore agreed that it would be ok.

Public Safety and Security began their presentation with Commissioner Belfiore. The Department's tax levy is 27.4 million, an increase of \$1.2 million or 4.6 percent compared to last year. The increase is due to an increase in the salary of the P.B.A. and replacement of vehicles which amounts to \$634,000. The budget has been trimmed with the removal of equipment requests, two motorcycles that are badly needed have been removed, 5 positions have been eliminated as well as \$400,000 in overtime. The budget has been reduced by \$2 million. Based on arrests for numerous offenses, the Department will send \$1.5 million to New York State and \$1.7 million to various municipalities with the County receiving nothing. The Shot Spotter is up in Mt. Vernon and Yonkers will be completed by the end of December. There were questions on various line items. The mounted police have 3 officers and 4 horses at a cost of \$522,000 and are used every day though out the parks and would be available for civil unrest. The three officers from the security detail will be added to the Commissioner's detective division. The existing staff will be able to handle the DUI law and the budget will have to be reviewed for a storage facility in 2010.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Harckham, Public Safety and Security was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

On the motion of Legislator Harckham, seconded by Legislator Burton, the minutes of the November 23 meeting of Budget & Appropriations Committee were approved.

Chair Ryan attended the Acquisition and Contracts meeting and was asked to hold over the following items by different legislators. They are 3, 4, 7, 11, 16, 17, 18, 25, 41, 48, and 49. He would appreciate receiving whatever questions the legislators have so they may be researched and answered before the next A&C meeting.

The last department was Information Technology. Expenses are down \$2.2 million, revenue is down \$3.1 million, the tax levy is \$850,000. I.T. is 1.79 percent of the County Budget. They have abolished 2 positions – a grade 13 and a grade 14, they have downgraded 2 positions a 15 to a 14 and a 13 go a 12. There are three vacancies at present time. The Commissioner went down each line and explained them. Verizon never charged the County for ten years of the E911 data base. They charged \$30 per name and the County was billed \$312,000. Consultant usage is down. This year we have received \$17,000 from E Bay and have 54 units on Westchester Access. Legislator Harckham wanted to know if I.T. had an opinion concerning the Verizon charge. They will send it to us. Because of the late hour and the fact that most of the committee had to leave, Chair Ryan suggested that I.T. return on Monday. They agreed.

On the motion of Legislator Jenkins, seconded by Legislator Kaplowitz, Budget & Appropriations was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.