

**GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, PERSONNEL, HOUSING & CONSUMER PROTECTION
COMMITTEE**

OF THE

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MINUTES

A meeting of the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing & Consumer Protection Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York on November 18, 2015.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Robert Calarco, Chairperson
Leg. William J. Lindsay, III, Vice Chair
Leg. Jay Schneiderman, Deputy Presiding Officer
Leg. Thomas Cilmi
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey
Leg. DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Leg. Kate M. Browning, 3rd Legislative District
George M. Nolan, Counsel to the Legislature
Jason Richberg, Clerk of the Legislature
Benny Pernice, Budget Review Office
Laura Halloran, Budget Review Office
Vincent Mezzanotte, Commissioner, IT
Barbara Stoothoff, Director/Consumer Affairs
Sarah Lansdale, Director/Planning
Katie Horst, County Executive's Office
Lisa Keyes, Deputy Commissioner/Economic Development
William Shilling, Aide to Leg. Calarco
Brian Sapp, Aide to Leg. Lindsay
Chris DeLuca, Aide to Leg. Cilmi
Greg Atherton, Aide to Leg. McCaffrey
Jason Hann, Aide to Leg. Schneiderman
Thomas Gallagher, LI Liquid Waste Association
Marianne Garvin, CDC of Long Island/Copiague Commons
Jason Smagin, Copiague Commons
Allan Handelman, Copiague Commons
Jonathan Keyes, Town of Babylon
Sharon Fatturuso, Copiague Chamber of Commerce
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:12 PM

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Good morning, everyone -- or good afternoon, excuse me. Welcome to the Government Operations, Personnel, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee. If we could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Presiding Officer.

SALUTATION

All right. Thank you everyone. And I apologize for us getting started a little late here this afternoon. And I appreciate everyone coming on an odd day for us.

PUBLIC PORTION

We are going to get into the agenda here. I have no correspondence so we're going to go right to the Public Portion. I have a number of speakers here. The first I have is Thomas Gallagher.

MR. GALLAGHER:

Hello. Good afternoon. I just wanted to address your Committee, again, representing the Long Island Liquid Waste Association, that we're in support of this legislation for the upgrading of this licensing law. We feel it's a good thing. We worked together with several different departments: The Consumer Affairs office and Office of Environmental Planning -- Planning and Environment -- to get everything all together. And we feel that this is a very good piece of legislation and what we need.

All right, so thank you. And we'll be here if you have any other questions.

LEG. CALARCO:

Great. Thank you very much. Does anybody have any questions for Mr. Gallagher? Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

I just wanted to thank him and thank the County for working together on this proposal. When the business that's being regulated gets together with the County that sees a need, and they work together to create something that's to the benefit of everybody involved, I think, that's a wonderful thing. And that's what's happened here and it's thanks to your involvement, Tom, so thank you.

MR. GALLAGHER:

Thank you.

LEG. CILMI:

Thank you.

MR. GALLAGHER:

I'd just like to ask the Legislature if they can at some point look at the Advisory Board for Liquid Waste for Consumer Affairs. We're the only advisory board that does not get compensated for their time. All the other advisory board members do get compensated for their time for their monthly meetings.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Sure. We'll certainly take a look at it and take it under consideration.

MR. GALLAGHER:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

You're welcome. Thank you.

MR. GALLAGHER:

Have a great day.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay, our next speaker is Sharon Fatturuso? Fatturuso?

MS. FATTURUSO:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Did I get it close?

MS. FATTURUSO:

Excuse me?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Was I close?

MS. FATTURUSO:

Yeah, Fatturuso.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Ah, see.

MS. FATTURUSO:

It's a little Italian name, even though I'm an Irish girl.

I'm here to speak on Copiague Commons. I am -- I've been a resident of Copiague for over 45 years and I'm also the President of the Copiague Chamber of Commerce for over ten years. I have been working with the County Executive, the Town of Babylon Supervisor on the revitalization of Copiague.

If everyone knows Copiague, if you've been in the Town of Copiague, there really isn't much in the Town of Copiague. There's not much business. And I feel that the -- Copiague Commons will be an asset to our community. The area where they're looking to put the complex is a very blighted area. It's a very dark area at night. It's a dangerous area. And when the Copiague Commons comes -- eventually hope it comes to Copiague, it will be a beautiful area that we hope will bring people to our community, which will bring business to our community. And we might eventually get some really nice stores in the Town of Copiague. Because as someone who shops all over the Island, I do not shop in Copiague because there is nothing really there that invites me to shop. So I'm here. And I hope that you take this into consideration. And as a chamber of commerce we're hoping that this complex will go ahead and become part of our community. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Great. Thank you very much. Any questions? Our next speaker is Marianne Garvin. Marianne?

MS. GARVIN:

Good afternoon everybody. I'm Marianne Garvin, President and CEO of Community Development Cooperation of Long Island. Thank you, again, for allowing me the opportunity to share with you some information about the latest CDCLI Conifer Realty Development located in Copiague. CDCLI and Conifer Realty have developed 619 rental homes over the years included Wincoram Commons, which this Committee supported with the County's infrastructure program. We could not have built Wincoram without that support and we thank you for that.

Similarly, we cannot build Copiague Commons without the County's infrastructure program, and hope you will support our request for \$750,000 to offset improvements such as curbs, sidewalks, lighting, drainage, utilities, sanitary systems and the like. Copiague Commons will create 90 income-restricted rental homes with 71 affordable apartments set aside for households earning up to 60% of the area median income, which ranges from \$45,780 to \$65,400 depending on family size.

People working as bookkeepers, auditing clerks, social service occupations, like social workers or medical residents, fit into this income band. The remaining 18 homes will serve households up to 130% of the area median income, which ranges from 99,190 to 141,700 depending on family size. There will be 54 one-bedroom apartments and 36 two-bedroom apartments.

Copiague Commons is a community revitalization project located across from the train station. We are demolishing an existing industrial building and constructing two four-story multifamily buildings, which surround a courtyard. This project is part of a broader redevelopment plan for downtown Copiague undertaken by a local stakeholder group that includes Sharon and the Chamber of Commerce that was convened by Sustainable Long Island and the Town of Babylon in 2009. That downtown implementation committee was comprised of many civic associations, business leaders, school board, religious leaders and elected officials.

The New York Homes in Community Renewal has granted funding under the CDBG-DR program, which is due to the severe impact of Superstorm Sandy on Copiague. Also a new state program to encourage affordable housing for middle income people is what is enabling us to set aside 20% of the apartments for this underserved demographic creating a true mixed income development design to encourage young professional people and empty-nesters to live in Copiague's pedestrian-friendly, transit-oriented downtown.

The balance of the funding is tax exempt bonds and \$350,000 from CDCLI Funding Corporation. The development will have an Energy Star Rating and Enterprise, a green community certification. Other project amenities will include approximately 90 onsite parking spaces, a fitness room, community room, onsite laundry and an onsite management office.

Thank you for considering funding this development. And I almost made it under the three minutes. Any questions?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Thank you, Marianne. Does anybody have -- Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yes. Can you give me the parameters for the -- there's an affordable housing component to this; correct?

MS. GARVIN:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

What is the criteria for that in this development?

MS. GARVIN:

Most of the units are going to be affordable to people up to 60% of the area median income, which is that income band from 45,780 to 65,400. And 18 of the 90 homes are going to be set aside for people up to 130% of the area median income. So that's the -- it is going to be restricted income, but a little bit higher on the income band for those 18 units.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I apparently missed the discussion at the last meeting. I think it came up where the County's being asked to make contributions, infrastructure improvements; and at the same time the Town of Babylon is requesting infrastructure improvements unrelated to that development to be paid by the developer. Can you give me some background on that and how that --

MS. GARVIN:

It's the -- improvements that we're making are on Railroad Avenue, which is where the project is situated up to Great Neck Road. And across the street some lighting where it abuts the Long Island Railroad.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yeah, I'm familiar with the area. In fact, it's adjacent to my district and I'm well aware of it. So can you just tell me what they're going to do, how it's related to this project.

MR. SMAGIN:

Legislator, I'm sorry to interrupt, but we have the Town here as well who could probably speak to it, if you'd like.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay.

MR. SMAGIN:

I just want to introduce Jonathan Keyes from the Town of Babylon.

MR. KEYES:

Hi. Good afternoon. I can speak a little bit more directly to those. The improvements that are under discussion are immediately adjacent to this development site. So the site is maybe 200 feet west of Great Neck Road on Railroad Avenue. So the requested improvements actually are street-scape enhancements that connect the development site at Railroad and Pine Street out to Great Neck Road. So it's that area in between, so there's not basically a development site with new sidewalks, new street-scaping, a old sidewalk and then sort of underdeveloped area and then Great Neck Road again. So we're trying to establish that connection between the downtown and this development.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Where exactly is the development going? I'm familiar with the area.

MR. KEYES:

Sure.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I'm thinking of Great Neck Road and, I guess, it's Hoffman Avenue in Lindenhurst; then becomes Railroad, it changes names.

MR. KEYES:

Railroad, yes. So it's just west of Great Neck Road on Railroad Avenue immediately across from the elevated tracks about half a block west of Great Neck Road.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Half a block. Is that where -- right across -- is that where the parking is for the -- there's a parking lot there now for the FECS --

MR. KEYES:

Yeah, the parking is -- no, no, it's a block north of that. It's on the other side.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Oh, it's on the north side of the tracks, okay.

MR. KEYES:

No, no. It's between -- so FECS is -- fronts onto Oak Street.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Right.

MR. KEYES:

One block north of that, even before you get to the tracks is Railroad.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Right.

MR. KEYES:

And that is where the development is.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Gentlemen, we're in the public portion now. And Jonathan was actually my next speaker. Mr. Keyes was the next speaker on the cards. But it sounds like we're getting into a lot of discussion on the particulars of the resolution. And maybe what we should do is let any other people who are in the audience want to speak during the public portion, speak and then we'll -- we'll bring everybody up for the resolution. We could hash it all out then. Okay?

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Very good.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Jonathan, you are my next speaker. But like I said, you do have the option of just coming up and --

MR. KEYES:

Yes. Thank you. Yeah, I just wanted to come and express on behalf of the Town our support as well for this project. We've worked with the developer for quite sometime to ensure that it's a development that we feel is a good fit for the community. It is consistent with the Town's Copiague Vision Plan that we developed in 2009, Mr. Chairman had mentioned. And we are looking forward to it, jump starting revitalization of of downtown Copiague.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Thank you very much, Mr. Keyes. Okay. I have no other cards. Is there anybody else in the audience who would like to address the Committee? Anybody else? Seeing none, we're going to

close the public portion, then, and move right into the agenda. And then when we get to that particular resolution, we'll call everyone up and we can fully vet it as needed to be. Can I have all the members of the Committee back to the horseshoe? I think we're missing one person.

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

And we're going to start with Tabled Resolutions. I think we'll have a little bit of discussion on this one anyways.

IR 1679, Appropriating funds for acquisition of Land for Workforce Housing (CP 8704). (Co. Exec.) I'll make a motion to approve; second by Presiding Officer Gregory. On the motion? Any questions?

LEG. CILMI:

Hang on a second, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Maybe Counsel could give us a quick rundown on what this resolution does.

MR. NOLAN:

Yeah, it's simple. It just appropriates a million dollars that's in the Capital Program for this year for workforce housing capital project 8704. I do not recall why it was tabled at the last meeting. Now I do remember, yeah, okay.

LEG. CILMI:

You had to look at my smiling face. (Laughter)

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. I have a motion and a second. Any comments on the particular resolution?

LEG. CILMI:

I would just, if I could, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Sure, go ahead.

LEG. CILMI:

Reiterate my objection to spending a million dollars at a time when our county is facing very challenging fiscal times. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. Thank you very much. Any other questions or comments? Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

My only question is which development --

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

So this is -- Miss Keyes is here from Economic Development. I think what this particular resolution doesn't -- it's appropriating the million dollars that's in the Capital Budget for 2015 for this particular Capital Budget line, but it's not for any specific project. And should we be at a point where particular monies need to be spent for a project, it must come back to us.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I want to make sure that's what it was.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

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

LEG. CILMI:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

IR 1679 is approved. (VOTE: 5-1-0-0. LEG. CILMI OPPOSED. PO GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)

IR 1680, Appropriating funds for Infrastructure Improvements for Workforce Housing/Incentive Fund (CP 6411). (Co. Exec.) This is similar to the last version, but this is for infrastructure as opposed to land acquisition. I'll make a motion to approve; second by Legislator Lindsay. All those -- any comments, questions? All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CILMI:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Abstentions? **IR 1680 is approved. (VOTE: 5-1-0-0. LEG. CILMI OPPOSED. PO GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

IR 1752, Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Local Law to improve the County's Affordable Housing Program. (Hahn).

MR. RICHBERG:

Mr. Chair?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

This has been withdrawn.

IR 1812, Adopting Local Law No. -2015, A Local Law amending Chapter 563 of the Suffolk County Code to modify the laws relating to Septic Industry Business Training. (Co. Exec.) I will make a motion to approve; second by Legislator Lindsay. A member of the industry was here earlier to support this. Legislator Schneiderman has a question. Go ahead, Legislator Schneiderman.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

I gotta pull out the bill. Is there somebody here who can speak to this or no?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Is there anybody here from Labor? Consumer Affairs?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So if you could just take me a little bit through the bill and -- does this affect installers of conventional systems or only advanced wastewater systems?

MS. STOOHOFF:

Both.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Both. So now those who are installers of conventional systems, they're right now -- currently they're licensed; right?

MS. STOOHOFF:

Yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Will they have to pay an additional fee or do something different now?

MS. STOOHOFF:

It actually depends on how many endorsements they are going to seek.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

So -- yes. So this bill, if I may provide a little history on the context of this bill?

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Please.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

So we worked closely with the Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs as well as the members of the Liquid Waste Advisory Board that's run through the Department of Consumer Affairs, as well as members of the Liquid Waste Association, who testified in support of this, and environmental groups, over the past six months, to craft a bill in anticipation -- one, in recognition that additional training and some of these endorsements were required that respect the unique nature and the range of activities that occur under the septic -- within the septic industry as well as in anticipation of approval of these innovative alternative systems that will be approved next year by the Health Department.

So we wanted to allow for the creation of eleven endorsements that apply to the unique aspects of the septic industry.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Each endorsement is a separate \$200?

MS. STOOHOFF:

That's correct.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

But what is -- somebody who does conventional systems now, and there are a lot of people who do this.

MS. STOOHOFF:

Yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

What do they pay now for licenses?

MS. STOOHOFF:

In total and as a new applicant, it would be a \$200 application fee and then \$400 for the license.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And will this change that?

MS. STOOHOFF:

That will remain in effect with the \$400 they are given, the one endorsement.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay. So somebody who has no interest in doing advanced wastewater, they just want to do septic tanks and rings --

MS. STOOHOFF:

Plain and simple.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

-- it's not changing the process for them?

MS. STOOHOFF:

Correct.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Okay, that was my main concern. And that includes grease traps, etcetera. Right, that's not a separate endorsement?

MS. STOOHOFF:

Yes, it is. Yes, it is.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

It is a separate endorsement?

MS. STOOHOFF:

There are eleven different endorsements.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So right now somebody -- so it is making it more expensive.

MS. STOOHOFF:

Yes. We did question it. The industry is -- the group that brought it forth to us as far as the endorsements, they said this has been in the works for several years.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So let's look at each endorsement, then, if we can. So septic tank, cleaning, maintenance and pumping is now an endorsement?

MS. STOOHOFF:

She's going to get the bill. I know there are 11. There are, as we mentioned, 11 different endorsements.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right. But a lot of them are -- some of them have to do with advanced wastewater.

MS. STOOHOFF:

Yes.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

But a lot of them don't have to do -- a lot of them have to do with conventional, things that are currently going on. So somebody now potentially will have to pay quite a bit more to do what

they've been doing for years. Because they have to do all these separate endorsements; right?

MS. STOOHOFF:

If they -- if they do decide to go into separate areas as contained in the endorsements, it will cost them more money.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Well, let's assume they're already doing this. Are we grandfathering that or no?

MS. STOOHOFF:

No.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

So let's say somebody's already doing grease traps and septic systems and fryer oil collection and waste cleaning -- waste line cleaning. So suddenly instead of paying \$200, now they might be paying a thousand dollars or something like that.

MS. STOOHOFF:

That's correct.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And the industry is okay with that?

MS. STOOHOFF:

Yes. They're behind it. The Liquid Waste Association --

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

And how do we make that -- how do we make that determination? Through an association?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Yes. The Long Island Liquid Waste Association, Tom Gallagher --

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

-- was our first speaker today.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

-- has consented.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

And how many members do they have?

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

They're the industry group.

MS. STOOHOFF:

Hundreds.

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Hundreds of members. And they also came yesterday during the public hearing as well. There were four members. We worked closely with them in crafting this. And I could -- if it would provide you with additional comfort, we should -- we can make sure that they connect with you directly on this bill.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

All right. I'm willing to support discharging it. But maybe I'll get in touch with the guy between now and --

DIRECTOR LANSDALE:

Yes, he was just here at the top of the meeting.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Right, I heard him speak. Okay. Thank you.

MS. STOOTHOFF:

And this bill was brought up at their last meeting of the Long Island Liquid Waste Association. And they were in complete agreement with the bill as it stands including the educational requirements.

D.P.O. SCHNEIDERMAN:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. Any other questions? I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1812 is approved. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0. PO GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE:)**

IR 1871, Authorizing funding of infrastructure improvements and oversight of real property under the Suffolk County Affordable Housing Opportunities Program (Copiague Commons). (Co. Exec.) Why doesn't everyone come on up, have a seat at the table here and I'll let Legislator McCaffrey resume where he left off.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Thank you. Mr. Chairman, do I have the floor?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Thank you. I just got my bearings again. So, this is on Railroad Avenue just west of Great Neck Road and -- okay and just by Pine Street? Just east or west of Pine Street?

MR. KEYES:

East of Pine Street.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Got it. Okay.

MR. KEYES:

A low white building.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yep, I see that. Okay. Now are they knocking that down and converting it?

MR. KEYES:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay, that was kind of like an underutilized industrial building I'm familiar with.

MR. KEYES:

Exactly.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay. And the improvements that you're being required to -- or that the town is requiring the developer to make, where are they?

MR. KEYES:

The -- those improvements would extend from the project site east to Great Neck Road; so just basically finishing off that --

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay, okay. So it's not going to, God forbid, to Lindenhurst or Babylon or anything like that?

MR. KEYES:

Correct.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay, good. It's directly related to the project.

MR. KEYES:

Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay. Okay, that's the only question I had. I just want to verify where the project was and where those required improvements were being made. So this is kind of --

MR. KEYES:

Sure.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And the improvements that -- the money that the County is giving for improvements, for infrastructure improvements, they could be on or around that development as well; correct?

MS. GARVIN:

No, it has to be right on the site. And they will be. The funds will be used for infrastructure improvements on the actual site.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Okay. All right. Very good. Okay. That's all I had.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. Any other questions? I have a motion by Legislator -- I don't think we do have a motion. We have a motion by Legislator Gregory; second by Legislator Schneiderman. Second by Legislator Schneiderman. And Legislator Cilmi on the motion.

LEG. CILMI:

Yeah, on the motion, just reference a discussion from our last Committee meeting, and note my objections to this proposal. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. Any other questions or comments? Seeing none, I have a motion and a second. All those in favor? Opposed?

LEG. CILMI:

Opposed.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Abstentions? We have one opposition. **Resolution 1871 is approved. (VOTE: 5-1-0-0.**

LEG. CILMI OPPOSED. PO GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE) Thank you for coming everyone; appreciate your time.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Moving on, Introductory Resolutions, **IR 1909, Amending the Classification and Salary Plan to add New Titles: Community Development and Planning Specialist; Business Intelligence Applications Analyst; Business Intelligence Systems Developer; Senior Business Intelligence Systems Developer; Principal Business Intelligence Systems Developer. (Co. Exec.)** I will make a motion to approve; second by Legislator Schneiderman. On the motion, Legislator Cilmi.

LEG. CILMI:

Can we get an explanation from anybody in the County?

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Sure, I think Commissioner Mezzanotte's here from IT. The vast majority of these titles are applicable to his department.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Hello.

LEG. CILMI:

Good afternoon to you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

So I guess from the IT perspective --

LEG. CILMI:

Did you ask for these positions personally?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

These positions were asked for prior to my arrival but --

LEG. CILMI:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

-- they are positions that I do, in fact, support and feel a strong need for.

One of the most critical aspects of IT is to ensure that data is accessible, secure and meaningful. The establishment of the Business Intelligent series titles will provide the structure to help manage and organize the vast amount of data that exists within all our disparate systems. You know, like most municipalities, we have a lack of standards and consistency in the way we manage or access our data.

And the focus of these positions will be to put structure around that and to really align and help translate that data into something meaningful using business intelligence tools. And what's unique

about the titles and the positions is that it really covers several different requirements or skill sets. You need an individual who understands the technology and the technical tools that we would use to present information in a meaningful way through dash boards. You need an individual who understands the data and the business that that data supports. And then someone with very strong people skills who can actually help bridge the gap between what the business needs and what this data can do for them.

So from my perspective, it's a significant title that we really do need in order to put more structure around the decisionmaking process within the County and using data to make those decisions.

LEG. CILMI:

And the responsibilities that you just described to us, is there nobody doing those things now?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

We have individuals who may be doing one aspect of it, but not looking at it holistically.

LEG. CILMI:

Why do we have to create new titles in order -- in order to accomplish what you're talking about?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Because none of the existing titles within the civil service boundaries cover these -- all of these requirements.

LEG. CILMI:

So we're looking to fill these five jobs?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Right now we're just asking for approval to create the four titles. There's four titles.

LEG. CILMI:

Four titles, okay.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

We currently have a consultant supporting the function within the department. And our plan would be to phase the consultant out and replace -- transition this work over to an employee. As of right now we have plans to earmark one title to business intelligence position to replace the consultant that's on board.

LEG. CILMI:

What do we -- what consultant and what do we have that consultant doing exactly?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

The consultant right now is working with the County to look at the data. As I said -- mentioned earlier, we got data that's out there in many different siloed applications to see -- and working closely within the performance management team to see how we can present that data in such a way that it's meaningful for the commissioners, the department heads, to really measure their performance. But, you know, this goes --

LEG. CILMI:

So, Commissioner, he's -- this consultant is looking at the data.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

The consultant's looking -- helping to examine the data but also helping to build the tool to present

that data.

LEG. CILMI:

And then -- so once that's done, what's the -- will that role continue to exist in a new position?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Yeah. You know, I don't see there being an end to the fact that we've got a vast amount of data that's not in any structured format with not much standardization and not in a very clean way, to be able to present all of that data in such a way that it has meaning to the people that make decisions. So it's information as opposed to raw data. Very consistent with -- even the focus that we have with the open data initiative, you know, we've got a lot of data that exists within the County. We're looking to make it available to the public.

LEG. CILMI:

How does it differ? How does this differ from the open data?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

It's very similar except that this is for internal consumption. We're going to --

LEG. CILMI:

Why can't we just use the same open data structure; and whoever's working on that, to do this as well?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

These individuals will support the open data structure as well as anything that we're looking to do internally in terms of business intelligence.

LEG. CILMI:

Well, who's doing the open data now?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

We've got people doing it on a part-time basis. And we're working very closely with the departments to look at what we can identify as data sets, potential data sets. But we've got a lot of work involved before we can actually present that internally.

This -- the difference between open data and what we're doing here is this is taking the data to manipulate it in such a way that it's meaningful to internal users. Open data is looking at the data, the raw data, to see what would be meaningful to the public. We're putting it out there in a raw format. It's not -- it's not manipulating it and putting it into a meaningful product.

LEG. CILMI:

And what are we paying this consultant who's working on some of this now?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Off the top of my head, I don't know what the exact rate is. I would say, yes, it's higher than what we would be paying the employee.

LEG. CILMI:

But here we're proposing to create four new titles, you said.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

We're just looking to create the titles, but not --

LEG. CILMI:

Oh, you wouldn't be looking to create the titles if you weren't at some point looking to fill those titles.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Yeah, we want to have the flexibility down the road to be able to fill those titles.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. How far down the road?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

I don't really have a specific set of miles in front of me right now. I'm not sure. I mean I'm just looking out into the future that I can see this growing. If it's successful, we would probably want to earmark more positions towards this role, but I haven't completed that assessment yet.

LEG. CILMI:

So how many positions in your budget are budgeted but unfilled at the moment?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Thirteen.

LEG. CILMI:

So can we eliminate any of those positions?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

From my perspective right now, there is six positions that are critical that need to be filled.

LEG. CILMI:

That aren't being filled.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

No, they're in the budget and we're putting together a plan to fill those positions in 2016; six of the thirteen.

LEG. CILMI:

Six of the thirteen. So, you're putting a plan together to fill six out of thirteen budgeted but unfilled positions. And you're looking to add four positions.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

No --

LEG. CILMI:

That you're not sure when you're going to fill.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

One of the six positions would be used for business intelligence to replace the consultant that's currently performing that work.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

The other five positions have nothing to do with business intelligence. They're positions that

support security.

LEG. CILMI:

Right, I understand.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

And this is just creating titles. It doesn't --

LEG. CILMI:

I understand. But, Mr. Chairman, you don't create titles if you're not looking to actually fill those titles.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Actually I would imagine they're going to want to turn them into positions.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

But I also think that it's important to have the positions in place with a career path. And that's what this provides. It's four levels within the title of Business Intelligence that we can work in -- in the future. Again, I don't know exactly how far into the future, but I think that it's important to plan for that. And that's what these titles provide us with.

LEG. CILMI:

Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Legislator McCaffrey.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Commissioner, along those lines of discussion, which position out of these would take the place of the consultant now?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

The plan would be to use the Principal Business Intelligence Systems Developer title, the more senior position. Because we're -- you know, we're looking for someone who's seasoned and experienced and really be able to help us move the overall initiative forward.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

And if you -- if you had a plan to say, *okay, we're not going to fill all these spots right away*, what would be the timeframe of how you would fill these spots?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Ideally -- ideally I could see us looking towards third, fourth quarter of this year to fill a more entry level title, if it was possible and if the finance could afford it. But that's the ideal world. I think that, you know, what the initial position gives us is a very good jump start to get going with putting meaning and more structure around the data so that it's providing good decisionmaking.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

It would almost be cost neutral because we would be replacing the consultant with that person.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Right.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I think at least some of us would feel more comfortable if we created that one position -- that one title and transitioned out the consultant, brought that person in with no additional money. I know those positions are in the budget, but, you know, this budget, as we're finding out each and every day, is -- seems to be kind of crumbling around us in terms of our ability to sustain what we thought our expectations were. So I'd feel more comfortable if we just kept it cost neutral and just created that one position, transition out the consultant and let's talk in the third or fourth quarter when we have a, you know, a definite plan as to how we're going to -- you know, the need and fill in those positions.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

This resolution just creates titles. It doesn't create positions or any money; it doesn't change how much resources they have. Any -- if they were to fill any -- you know, convert any positions into, you know, earmark them and convert the title to one of these other titles, the other position goes away to create the room for this one to come on and they would have to manage their money within what they have inhouse already for the budget.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

Yeah, but they have -- there's thirteen vacant positions in the budget right now.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Sure. And if they wanted to add the Principal Business Intelligence Systems, they're going to take one of those thirteen vacant positions, they're going to earmark it and that other position title, whatever it is, is going to go away. And then they will have to use whatever money they had within their budget to fill that position.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I understand. But we're going to be scrambling this year to meet our expectations in terms of revenue and also on the expense side.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Our sales tax numbers are up this last check.

LEG. McCAFFREY:

I know. (Laughter) So, you know -- so that's going to create problems. So the less money -- just because it's in a budget doesn't mean we need to spend it. Because there's a good chance the money we expect to get in is not going to be there. So just because it's budgeted, I don't see the need to spend it.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. Anybody else over here want to comment? No? Legislator Cilmi?

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

The only thing I'd like to add, though, if you're only looking to fill -- approve for one title, that limits us in terms of recruitment. As we look at the candidate pool, we want to have the flexibility. I mean, the ideal would be to bring in as a Principal Business Intelligence, but we'd also like the opportunity should there be a strong candidate who has less experience but has the high potential to use the lower level positions to do that.

So, again, we're looking to fill one, but it's four titles. And we would look to have the flexibility and

the career path for individuals down the road if we were to bring people in at the entry level. I think that's important in any IT department to have a career path to motivate people to want to strive to be high performers.

LEG. CILMI:

So, Commissioner, I get what you're trying to do here. And I'm -- question for Budget Review. I'm correct in saying that while we are creating positions here, or creating titles, I should say, that we're not creating positions, funded positions, if you will. And the budget for IT is set for 2016 at this point. While he has thirteen unfilled positions presently, if he were to look to fill one of these new titles or create a position for one of these new titles moving forward in 2016, then what we'd have to do is either separately fund that title somehow through an offset, which may be the elimination of existing, unfilled positions in their budget; is that a pretty good summary of what we're talking about here?

MR. PERNICE:

Yeah.

LEG. CILMI:

Yeah.

MR. PERNICE:

A short answer, yes. I mean that's pretty much it. Is they have a set --

LEG. CILMI:

I worked very hard at articulating that, Benny, and very -- and "yeah."

MR. PERNICE:

They have a set amount of money.

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MR. PERNICE:

For filled and vacant positions. And they're going to have that same amount of money --

LEG. CILMI:

Right.

MR. PERNICE:

It's going to be how they're going to distribute it.

LEG. CILMI:

Right. Okay. Thank you. I'll support this, Commissioner. Thanks.

COMMISSIONER MEZZANOTTE:

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON CALARCO:

Okay. Any other questions, comments? I have a motion and a second for IR 1909. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **IR 1909 is approved. (VOTE: 6-0-0-0. PO GREGORY INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

Okay, I have no other items on the agenda. Seeing nobody else has anything, we are adjourned.

11/18/15 Gov Ops, Personnel, Housing and CP Committee

Thank you everyone.

**THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 1:52 PM
{ } DENOTES SPELLED PHONETICALLY**