

SC Campaign Finance Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2021 - 4:15 PM
Via Zoom

Participants: Lisa Scott-Chair, Honorable John Toomey (Jack), Adrian Fassett, Presiding Officer-Robert Calarco and Steve Randazzo

- 1. Call to Order: 4:21 PM**
- 2. Public Comments: None**

Lisa Scott - So you guys saw the agenda, so we now have a link for the – the shortened link that actually, that Dan got for us for the participant speaker cards so that's always on the agenda. Jack and Adrian on this month's agenda I redid it because they told Dan there was a shorter version of that link, so that people could ...speaker cards so that will be on any future agendas.

- 3. Review/approve December 17, 2020 meeting minutes:**
Motion by **Honorable John Toomey**; seconded by **Adrian Fassett**.

4. Discussion:

Lisa Scott - So I went onto the County website and looked and ours had the most amount of links, it was huge! I realized that for every meeting we had, we had an both a full audio and the whole verbatim transcript, so I asked Dan if we could get rid of the audio because there is nothing that's on the audio that's not already typed up. He checked with counsel and they said yes, so that's been cleaned up, so it doesn't look like we had 50 meetings or something this year, so that's just an FYI.

So, let's just go straight through to Rob or Steve who wants to start filling us in on where are we?

Steve Randazzo – So, and I think I've probably spoken to you each of you individually about this as well, but first for the record, you know, the democrats won both Senate seats in Georgia, so now our prospects for State and Local aid have greatly increased, if only we had that crystal ball last year, but be that as it may, you know, we feel very confident now that State and local aid will be delivered to the county in short order upon President Elect Biden's Inauguration. Still, there are going to be some challenges associated with hiring the Executive Director and the Secretary due to the fact that the salary line was removed from the budget last October/ November timeframe. I know there are folks in the administration who want to proceed with the hiring of this Executive Director and support staff, and if there is a way to make that happen I know that there's a willingness on the County Executive's behalf to proceed. So, I think it's a bit of a matter of trying to work with the Legislature on if there is a plausible path to making that happen and if not, looking for other avenues to be creative to proceed with doing so.

Rob Calarco - Yeah, I think that kind of lines up with what my folks were saying, without the salary line in the budget there's not an authority to hire a staffer. And, so, the challenge, you know, the Legislature didn't make any amendments to the budget, remove or add anything to what really... the way it was presented to us, is what went through. So, the challenge is, even if Federal, State aid is received, and I think it is really irrelevant to the bigger picture of the ability of the board to have the resources to hire cause you have money sitting in the bank to do that, I will need to find a way to garner the support of at least 10 legislators to vote to do that, that's a lot easier said than done, but I think that is kind of the situation that we're at. And, certainly the administration, I can only file budget amendments quarterly, so I think my first opportunity is in April, The County Executive can file a budget amendment in any cycle, but we need to do a budget amendment to create the salary line, I think that's the one issue in terms of an employee.

One of the other issues that my legal departments brought up is, is actually just kind of a quirk of the way the law...I drafted the law, we put a stipulation in that you could only use 20% of the revenues for administrative

purposes, and depending on the reading of that, it could limit your ability to expend dollars for administrative purposes in a year where you have zero revenues.

Lisa Scott - So they're are defining it as annual - annual it has to balance? So that if, for argument sake, we started with 5 million dollars, which is enough for several years, but the Counsel is saying that it has to actually be 20% of revenue and they both have to be the same calendar year?

Rob Calarco - It sounds to me that is one way of reading the law...yes.

Lisa Scott - So, it's not very clear?

Rob Calarco - I would contest that reading, but I am not an attorney. It certainly was not the intention in the drafting of it, but obviously the drafting of it, we didn't perceive being in this situation, and quite honestly, we didn't quite catch that could become a snag when I agreed to the delay in any additional revenues coming in cause it creates the obvious challenge of how do you keep yourselves up and running if you don't have the ability to get staff on board to help you do that.

Lisa Scott - Right, and the fact that there was zero spent on staffing in the years that we did get the money...

Rob Calarco - Correct.

Lisa Scott - 2019, in theory any kind of carryover would have to be an amendment to that original bill again?

Rob Calarco - I'm not certain but potentially there would need to be an amendment to allow you to do that.

Lisa Scott - Ok, so we need more Counsel advice on that or we need to go to the amendment writing?

Rob Calarco - Well the issue would really become, you know, if we did it and we approved it and allowed you to hire as long as everybody was okay with doing it, you know, who would legally challenge the action? Which I would doubt that anybody would.

Honorable John Toomey - We'd be violating it by hiring somebody.

Rob Calarco - Potentially, depending on your reading.

Honorable John Toomey - Based on the reading your Counsel told us we would be if we hired somebody, as it stands right now, we'd be violating what your Counsel's saying the law is.

Rob Calarco - She has a concern about that, correct.

Honorable John Toomey - Okay.

Lisa Scott - And administrative is defined as employee or as contract workers?

Rob Calarco - That's a good question?

Honorable John Toomey - Give me an example just so I understand it and this year we don't have any money coming in, correct, for 2020. Correct?

Rob Calarco - Correct, there was no monies for 2020 or 2021.

Honorable John Toomey - So that means that we have no money then to pay anybody.

Rob Calarco - Well, no, cause there's a million dollars in the fund, that was money received in 2019 that's sitting in the bank.

Honorable John Toomey - Yes.

Rob Calarco - So, you have money, you'd have to get a budget amendment to use that money, but there's no revenues in 2021, so does the 20% rule apply to a year to year rule? While Counsel has said that she has a concern that that may be the case, it's kind of one of those things where Counsel's saying that might become an issue, there are a lot of things that Counsel tells us might be an issue we do anyways. It's then it becomes a matter of, okay, is it or is it and then, you know, we make decisions to move or not to move, and honestly, I think if we were to amend the budget to create the salary line I think we would be in an okay position.

Honorable John Toomey - Yeah.

Rob Calarco - It still would be less than 20% of the money you have sitting in the bank.

Lisa Scott - Right, but is that kind of verbiage at all used in other commissions or whatever you want to call whatever we are in Suffolk County?

Rob Calarco - It's kind of one of the uniqueness of the thing that you guys have a dedicated funding source in the intention of the peripheralize vision in there was to ensure... it actually kind of akin to our language we use for contract agencies, in that they can't use more than 20% of their budget for administrative purposes. The idea was to ensure that you weren't using all of your money hiring various staff and not be able to run a robust program.

Lisa Scott - Right, and that is very logical and appropriate, but this is the oddball board here.

Rob Calarco - Correct.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, I was thinking of what do they have in New York City, since obviously when you and Eva did all that homework, but then again, they get boatloads of money coming in.

Rob Calarco - Yeah, I don't recall whether that revision was specifically within their law or if they have a similar thing on the State level, the State's got to roll out their program in two years, I believe. I don't know if they have that kind of provision in there.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, plus the State's program is at the whim of the Governor letting them have money, so it not a dedicated source like ours.

Rob Calarco - Yeah, that's kind of the difference, I don't even think the City has a dedicated source I think their money comes out of the annual budget, it's not a dedicated funding stream like we did here.

Adrian Fassett - Okay, so Rob, if you did a budget amendment we have a million dollars, which \$200,000 could be used for administration, but then when we go into the next year, we would only have \$800,000 and we're going to use 20% of \$800,000, so we would have an issue there too. Correct?

Rob Calarco - No, because you would get new money next year.

Adrian Fassett - I thought we weren't getting new money next year.

Rob Calarco - No, I agreed to a two-year freeze, so it's '20 and 2021 that are frozen, so '22 you would have new money coming in. I think it's a million dollars but you would have money coming in at 2022.

Adrian Fassett - Okay but the money comes in at the beginning of 2022?

Rob Calarco - Its part of the year budget, so, you have...

Adrian Fassett - Okay, okay.

Rob Calarco - Yeah.

Adrian Fassett - Okay, thank you, you cleared that up cause I thought it was we got money at the end of the year and I thought that carried over to the next year, but you're saying it would be in the 2022 budget, okay, thank you.

Rob Calarco - Correct. I think the way we adopted it was nothing for 2020 nothing for '21 and '22 you would get a million dollars and then '23 you'd go back to the 15% of OTB revenues. Who by the way are at this point in time generating about 80% of the money they were generating prior to the shutdown and they're doing that on less than 50% of the machines operating.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, at Jakes 58.

Adrian Fassett - Rob, let me clarify because I'm a little confused. We had money in the budget for 2020 this year; correct?

Rob Calarco - No, no you had...you received money in 2019. The resolution that we adopted from Flotteron, stripped the 2020 dollars out.

Adrian Fassett - Okay, there you do. All right, yeah, I get it. Okay.

Rob Calarco - It was a two-year freeze but it included the current budget...the year that we were in.

Adrian Fassett - But it took money out of the 2020 budget?

Rob Calarco - Yeah, it stripped out the required contribution in 2020 and it stripped out the contribution in 2021.

Adrian Fassett - Okay.

Lisa Scott - Because assuming they are on an annual, you know, a calendar fiscal year, they didn't know how much exactly other than the million-dollar minimum for 2020 anyway. Right?

Rob Calarco - Yeah, well way it works is actually you were supposed to get more than that in 2020 because it was a million dollars that we set for that year, but at some point, it'll become 15%, but 15% will be based on what our projection is for our revenues end. So, if we're projecting OTB is going to give us \$20 million dollars then we have to set aside 15% of that or whatever that is, \$3 million dollars to go into the fund.

Adrian Fassett - Okay, but you wouldn't know that money, that dollar amount until the end of 2020? That's where I'm getting confused.

Rob Calarco - We would not, yeah, I mean, at the end of the day there'd had to be a reconciliation but I...but you would still be entitled to what we put in the budget for you for that year.

Adrian Fassett - Okay. But that was stripped out for 2020, that's what you're saying.

Rob Calarco - Correct, 2020 and 2021.

Adrian Fassett - Okay. All right, thank you.

Lisa Scott - Right, so then...and that means that that Counsel interpretation needs to be clarified because can you have a 20% rule when the Legislature took away the income, it's like...hire all the staff for a year.

Rob Calarco - That's the concern. I would argue, I mean, I don't necessarily agree with interpretation and I would argue that if we give you the budget lined up and give you the authorization to hire that you'd be able to do that and I guess somebody could challenge that action but that would...the question becomes does somebody challenge the action.

Adrian Fassett - What could happen...

Honorable John Toomey - If we changed the defect in the law and at the same time you amended the budget to give us the money.

Rob Calarco - That we could do as well. But, I mean, any...and this is where, I like, my concern comes up, Jack, is any changes to the law is going to require ten votes and that's not a guarantee with the current composition of the Legislature.

Honorable John Toomey - Right.

Lisa Scott - So it's opening the can of worms and everything's fair game then.

Rob Calarco - Yeah, I mean, I agreed with them to do a 20...to do the, you know, the freeze that they were looking for because of the particular economic position the County was in at the time.

Honorable John Toomey - I mean, that was the right thing to do when you did it. There's no doubt about that.

Rob Calarco - So, I mean, it would require, I think, I mean, it's there's 10 of us in the Democratic caucus. I have one member who was never supportive of creating the program, so I think there is a challenge to, you know, figuring out the right way to get the 10 to make those kinds of amendments, not to say that we couldn't but I think there is some...that we need to put into that.

Honorable John Toomey - But you're confident you can get the money into the budget though, you have the 10 votes for that.

Rob Calarco - I'm not confident.

Honorable John Toomey - Oh, you're not confident.

Rob Calarco - I think so.

Honorable John Toomey - Okay, all right.

Rob Calarco - I think we can get there. I think I could potentially get to that because the money is there sitting in a bank and it's not as if it has been diverted someplace else.

Honorable John Toomey - Rob, I wasn't trying to put words in your mouth. I just...I was confused. All right. But you can think you...

Rob Calarco - I think the budget amendment is easier to do. Yes.

Honorable John Toomey - Right, I got it. Yeah, that's fine.

Lisa Scott - Okay.

Honorable John Toomey - Okay.

Lisa Scott - And now so there's the Steve piece of the puzzle and the Rob piece of the puzzle here as you cannot speak for your branch but at least give appropriate here.

So, if...if...the big if, Rob can work out a way that he can get 10 individual votes for a little omnibus CFB amendment that would include fixing the language and also putting the money that is in the bank actually on that budget line because our fees as board members are in a budget line but the salary and benefits lines are what...what's absent. Right? Okay.

Adrian Fassett - I don't think that's right.

Lisa Scott - And were you then, Rob, to be able to corral the votes and we will assume that's why you get the big bucks, Rob. And if not, I have, this was a left over from work, I have a magic wand and I will happily share it with you. So, but, the way the rules of the Legislature are written, you can only introduce a budget...it's not the rules of the Legislature, it's the budget in process, but you only introduce budget amendments quarterly, you said.

Adrian Fassett – Quarterly?

Rob Calarco - Part of the County Charter, the Legislature can only introduce a budget amendment quarterly. The County Executive can introduce a budget amendment at any meeting.

Lisa Scott - Okay, so would that be a certificate of necessity kind of thing, Steve?

Steve Randazzo - Not necessarily, I mean, I just whenever the submission deadline is for the monthly meeting, we could work with our intergovernmental relation team to get that to the Leg, no problem.

Rob Calarco - Yeah, it's a regular resolution. It's just that for whatever reason and the way the Charter's written and has always been interpreted is that the County Executive can file resolution for a budget amendment at any time. The Legislature can only file those quarterly. I mean, we can act on any of 'em anytime so I could file one in a period when I can file a resolution and not act on it for three cycles and that's fine but it's just a matter of when you're allowed to introduce that resolution.

Lisa Scott - Right, but the cycle is what's going to determine when the 10 people are willing to push the button yes.

Rob Calarco - Yeah, I mean, the earliest that a resolution could be laid on the table at this point in time would be February 2nd. That's our first business meeting of the year. And then it wouldn't be eligible for a vote until March 2nd because once you lay it on the table you have to, you know, unless you get it by certificate of necessity, which would require 12 votes.

Lisa Scott - No, we're not going there. Okay.

Rob Calarco - So really, I think, realistically the soonest that a vote, like a budget amendment could be done and I think I actually can't file one in February, would be the March 2nd meeting.

Lisa Scott - Right, okay. And that's if you filed one, but if, County Exec Bellone did through the...

Rob Calarco - He could file one at any meeting...correct.

Lisa Scott - Okay.

Steve Randazzo - As an action item I will talk to our staff about filing one as soon as possible and we'll coordinate that with you, Rob.

Rob Calarco - Okay.

Lisa Scott - So then the other question that we touched on in the very beginning, and I don't know if it's relevant or not nor is it necessarily desirable but might as well ask it, is if we have this issue about the administration and the 20% and the fiscal year and all of that, you know, does it make any sense to get the process started because, of course, every...all the work has to be done by the executive director in terms of setting the rules and creating everything. So, and we still would need to, as the board, you know, make our rule that this would start not with '21 but with the '23 Legislative elections so that people could commit to it in the beginning of '22, really basically, when that cycle is starting. The end of '21, beginning of '22. Right? The Legislators.

Honorable John Toomey - That's what we've talked about all along.

Lisa Scott - Right, right but we have to then, as the board, make that rule or however the correct verbiage is for that to make sure it's clear that it is ...

Honorable John Toomey - That it starts in '23

Lisa Scott - Yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - Legislative elections in '23, which commence the day after the elections in '21.

Lisa Scott - Right, so we're punting it to the next cycle.

Honorable John Toomey - Well, we're not...

Lisa Scott - Because that would have to be...

Honorable John Toomey - You don't have insurance, it's not a punt, it's like a fumble, really.

Lisa Scott - I was being polite. But you still need an executive director to start doing the basics because we're now in January and in theory if all the ducks work in line we couldn't even talk about hiring until April or May based on what we're saying now in terms of corralling the Legislators, having the cycle go correctly for the resolution even if the County Exec were to agree to put it on the table sooner, you still have to get everybody out there and it has to cycle.

Honorable John Toomey - And we still have the 20% drop.

Steve Randazzo - Remember, it'll take longer to reform the 20% piece because I am...that would probably involve changing the law, which is a Charter amendment. So, you'll have an extra month where that'll have to go to...

Honorable John Toomey -Yeah.

Lisa Scott- Oh, right, right.

Steve Randazzo - It may be worth doing that I would advise because, you know, depends on how far you take the interpretation of administration costs because like, for example, I think that this program needs a pretty robust technology solution, right, you need something to be able to collect the money and audit the money and that's something that you're probably going to have to do some sort of a solicitation for and that included with the salaries probably gets you over the 20%. I do think if you hire someone, you know, say, let's just say the April timeframe, you probably will fall under the 20% because just that's a half-year salary compared to the million dollars plus it's, even if you hired the secretary as well...

Honorable John Toomey - Steve, the problem that we're facing is there is no 20%; it's 0%.

Steve Randazzo - Right, so I'm just saying...

Honorable John Toomey - Right, right.

Steve Randazzo - There's the budget amendment that can be...that can take place essentially in one meeting.

Honorable John Toomey - Right.

Steve Randazzo - You may need an extra meeting to change the 20% number because that would require a Charter amendment.

Honorable John Toomey - To get an opinion from Counsel saying that it doesn't retain.

Rob Calarco - Yeah, well, we could also talk to the County attorney and even see if they have, what their opinion is.

Honorable John Toomey - I mean, if we can get, I mean, I don't ... I would be comfortable if we got a, you know, an opinion from the County Attorney saying that the 20% doesn't apply because of the coming in and out of the budget and it's a 2019, which we never...I mean, I think would be fine moving forward with that, you know, once we have it into the budget, which, I mean, if we don't put it into the budget there's no...we don't have to talk about it, you know, if you can't get the 10 votes, it doesn't matter. But if we do get the 10 votes, we're putting ...we're spending 2019's money; correct?

Lisa Scott - Correct.

Honorable John Toomey ...In 2021 so that...that's a problem for us for the board to be spending to me that would...now been put on notice that it may not be permissive.

Steve Randazzo - I'll talk to the County Attorney and I'll get a...try to get an opinion written.

Honorable John Toomey - Who's the County Attorney? Is it Dennis Cohen again or is he...

Steve Randazzo - Yes.

Rob Calarco - Yes.

Honorable John Toomey - Yeah, Dennis, will do it.

Rob Calarco - The County Attorney and my Counsel don't always agree. That's not an uncommon thing.

Honorable John Toomey - I'll tell ya, I think, to me, it's a common-sense thing and I agree with Rob that it ...I kind of agree with him not thinking about too much...that the interpretation doesn't make sense to me either and I usually agree with Dennis so we might be in good shape.

Rob Calarco - Okay. I think that if we could...let's talk with Dennis then.

Steve Randazzo - Okay, will do.

Adrian Fassett - Rob, to cut to the chase, what would you recommend us doing now so we're not spinning our wheels. What do you recommend?

Rob Calarco - I guess we need to get an opinion from the County Attorney about the 20% rule and we can pursue the resolution to do the budget amendment. Alternatively, you know, we can also ask the County Attorney about whether or not ...well, the problem is, even to hire a consultant and say instead of trying to hire your Executive Director in the first year as a staff or as an employee and you hire that person as a consultant for a year first, we probably still need a budget line for that, right, Steve?

Steve Randazzo - You do, yes, I confirmed with the Budget Office that right now the only line you have in the budget is for meeting expenses so consultants and staff would be currently unreachable through the lines that you have.

Rob Calarco - So in order to get us where we need to go, what we need to do is just line up 10 votes to get you access to the money that you already have.

Honorable John Toomey - Right, that's the first step, yeah.

Adrian Fassett - Okay.

Rob Calarco - So, I mean in all honestly, I think, you know, Steve can go back to Dennis and try to get another ruling on the one provision of the code and in the meantime, you know, I'll have to work on my colleagues. Jack, certainly if like you think you could put in a call to Tom Cilmi and just kind of say, so you're not spinning your wheels and doing work for no reason, if he could find us a vote that would be great.

Honorable John Toomey - Oh your talking to me and when you mentioned Tom Cilmi to me, I really don't know him, but I'll definitely give him a call. I know he put my name up and everything but I don't have...tell me, when do you want me to do it, I'll call him and tell him that you know...do you want me to talk to him first, Rob, or do you want to talk to him?

Rob Calarco – Yeah, you know what, I can give him a buzz and I know he is not the minority leader anymore Jack, it's now Kevin McCaffrey, he took over this year, but let me talk to him and see and I'll talk to my colleague, Al Krupski, was the one that was in my caucus that never really supported the program and you talk to him as well. I will surely try to pursue that, but I think that we have to get you the budget amendment so you guys can...

Honorable John Toomey – I will definitely talk to Tom Cilmi, I have spoken to him but our paths have never really crossed that much in the past.

Rob Calarco - No, I understand

Lisa Scott - But at the end of the day, Jack, you know, he was the one that asked you if you would do it, meaning that he thought at that point...

Honorable John Toomey - That was the only conversation we had and the other day when we had the meeting we were talking about who put us up and everything, it didn't even enter my mind, you know, I'm sure I'm not on his radar, someone had to drop my name to him and he put it up, that might have been one of the few...

Rob Calarco - He was also the first to make his appointment

Lisa Scott -Yeah, he was, he was early on.

And another argument for doing this is all you got to do is look at the paper and everybody from Walmart to the major corporations, they're all pulling back on campaign funding, so public funding, you know, and granted we're talking County, we're not talking Federal level, but the point is, this may in an odd way give more of an ump behind the idea of "let's keep all these players out of it", and again that goes into Trotta's bill and all that other stuff too, and a lot we can't control. But at the end of the day it may be on people's radar screen a little more because of the publicity.

Rob Calarco – It's come up at different things, I mean, it's come up in formats and some of the Police reform meetings it's come up...campaign contributions...

Honorable John Toomey - Absolutely.

Rob Calarco – Yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - Rob, if you want, I'll call Trotta for you, he is my Legislator and I'd get him to vote.

Rob Calarco – Listen, Rob Trotta made a case to not do the waiver when we suspended the funding for two years, I think it was just Rob and not necessarily...

Lisa Scott – Him and Piccirillo probably...

Rob Calarco - Well, maybe Rob's has genuinely had a change of heart and is willing to...

Lisa Scott – Yeah, Jack, we can tag team him, he's mine too.

Rob Calarco – I tried to get him in the past, I thought I might have got him on this one before, to be quite honest. He has always been a very ardent against campaign contributions from anybody.

Lisa Scott – Okay, so to Adrian's point, which got to the crux of it, what do we do next, what do you recommend?

Adrian Fassett – I have one other point...

Lisa Scott – Yeah, go ahead, Adrian.

Adrian Fassett – Steve, I just want to be clear, cause every conversation I had with the County Exec, he thought the optics were all wrong, are you saying now he has changed his mind on that or exactly what are you saying as far as the County Exec's feelings on this.

Steve Randazzo – I think the County Executive clearly supports, you know, Campaign Finance reform, public campaign finance, you know, the question of whether it was the appropriate time due to the dire straits the budget was in because of the pandemic, and that's why I started off by saying, "we won Georgia" you know, it's the prospects of State and local aid being delivered to, particularly to Suffolk County have dramatically increased. I have heard indications that its going to happen, its just a matter of Biden being inaugurated and his legislative priorities, but you know aids to the states and local governments that have been hit really hard due to the pandemic and the recovery thereafter, I mean I'd have to assume it's at the top of his list, so that's why the calculation somewhat changed based on the democrats controlling the US Senate.

Adrian Fassett – Okay, thank you, I appreciate that.

Lisa Scott – So do we need to not schedule any kind of meeting until we hear from one or both of you or what's your advice?

Steve Randazzo – Let me get the County Attorney's opinion and let me talk to IR about how quickly we can turn around a budget amendment, and Rob if you want to talk to us off line about what you recommend being included in that, I think that would be the best path forward.

Rob Calarco – Sure.

Steve Randazzo – I know the thought was floating about which races should qualify for '23. I don't know if that decision needs to be made immanently, but that sounds like something the group is floating so, you know, maybe further discussion and analysis of that maybe appropriate.

Rob Calarco – Yea, I think that part of that is going to be a discussion for the Board and you guys will have to adopt some sort of resolution stating that you are going to initiate the full render due to the funding restrictions in '23. I don't think you'll have enough money to do both the full Leg. and a County Executive cycle that year. I mean I could tell you from the perspective of the guy drafting the law, my intention was to have the Legislature go first. Because I thought you would get, quite honestly, I figured it would be potentially a lot less costly. I don't think you're going to get 36 candidates participating, I think you'll be lucky if you get seven participating, to be quite honest.

Lisa Scott – Yea, understandable.

Rob Calarco – And partly because, quite frankly, the standards that we wrote into the law in terms of being able to qualify, are easier said than done, from the guy who tried to hit the maximum \$12,500 last cycle in small dollar donations, I could tell you, I didn't get there and I put an effort into it from a 2-year cycle to do that in small dollar donations. In a year like this I think its even harder because most Legislators really haven't done any kind of fundraising at all yet. You do those low dollar ones that are usually done through, you know, yes you can get your \$5 donations on line, a lot of it is the \$15 pancake breakfasts or \$25 barbeques in the back yard and we're not doing

those right now. So, I think that the likelihood is that doing the Legislature first, you'll get somebody who will participate, but it won't be an awful lot and it will give you enough to manage that first year and get some experience in running the program and give them a real understanding on how it will work with a couple of guinea pigs.

Lisa Scott – Right. Alright, so I'll get this transcript of today's meeting to Gina, she'll type it up, we'll send it out. We got our to do list, but we can formalize that from the transcript and maybe meet in 2 weeks?

Lisa Scott - I have to keep track of the Legislatures schedule, because I keep scheduling our meeting on General Meeting day.

Rob Calarco –Our next Legislative meeting is February 2nd, the week before would be the committee cycle for us, let me, before we reconvene, I'll have some conversations with some of my colleagues and just feel people out and see where they will be and see what we could do about making a budget amendment for you.

Lisa Scott – Okay and if you want Jack to call Cilmi or any of the other...

Honorable John Toomey – He could just reach out to me Rob, I mean that's not a problem...

Rob Calarco - Let me call Tom and Kevin and I'll get back in touch with you Jack.

Lisa Scott – And remember, Jack said he would call Rob Trotta too.

Honorable John Toomey – I'll call Trotta, he might say no...

Rob Calarco – Hey listen, if Rob thinks everyone else is opposed to it, you might just get him.

Lisa Scott – Anything else?

Honorable John Toomey – Are we going to set a meeting for 2 weeks or not?

Lisa Scott – Well 2 weeks from today is the 27th, so that's committee week Rob.

Rob Calarco – Hold on, that's not impossible, the 27th, that's a Wednesday...

Lisa Scott – It doesn't have to be a Wednesday, it could be Wednesday or Thursday maybe guys?

Rob Calarco - Committees are over on that day usually by 2:00p

Lisa Scott – So afternoons will be better then, right?

Rob Calarco – Yes, so if you want to do like a 4 o'clock on the 27th is fine.

Lisa Scott – What about you Steve?

Steve Randazzo –That's fine, on the 27th.

Lisa Scott – Yea, 4 or 4:15 somewhere around there?

Steve Randazzo – Yea, that's fine.

Adrian Fassett – That's fine with me.

Lisa Scott – That's a Wednesday not a Thursday. So, do you want to try same day of the week and the same time at least for that one and hopefully that give us 2 full weeks to get some advice?

All - That's fine.

Lisa Scott – So do we have a motion to close?

Honorable John Toomey - Motion to close.

Adrian Fassett - Second.

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm)*

Transcribed by Gina Popovich and Denise Weaver