

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & HOUSING COMMITTEE
OF THE
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINUTES

A meeting of the Economic Development, Planning & Housing 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 September 29, 2021 via in-person and Zoom conference.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leg. Kara Hahn, Chairperson
Leg. Susan A. Berland, Vice Chair
Leg. Samuel Gonzalez
Leg. Kevin J. McCaffrey
Leg. Robert Trotta
Leg. Jason Richberg
Leg. William Spencer
Leg. James F. Mazzeola

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Presiding Officer Robert Calarco, 7th Legislative District
Basia Braddish, Acting Counsel to the Legislature
Amy Ellis, Clerk of the Legislature
Elizabeth Stroehlein, Budget Review Office
Alyssa Turano, Aide to Leg. Hahn
Jennifer Hann, Aide to Leg. Gonzalez
Guy Calla, Aide to Leg. McCaffrey
Sidney Joyner, Director/Real Estate Department
Jonathan Keyes, Planning & Economic Development
Dennis Smith, Executive Director Patchogue Village BID/member
Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Committee Panel
And all other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Diana Flesher, Court Stenographer

MINUTES TRANSCRIBED BY:

Denise Weaver, Legislative Aide

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:41 PM

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

If we could all rise -- welcome to the Legislature's Economic Development, Planning & Housing Committee. If we could all rise for a salute to the flag led by our Presiding Officer Robert Calarco.

SALUTATION

Okay, thank you very much. Public portion. New York's Governor Hochul has signed Senate bill 5001/A.40001 which allows requirements of the State's Open Meetings Law to be waived through January 15, 2022. And beginning September 27th in this committee cycle and continuing through the end of the year, the Legislature has reverted to the rules of operation that were adopted via procedural motion in March of 2020.

12:41PM As such, we are conducting meetings in a hybrid fashion and we do allow in-person public attendance and in-person public portion comment at the William H. Rogers Legislature Building or remote testimony via Zoom. For both options, speakers will be limited to three minutes.

In accordance with County and State COVID-19 safety protocols and current CDC recommendations, members of the public will be required to wear a mask at all times while inside the building.

12:42PM Those interested in addressing Legislators over Zoom may sign up at www.scnylegislature.us/committeepublicportion. Members of the public may also send written testimony by e-mail to clerk.legislature@suffolkcountyny.gov or by regular mail to the attention of the Clerk's Office at the Suffolk County Legislature, P.O. Box 6100, Hauppauge, New York 11788. Audio testimony will be accepted by voicemail at (631) 853-3685. Callers may leave a three-minute message and those submitted comments will be distributed to Legislators.

12:42PM Okay. We had Dennis Smith sign up to address this Committee virtually.

PUBLIC PORTION

MR. SMITH:
Am I on?

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

12:43PM Mr. Smith, okay, I see you there. You will -- thank you. You'll have three minutes to address the Committee and you can begin now.

MR. SMITH:

I will speak quickly. Thank you. Good afternoon. My name is Dennis Smith. I'm the Executive Director of the Patchogue Village BID and I'm a member of the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Committee Panel since 2013. And I represent Presiding Officer Rob

1 Calarco's 7th Legislative District.

2
3 And I want to thank this Committee for allowing me the time to
4 speak on resolution 1713, the appropriations of funds for the
5 Downtown Revitalization Program rounds 18 and 19 and maybe to give
6 a little insight into our committee.

7
8 In the years that I've been a part of this committee, I have
9 reviewed and graded and ranked on merit over 150 applications from
10 all over Suffolk County. These are from municipalities looking to
11 foster projects for the economic benefit and social betterment of
12 their communities. The total number of applications since this
13 committee's inception is, of course, much greater than that. Some
14 were relatively simple, brick and pavings and period light poles to
15 beautify and make safe given areas within the community. This
16 benefit was afforded many communities over the years. Others more
17 complex such as partnering with the Hampton Bays on the Lyzon --
18 Lyzon Hat Shop restoration and the Good Ground Park Amphitheater
19 and being part with the Main Street build-out in Westhampton Beach,
20 there were somewhat more detailed.

21
22 Others, Brightwaters and phase-in projects, different projects;
23 installed crosswalks on all four sides of their intersecting four
24 corners on Main Street creating a safe area for commerce. And
25 Lindenhurst beautified the street divided medians entering their
26 village and enhanced the viability of a parking lot in a different
27 project. Patchogue Village with five different grants over the
28 years, rebuilt a rundown existing walkway into a safe inviting
29 conduit for Main Street, which is the theater and restaurant retail
30 district and they connected that to the arts district and the
31 Patchogue Arts Council. Stony Brook constructed a walkway from a
32 park to a parking lot right to their business district.

33
34 The list of participating communities enjoying grant opportunities
35 are numerous running from East Hampton to Huntington, the North
36 Fork to Babylon and most all municipalities in between. We have
37 just this year started to recognize communities that are not yet
38 designated downtowns but have an interest in their community to
39 beautify it, eliminate blight and encourage commerce. Blue Point
40 would be a perfect example of that in this year's cycle.

41
42 The point that I wanna stress using these examples is the viability
43 and diligence of this committee and the positive results that have
44 been achieved throughout all of Suffolk County over the years. We
45 are a productive committee and we take our mission seriously in
46 promoting community success and economic benefit. Pre-Covid,
47 committee members would visit application sites to a firsthand
48 understanding of exactly what the applicant was looking to
49 accomplish. This would help not only in the grading and ranking of
50 applications, but would force the debate over certain issues and
51 ultimately a healthy exchange of ideas in finding solutions to
52 problems.

53
54 In addition, we would plan visits to municipalities with the
55 representing committee member, who would host us on a tour of what
56 was accomplished with the grant monies afforded their community

1 through the Suffolk County Round Grant Program. On these visits,
2 we would find members of local community agencies, local government
3 and in most cases, County and State political representatives all
4 proudly showing off what their group has accomplished with these
5 grants as well as other improvements that were made beyond the
6 grant threshold.

7
8 I think it's important to remember that these grants are matching
9 grants, not just monies given to a municipality because they asked.
10 The greater the leverage in the match, the greater the chance of
11 receiving the grant. This promotes a partnership with each
12 municipality and it fosters ownership by the community in
13 completing the project and, in time, often leads to additional
14 projects to compliment the original project. This all happens
15 because the County was able to provide the seed money, if you will,
16 the downtowns and communities to ask for funding for a project, a
17 project that they thought would improve the esthetics, safety and
18 ultimately have a positive impact on the residential and economic
19 viability of their community. In most instances --

12:47PM

20
21 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

22 You should -- you should know that the three minutes has finished a
23 little while ago but, you know, if you have a sentence or two left,
24 feel free to continue.

25
26 **MR. SMITH:**

27 I've got more than that. And my apologies for exceeding the rules
28 here. But I just wanted to mention that you have 12 projects in
29 front of you during this grant cycle. We stayed within -- it's a
30 two-year cycle, we stayed within the \$500,000 that was allotted
31 originally. And all these monies that are provided by the County
32 become a vitalized asset to the downtowns and the -- the
33 communities that they enhance, they are noticed by not only the
34 people living in community but the business end of the community,
35 the residential end of the community, the people visiting the
36 community and we get an excellent return on every dollar that we
37 allot.

12:47PM

38
39 So, again, my apologies for having exceeded the threshold and I
40 appreciate the time it's taken --

12:48PM

41
42 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

43 Well -- and you're an -- you're an official representative of the
44 -- of the Downtown Revitalization Review Committee?

45
46 **MR. SMITH:**

47 I am.

48
49 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

50 So if you wanna hang on and -- and if there are questions that come
51 up when we review that legislation, then we can ask, you know, ask
52 you some questions then.

12:48PM

53
54 **MR. SMITH:**

55 I would be happy to do that.

1 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

2 Thank you.

3

4 **MR. SMITH:**

5 Thank you.

6

7 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

8 We didn't have any other requests for hybrid participation. Is
9 there anyone here in the audience? And we don't have any cards,
10 correct, Madam Clerk?

12:48PM

11

12 **CLERK ELLIS:**

13 That's correct.

14

15 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

16 So is there anyone here in the audience who would like to
17 participate during the public portion for three minutes? Seeing
18 none, we will close the public portion.

19

20 We do not have any appointment resolutions or presentations today.
21 We'll move onto tabled resolutions.

22

23

TABLED RESOLUTIONS

24

25 **IR 1478, A Local Law to allow regional input of planning commission**
26 **referrals and meetings. (Hahn). I'll make a motion to table.**

27

28 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

29 Second.

12:49PM

30

31 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

32 Second by Legislator Richberg. Roll call.

33

34

(Roll call by Clerk Ellis)

35

36 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

37 Yes.

38

39 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

40 Yes.

12:49PM

41

42 **LEG. BERLAND:**

43 Yes.

44

45 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

46 Yes.

47

48 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

49 Yes.

12:49PM

50

51 **LEG. TROTTA:**

52 Yes.

53

54 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

55 Yes.

56

1 LEG. SPENCER:

2 Yes.

3

4 P.O. CALARCO:

5 Yes.

6

7 CLERK ELLIS:

8 Nine. TABLED (VOTE: 9-0-0-0/PO CALARCO INCLUDED IN VOTE)

9

10 CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

11 1478 is tabled. Introductory Resolution 1535, Authorizing the sale
12 of County-owned real property pursuant to Section 72-h of the
13 General Municipal Law to the Town of Brookhaven for Affordable
14 Housing purposes. (Co. Exec.). Is there anyone here from the
15 department? This had been tabled in the past and it was unclear as
16 if it was ready to move, so.

17

18 LEG. RICHBERG:

19 I'll make a motion to table just in case so that we can get further
12:50PM 20 -- you know, so this way we can get, you know, hopefully by the
21 next cycle we can move forward.

22

23 CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

24 Right. I'll second that motion.

25

26 P.O. CALARCO:

27 I think the Director of Real Estate's here. Perhaps he can answer
28 any questions.

29

30 LEG. BERLAND:

31 One is good and one is not, but to get my notes -- sorry.

32

33 LEG. RICHBERG:

34 If I may, Madam Chair.

35

36 CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

37 Yes.

38

39 LEG. RICHBERG:

12:50PM 40 Director, are you okay with tabling this for -- for a cycle or are
41 we --

42

43 DIRECTOR JOYNER:

44 Yes, I am.

45

46 LEG. RICHBERG:

47 Are we ready to move for this?

48

49 DIRECTOR JOYNER:

12:50PM 50 I am. That is correct.

51

52 LEG. RICHBERG:

53 Okay.

54

55 CHAIRPERSON HAHN:

56 Okay. So we have a motion to table and a second. Roll call.

(Roll call by Clerk Ellis)

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12:51PM

12:51PM

12:51PM

LEG. RICHBERG:
Yes to table.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Yes.

LEG. BERLAND:
Yes to table.

LEG. MAZZARELLA:
Yes.

LEG. GONZALEZ:
Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:
Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:
Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:
Yes.

P.O. CALARCO:
Yes.

CLERK ELLIS:
Nine. TABLED (VOTE: 9-0-0-0/PO CALARCO INCLUDED IN VOTE)

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
1535 is tabled. Introductory Resolution 1621, Authorizing a two-year extension for the development of three (3) parcels of land transferred pursuant to the 72-h Affordable Housing Program to the Town of Babylon. (Co. Exec.).

LEG. RICHBERG:
I'll make a motion to table. We're gonna be working with the department on this to move this forward hopefully in the next cycle.

LEG. GONZALEZ:
I'll second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Motion to table and a second. Motion to table was by Legislator Richberg; second was by Legislator Gonzalez.

LEG. BERLAND:
Motion.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
On the motion, Legislator Berland.

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12:51PM

12:52PM

12:52PM

LEG. BERLAND:
Yeah, I just -- I thought we were going forward with this one, so, that's why I had it marked one was tabled and one was going forward, but it's your -- it's your thing. So if you wanted to table it, that's fine.

LEG. RICHBERG:
Yes, I'm ready -- I have to table it. You know, just for the record on the, you know, for the department, it's on me that, you know, that we're tabling it for the cycle so we'll make sure that we're able to move forward at the next cycle.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Thank you.

LEG. BERLAND:
That's fine, just making sure. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Roll call.

(Roll call by Clerk Ellis)

LEG. RICHBERG:
Yes to table.

LEG. GONZALEZ:
Yes to table.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Yes.

LEG. BERLAND:
Yes.

LEG. MAZZARELLA:
Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:
Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:
Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:
Yes.

P.O. CALARCO:
Yes.

CLERK ELLIS:
Nine. TABLED (VOTE: 9-0-0-0/PO CALARCO INCLUDED IN VOTE)

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Okay. 1621 is tabled.

INTRODUCTORY RESOLUTIONS

Onto Introductory Resolution 1705, Amending Resolution No. 42-2021 in connection with the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion.

LEG. RICHBERG:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Seconded by Legislator Richberg. Roll call.

(Roll call by Clerk Ellis)

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Yes.

LEG. RICHBERG:
Yes.

LEG. BERLAND:
Yes.

LEG. MAZZARELLA:
Yes.

LEG. GONZALEZ:
Yes.

LEG. TROTTA:
Yes.

LEG. McCAFFREY:
Yes.

LEG. SPENCER:
Yes.

P.O. CALARCO:
Yes.

CLERK ELLIS:
Nine. **APPROVED (VOTE: 9-0-0-0/PO CALARCO INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
1705 is approved. And thank you for waiting, Mr. Smith, on 1713, Allocating and appropriating Funds Phase XVIII and Phase XIX In connection with the Downtown Revitalization Program CP 6412. (Co. Exec.). I'll make a motion to approve.

LEG. GONZALEZ:
Second.

CHAIRPERSON HAHN:
Seconded by Legislator Gonzalez. On the motion, do we have anyone

1 here? I do see, oh, Jonathan Keyes was in the room.

2
3 **MR. KEYES:**

4 I'm here.

5
6 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

7 Oh, thank you. Hello.

8
9 **MR. KEYES:**

10 Hey.

11
12 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

13 Did you want to do any additional summarizing? I know we heard
14 from Mr. Smith earlier.

15
16 **MR. KEYES:**

17 I couldn't say it better than Dennis because he's a veteran of the
18 committee. He's been around on the program longer than my
19 involvement with it and is sort of the personification of the
12:53PM 20 benefits that this program brings to local municipalities.

21
22 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

23 We're so grateful to the members of the committee --

24
25 **MR. KEYES:**

26 Yes.

27
28 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

29 -- for all the time and effort they put in over the years, you
12:54PM 30 know, reviewing these projects and working for us. Any questions
31 from the Committee members? Anyone online with a question? Seeing
32 none, roll call.

33
34 **(Roll call by Clerk Ellis)**

35
36 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

37 Yes.

38
39 **LEG. GONZALEZ:**

12:54PM 40 Yes.

41
42 **LEG. BERLAND:**

43 Yes.

44
45 **LEG. MAZZARELLA:**

46 Yes.

47
48 **LEG. TROTTA:**

49 Yes.

12:54PM 50
51 **LEG. McCAFFREY:**

52 Yes.

53
54 **LEG. RICHBERG:**

55 Yes.

1 **LEG. SPENCER:**

2 Yes.

3

4 **P.O. CALARCO:**

5 Yes.

6

7 **CLERK ELLIS:**

8 Nine. **APPROVED (VOTE: 9-0-0-0/PO CALARCO INCLUDED IN VOTE)**

9

10 **CHAIRPERSON HAHN:**

11 Okay. That is -- sorry, 1713 is approved.

12

13 Seeing no further business before the Committee, we are adjourned.

14

15 **THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 12:54 PM**

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